

ELGIN.—The regular semi-annual meeting of this Association was held in the Coll. Inst., St. Thomas, on 23rd and 24th Feb. After routine business on Thursday, the Rev. Prof. Austin of Alma College, gave an address on "The Bible as a Text-book." The Rev. gentleman showed forth the many uses to which it could be applied as a book for this world as well as the next. He maintained that many of its passages were unsurpassed by profane literature, for true poetry and sublimity, while in a three-fold system of Education it would be the means of training the intellectual as well as the moral faculties. After a vote of thanks to W. Austin, Miss Pater took up the subject of Geometry to beginners. She very skilfully illustrated how she would draw forth the principal definitions from the pupils. N. W. Ford followed with some very pregnant remarks on the Teaching of History. At the evening session held in St. George Street Church, addresses were given by the most prominent speakers of the city, together with readings, vocal, and instrumental music by local celebrities. The Rev. Mr. Sutherland, on behalf of the Ministerial Association, read a paper treating on the topics of swearing, smoking, and drinking. Swearing, he said, was very prevalent in the land. It was an insult to intelligent men, and an apology should be offered by every man who swore in the presence of a Christian. Indulgence in strong drink was the bane of the country, and teachers could not too vividly impress on the minds of their pupils the evil effects caused by its use. He recommended several large books which children should read; teachers should perform experiments before their classes, showing how alcohol is made. Tobacco was another article in general use, and it was lamentable that members of the weaker sex were becoming addicted to smoking. Tobacco has been called by some old smokers their silent friend. It was bad in itself but it opened up the way to further evils. He said teachers had one thing in common with the rest of mankind—the common drudgery of life. After all, there was poetry in the drudgery of life, if one's heart was in one's work. Longfellow's village blacksmith worked away "toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing." There was inspiration for the teacher in the consciousness of a duty done; inspiration in the consciousness of developing powers of mind; inspiration in considering the results of their labors on the future welfare of the world; inspiration in considering the large stores of gratitude coming to him from the future time. Beautiful pictures of imagination rise up before him as he glances at his pupil. These are the future mothers of the land; these the statesmen, warriors, poets and scholars into whose hands must fall the sceptres now wielded by the great and good of the world. You gather material from different lands and different nations; gather the richness of the poets and philosophers from the ages; richness from the science of our day to prepare youth for the future and launch them on the sea of life. The Rev. Gentleman closed his eloquent and able address amidst hearty applause. Principal Millar gave a short discourse on "The relation of our school system to Christianity." This question was causing a good deal of discussion in the secular and religious press. He laid it down as a fact that Christianity was good for the people at large, and therefore it followed that it was good for the teacher. Our public school system was a compromise on the part of the state. It was the duty of parents to bring up their children in the principles of Christianity, and they should not surrender their children into the hands of any teacher until they knew their views would be carried out. The question is often asked, should Christianity be taught in our schools? Should our public men act in accordance with religious principles? Should you answer the latter question in the affirmative, the answer to the first is not far to seek. It is said by some that our schools should have nothing to do with religion. In one sense they have, and they have not. Every teacher gives a bias to the minds of his pupils, either for or against Christianity—if against, no Christian parent can allow his children under his care. Our schools are not religious schools but they are the schools of a Christian people, and their views should be carried out. Should teachers be members of a Christian church? Not necessarily, but their influence should be in favor of Christianity. He was not in favor of formal religious teaching in schools. This was the view held by the late Dr. Ryerson, to whom the country was greatly indebted for its excellent school system. The schools should open in the mornings by reading from the scriptures, and as a recognition of Christianity this was enough, as far as formality was concerned. The teacher's life is the main thing in wielding an influence in favor of religion. It is better than precepts. The religious press was agitating in favor of denominational schools. If our university and schools were what they should be, there need be no change. There is a marked inconsistency in the arguments used in this connection. It might be laid down as sound doctrine that what was right for a Citizen was right for a Christian. It is said that Christians should not interfere in elections—that if they did they would get morally soiled. This was erroneous, and if acted upon would be detrimental to the interests of the nation. Good men should take an interest in elections, and see that good men are elected to public positions. How can a Citizen vote for a man who is in favor of a National University, and at the same time as a Christian do all he can to kill it? If it is worthy of our support we should not try to weaken it. Some say we should have religious schools, where those who prefer could send their children. He was anxious, as all should be to advance religion and education, and thought the public schools were and ought to be of that character which entitled them to

