

ration, and the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law was formally conferred upon them.

Mr. Geoffrion then delivered the valedictory on behalf of the graduates, and Professor Laframme the parting address on behalf of the Faculty.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR then briefly addressed the Convocation, alluding with gratification to the fact that the number of students in the past year had been larger than ever before, viz. 314, or with those of the affiliated colleges, 350. The number of graduates also was larger, being this year 66. And it was gratifying to know that the largest per centage of increase was in the Faculty of Arts. Another noteworthy feature in the results of this year's work was, that out of 7 honour men, 6 were sent up by the High School. Heretofore the students from the country districts had often won the greater number of places. Again, out of five medals this year four had been carried off by High School boys; and the medals in the two professional faculties had been won by men who had graduated with honours in Arts, taking medals in that faculty also. Here was another proof of the advantage of the more thorough preparatory studies of the college, even in competition for professional eminence. The Vice-Chancellor next alluded to the fact that at last, after fifteen years of anxious labor, the Governors had utilized and rendered productive all the estate bequeathed by the late Hon. James McGill for its foundation, except what was absolutely needed for the college itself. Their administration of that estate was proof to all who might be willing to intrust them with further funds, that they would also be well used. There was much more needed, either from private beneficence or public means; and a public man could in no way earn more enviable distinction than by using his influence to wipe off the reproach that the government and Parliament of the Province had given nothing for the endowment of academical institutions in Lower Canada. He concluded with an eloquent appeal to the graduates and students respecting the development of their minds beyond the comparatively narrow range of studies they had hitherto pursued.

The proceedings were closed with the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Professor Cornish, and the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.—Yesterday the annual election of officers of this Society took place at the William Molson Hall, which resulted as follows:—

President; B. Chamberlin, M. A., B. C. L.,
1st Vice President: R. A. Leach, M. A., B. C. L.,
2nd Vice President: E. H. Trenholme, M. D., B. C. L.,
Secretary and Treasurer: C. P. Davidson, B. A., B. C. L.,
Members of Council: W. W. Squire, M. A., M. D.; J. H. Bothwell, B. A., B. C. L., and N. Trenholme, B. A., B. C. L.

Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Teachers' Association in connection with the Laval Normal School.

This Convention was held on the 26th and 27th January last.

Present:—Rev. Principal Langevin, Messrs. J. B. Cloutier, President; E. Saint-Hilaire, Secretary; F. N. Toussaint, N. Lacasse, N. Thibault, D. McSweeney, J. B. Dugal, L. Roy, and the teacher-pupils of the Normal school.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and adopted, Mr. E. Saint-Hilaire read an essay on the qualities of the teacher; after which the Principal made several interesting experiments.

The meeting was then adjourned to the following day at 9:30 A. M.

SECOND SITTING.

Present:—Rev. Principal J. Langevin, Inspector Juneau, Messrs. J. B. Cloutier, E. Saint-Hilaire, Ed. Carrier, F. N. Toussaint, N. Lacasse, N. Thibault, D. McSweeney, Jos. Létourneau, J. B. Dugal, A. Emond, Ls. Roy, P. Paradis, G. Gauvin, H. Declercq, G. Tremblay, J. Gagné, F. Morisset, P. A. Roy, A. Paradis, D. Pichet, and the teacher-pupils of the Normal school.

The association unanimously approved of the accounts given in by Mr. E. Gauvin, treasurer for last year, and also of the following resolution adopted by the Committee of Management at its morning session.

Moved by Mr. Ed. Carrier, seconded by Mr. E. Saint-Hilaire, and *Resolved*,—That as many of the members neglected to pay their annual contributions, the names of those who were in arrear be struck off the list of members of this association at the next meeting, if they fail to pay before that time the full amount due.

The President then briefly stated the conditions required to become a member of the association and the privileges enjoyed by those belonging to it; after which four new members gave in their names.

Professor Toussaint announced that he had published a treatise on arithmetic, which he hoped might prove useful to teachers and youth.

