

THE

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Our apology to Trustees and Teachers for the non-appearance of the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION since September last, is a simple one. The publishers were not able to procure paper on which to print it. Paper of the required quality was ordered in June last, but no supply was received till late in December. We regret that after so much delay, the paper should prove to be of inferior quality; but we shall be obliged to make use of it for one or two numbers, until better can be procured.

Yearly subscriptions received in October last will be reckoned as commencing with the present number.

## MEETING OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The late annual session of the Educational Association of the Province was well attended by Teachers, the number present at the several meetings being larger than on former occasions. The proceedings throughout were entered into with much interest, and carried on with great harmony of feeling. Indeed if this annual gathering had produced no other beneficial result than the cordial acquaintanceship and *esprit de corps* begotten among the teachers, even this would more than compensate for all the inconvenience and expense incurred in attending it. But the benefits arising from the meetings of the Association are not confined to the cultivation of the social and sympathetic. In the discussion of the various topics brought under review, in the mutual interchange of views in regard to the many questions connected with popular education, a large and lasting influence for good is exerted. In educational matters, if anywhere, there are ample subjects to occupy the attention of an assembly. In the teacher's profession, if anywhere, there is need of mutual counsel, sympathy, and support among those engaged, and in no way can these be so fully or effectively developed as by the holding of periodical Conventions such as that under consideration.

The forenoon of the first day was taken up with the reading of minutes, reports, &c., and the discussion of some minor matters, financial and other, connected with the society. The necessity of securing a better organization of the body was also considered. This subject was subsequently referred to a committee, and, in accordance with their report, some amendments were made in the constitution and the members were formally enrolled. This was regarded by all as an important step towards the consolidation requisite in the Association. It may be mentioned that Mr. STUART MILL'S views as to the extension of the Franchise are acted upon by the Association, and the results have hitherto amply justified the opinions held by that eminent philosopher.

One gentleman drew rather a lively contrast between the present provision for raising teachers' salaries and the mode much in vogue in certain parts of the Province when he began his labours as a teacher. At that time the first thing to be done was to rent the school-house of the proprietors. Then "the brief" had to be carried for "signers," each parent putting down his name for one, two, or three pupils, as the case might be, and engaging to pay so much "in kind" for each at the end of the term,—a liberal discount being allowed as the number of pupils from one family

increased. The picture he drew of the teacher going his round at the close of his engagement to collect his half-bushels of wheat and pecks of barley, and then backing the reward of his labours to the nearest mill, elicited a good deal of merriment, chiefly, perhaps, because it was a picture of a state of things no longer existing. The gentleman did not state whether he could truthfully say:

"I loved the brimming wave that swam  
Through quiet meadows round the mill,  
The sleepy pool above the dam,  
The pool beneath it never still.  
The meal-sacks on the whitened floor,  
The dark round of the dripping wheel;  
The very air about the door  
Made misty with the floating meal."

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

In the afternoon, the President, Dr. FORRESTER, delivered his opening address. He began with expressing the great interest which he felt in the Association, and the importance which he attached to it as a means of benefiting those teachers who attend its meetings. When sixteen years ago he had urged the propriety and necessity of forming such an Association, it was for the purpose of lifting the Teachers into a position where they might demonstrate that they are an important class of the community, where they might use their combined efforts to diffuse enlightened views on the great subjects with which their calling is connected, where they might as a body exert their united influence to bring about a reform in the then deplorable condition of affairs, and demand with a united voice the redress of the numerous grievances under which teachers as a class were then labouring. There were then many difficulties in the way of forming and carrying on an efficient association which had since been removed. Many of the discouragements and obstacles which were at that time to be met, have now disappeared. After years of unceasing labour on the part of the educationists of the Province, things had at length become ripe for the introduction of a national system. A new epoch had now been inaugurated in our educational affairs, and such a complete revolution had been brought about that some might be inclined to suppose there was no further use for an association of teachers. But in his view the association was but entering on the threshold of its usefulness. The legislation of the past four years had given the teachers of the Province a status, had given this association a vantage ground, never before possessed. By providing for general education it had given the teacher a new importance in society. Every one responds with gratitude to those through whose instrumentality a sound practical education has been brought within the reach of every child in the Province, save where the culpable neglect of parents prevents. Every child in Nova Scotia to-day is born to a fortune, a kingdom infinitely more valuable than any worldly possession. All honour to those wise legislators, all honour to the Government, all honour especially to the Premier who, when the educational horizon was dark and stormy, did not shrink from the responsibility of perfecting what he had begun in this great cause; all honour to a man of tried and trusty patriotism, who, though in Opposition, had risen above the influences and motives of party, and had stood firm and assisted the Government in maturing this great measure. And while we rejoice that so much has been attained, let us rejoice with trembling, thanking Him who has the hearts of all men in his hand.

It is the recognized duty of the country to provide not only a popular, but also a sound moral education for every child. There is something higher sought after than mere intellectual training. The whole character of education must be elevated. Legislation may secure good houses, apparatus and text-books, and without these the teacher is helpless.