

NORTH HONON.—The regular semi-annual meeting of this association was held in the central school, Brussels, on Thursday and Friday, May 25th and 26th. In the absence of the president, Mr. John Shaw of Brussels occupied the chair while Mr. Malcolm Black officiated as secretary. Mr. Sparling's essay on "Self Culture of Teachers," was evidently the work of considerable thought, pointing out clearly that teachers, when once they have obtained their certificates, should not rest upon their oars, but keep themselves thoroughly posted on current events, and improve their mental status by a liberal perusal of choice works. Mr. J. L. Robertson, representative of Messrs. W. J. Gage & Co., addressed the meeting on the subject of reading books. He exhibited a new series by Messrs. Gage & Co., which for choice selection, artistic finish, and general excellence far surpasses anything we have ever seen. A committee composed of Messrs. Dewar, Duff, Henderson, McKay and Shaw, brought in the following report on this series which was unanimously adopted:—"We are of opinion that notwithstanding the annoyance to parents arising from a change of text books, our present readers owing to their many defects should be superseded by a more desirable series as soon as they can be judiciously introduced. Having carefully examined the series of readers published by Messrs. Gage & Co., we can heartily recommend them as in every way superior to the series now in use, and we believe that their introduction into the schools of the country would be a decided benefit." (Signed) Arch Dewar, I. P. S.; John Shaw, H. M. Brussels central school; R. Henderson; H. M. Blyth P. S.; W. G. Duff; H. M. Roxboro P. S.; A. M. McKay; H. M. Cranbrook P. S. Mr. Henderson read an interesting essay on "How to cultivate literary taste in schools." Mr. Robertson's exemplification of the "Tonic self-system" was well received. In the evening a public entertainment was given in the Town Hall. The feature of the evening was Mr. Robertson's address on the "Work and care of teachers." Messrs. Duff and Robertson each gave songs, and Messrs. Wallis and Stewart and Miss Reinhart, readings. Mr. Sparling again read his essay on "Self culture of teachers." On Friday Mr. W. E. Groves gave a short discourse on "Practical arithmetic," which brought on a brief and interesting discussion. Mr. Robertson, of Toronto, addressed the teachers on the subject of "Reading." He first pointed out the great importance of this subject, as through it we derive our knowledge of all the sciences. He gave a humorous description of the old method of teaching the alphabet, and illustrated by blackboard illustrations the most approved methods of teaching the subject. He gave some amusing examples of the sing-song method of reading, and pointed out many of the errors into which teachers and others fall in teaching and practising reading. He advised a sparing use of simultaneous reading in schools, and showed how an interesting exercise might be made out of word-building. Mr. Robertson was listened to with rapt attention while delivering his address. On concluding, Mr. Robertson was tendered the thanks of the association for his able address. The valedictory of late secretary treasurer, Mr. A. M. Taylor, was read before the association, after which a vote of thanks to Mr. Taylor was moved by Mr. Dewar, seconded by Mr. Duff. It was also moved and seconded by the same that the valedictory with the permission of Mr. Taylor, be published. A resolution of condolence to the family of the late James Hartly Esq. McKillop, was adopted and the secretary instructed to forward same to Mrs. Hartly. Also a resolution congratulating the late sec. treas. Mr. A. M. Taylor on his appointment to the head mastership of Ingersoll central school, was adopted. Mr. Dewar, I. P. S., addressed the teachers on the question "Is the cultivation of morals sufficiently attended to in the public schools?" He pointed out the most prevalent faults common among pupils in the public schools, such as rudeness of manner and speech, copying, prompting, &c., and showed that the indulgence of these habits in youth depraved the morals and destroyed self-reliance, which is an important factor in forming good moral character. Mr. Dewar's remarks were pointed and forcible. He also referred to the negligence of some teachers in making out the annual and semi-annual reports. The election of officers was next called for and resulted as follows: President Mr. R. Henderson, Blyth; vice president, Mr. W. Duff, Roxboro; sec. treas. Mr. W. E. Groves, Wingham. Mr. Ferguson of Wingham, was appointed delegate to provincial association in Toronto. Messrs. W. T. Bray and Dr. McDonald, Wingham were appointed auditors. The meeting then adjourned to meet again in Searforth in early autumn.