The President said that he had perused Mr. Toussaint's arithmetic

attentively and could recommend it to teachers, as he believed it would be very serviceable to them. This treatise, he added, contained decimal calculations in dollars and cents, which were treated of with care, and also concise methods not to be found in any other work in the French language.

The Rev. Principal said that he had written a letter to Mr. Toussaint congratulating him for having supplied the teachers with so useful a text-book; that having revised the proof-sheets, he could safely approve of the method followed by the author, and did not hesitate to recommend the work to all those who took an interest in teaching.

The President then informed the meeting that a treatise on mental arithmetic by Mr. Juneau, Inspector of Schools, was in the press and would soon be offered for sale; that a work of this kind could not fail to meet a most favorable reception on the part of the teachers.

Professor N. Lacasse expressed the opinion that this work, which he had read with attention, would be very useful in the schools, and therefore deserved the support of teachers. He then announced that, in accordance with the desire previously expressed, he had prepared a text-book entitled, "*Tenue des Livres en Partie simple et en Partie double*," which he trusted would be found to combine the advantages of the theory and practice of book-keeping, and hoped that it would be favorably received by teachers. It would, he said, be ready for sale in the month of May.

The Principal congratulated Mr. Lacasse for having filled up a blank by publishing a treatise on book-keeping adapted to the use of the country. For a long time the want of such a work had been felt. They had, he said, always labored under the false impression that accounts could not be kept in French, but this work would help greatly to make this grave error disappear.

The President then called the teachers' attention to the abridged French Grammar just published by Mr. C. J. L. Lafrance, and said that he had not had time to make a detailed examination of it, and consequently could not justly appreciate its merits, but hoped Mr. Thibault would be kind enough to do so.

Mr. Thibault said that he was happy to take this opportunity to recommend to the teachers, the abridged French Grammar published by Mr. C. J. L. Lafrance. Good elementary French Grammars were rare. To have one suited to children recourse must be had to Lhomond's; but this author's system was incomplete and his work contained many inaccuracies. Mr. Lafrance's grammar was remarkable for its clearness and excellent method, and could replace Lhomond's in our schools with advantage. While it had all the merit of Lhomond's, it had none of its defects.

The Principal approved Mr. Lafrance for having retained in his grammar a part of Lhomond's definitions, which were, he said, remarkable for their extreme simplicity; and also approved of the tabular forms adopted, as being within easy reach of children. He then congratulated Mr. Juneau for having undertaken a work on mental arithmetic. The English, he added, were in advance of them in this respect. It was very desirable to have text-books in the French language to facilitate the study of so useful a branch of knowledge as that referred to.

After some further remarks on the above mentioned books, Mr. N. Thibault addressed the convention on the progress of French literature in Canada.

The following subject was then proposed for discussion: "What is the best method of teaching the rules of interest?" The President opened the debate by saying that all problems in Interest could be solved by the *Rule of Three*, and to prove the truth of his assertion gave several examples on the blackboard. Some remarks were made on the subject by the Rev. Principal and Messrs. F. N. Toussaint and D. McSweeney. The discussion was carried on with animation and lasted till the afternoon. As no definite conclusion could be arrived at, it was resolved to put off the question till the next meeting.

On a motion by Mr. N. Thibault, seconded by Mr. N. Lacasse, it was resolved: 1, That the abridged French Grammar by Mr. C. J. L. Lafrance, and the treatise on arithmetic by Mr. F. N. Toussaint, were text-books much wanted and destined, by their intrinsic worth, to be of great service to teachers; 2, That all the members of this association should make it a duty to encourage their circulation; 3, That the thanks of this association be returned to Messrs. Lafrance and Toussaint for the publication of their text-books.

Moved by Mr. P. A. Roy, seconded by Mr. D. Pichet, and *Resolved*,—That this association has heard with much regret of the death of Mr. François Ferland, one of its members, a young man of promise.

Messrs. F. N. Toussaint, N. Thibault and Ed. Carrier promised to prepare papers for the next convention, the first named on *Mental Arithmetic*. The following subject will be discussed: *On what part of Mental Arithmetic is it most necessary to insist in our schools?*

The meeting then adjourned to the last Friday in May at 7 P. M.