

THE OLD BROWN SCHOOL-HOUSE.

BY REV. DWIGHT WILLIAMS.

In memory's hall hangs the picture,
And years of sad care are between;
It hangs with a beautiful gilding,
And well do I love it, I ween.
It stood on a bleak country corner,
But boyhood's young heart made it warm,
It glowed in the sunshine of summer;
'Twas cheerful in winter and storm.

Oh, gay were the sports of the noontide,
When winter winds frolicked with snow;
We laughed at the freaks of the storm king,
And shouted him on all aglow.
We dashed at his beautiful sculpture,
Regardless of all its array;
We plunged in the feathery snow-drifts,
And sported the winter away.

We sat on the old fashioned benches,
Beguiled with our pencil and slate;
We thought of the opening future,
And dreamed of our manhood's estate.
Oh, days of my boyhood, I bless ye,
While looking from life's busy prime;
The treasures are lingering with me
I gathered in life's early time.

Oh, still to that bleak country corner
Turns my heart in weariness yet,
Where, leading my gentle young sisters,
With youthful companions I met;
I cast a fond glance o'er the meadow;
The hills just behind it I see;
Away in the charm of the distance,
Old school-house, a blessing on thee!

Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

WATERLOO.—The Waterloo County Teachers' Association met in the Central School, Berlin, on Friday, January 27, at 10 a.m. The president, Mr. S. S. Herner, in the chair. After prayer by Mr. Groh the minutes of last semi-annual meeting were read by the secretary, Mr. Chas. A. Winter, and on motion, adopted. Communications were read from Mr. Mowat, Miss Armstrong, and Education Department. On motion of Mr. C. B. Linton, a hearty thanks of this Association were tendered to the Minister of Education for his generous and thoughtful gift of school text-books, sets of educational reports, &c., to this Association. Reports of treasurer, showing balance in hand of \$56.89, and of library committee, showing total number of volumes in library to be 364, and recommending that the SCHOOL JOURNAL be supplied to members for 30 cents, and *Educational Monthly* for 45 cents per annum (balance to be paid out of funds of Association), were then read and adopted. Mr. McIntyre then read an able and interesting essay on "The Teachers' Association in the past," in which he gave a brief sketch of its first organization, its ups and downs, sometimes dying a natural death from lack of interest displayed by the teachers, then starting again with renewed vigor to meet, perhaps, the same fate until the present one was organized. After a short discussion between the older members the meeting adjourned until 2 p.m. The first hour in the afternoon was taken up by general business, after which Mr. A. H. Morrison, of Galt, read a masterly and eloquent address on "Competitive Examinations," in which he condemned the system from beginning to end, claiming that its results were unjust alike to teachers and pupils. This provoked a warm discussion in which, although all paid a high tribute to the literary excellence of the essay, yet the essayist's strong condemnation of the system was strongly criticised. A very lengthy and well-prepared essay on "Overwork in Public Schools," by J. E. Bryant, M.A., of Galt, was read, but owing to the lateness of the hour,

could not be finished or discussed. In the evening the members were entertained to an instructive and interesting debate on the question: "Resolved that it would be of greater advantage to the cause of higher education to have the tuition free," in which the affirmative was sustained by Messrs. Lewis and Brown, and the negative by Messrs. Chapman and W. Linton. During intervals in the debate music, readings, &c., were furnished by Misses Ziegler, Weaver, Hunter, and Bechtel; and Messrs. Groh, Brown, Morrison, Chapman, Ziegler, Moyer, and Winter. *Saturday*, 9.30 a.m.—Opened with the election of officers, as follows: President, J. Suddaby; Vice-President, Wm. Linton; Sec.-Treasurer, Sylvester Moyer; Executive Committee, Misses Ziegler, Scott, and Messrs. Lewis, McIntyre, Ballantyne. Mr. F. McKinney introduced the subject of "Geography," showing how he would convey to the minds of his pupils practical ideas of the physical features of the earth by utilizing the resources at hand, viz.: the physical features of the locality, as hills, rivers, ponds, &c., if possible, thus progressing from the known to the unknown. The Committee on "Promotion Examinations" then reported, "That owing to circumstances beyond our influence the uniform Promotion Examinations have to be discontinued for the present," and after some discussion the report was adopted. Mr. Whitmer then illustrated his method of teaching "Reading" (3rd Book), followed by an interesting discussion taken part in by a number of the members present. After the election of Mr. Lewis, of Ayr, as delegate to the Provincial Teachers' Association, Mr. Suddaby dealt with the Subjunctive Mood in an effective manner, and spent some little time in replying to queries by members present. On motion the meeting adjourned until 1.30 p.m. In the afternoon, a motion of condolence to the friends of the late W. S. Brown, and a motion of regret at the retirement of Mr. S. Eby from the profession were passed, and the managing committee's report on programme for next meeting read and adopted. In the absence of Miss Armstrong, her essay on "Physical Culture" was read by the secretary, and a vote of thanks passed to Miss Armstrong for preparing it. After routine business the Association adjourned to meet on the third Friday and Saturday in September.—CHAS. A. WINTER, Sec.-Treasurer.

