

lively debate on these matters was maintained by Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Henstridge and Mr. Bole, resulting in the opinion that as regards superannuation it was only equitable to have those subscribe who would be most benefited, namely, the teachers, both male and female, and the balance of what would be necessary in each case of superannuation should be given out of the Government treasury. It would be degrading to teachers to ask it from the school sections, which had paid them during their services to improve society; and the State, which received the advantage, should show its gratitude by providing for its antiquated faithful servants.

Mr. Bamford read a well written paper on "A Visit to Mr. Alcott's School, Boston," dwelling mainly on the moral discipline exercised therein.

Mr. Henstridge took up "Addition and Subtraction of Fractions," the groundwork of which is so frequently neglected in schools, showing his plan of teaching it intelligently. This subject gave rise to an animated discussion, joined in by Messrs Bole and McIntyre.

Mr. McIntyre afterwards read an essay on "Discipline," representing the school as a monarchy on a small scale, and he would accordingly devise rules and regulations for its government and well-being. He thought a good system of short drill essential, and highly recommended Mr. Hughes' work on the subject. He condemned the use of the lash except under extreme circumstances.

In the evening a lecture on "The Minute Structure of Plants and Animals" was given by Professor Dupuis, in the lecture-room of the new college, to the teachers and their friends. By means of the oxy-hydrogen lantern he exhibited some magnificent microscopic views—chiefly photographs taken by himself—of the wonderful objects in the mineral, vegetable and animal worlds, describing each with admirable fluency and precision. At the conclusion, the talented lecturer was highly complimented by the Rev. Principal Grant, who also addressed the teachers on the noble nature of their work, exhorting them to aim high in training their pupils to ascend to the upper branches of learning and philosophy, for "In philosophy there is nothing great but man; in man there is nothing great but mind." Prof. Fowler and Mr. Walkem expressed their great satisfaction at having heard such an excellent lecture, and spoke to the teachers on the nature and importance of their duties. Mr. Henstridge proposed, and Dr. Agnew, I.P.S., seconded a vote of thanks to Prof. Dupuis, which was carried unanimously, and the meeting separated.

Second Day—Mr. Lyons read a paper on School Management. He observed that pupils have certain rights as well as teachers, which should be respected. Dr. Agnew, I.P.S., answered questions respecting daily prayer, class registers, teachers' authority, etc., after which Mr. Henstridge gave a lucid explanation of working problems in stocks. Mr. McIntyre gave answers to questions on Discipline, and How to Teach Grammar and Geography to Beginners. In the afternoon Miss Woollard read an excellent essay on Success in Teaching, which was greatly appreciated. Mr. A. P. Knight read an entertaining paper on Physical Geography, relating principally to glaciers, which he illustrated by diagrams. This exercise concluded the Convention.

WELLAND—The teachers of this Association held their annual meeting at Clifton on the 22nd and 23rd October. There was a good attendance notwithstanding the unfavorableness of the weather, and a sharp interest was evinced in the several subjects brought forward. After a few preliminary remarks from Mr. A. McCulloch, M.A., H. M. of Thorold High School, president, the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. Prof. Witmer, of Eggettsville, U.S., read a paper on Phonetic Spelling, which he illustrated on the blackboard. The subject was the patient investigation of several years during which he visited many places in the U.S. and Canada, and he derived much intelligent assistance from the teachers of the Dominion. His aim was to introduce as few innovations as possible, and by his system he hoped to make spelling an easy task for children, who would rapidly advance on the "royal road" by its aid. After some discussion, Mr. Dunlop proposed a vote of thanks to the Professor, which was seconded by Mr. Phillips, and carried unanimously. In the afternoon, the first business transacted was the election of officers. On the motion of Mr. Smith, the President was re-elected by ballot, and on the proposition of Mr. Morris, Messrs. Dobbie, Simpson, and Smith were appointed a committee to nominate the other officers, except Vice-President. Mr. W. B. Morris was elected to this office by open vote, and on the motion of Mr. Dobbie, seconded by Mr. Simpson; and the other offices were filled, on the recommendation of the committee, as follows:—Sec.-Treas., Mr. W. A. Phillips; Auditors, Messrs. Dobbie and Dunlop; Executive Committee, Miss Henderson, Messrs. Fry, Robertson, Cornforth, and Stephenson—added to old committee. Next place of meeting to be in Welland, the time to be determined by the ex-committee. A paper on the "Use and Abuse of History" was then read by Mr. Stephenson; it created a lengthy discussion, in which Rev. J. Gordon, M.A., Messrs. Morris, Dunlop, Cornforth, Dobbie, Smith, and others, participated with much spirit and ability. On the motion of Mr. Dunlop, the cordial thanks of the meeting were tendered to Mr. Stephenson, and also it was decided to ask the publishers of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL to give the essay a place in its columns. The auditors presented their report, which was adopted. *Second Day*.—Mr. W. A. Phillips gave an interesting and practical exemplification of his manner of teaching Writing in the Public Schools; and from the beautiful illustrations he gave on the black-

board, it was evident the subject was in excellent hands. Mr. McCulloch, M.A., took up English Grammar, dealing principally with adverbial objectives and participles, which he handled with great ability and perspicuity. Mr. W. B. Morris read a highly instructive paper on English Literature, which gave rise to an animated discussion. The meeting then adjourned.

