

"The Discover of America; or, Uncelebrated Columbus," is a new book by Mr. Edward Vining. Mr. Vining reproduces from the original Chinese sources the story of the landing of Hwun Shin and a body of Buddhist monks on the coast of Mexico about A. D. 500. The record contains very interesting traditions in regard to the civilization of the aborigines.

"Man," whose publication was commenced a few months ago as a journal, has been transformed into a monthly magazine. No. 1, Vol. 1, is neat and tasteful in appearance and well filled with original and selected articles. Dr. Payer, of Ottawa, is the editor, and a good deal of space will very naturally be given to scientific and physiological subjects. We wish the enterprise success.

The *Open Door*, a forthcoming New York monthly, is to be a novelty in every respect. Its chief aim will be to become a medium for the publication of meritorious articles, not eligible for other journals because of the obscurity of their authors. There is certainly a field for such a magazine, for no one who knows anything of the accidents which often determine the admission or rejection of manuscripts can doubt that many of those pronounced "not available," are vastly superior from the literary point of view to many which are accepted with thanks.

Teachers' Associations.

HALTON. Met in the Milton Model School, Oct. 30th and 31st. A large number was present, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, and the papers read and discussed were interesting and profitable.

In his address to the teachers, Inspector Deacon spoke of the difficulty of his position; referred in feeling terms to the late Inspector, Mr. Little; said that, while he did not feel called upon to make any changes just at present, it would be his aim to maintain, and to increase the high state of efficiency in which he had found the schools of Halton. He expressed a desire to have the sympathy and co-operation of all the teachers. It is sufficient to say that all were pleased with the kindly manner and practical good sense evinced by the Inspector during the meeting.

W. Houston, M.A., Parliamentary Librarian, Toronto, discussed the defects of our alphabet for a short time. This led him to the subject of Spelling Reform. He said that there was the utmost need for reform, for no man can spell with certainty any word, unless he has first seen it, nor can he pronounce a new word unless he has first heard it. There is at present no relation between the spelling of a word and its pronunciation. A number of changes were proposed, some of which were to strike out the useless letter in such words as head, heart, people, believe, receive, making them hed, hart, peple, beleve. In such as philosopher, alphabet, to write filosofer, alafabet, &c., to leave out the "e" except where it has a lengthening effect on a preceding vowel, - as hav for have; wer for were, infint for infinite, &c. He admitted that at first anarchy would prevail, but thought that gradually harmony would evolve.

Mr. Houston's next paper was on the "Teaching of English." The art of expression he dealt with more particularly. This was treated in a thoroughly independent manner, or perhaps revolutionary would be the better term. The system of paraphrasing he condemned. Advised the teachers to read no works on composition, and to put none into their pupils' hands. The formal study of Grammar, and such barbarous things as parsing, and analysis should have died out long ago. Though much interest was manifested by the teachers yet not many converts were made.

On Friday Mr. Deacon gave a method of teaching Geography, which he said he had followed with success in the school-room. He would have the scholars begin by measuring the room; then the play ground; drawing a representation of these on slates, marking in position familiar objects, and so getting an idea of what a "map" is, next carrying the plan to the township, and county, then to the province. By familiar talks he would make them acquainted with the shape of the earth, its notions, and its surroundings. He would pay less attention than heretofore to the learning of useless capes, bays, &c., and more to questions of a living, practical nature—cities, harbors, products, commerce, &c.

Mr. Cooke, of Streetsville High School, followed with a paper on History. Were this subject taught as the teacher suggested, history would not be the uninteresting study that it too often is.

Mr. Longman took up Algebraic Factoring by Symmetry, and Mr. W. J. Galbraith, of Streetsville, read an instructive paper on Industrial Design.

Dr. Lusk, of Oakville, gave a practical illustration of how a lesson in English Literature should be conducted.

Mr. Gray sketched his method of teaching Orthography.

During the discussion on Teachers' Salaries, the practice of some teachers in under bidding each other for positions was denounced. It

should also be a point of honor not to apply for a situation when the salary was not mentioned in the advertisement.

