

Reorganization of the St. Francis District Association of Teachers.

(From the *Sherbrooke Gazette* of March 23rd, 1877.)

A meeting was held at the Academy, in this city, on Wednesday, for the purpose of re-organizing the Teachers' Association of the District of St. Francis. Teachers from Coaticook, Stanstead, Lennoxville and Sherbrooke, and several others interested in the matter, were present, and although no special preparation had been made for an order of exercises, the day was spent very profitably and agreeably in readings and discussions.

As the Association has been inactive for some years, it was necessary first to proceed to the business of choosing officers, which was soon despatched, and the following board elected: Mr. Inspector Hubbard, President; Revs. Professor Holmes of Stanstead, and Tambs of Lennoxville, Vice-Presidents; H. D. Lawrence, of Sherbrooke, Sec.-Treas.; and Principal G. L. Masten of Coaticook, Dr. G. J. Bompas of Stanstead and Miss M. L. Hunt of Sherbrooke, Executive Committee; of which also the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary are ex-officio members.

Principal Masten began the discussion of the day by reading a very able and interesting paper on "The Successful Teacher," in which his opinions as to the secrets of success were clearly and forcibly presented with a voice and manner which showed that the elocutionist and teacher may be one and the same. The paper was listened to with marked attention, and in the general discussion which followed Rev. Dr. Nicholls and Rev. Mr. Holmes spoke with special reference to methods of discipline and the teacher's daily preparation for work. In regard to the latter subject, it was the opinion of all that the teacher should prepare himself for the day's recitation before entering the school room. The meeting then adjourned until afternoon, when the work of the day was continued by the reading of a paper by H. D. Lawrence on "Written Examinations, and in the animated discussion which followed it, in which nearly all present took part, the subject was quite fully treated; and while there were differences in the opinions given in regard to the merits of the written examination, it seemed to be the general sentiment of the members that the benefits of the exercise far outweigh its disadvantages, and that it is quite possible to unite the two methods so as to bring out the good results of both.

Rev. Dr. Nicholls, of Lennoxville, then favored the audience with a paper on "The Office, Business and Character of the Teacher." The subject, in itself an interesting one, was rendered more so by the able manner in which it was handled by the writer, and for nearly an hour, the reading was listened to with attention. The lateness of the hour prevented, and the exhaustive manner in which the subject was treated precluded, the necessity of further discussion.

Remarks were made by Rev. C. P. Reid, Rev. A. Duff, Dr. Worthington and the President, with regard to religious instruction in schools, and although it was the opinion of some that such should be left entirely to home influences, yet the majority seemed to concur in the opinion of Rev. Mr. Reid, that there was nothing in the nature of the case to prevent a religious teacher from inculcating the general principles of sound morality and universal Christianity, without being unduly influenced by so called Sectarian views.

The session was concluded with remarks by President Hubbard as to the origin and former usefulness of the Association, its present object and future possibilities. He referred to its previous meetings, to the practical

value of all such meetings as means of increasing the efficiency of teachers, and urged upon those present the necessity of active interest and co-operation in the work of reviving and fostering the present Association.

The Provincial Association, of which R. W. Hencker, Esq., is President, holds its next annual convention in this city in October next, and it is the duty of every teacher in the Province to attend its sessions if possible. The men who will come here are men of experience in all the details of Educational matters, and no one can attend their meetings and listen to what they have to say without gaining valuable information.

There is at present a praise worthy awakening here in educational matters which has been long needed, and which will we think result in much good.

If we cannot next fall, show the members of the Provincial Association model school houses and a perfected system of graded schools, let us at least show them that we are thoroughly alive to the necessities of the case and mean to have them at an early day. And above all let us so impress them with the appreciative and progressive spirit of the people that they will hail with pleasure the announcement of future meetings of the Association in this city.

MISCELLANY.

Ethnological and Political Difficulties.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—A statistical report lately published at Athens, relating to the Christian population of European Turkey, gives some interesting information about Albania. The Roumanians and Slavs are the most numerous, forming compact agglomerations with tolerably well defined frontiers; the Greek element surpasses the other in culture and wealth; and though it would be difficult to draw an exact line of demarcation between the Greeks and the Slavs, such a task would not be impossible if both sides were prepared to make some unimportant concessions. In Albania, on the other hand, the population, which exceeds 1,000,000, is neither Greek, Slav, nor Turkish; its predominant religion is the Mahometan, and its destination, in the event of a break-up in the Ottoman Empire, would cause many difficulties of both an ethnological and a political kind. The religious dissensions of the Albanians have caused bitter antagonisms among them which it would be very hard to reconcile, and they have no strong national feeling like the Greeks and the Slavs. In the northern part of the province there are some one hundred thousand Roman Catholics—the Mirdites—who, like all the Roman Catholics of the East, form a separate community of their own, giving allegiance only to the Pope. They have nothing in common with the other Albanians, or with any of the neighbouring races, and they are too few in number to form a separate State by themselves. Of the remaining Albanians about six hundred and fifty thousand are Mahometans, and 350,000 Christians of the Greek Orthodox Church; there are also in the provinces about thirty thousand Slavs and the same number of Epirote Greeks. The Mahometan Albanians are inclined to side with the Turks; those of the Greek Church lean to the Greeks, and both are strongly opposed to the Mirdites.

Easter Simnel Cake.—In olden days, in England, there were also curious customs, which are now passing away. One of these was the preparation of a simnel cake. This cake is yet made in Shropshire where it is said to have originated in the following manner. An aged couple, living in their homestead, were visited by their son Simon and their daughter Nelly, at Easter. On arriving at the house, they found that the old folks had nothing wherewith to entertain them, save the unleavened dough left from the Lenten fast. Nelly proposed to bake this into cakes for the younger children, and while preparing it, she came across the remains of the Christmas plum pudding. This she proposed to cover over with the dough, and bake it hard, so that when the hard crust was bitten through, the rich interior would be a surprise. The cake was