

of Dec. 2nd, 1876, with apparently a slower velocity, passed over more than 1,300 miles, from Kansas to the coast of New York, without at the latter point coming nearer than 30 miles to the earth. Several showers of fragments, however, were thrown off in its flight. The course of the meteor of July 20th, 1860, from a point 90 miles above Michigan passed through the air with a velocity of only 10 to 12 miles, and when it passed the coast line of New York for the Atlantic, it was still 42 miles high. The evidently greater velocity of our meteor caused it to ricochet from the earth's atmosphere in a comparatively short course.

There have been a great number of accurate observations on meteors of late years in Europe and America, so that we are certain of many points formerly doubtful. We trust that the interest excited by our late celestial visitor, will cause our people to be better prepared to make accurate observations when the next comes.

TEACHERS IN COUNCIL.

During the past month many of the County Institutes in New Brunswick have held interesting, and, we hope, profitable sessions. From the reports that have been furnished us we are glad to notice the practical character of the work that has been done. At the Westmorland County Institute this was especially marked. The papers and addresses were practical, and the exhibition of school work of such a superior character as is fitted to give a great impetus to manual training in the schools throughout that county.

Among other interesting subjects at the Carleton and York Institutes, we notice that there were addresses on the importance of developing ideas among scholars in regard to civic government—teaching the functions of our municipal, provincial, and general governments. Inspector Oakes introduced the subject to the Carleton County Institute, and Mr. G. R. Parkin to the York Institute. The subject is an important one, and our readers will be interested in learning that a prominent barrister of New Brunswick has in course of preparation a treatise that may serve as a hand-book on civil government and its functions.

We expect to be able to present to our readers a synopsis of the addresses made before the York and Carleton Institutes, by the gentlemen who took part in the discussion on this subject.

The substance of a paper read by Mr. H. C. Creed, A. M., of the Normal School, will be found elsewhere.

The Charlotte County Institute met at St. Stephen last week. Papers were read by Inspector Carter, P. G. McFarlane, A. B., James G. Campbell, J. Vroom, and others. The papers and discussions seem to have been both interesting and profitable.

The Institutes of Albert and Gloucester are in session this week, and so is the Educational Association of P. E. Island, the programme of which is published in another column.

Northumberland County holds its Annual Institute on the 20th and 21st, and St. John on the week following.

Concerning the work of teachers and the sympathy and co-operation of parents, the *Moncton Times* of a recent issue makes the following pointed references:

"The school teachers of Westmorland have met and separated, and for another year the public will hear very little about them. But their work will go on, and will doubtless be the better because of the influence brought to bear upon them during these days in Moncton. * * Not when they meet together for deliberation, and have the strength of each other's sympathy, do they most need or most appreciate the kindness and sympathy, the courteous treatment and pleasing compliments of others. But it is when each teacher is engaged in his or her daily work, without the counsel and companionship of fellow teachers, that the kindness and sympathy of others is most appreciated and will do the most good.

"If it be true, as teachers are on festive occasions assured, that their work is grand and worthy of the best energies of the greatest intellects, then teachers have a right to expect that a due appreciation of that work, and a never-failing aid and sympathy will be accorded them. Else, they must have been wrongly assured in the first place, or there is a distinct neglect of duty on the part of those who gave the assurance. That is sufficiently clear. Whatever may be the shortcomings of individual teachers, however distasteful some of them may be to the people of a district, the fact remains that they are there, that their labor is with the impressible unformed minds of children, and that for good or ill the impress of their far reaching influence is being stamped upon those young lives. Prudence, therefore, and parental foresight would suggest the advisability of a deep and manifest interest in their labor and its results. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public mind that upon the general public rests a vast amount of responsibility in connection with the failure or success of school work, which is, ultimately, the success or failure of individuals and nations."