

the College and University Professors from time to time attend the conventions, but it is usually by special invitation, to deliver lectures, etc. Might not the annual convention of teachers gain largely in interest and profit by the addition of a University Section to the High and Public School Sections? Such an annual conference would, we are sure, give an impetus to higher education, and could scarcely fail to be helpful and stimulating to the professors themselves, while their contact with each other and with their fellow laborers in other departments of educational work would be profitable to all.

The following from the *Victoria Warder* calls attention to a practice against which we have often protested, and which cannot be too strongly condemned or too soon abandoned by all school trustees:

A pernicious and unprofessional habit exists among school teachers of underbidding each other in salary in order to secure a school. There are, of course, very many exceptions to that habit; but it is growing. We do not blame the teachers so much as we do the trustees. The trustees of Ontario schools are a representative lot of men, fully above a high average of intelligence; but they continually make a serious mistake—a mistake of which the evil effects will not be perceived for a few years—of letting their schools to the lowest bidder. Such action puts the *good-for-nothing teacher* at a premium, and he is dear at any price. We recommend trustees to consider, like men, what they are willing to pay for the education of the children under their jurisdiction, and to state the amount in their advertisements. Then good and bad alike will be considered, and the appointment will rest more on fitness for the office than lowness of salary. We feel sure it is only necessary to mention these facts to have trustees give them the intelligent consideration they deserve.

The following paragraph is going the rounds of the papers, some of which quote it as calling attention to "a curious defect in the Modern Educational system."

"Nearly every physician in the country now graduates from a medical school; about half the ministers are from theological seminaries; and very few of the lawyers attend the law school, and yet the law is usually ranked as the head of the learned professions. What is the significance of this?"

The answer is probably not far to seek. It is to be found, if we mistake not, in the nature of the professional work to which the lives of the members of the different professions are devoted. No school or college course can, by any possibility, produce a learned man. It can at best send one forth with a mastery of the instruments with which learning may be obtained. But while the life of the average minister, or physician, or teacher, is largely devoted to the pursuit of special and comparatively narrow lines of study and to the routine of professional duties, the lawyer who aspires to a place in the higher ranks must familiarize himself with broad principles of jurisprudence, sift and balance large and complicated masses of evidence, dig deep into the books of the profoundest writers, and have constantly to do with the principles and the sciences which are most philosophical in their character, and so afford the best exercise for strengthening and enlarging the mental faculties. And, after all, it is but the few amongst the lawyers even who really succeed in such work and attain high eminence; but

these, somehow, seem to give character to the profession and to be taken as its representatives to a greater extent than is the case with the distinguished few in other professions.

THE ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

The feeling in favor of some closer organization amongst Ontario Teachers for the improvement of the status of the profession and the condition and management of the Public Schools has been growing rapidly of late. There is good reason to hope that the present year may become memorable in the history of our educational growth as the year in which the first thoroughly effective union of the members of the profession was formed.

A preliminary meeting was held in the hall on the corner of Yonge and Gould Streets, Toronto, on Monday, the 9th inst., at which some resolutions were passed which at least indicate the direction in which the Association may be expected to legislate. Inspector McIntosh was appointed chairman, and Mr. D. H. Lent, Assistant Master of Richmond High School, Secretary.

Mr. D. Boyle explained the object of the meeting. He deprecated any attempt at secrecy in their meetings, though there might be some matters requiring private consultation. He referred particularly to the evils arising out of the practice of underbidding for positions. This evil was mainly due to the practice of trustees who called for tenders that they might give the contract to the lowest bidder. Something, he said, should be done to stop all this, and some scheme should be devised so that applicants could be put in possession of the fullest information about the positions they are seeking. They should know what kind of people they are going amongst, their nationality and religion, if any; who was the last to hold the position; what salary the section is able to pay; how the school-house is ventilated, furnished, and supplied; what the playground and out-houses are like; and whether they can secure board at a reasonable distance from school.

Mr. Lent moved, seconded by R. W. Hicks, of the Parkdale Model School,

That we, a body of legally qualified teachers, some of whom are representatives of County Associations, in convention assembled in the City of Toronto, this 9th day of August, 1886, being desirous of increasing our own efficiency and of promoting the cause of education, recognize the existence of many hindrances to the successful prosecution of our calling in such a manner as is demanded by the necessities of the country, the spirit of the age, and in accordance with our excellent system of education.

Some objections were offered, not to the principle of the motion, but on the ground that the matter had better be left over until the action of the Ontario Teachers' Association in regard to the proposed College of Preceptors could be known. If a College of Preceptors were formed, it would occupy, it was urged by some, the whole ground covered by the resolution. Others thought it better to organize in a quiet way and work up till the College of Preceptors was reached. The resolution was, however, carried.

R. W. Dawson, B.A., head master of the Weston High School, moved, seconded by A. N. Miller, head master of the Vienna High School,

That long experience has proved that not only has the isolated nature of our position tended to hinder the growth of fraternal relations among us, but that even such loosely bound organizations as are in existence have failed to effect that unity of purpose with its corresponding influence which ought to characterize us as teachers, and that, therefore, the promotion