

trusted they would so discharge the duty entrusted to them, as not only to communicate the elements of ordinary education, but to instil into the minds of the youth of Canada the principles of morality and true patriotism. (Applause.) The Chairman then said he had much pleasure in introducing the gentleman who had kindly consented to deliver the annual address to the Association, Prof. Wilson, of University College, Toronto.—On motion of Mr. Acres, seconded by Mr. Henderson, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Prof. Wilson, for his able and instructive address. A vote of thanks was also passed to the Mayor, on motion of Mr. McKee, of Kingston, seconded by Mr. McGann, and the meeting separated.

*Second Day (Aug. 6th.)*—The convention again met. Mr. McCallum in the chair. The proceedings were opened with prayer. A number of new members were proposed and admitted. Prof. Wilson was proposed and admitted as an honorary member.—Mr. Alexander, of Newmarket, read an essay on "The duties of Teachers in relation to their professional brethren." He shewed the benefits which teachers might derive from associating together, visiting each others' schools, and profiting by each other's experience. He thought much good would result from their meeting in this Provincial Association, by their stimulating each other and comparing notes as to difficulties in the profession, how they arose, and the best means to be adopted for their removal. He recommended, as tending to the same end, the formation of County and Township Associations.—On motion of Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Irwin, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Alexander for his able essay.—Mr. Anderson, of Paris, moved: "That our secretary be instructed to invite the attention of the Chief Superintendent of Education to the necessity of providing greater facilities for school visiting on the part of teachers, requesting that not less than four days in the year may be placed at their disposal for that purpose, the particular days to be determined by the teachers and their employers." The resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. W. Carlyle, of Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Anderson, of London, moved: "That whereas certain Boards of School Trustees are assuming the duty of subjecting teachers applying to them for situations, to a competitive examination, notwithstanding that these teachers hold certificates of qualification from County Boards of Instruction, the Provincial Normal School, or other legal authority,—we, as an association of teachers, cannot regard with respect any member of this association who submits to such an examination: and that we as an association would remind all qualified teachers throughout the Province, that they, as educated gentlemen, have a dignity of character to maintain which is sacrificed by submitting to such unauthorized examination."—After a short discussion, the resolution was carried with but three dissentients.

When the Convention re-assembled in the afternoon, Mr. Anderson, of Paris, read an essay entitled, "Suggestions towards Improvement in Common School Superintendencies." The essayist enumerated a variety of qualifications which he considered essential in an efficient Common School Superintendent, and indicated his opinion that in many cases there was much room for the improvement of that class of educational functionaries.—The thanks of the Association were voted to Mr. Anderson for his able instructive essay.

Mr. McGann moved, "That this Association, having a deep interest in the preservation and continued efficiency of the Common School system of Upper Canada, feels called upon to declare its opinion that the appropriation of the Common School funds to the support of schools connected with the various denominations, would be fraught with great danger to the educational interests of the Province." In supporting the resolution, Mr. McGann said the introduction of these denominational schools in the way proposed, would be fatal to the system. They were calculated to enshrine in the hearts of the rising generation sectarian and intolerant bigotry. While in Ireland, he had taught in connection with the Church Education Society, and had submitted to sacrifice rather than teach in the National Schools, but since he came to Canada he had changed his views on this subject. If he wanted to find persons properly educated, he would look for them in the National Schools of Ireland, where children of all creeds were educated in the same school, and had the principles of brotherhood and mutual good feeling instilled into their hearts. (Applause.) Mr. Watson, Superintendent of Schools in York Township, seconded the resolution. He considered it was the interest not only of teachers, but of the whole people of the country, to keep our school system free from injury, by the farther introduction of the sectarian element.

Mr. Anderson, of Toronto, seconded by Mr. Moore, of Brantford, moved: "That this Association considers the provisions of the present School Act, in reference to the examination of teachers and the granting of certificates of qualification by County Boards of Public Instruction, have a tendency to lower the professional status of teachers, and retard the progress of Common School education in the Province, by subjecting that large class of teachers not holding Provincial Normal School certificates to repeated and unnecessary examinations, and that it is highly desirable that a Central Board of Examiners be appointed, with power, after due examination, to grant certificates of equal extent and duration with those granted by the Chief Superintendent of Education to students who have attended the Provincial Normal School." Mr. Anderson explained the nature of the present system. Teachers who had not attended the Normal School were required to stand repeated examinations, without any object in view that he could discover. In the third-class, certificates were granted for one year only, and for a single

