

### Teachers' Centennial Excursion.

So many expressed to me a desire of receiving an account of the Ontario Teachers' Centennial excursion, that I must beg to be allowed space in your columns while I briefly recount the chief incidents of our trip to the great International Exhibition. This excursion being, as many are already aware, under the efficient management of Dr. May, connected with the Department of Education at Toronto, and now Commissioner at the Centennial, was a most pleasant affair. All the comforts of a first-class passage, except the luxury of Wagner's drawing room and sleeping cars, which, through some misfortune could not be attached to our train, was obtained for us on a superior route. But, although deprived of our night's sweet rest, the journey was far from being disagreeable; for the ladies, as is their wont, exerted themselves to their uttermost to revive the drooping spirits of their male friends who were invitingly pleading with Morpheus to have mercy on them, and among the number was to be found my humble self. I am proud and glad to state that the ladies of the Essex excursion party contributed a large share to the enjoyment of the occupants of their coach, and I may also add that throughout our stay at the Centennial they distinguished themselves by their joviality, and their readiness to enjoy all the good treats afforded by the grand exhibition, being therefore assiduously courted by the most gallant pedagogues, who disputed among themselves the pleasure and honor of being their escorts.

Now, about our accommodations in the city. They were excellent, good board and lodging having been secured for us at a first class hotel, situated in front of the main exhibition building and within a hundred yards from the principal entrances. Guides and experts were provided for us to lead us through the Educational and various other departments, and to impart to us the explanations necessary to the perfect understanding of the nature and class of the different exhibits; and I must say, *en passant*, that in the Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Ontario departments we found much to excite our wonder and admiration. The three have on exhibition a vast variety of objects of a very noticeable and useful kind, and if Ontario is forced to see herself inferior in her displays to the great States, she can at least boast of ranking superior to all others. But as I intend making our reception by the Philadelphia teachers the special subject of this communication, I shall refrain from making any further comments on the exhibition, reserving them for a future letter, which, no doubt, will be more interesting to a larger number of your readers.

Monday afternoon (numbering 300,) we assembled in Judge's Hall, and were tendered a most magnificent reception by a committee of thirty-four Philadelphia teachers. General Eaton, United States Commissioner of Education, presided, and addressed to us words of welcome in the name of the teachers of the United States. General Hanley followed, and said that Canada had done more towards the success of the Centennial than any other eight States of the Union, except Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Addresses of welcome were also delivered by several other gentlemen, among whom was the Hon. J. Lynch, who said that the brightest jewel in America's crown of glory, now receiving the homage of the world at the Centen-

nial Exhibition, is the advancement which she has made in education. On behalf of the Canadian teachers, Dr. May replied that he really did not know how to thank the friends who had given them so cordial a greeting. He was sure that his associates would have been overwhelmed with the kindness they had received had he not told them in advance what they might expect in the city of brotherly love.

On Tuesday, according to the plan laid out, we proceeded on a visit to the Pennsylvania State Building, which we were cordially invited to make our head-quarters. From thence we were taken by the members of the committee to the Massachusetts and other educational departments. The rest of the day was devoted to sight-seeing in the main building and Machinery Hall. Wednesday, we were left to occupy the time as we deemed best. Thursday, we divided up into groups, and were taken charge of by the school authorities, and conducted to the principal high and public schools of the city. The excellent methods by which they impart knowledge were explained to us, but what pleased us the most was the perfect discipline which reigns throughout all the different apartments. At noon we all again mustered at the new Normal School, an elegant and substantial building, and were shown into the room of assembly, where a collation was awaiting us. Having done ample justice to the dainty dishes, and given a vote of thanks to our generous friends, we embarked in carriages which had been provided for us and drove up to Girard College, a superb marble building, erected at an enormous cost by a retired French merchant, and given to the city for the education of orphans. Thereafter we wended our way to the Zoological Garden, and after having examined the animals, it being time for tea, we directed our steps towards Congress Hall, our boarding place, well satisfied with the amount of information we had gathered. During Friday several of us made a start for Canada, some by way of Long Branch and New York, and others back through the Lehigh Valley, making connection with the Canada Southern, and reaching home Sunday noon. Among the latter were some of the Essex excursion party, the others returning via New York.

I must repeat what I said in the beginning; our week's visit to the Centennial was enjoyed to a very great extent by every one, and its remembrance will be long and fondly treasured.—"Eugenius," in *Essex Times*.

A Montreal paper reports:—Synod Hall was well filled yesterday afternoon to hear the inaugural address of Rev. J. F. Stevenson, on the occasion of the opening of the session of 1876-77 of the Ladies' Educational Association. The speaker considered the question of the higher education of woman from two points of view: (1) What is education? (2) Reasons why woman should attend to her own culture? After the address, a vote of thanks was tendered the speaker, who announced that the course of lectures for the coming winter had been arranged to meet the suggestions of the committee, as expressed in the report for 1874-75. The course includes "The Structure and Habits of the Lower Forms of Life," "Structural and Systematic Botany," "Ancient History," and "Electricity and Magnetism."