

The question of remuneration was another important matter. It is conceived necessary by some earnest Educationists of this Province to throw a shield around the male teachers, lest their lady associates drive them all out of the profession. For women, teaching is the most remunerative employment in which they can be engaged. This is an important point to be considered, and experience in Massachusetts, and other States, has demonstrated the truthfulness of the apprehension. We must retain a certain proportion of the masculine element. The place for the female teacher and the position to be exclusively occupied by her is the elementary departments. For this position she is peculiarly adapted, and the male teacher is altogether unsuited. In him there is the want of the maternal sympathies so requisite for the successful conduct of the lower grades. Female teachers may occupy its higher positions to which their qualifications entitle them, but the primary is their sphere preeminently.

These are matters which must occupy the attention of those entrusted with the promotion of education, and it was desirable that the Convention should express its mind upon the questions that were pending.

In one matter there was room for immense improvement. The average attendance of pupils during the year 1868, was only 50.33 per cent. No system yet adopted had met the exigencies of the case, and it seemed as if some other system of registration and records were requisite. It is desirable that upon this subject likewise experienced teachers should express their views.

The Superintendent closed his address by a warm and feeling tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Forrester. Intimately associated with him for years in the public service, he felt it, in those days, to be a good thing to be able to say of one who labored so earnestly, so heartily, and so lovingly in the cause of Education, that he never knew a man more true to his convictions. Believing that a science of education is practicable, and that method is the very soul of school work, he wrought laboriously for the practical embodiment of his views in the schools of the Province. His labors are a legacy to us all. His fidelity to his convictions of duty is a lesson for us all—his fidelity in his daily work, not less so. Under an impelling sense of Duty he wrought his way; and we know,

He that ever following her commands,
On with toll of heart and knees and hands,
Thro' the long gorge to the far light—has won
His path upward and prevailed.
Shall find the topling crags of Duty scaled
Are close upon the shining table-lands,
To which our God Himself is moon and sun.
Such was he; his work is done

DISCUSSION ON ADDRESS.

J. Scott Hutton, Vice President (in the chair), expressed the pleasure he had in listening to the address, and heartily endorsed the well paid tribute to the memory of Dr. Forrester, who had laid the Province under so deep a debt of gratitude.

On motion, the thanks of the Association were presented to the Superintendent for his address.

S. McNaughton suggested that a high average in obtaining a license should be ranked as a certain amount of experience, and rewarded accordingly.

Mr. Condon briefly addressed the convention upon the subject of school rewards.

Mr. Bayne made explanation of the system of merit cards which had been introduced into the higher departments of the schools in Pictou. He exhibited the cards used, which are neatly printed in colored inks, and for their intrinsic merit are quite worthy of competition. They had been found most valuable incentives to diligence in study, to good deportment in school, and more important than all, to punctuality and regularity of attendance. They could be obtained at a very small outlay—an assorted box of 500 costing but \$1.

Mr. George set forth the necessity of keeping experienced teachers engaged in the work.

Rev. T. A. Higgins expressed himself feelingly upon the loss sustained in the death of the venerable Dr. Forrester, who had taken so lively an interest in the organization of the Teachers' Association. He wished to see the Association take steps to express in acts their appreciation of the late Doctor's services in the cause of Education.

Some objection was made to the oath which had been required of teachers in making their returns during the past year. Many were conscientiously opposed to taking an unconditional oath.

Mr. Rand highly appreciated such conscientiousness on the part of teachers. He said it had been found necessary to require an oath, but this he looked upon in the light of an oath as commonly taken, and understood it to imply that to the best of knowledge and ability the returns which the teachers made were correct.

After some further discussion the meeting adjourned.

FOURTH SESSION—TUESDAY EVENING.

The Association assembled at 7.30, the Rev. T. A. Higgins in the chair. The Rev. Dr. Robertson opened the proceedings with prayer. The Rev. Alex. McArthur proceeded to read a lecture on "The Democracy of Education." The lecture was worthy of careful study on the part of teachers.