EAST GREY.—The semi-annual meeting of the East Grey teachers' association was held at Meaford on the 25th and 26th ult. Nearly all the teachers in the division, and also trustees and others were present. The president, Mr. M. Mackinnon of Meaford, presided. Routine business was first proceeded with. After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the secretary, Mr. Farewell, Messrs. Grier and Henderson were appointed delegates to the annual convention of the Ontario teachers' association. The president explained the reason for the absence of Mr. G. W. Ross, and stated that it was impossible owing to other engagements on the same days, for the publishers of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL to send a representative to the present meeting. He spoke of the excellence of the JOURNAL, and thought it would be well for the association to consider whether each member should be supplied with a copy out of the association funds. It was then decided

that each paying member should receive a copy from the association. The regular programme was then proceeded with. The president delivered an address on "The Bible in the public school." He believed the Bible should be read in our schools, but saw serious objections to its use as a text-book. He was afraid its introduction as a text-book would cause less reverence for the Word, lead to denominational teaching, and seriously impair the working of our admirable school system. The main agents in religious teaching must be ministers, sabbath school teachers, and above all parents themselves. Mr. John Whyte then explained his method of teaching "Dictation." Mr. A. Grier, inspector, discussed "School law," and dwelt especially on the changes made at the recent session of parliament. Mr. George Lindsay read a paper on "Superannuation." He disapproved of the sliding scale system of payment which he characterized as iniquitous, and in the interests of the well paid teachers of the towns and cities. According to this system, he said, pensions would not be given according to services rendered, but money paid—an unheard-of thing. No action was taken as the Association had disposed of the matter at a previous meeting. Mr. Henderson with the aid of the blackboard explained his method of teaching "Music." He thought that music should be taught in all our schools, and said by a little attention every teacher would be able to teach it. Rev. Mr. Clark in his address on "Memories of Dr. Ryerson," dwelt mostly on the great educational services of the Reverend Doctor. He set him up as an example to young men of what industry, perseverance, and moral rectitude can accomplish. An excellent essay on "Home training," was read by Rev. Mr. Johnston. He spoke of the importance of good early training, and pointed out the many mistakes made by parents. Mr. Jas. McMillan discussed "Practical education." He thought much of school study was useless save as a mental exercise. He recommended more attention to Botany and other sciences. Rev. Mr. Large read a paper on "Fictitious Reading," showing the evils of so much light frivolous reading, and the importance of improving time by the reading of what is useful and practical. The discussions which followed the introduction of each subject were interesting and profitable. The entertainment on the evening of the first day was a decided success. The cornet band with the aid of Mr. Kelly, a noted vocalist, and others, made a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

NORTH YORK.—The teachers of North York convened at Newmarket on the 26th and 27th of May. The minutes of the previous evening were, after a slight correction, approved. Miss Birnie of Newmarket model school, was called on to teach a class of children to spell. Her method was good, but provoked considerable criticism, some teachers thinking time could be saved by spelling orally instead of adopting her method of writing. The subject of uniform promotion examination was then discussed. It was thought a desirable plan, and a committee was named to collect information and to lay a plan before the convention at its next meeting. Mr. Armstrong, head master of Aurora school, took up his subject, "How to teach composition in school." He spoke of the value of the knowledge and the disgrace attending the lack of knowledge of this important branch. He thought the subject should be commenced in the lowest classes and continued to the higher grades. The convention agreed that it was injurious to assign such subjects as "Ambition," "Virtue," &c., &c., to pupils for composition as their minds was not able to grasp them thoroughly. The nominating committee reported at this stage and the following persons were elected to office.—Mr. Fotheringham, inspector, president; Mr. J. E. Dickson, H. S. M., vice-president; Mr. W. F. Moore, principal of Nobleton school, 2nd vice president; Mr. S. E. Jewitt, secretary and treasurer; Miss Annie Birnie of Newmarket, librarian; Messrs. Rannie, Armstrong, Holland, MacPherson, and Stone, managing committee. Professor Huntman was present and gave a very interesting lecture on the phonic method of reading. A vote of thanks was tendered to him. Mr. W. F. Moore read an excellent essay on "How to secure the co-operation of the pupils." Messrs. Dickson, Moore and Rose were appointed to draft a memorial of regret on Dr. Ryerson's death. Mr. Love sang the "English Lion" with good effect. Mr. Marton of Newmarket high school, illustrated his method of teaching decimal fractions. Mr. Marton seems to be master of his subject (mathematics) and deserved the vote of thanks that was tendered to him. At the evening session Mr. W. F. Moore, sang Tennyson's new song "Hands all round;" Miss Birnie rendered "The last Rose of Summer" in good style (instrumental). The Petch quartette choir sang a few pieces very well, also "Our Homes," by Mr. Petch. Mr. F. Spence from Toronto, spoke for an hour and a half on "Brain conflicts." This gentleman has the true gifts of an orator and dealt with his subject in masterly style. Miss Birnie sang a fine song in an appropriate manner. On Saturday morning Prof. Huntsman gave a half hour's lecture on phonography. Mr. F. Spence took up the subject of "Temperance in school." He said he would teach it as lessons in hygiene. The lecture was good and instructive. Miss Watson of Nobleton sang "Yesterday" very nicely. Mr. Scott of Toronto, gave two excellent addresses on History and Fourth Book Literature. Both lectures were full of thought and showed Mr. Scott to be a man of originality and ability. The convention then adjourned to meet at the call of the president.