township or even section. In the second class, they were granted for two years. In the first-class, teachers had to come back at the end of five years to undergo another examination, and receive, if successful, the highest grade of certificate, first-class A. But that was not sufficient, at the end of another five years they had to come back the third time, and if they again passed first-class A, they then received certificates for life—but certificates confined only to the single county. If the teacher went into the next county, he had to undergo a new examination, and this had to be repeated until he again underwent his third examination. But teachers who had attended the Normal School, after undergoing an examination, received first or second class certificates, but in each case for life—Miss St. Remy, of Toronto, corrected Mr. Anderson, by remarking that the Normal School second-class certificate of the lowest grade C was only for one year.—Mr. Anderson thanked the lady for putting him right, but said all the other five grades were for life. After some discussion, Mr. Rouse moved that the resolution be laid on the table.—This motion gave rise to a tie, 15 voting yea and 15 nay. The chairman voted with the nays, and the discussion proceeded.—Mr. James Carlyle, of the Model School, warmly opposed the motion. He regretted the discussion, which he said only tended to increase the jealousy between teachers trained in the Normal School and other teachers.—Mr. Acres supported the resolution.—After some further discussion, the resolution was negatived by a small majority.

Mr. McFarlane, seconded by Mr. Nichol, moved: "That Messrs. McCallum, Alexander, and Anderson, be requested to place their essays in the hands of the Secretary for publication."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*—Prof. Wilson, LL.D., University College, Toronto. *Vice-Presidents*—Mr. A. McCallum, Hamilton; J. H. Saugster, Toronto; Thos. McKee, Kingston; J. W. Acres, Paris, R. Moore, Brantford; and C. H. Lusk, Oakville. *Secretary*—Mr. W. W. Anderson, Paris. *Treasurer*—Mr. Robert Alexander, Newmarket.

A resolution was passed recommending the Board to call the next meeting of the Association to be held at Kingston, on the first Wednesday in August, 1863. The Convention then separated.—(Abridged from the *Globe*.)

—Elementary education is at present receiving a large share of public attention throughout Europe, and among other governments that of France has long been occupied with important schemes for the development and perfection of its national system. By a decree of the 19th April last, the salary of every teacher who shall have served five years in the elementary schools, is to be increased to 700 fr.; while a certain proportion (1/20th) of those who shall have taught from 10 to 15 years will receive a gratuity that shall make their incomes 800 to 900 fr.

As there are interested in this measure at least 17,000 teachers, many of whom will derive benefit from its provisions as soon as they shall take effect, it was only natural that innumerable addresses, conveying expressions of joy and gratitude, should have poured into the Office of the Minister of Public Instruction from all parts of France. Such acknowledgements amply proved that the benevolent action which had called forth their expression alleviated wants having an actual existence; and that this improvement, so inconsiderable in appearance, was not without its relative importance. Nor would this measure involve any additional charge upon the finances of the State, as by insisting upon the regular attendance of all children of school age and securing the assistance of communes and families generally, elementary education had been rendered self-supporting.

As it was not possible, at the date of the decree, to introduce so many changes into the budgets of the numerous communes and departments, it was decided that the new order of things should not be inaugurated until the 1st January 1863. But such sums as may be set apart for this augmentation during the present year, together with other savings, are to be applied by the Minister of Public Instruction to the purposes of primary education, in pursuance of the system of improvements commenced in 1861. Accordingly 100,000 francs have been already distributed among the female teachers in elementary schools who were in receipt of salaries under 400 fr. It is much to be regretted that this was not made the minimum salary to be paid the very deserving female teachers of the girls' schools of communes, as many among them possess means so scanty that it is only by zealous efforts and great privations they have succeeded in overcoming the difficulties which beset their path. The government seized the present opportunity of coming to their relief also, thus giving a fresh proof of its solicitude for the welfare of the teacher. The sum of 60,500 fr. has also been distributed among the superannuated and infirm teachers, who do not enjoy a pension; this of course is in addition to the regular item of 100,000 fr., annually paid out in small sums of 25 and 50 fr. The school libraries received 100,000 fr. for the purchase of books. These little libraries, which are placed under the special care of the teachers, do good service, not only for the teachers and their pupils, but also for the people generally, among whom the books are allowed to circulate. For the encouragement of the authors of useful books, the Minister of Public Instruction had only 30,000 fr. at his disposal, yet it will easily be understood that even this small sum has been of great utility. Sixty thousand volumes were acquired, and the books, chosen with the utmost care, are supplied as soon as a library is organized. The sum of 540,000 fr. has been devoted to the building of houses for the elementary schools