

STAN THOMAS moved, and Rev. Mr. NORMAN seconded,—That considering the success which has attended the system of "local examinations" in England, this meeting recommend that we put ourselves, if possible, in connexion with the University of Oxford. Mr. BRISTOW moved in amendment,—That in the opinion of this meeting it is better to make arrangements for examination similar to the local examinations in England, with McGill College. The amendment was lost. The original motion being next put, was carried. It was then moved by Professor DAREY, seconded by the Rev. R. W. NORMAN,—That His Lordship the Metropolitan be requested to communicate with the authorities of the University of Oxford, with a view to ascertaining the possibility of the admission of the candidates from the Dominion of Canada to compete in the Oxford Local Examinations. The meeting then adjourned *Sine die*.—*Montreal Gazette*.

THE ENDOWMENT OF VICTORIA COLLEGE.

Our readers are aware that, to supply the place of the Government Grant taken away from their College about six years ago, the Wesleyan Methodists have been trying to raise, at least, \$100,000 as a permanent endowment fund. College meetings were held by the Rev. Mr. Punshon, and several ministerial agents were sent out to canvass, to raise the required amount; but we understand that only \$60,000 in cash has been actually received and invested. The matter was placed last year in the hands of the Rev. J. H. Johnson, M.A. We learn that in Toronto he raised \$13,000, in Hamilton \$6,550, and considerable sums in other places, all of which had been previously canvassed for this object; but the first canvass having fallen so far short, the friends in these places have contributed again, and this time with greatly increased liberality. It is impossible for the body to carry on its operations in this country without such an Institution. Those who are familiar with the history of the Wesleyan Church in the Province of Ontario well know, that to Victoria comes among the leading denominations of the country. The Wesleyans are numerous, and many of them wealthy, and we have no doubt that they will soon place their College upon a good financial basis. We understand the Rev. Mr. Johnson has already raised \$800 in Barrie.—*North. Advance*.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN NEW YORK STATE.

The passage by the New York Assembly of the Compulsory Education Bill is a notable act of legislation in that style. It requires that all children between the ages of eight and fifteen years shall be required to attend school or receive private instruction in the common English branches at least fourteen weeks in each year.

IGNORANCE A CAUSE OF CRIME.

In a recent published pamphlet on the "Responsibility of Society for the Causes of Crime," Rev. Dr. Bittinger speaks as follows of the criminal results of ignorance:

Ignorance is a source of crime. It operates in various ways: First, to expose men to it, and then to prepare them for it. The uncultivated mind is weakened by non-use. For lack of ideas it is often left to the suggestions of the animal appetites, with debasing and corrupting tendencies. In a land of books and schools, ignorance is not consistent with self-respect or manliness. Even the pitiable standard set up in our prison statistics—to be able to read—is far above many of the adults that enter their walls. But when we erect the higher and truer one—of being able to read with facility and zest—such proficiency as puts knowledge, both as a pastime and a power, within men's reach, how beggarly is the show then among our prison population! The average per cent. of the state prison population of New York in 1864, that could not read was 32. Now, admitting that the remainder could read, and not disparaging the quality of it, it shows eleven times more ignorance among these twenty-four hundred inmates than among the whole outside adult population of the State. Of those outside the penitentiaries, only three per cent could not read, while 32 per cent. of those inside could not. Even not knowing how to read is eleven times more likely to lead to crime than knowing; or as Dr. Wines puts it, one-third of the crime is committed by one-fiftieth of the population. So great is the affinity of crime for ignorance. Ninety-seven per cent. of the non-prison population of New York, in 1864, could read; in the same year only sixty-eight per cent. of the prison population could read. Knowing how to read is two-thirds as favorable to honesty as not knowing. In other words, knowledge is more preventive of crime than promotive of virtue.