GLENGARRY.—The semi-annual meeting of the Glengarry Teachers' Association was held in the Brick School House, Alexandria, on Thursday and Friday, February 2nd and 3rd. There was a large attendance of Teachers from all parts of the County, and we trust that substantial benefit was derived from the interchange of ideas between those members who were present. Carefully prepared papers and addresses were given upon the following subjects:—Hygiene, Dr. McDiarmid, I. P. S., President of the Association; "Schoolmaster," Alex. Kennedy, H. M., Model School, Martintown; Proportion, W. D. Johnston, B.A., H. M., H. S., Alexandria; Grammar Text-Books, D. J. Hunter, M. D., of the Alexandria H. S.; History, J. Houston, Principal of Lancaster, P. S., and D. D. McDonell; Object Lessons, Misses Ross and Simpson; Composition, Dr. McDiarmid; Vocal Music, Miss McDonald; Fourth Book Literature, J. C. McCabe; "Trustees, what they are, and what they should be," Mr. F. McCallum. The proceedings were enlivened by readings, given by Mr. Thos. Scales, B. A., Head Master of the Williamstown H. S., and W. D. Johnston, B.A., H. M., Alexandria High School. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President and Treasurer, Dr. McDiarmid, I. P. S.; Vice-President, Alex. Kennedy; Secretary, W. D. Johnston; Librarian, A. B. McDonald; Management Committee, D. D. McDonell, F. McCallum, J. C. McCabe, H. D. McDonald, J. D. Houston; Auditors, D. J. Hunter, and Alex. McDonald. After the passing of a resolution authorizing the Committee of Management to make arrangements with some prominent educationist for a public lecture, to be delivered at the next meeting, the Association adjourned until September next.

W. D. JOHNSTON, Secretary.

NORFOLK.—The Norfolk Teachers' Association met in the High School building, Simcoe, on the 17th and 18th inst. A splendid programme was prepared, chiefly through the efforts of the Secretary, Mr. Cron. The meeting was one of the most successful ever held, Mr. McLellan contributing much to the success. The enthusiastic reception which was given him, the attention that was paid to all his addresses, show that he still retains the confidence of the teachers of the Co. of Norfolk, and that he has lost none of that well-deserved popularity, notwithstanding the fierce and unjust attacks which have been made upon him by his unscrupulous enemies in the city of Toronto. There is no doubt but that at the present moment there is no more popular man among the teachers of Ontario than Dr. McLellan, and all rejoice that his health has so far recovered as to permit his visiting the Associations again. The meeting was called to order by President Smith, at 10 a.m. After some business, Mr. S. C. Woodsworth took up "Uniform Promotion Examinations." He presented his scheme in a clear manner, and was attentively listened to by all present. After a few remarks from Dr. Woodsworth, Mr. Grant, and Dr. McLellan, S. F. Passmore, B.A., read an essay on the "Study of Classics," giving the history of the language and the connection of our tongue with the Latin. Afternoon Session—Mr. Courtland presented "Illusions of History" in his usual clear style, showing that many of