NORTHUMBERLAND TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—A most successful meeting of this Association was held at Cobourg, on Oct. 28th and 29th. Mr. W. C. Sprague gave a useful and practical address in illustration of his mode of teaching History on the Topic Method. In teaching English History for the first time, he would teach but a single event at a time, or, if closely connected, might give two, not exceeding that limit. He did not think dates of opening or closing of each reign important. Every teacher should read at least one large work of authority every time he needed to revise each period. A large field of reading was necessary to enable a teacher to present a proper view of his subject to advanced classes. Mr. MacHenry and Mr. Scarlett, I.P.S., supported Mr. Sprague's views. Edith Thompson's British History was condemned as a most inferior text-book. Mr. J. McGrath also spoke on the subject of History, and advised the use of written exercises. Mr. J. Swift criticized recent school legislation with reference to examination of Second and Third-Class Teachers. The general opinion of this, and the following speakers, was strongly against the permissive claim for shortening the summer holidays. Mr. W. S. Ellis, B.A., spoke on Geometry, advocating the use of wise diagrams in teaching the first few propositions of Euclid. On Friday, the committee on nomination recommended the following as officers for 1881: President, D. C. McHenry, M.A.; Vice-President, Samuel Dixon; Secretary-Treasurer, D. E. Stephenson; Management Committee, W. J. Black, R. R. Orr, B.A., M. Gormley, F. Tait and W. E. Sprague. Mr. Cross gave a lesson of much interest to a junior class in the First Book; being followed by Mr. Inspector Scarlett, who took up elementary arithmetic with the same class. Mr. Sprague, H. M. Model School, spoke on the subject of Practical Teaching. After an exercise on Reading by Miss Gormley, the following resolutions were passed: 1. Against the permissive claim for shortening the midsummer vacation; 2. That candidates for First, Second, and Intermediate, who have passed in a majority of the subjects, should not in future be re-examined in those subjects. Mr. D. C. McHenry gave an interesting address on English Composition, and drew attention to the present improved methods of study—the use of the *literature itself* instead of mere manuals, such as that of Collier's. He dwelt on the object of this study, and the best method of teaching it, illustrating his position by an analysis of the collected studies needed to a thorough study of Addison's "Sir Roger." Mr. Scarlett then delivered a lecture on English Literature, which formed a valuable contribution to this most successful meeting.

SOUTH BRIDGE.—On the 4th and 5th ult., the members of this Association assembled in convention in the Public School, Alliston, under the presidency of the Rev. W. McKee, B.A., who opened the proceedings at 9 a.m. on the first day, with a brief address, after which the minutes of last meeting were read by Mr. W. Neilly, and adopted. Mr. G. W. Ross, M.P., who, on being introduced, was very cordially received, gave a highly instructive exemplification of the manner of teaching reading. He pointed out the mistakes that are made by children, which are frequently passed over and allowed to grow by the teacher, especially those comprehended under modulation and clear utterance.

In the afternoon, Mr. J. McFaul, H. M. of Lindsay Model School, gave an exposition of the principles of "Drawing," and showed how they might, in part, be taught to children without much difficulty, by an intelligent teacher. The subject being new and interesting, Mr. McFaul was requested to give a more practical illustration of it next day, when the attendance would be more numerous, to which he willingly acceded.

Mr. Ross then took up "School Management," giving the teachers some excellent practical hints bearing on order, discipline, cleanliness, ventilation, &c., which were greatly appreciated.

In the evening a meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church, which was well filled with the teachers and their friends. The chair was occupied by the Rev. W. McKee, B.A., president, and a select choir was in attendance. Miss McIntosh presided at the organ. After the anthem, "Oh, praise the Lord," Dr. Forest, H. M. of Bradford High School, gave a reading entitled "The Combat," with ability and expression. The chairman then introduced Mr. G. W. Ross, who gave a splendid address on "Intellectual Forces," which elicited frequent marks of admiration and satisfaction. On its conclusion a vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by the Rev. Mr. Burnett, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Breden, and carried by rising vote. Dr. Forest moved a vote of thanks to the trustees of the church for their kindness in giving the use of the building; it was seconded by Mr. Henderson and carried. The choir gave a sweet rendering of the hymn "On to Victory," and the proceedings terminated.

Second day.—In the unavoidable absence of the president, the chair was taken by Mr. F. Wood, vice-president, at 9 a.m. Mr. J. McFaul continued his method of teaching "Drawing" in public schools. Beginning with lines he went on to figures, and then illustrated the principles of easy perspective. Many of the teachers used their note-books as drawing sheets, and followed the instructions so clearly given with perfect