But as the want of practical knowledge is as really ignorance as the want of book-knowledge, the following figures by Mr. Byers, late chaplain of the Ohio Penitentiary, are more to the point as to the influence of ignorance upon crime. Out of 2,120 under his care, 67 per cent. were uneducated, that is, men who could barely read, or who could merely scratch their names, 14 per cent. did not know their "A, B, C's;" 74 per cent. had never learned a trade.

Here we have 81 per cent. ignorant of books, and 74 per cent. ignorant of a trade. Apply these proportions to the outside population, and what a mass of ignorance and helplessness it would make! Supposing the population of New York to be 900,000, more than 350,000 of her adult population would be unable to read or write. Hugh Miller, a shrewd observer of man, and himself a mechanic, speaks of these two kinds of knowledge and their influence on men as follows: "I found that the intelligence which results from a fair school education, sharpened by a subsequent taste for reading, very much heightened on certain items the standard by which my comrades regulated their conduct,.....not against intemperance or licentiousness.....but against theft, and the grosser and more creeping forms of untruthfulness and dishonesty."

AMERICAN NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the National Educational Association will be held in Detroit, Michigan, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 4th, 5th and 6th days of August next. A cordial invitation has been extended to the Association by the Governor of the State, the Mayor of the City, the State and City Superintendents of Public Instruction, and the Board of Education of the City. The use of Assembly Rooms for the Sessions of the Association has been tendered by the City authorities.

The following is an outline of the programme for the meeting:

GENERAL SESSION.

Report of the Committee on *Upper Schools*—the subject of Dr. McCosh's paper last year. Rev. George P. Hayes, President Washington-and-Jefferson College, Pa., Chairman of Committee.

A National University. President A. D. White, of Cornell University, is expected to present the leading paper on this subject.

Sex and Education. It is intended that there shall be an opportunity for a full discussion of this subject by exponents of the leading views concerning it. Dr. Edw. H. Clarke, of Boston, will present the first paper.

Of the evening addresses nothing definite can at present be announced, except that the Hon. John Eaton, Commissioner of Education, is expected to deliver one of them.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

1. *The Elective System in Colleges and Universities*. Prof. A. P. Peabody, Harvard College.

2. *Co-education of the Sexes in Universities*. Prof. J. K. Hosmer, State University of Missouri.

3. *University Endowments*. Hon. J. B. Bowman, Regent of the University of Kentucky.

4. *Classical Studies in Higher Institutions of Education*. Prof. James D. Butler, Madison, Wisconsin.

5. *Plan of the University of Virginia*. C. S. Venable, Chairman of the Faculty of the University of Virginia.

DEPARTMENT OF NORMAL SCHOOLS.

1. *Report on the Actual Courses of Study of the Normal Schools in the United States, together with statistics relating to such Schools*. John Ogden, Assistant Principal of the Ohio Central Normal School, Worthington, Ohio.

2. *What are the Essentials of a Profession; and what must be the special work of Normal Schools to entitle them to be called Professional?* Larkin Dunton, Head Master of the City Normal School, Boston, Mass.

3. *Method and Manner*. Louis Soldan, Principal of the City Normal School, St. Louis, Mo.

4. *Training Schools in connection with Normal Schools*. Report by the Chairman of the Committee, J. C. Greenough, Principal of the State Normal School, Providence, R. I.

DEPARTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENCE.

Report of the Committee on *Uniform plan and form for publishing the principal Statistical Tables on Education*. T. W. Harvey, State Commissioner of Common Schools, Ohio, Chairman of Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Several Problems in Graded School Management. Hon. E. E. White, Ohio.

Language Lessons in Primary Schools. Miss Keeler, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Armstrong, Principal of the State Normal School, Fredonia, N. Y., is expected to present the subject of *Science in Elementary Schools*.

Complete announcements concerning programme, facilities for travel, hotel accommodations, etc., will be made as soon as possible.

S. H. WHITE, President.

A. P. MARBLE, Secretary.

PEORIA, Ill., May 11th, 1874.