the support and patronage of all classes of Citizens. If he thought the National University was not conducted in the interests of Christianity he would pull it down. Our Roman Catholic Citizens have as much right as any other class of Citizens to have their wishes acceded to on this question. They wanted the schools under the church, but their views were objected to by the Protestants who wanted the schools under the State, and the separate school system was not established until after a severe struggle. Many Protestants were inconsistent in this matter, and the Catholics could truthfully tell those who patronized denominational schools, that their arguments did not coincide with their practices. This question was before the public and all teachers should give it their consideration. (Applause.) Mr. A. F. Butler, County Inspector, gave the next address. Some men had affirmed that he (Mr. B.) was a crank on two questions, viz: the Kindergarten system and poetry. There was poetry ever where. You could find it in the shop, in the field and in all avocations of life. He would give some comments on Longfellow's "Psalm of Life." He asked who were the "heroes in the strife" and drew a picture of Prince Napoleon dying in Zululand and contrasted Jennie Carroll, the actress, giving up her engagements to attend at the bedside of a divorced husband, deserted by every other friend, who was a total wreck and dying. She was not only an actress but a heroine, "Sublime" was a great word; but don't mistake its meaning. Honest labor is sublime, no matter what department of industry is considered—the forge, the carpenter's bench, or the field with its golden sheaves. Teaching is the sublimest of all occupations. It was not right to rob the mountain goats of herdsmen to make poor shepherds of men. Every man should follow that occupation for which he is best adapted. The press was a mighty power, and manufactured public sentiment. The recognition of women was in accordance with the sentiments of poetry. Mr. Butler's address was interspersed with quotations from celebrated poets; and as a *resumé* of an address of this kind does not do justice to the speaker, but a faint idea can be had of the rich treat enjoyed by those who are cultured in the "Divine Art," and heard the discourse last evening on the "Psalm of Life." On Friday morning the law regarding Teacher's Certificates and County Boards was handled by Mr. D. McLean of Cranan, who treated the subject of Cramming in Public Schools in a masterly manner; he attributed the growth of this evil to three causes: 1st. The pressure of Examinations; 2nd. The excess of Home-work; 3rd. Frequent change of Teachers. His remarks on Examinations called forth a lively discussion on the subject of County Promotion Examinations; the majority of those who expressed their views, thought that the uniformity etc. aimed at by these examinations was more than counter-balanced by the evils resulting from them. Mr. Dance of Fingal, in his well-written paper on Arithmetic, denounced our system of weights and measures as a great hindrance to progress in that subject. He advocated the introduction of the Decimal system. Mr. Clay dealt with the subject of Reading Books in Public Schools; he pointed out defects in the series now in use, and also features which should be possessed by the coming series. He moved, seconded by J. W. Cook, that a committee of three teachers be appointed in each township of the County, whose duty it shall be to call a meeting of teachers and others, in such township, for the purpose of expressing their views as to the merits of the different series of readers now placed before the Minister for authorization. The afternoon session was opened by Miss Watts taking up the subject of Drawing for Junior Classes. She maintained that besides being a source of employment and amusement the subject had a strong educative influence. Mr. Leitch explained some of the principal difficulties in Book-keeping, after which the Question Drawer was opened and many interesting points discussed by members of the Committee. A resolution embodying our respect for the memory of the late Dr. Ryerson and sympathy for the bereaved family was passed, as also a resolution in reply to an address from the Ministerial Association of the city, inviting our aid in the suppression of Intemperance and the use of Profane Language. The following officers were elected for the present year:—President, D. W. Dance; Vice-President, N. W. Ford; Rec. Sec., H. McDonald; Cor. Sec., A. F. Butler; Treasurer and Librarian, J. Cook.

HALTON.—Halton Co. Assoc. met at Palermo, on Feb. 23rd, 24th 25th. Meeting called to order, when Mr. Bonny led in prayer. Minutes and correspondence read by the Secretary, and on motion were approved. The President, Mr. R. Little, made some practical remarks in reference to institute work, and afterwards alluded to the death of the late Dr. Ryerson, late chief superintendent of education, in such a manner as to prove the high estimation in which he held the venerable gentleman. On motion a committee was appointed to prepare and submit to this association a resolution of condolence concerning the demise of the late Dr. Ryerson. *Librarian's Report*.—Showing that at present we have 165 books, as per catalogue; also 72 books presented by the Minister of Education, making in all 237 volumes. Books are in good condition. Two hundred and two books have been taken out. The classification of 165 volumes is as follows: Professional and books of reference, the latter embracing English, Science, Mathematics, Primers, Drawing, and Object Lessons. It is hoped that a greater interest will be taken in the Library by the teachers of the county. The President spoke in favor of teachers using the Library; said we were apt to