At the Friday evening session it was decided to hold the Annual Government Institute at Milton, and to have half-yearly local associations in each end of the county.

DECATUR. The Teachers' Convention met in the High School building, Port Hope, on Friday, 23rd Oct. The meeting was called to order at 10.20. In the absence of the President, the chair was taken by Mr. Wood, Vice-President.

After a few opening remarks, W. E. Tilley, P.S.I., was called upon to speak upon Educational methods. The speaker considered that a teacher having the living power and energy, can do more work than one lacking these yet using the best of methods. A teacher, in order to be successful, must be a student in the line of his school work. He looked upon method as subordinate to energy; and thought that variety in method was not always detrimental to the pupil. In order to succeed as a teacher, the main point is to secure the active co-operation of the pupil, as *mind can be acted on only when acting*. A lifeless teacher cannot cause mind activity in his pupils, no matter how good his method may be. The successful teacher will also take into account the mental discipline which his pupils have undergone before entering the school. A teacher should spend two or three hours a day, outside of school time in professional work, or in study of some kind, for in the act of gaining any branch of knowledge he receives a discipline which will qualify him to a certain extent for teaching any other branch of knowledge. The teachers who thus employ their leisure, will as a general rule become the best teachers, and rise in their profession or leave it for some other lucrative.

Mr. McDowell then introduced the subject of history, outlining a method of teaching it.

Mr. Keith, in making a few remarks upon the subject, was in full sympathy with the method as outlined, but failed to see the benefit of introducing history to young pupils; he occasioned much laughter as well as opposition, but his opinions are not altogether at variance with those of wise men. It was further discussed by others.

Mr. Wood's lecture on "Language Lessons," cannot be too highly praised. The speaker would teach language simply by causing the pupils to use the language. Grammar has no part whatever to play in language lessons to the young; but should be taught, if at all, when the faculties are sufficiently unfolded, to understand the principles of language. The child must first learn language in the school room, by giving simple descriptions of visible objects which should be shown to the pupils, then of objects not present, thus training the conceptive faculty; these descriptions should be written as soon as the pupil is able to write.

Mr. McDowell gave a song and Miss McKay a recitation, both of which were loudly applauded.

Dr. Hamilton then gave a very able and instructive lecture upon "Orthography," for which he was accorded the unanimous thanks of the Association.

Recitations by Mr. Kennedy and Miss Coleman, of Bowmanville, were well rendered and served to heighten the interest at the close.

The evening's entertainment consisted of music, vocal and instrumental; recitations, and addresses by the chairman, and the Revs. Dr. Roy, and Dr. Roy.

Mr. J. Brown opened the second day's proceedings by giving an interesting paper on advanced reading. W. W. Tamblin, M.A., occupied the chair.

Mr. Keith, as usual, enlivened the proceedings by an interlude. Mr. Gilliland discussed very ably the teacher and his co-workers. The teacher should set a high standard; he should not be like the mechanic doing a certain amount of work for a certain amount of pay. His work is to develop the pupil mentally, physically, intellectually, and morally, and prepare him for his future calling.

Mr. Jardine, being called upon to discuss the subject "How far should a Teacher aid his Pupils," responded in a very able manner.

The propriety of forming a reading circle was then brought before the Association by Mr. W. E. Tilley, and a resolution passed unanimously affirming the advisability of it. A committee consisting of Messrs. Barber, Wood, Purslow, Tamblin, Jardine, and W. E. Tilley was then appointed to bring into operation the views of the convention on this matter, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

It was decided to hold the next meeting—at which the Government officials attend—at Port Hope, and the other meeting of next year at Bowmanville.

After a vote of thanks to the Secretary of the Association, Mr. A. Barber, for his efficient services in connection with the preparation of the programme for the present session, the proceedings were brought to a close.

The attendance throughout was good. The large room in the High School was well filled at both meetings on Friday, and the one on the forenoon of Saturday. More than one hundred teachers, including those in training at the Model School, were present during most of the discussions. All admit that this is among the best, if not the best meeting ever held by the Association in the county. —Condensed from *Port Hope Daily Guide*.