On motion a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. McArthur for his able lecture. A request was preferred that Rev. Mr. McArthur would permit his lecture to be published in the *Journal of Education*.

[Rev. Mr. McArthur's lecture will appear in full in the next issue of the *Journal*.—Ed. J. E.]

Remarks upon the topics of the address were made by the Secretary, Messrs. Hollics, Hutton, senr., McNaughton and Parsons.

The subject of school rewards was again upon motion brought forward. Various opinions were advanced, some advocating the prize system, others the merit system, as explained in the afternoon session, and others deeming no reward at all requisite or advisable, but a sense of duty discharged to be the true motive to study. At the close of this discussion the Association adjourned.

SIXTH SESSION—WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Vice President J. Scott Hutton, Esq., took the chair; Rev. T. A. Higgins, at his request, engaged in prayer.

ESSAY ON "THE TEACHING OF GEOGRAPHY."

Mr. McNaughton read an interesting and instructive essay upon the Teaching of Geography. "His ideas were that all due obstructions and formal technicalities should be abandoned and the pupils taught largely from nature. They should be invited to gaze upon the hills, the brooks, the lakes, islands and points, and enlarge them in their imaginations to the grandeur of mountains, rivers, oceans and islands of which they are to be informed. The ideas, not the words, should be taught, the pupils' curiosity and his enthusiasm excited, so that every part he hears becomes indelibly impressed upon his memory."

The paper was well received and its author highly complimented. Messrs. George, Culkin and Hutton, junr., expressed admiration of its contents. They liked the light in which the teaching of geography had been presented. Such a method carried into practical detail was calculated to expand the mind, and elevate the views of pupils. Map-drawing from memory, recommended by the essayist, was highly spoken of as a practical point. No one teaches geography effectually who cannot construct a geography of his own.

ORDER AND MANAGEMENT IN THE HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

was the subject of a second essay read by Herbert A. Bayne, Esq. The subject was handled in a practical manner. The best methods of securing order, that suggested themselves in the experience of the author, were first set forth. Then the management of the different departments of the school work was considered, both class-work and seat-work. Plans for securing the most accurately performed class-work were recommended, means of inciting to diligence in seat-work, and methods for obtaining the most careful and faithful home preparation. The system of "recitation" was explained and its manifest superiority to the old system of question and answer rendered sufficiently apparent. Manuscripts for Arithmetic, Algebra and Practical Mathematics were considered essential to the High School. The system of rewards by means of neatly printed merit cards was approved of, and had been tested with eminent success.

The thanks of the Association were tendered to the author. The Editors of the Dalhousie College Gazette, through the Secretary, Mr. Parsons, requested the essay for publication in their paper. He has since, however, been solicited to place the manuscript in the hands of the Superintendent, and portions of it will appear in the first issue of the *Journal*.

ORDER AND MANAGEMENT IN THE PREPARATION DEPARTMENT.

(Of a Graded School.)

The essay on this subject was written by a lady teacher. It was read by Mr. Parsons. The paper was interesting and well written, and commended itself to the teachers present. Much satisfaction was expressed that the lady teachers were now taking so prominent a part in the work of the Convention. It had been previously intimated that another paper by a lady teacher would be read in the evening, upon the Elementary Department of the Graded School. Association adjourned.

SEVENTH SESSION—WEDNESDAY EVENING.

F. A. Higgins, Vice President, this evening occupied the chair. F. W. George, A.M., opened the meeting in the usual manner. After the reading and adoption of the minutes, Rev. Dr. Robertson was introduced as the lecturer for the evening, and the subject of his lecture announced to be

THE INFLUENCE OF CLASSICAL STUDIES ON THE INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL CONDITION OF THE LEARNER.

The Rev. gentleman stated it to be his purpose to refute the too common objection taken against the pursuit of classical studies, as too largely engrossing the time which might be more profitably devoted to other branches of greater practical utility.

Classical study, he said, had always formed an important branch of education, because it opened up a vast fund of knowledge. The experience of others thus becomes ours; ancient modes of thought,