

council of public instruction, of the highest class of teachers and of persons of influence outside your professional body. There can be no better proof of the importance attached to your calling, and I congratulate this association on the success of this Cowansville meeting. Various opinions exist and must, no doubt, exist on many important questions of administration as well of the other practical work of the teacher. And the best way to learn what is going on and to form an opinion as to the motives of those to whom are entrusted important functions is to meet them face to face. As a member of the Council of Public Instruction I can truly say that it is a source of infinite pleasure to me thus to meet you. And when I compare in my own mind the work which was being done in the academies of the country when the Protestant committee first instituted the system of inspection with the work now done, I am amazed at the advance which has been made during a comparatively short time. I could point out to you places which a few years ago seemed entirely indifferent to education—now possessed of well equipped schools, showing excellent results from examination, and the movement seems spreading, for year by year we are enabled to record an advance in the right direction. I do not mean to say that we have reached the standard which we should aim at, but whereas it was commonly thought a few years ago that the educational system of Quebec was far below the standard of Ontario, I very much question from the reports made to me, whether Quebec is now a whit below Ontario in this matter in her best schools. I am one of those who think that in the training of the mind there is a higher, a more noble aim than the mere money-getting principle. Intellectual knowledge is of value for its own sake, and although I have no faith in the often quoted statement that "Knowledge is power," yet there can be no doubt that knowledge gives power to him who possesses it if he but knows the way to use it. But even independent of this power, there is something in knowledge which is valuable simply for its own sake. Speaking with the most profound humility—but I hope not irreverently—I feel that every step taken by man in the acquisition of knowledge brings him nearer to Omniscience. If I have in these few words given you subject for thought, I shall not bear malice towards my friend your president, and again congratulate him and you on this successful gathering.

Several other addresses were also delivered during the evening.

COWANSVILLE, October 10.

The second day's proceedings of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers

was opened here at ten o'clock this morning, the president, Hon. W. W. Lynch, presiding. Amongst those present were Sir William Dawson, Hon. Senator Ferrier, Mr. Thomas White, M.P., and Mr. Fisher, M.P.

The meeting having been opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Ker,

The secretary announced that a telegram had been received from Dr. Putney, of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, regretting his inability to be present. A letter was also received from the Rev. Dr. Norman, expressing his regret at his unavoidable absence.

Dr. McGregor reported, on behalf of the nominating committee, recommending that the next place of meeting and officers for the ensuing year should be as follows:—

Place of meeting—Montreal.

President—Sir William Dawson.

Vice-Presidents—Dr. Robins, Dr. Cameron and Prof. McGregor.

Secretary—Dr. F. W. Kelley.

Treasurer—Mr. C. A. Humphrey.

Council—Mrs Fuller, Miss Peebles, Miss Rogers, Dr. McGregor, Messrs. R. J. Elliott, A. Pearson, A. W. Kneeland, and R. M. Campbell of Montreal; Mr. Holiday, of Huntingdon; Rev. R. Ker, of Quebec; Mr. Curtis, of St. Johns; Inspector Hubbard, of Sherbrooke; Miss McDonald of Quebec; Miss Abbot, of Waterloo; and Miss Phelps, of Bedford.

Dr. Robins communicated a paper on "School Aids," in which he recommended certain books as aids to teachers.

THE PROTESTANT COMMITTEE.

Mr. Hobart Butler, M.A., of the Bedford Academy, then read a paper on "A Few Thoughts upon the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, and the Results Flowing from its Official Acts." The paper expressed the opinion that too many of the members of the Protestant committee were residents of cities, and too few of the country, and this was shown by the distribution of the text-books. The result was detrimental in the extreme to the country schools. He pointed out that there was a great injustice done to the pupils of the country academies in the examinations for diplomas. The examinations took place on one day, and in five hours they have for the elementary diplomas to pass in eight subjects, and for the model and academy diplomas nine and ten subjects in the same number of hours. This he thought was decidedly unfair to the candidates. In the normal school on the other hand two or three weeks were allowed for the examination. In regard to the system of selection of text-books he mentioned that there were no two adjoining municipalities which had the same series. In Cowansville