

Campbell; "Cultivating a Taste for English Literature," by F. S. Chapman; "The Culture of Teachers," by Wm. Somerville; "Plant Life," by J. E. Wetmore; and "Grammar," by Horace Wetmore. After passing various votes of thanks the meeting adjourned.

YORK COUNTY (NEW BRUNSWICK) TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

At a meeting of this institute recently held, Mr. Jeremiah Meagher, read his paper on the "Forest Trees of New Brunswick, with their Characteristics," illustrating his descriptions by exhibiting specimens of the most important productions. The forest trees, he said, were his old familiar friends. There was not a tree of them that did not recall the past and associate it with youthful companions in many holiday excursions. With some happy references to the poetical inspirations of the American forests by Fenimore Cooper, he proceeded to describe the most important forest productions of the province. He took up the hard woods in the following order: maple, ash, elm, oak, beech, birch, butternut; then the pine family, including white pine, white spruce, black spruce, hackmatack, balsam, fir and cedar, briefly describing the different varieties of trees of the same family, the properties and utility of the most important of them. In conclusion, he stated that he had written the paper, not for the purpose of making any display of knowledge on the subject, but to show with how little scientific knowledge very useful lessons may be taught in our schools.

At the conclusion of Mr. Meagher's paper a short discussion followed on the subject matter of the paper, in which the teachers took occasion to compliment the writer on his scholarly effort.

THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE Educational Institute of New Brunswick met on the 25th ultimo. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Crockett, Chief Superintendent of Education. Some 212 names were enrolled in the secretary's book, embracing teachers from nearly every part of New Brunswick. H. C. Creed was appointed secretary, and H. C. Simpson, assistant secretary. F. H. Hayes introduced the following resolutions:—

Whereas, Previous to November, 1884, the school terms began on the first day of May and the first day of November in each year; and

Whereas, the board of education has changed the day of opening of terms to the first of July and the first of January in each year; and

Whereas it is the opinion of this institute that such a change is not in the interest of true education; and

Whereas this institute, at its session last year, unanimously resolved, that in the opinion of the members of the institute the change of school terms recently made is opposed to educational interests of the province; therefore

Resolved, that this institute reiterate the resolutions of last year, and memorialize the board of education that the school terms be made to begin and end on the same day as was the case previous to the change in November, 1884.

This motion was unanimously carried.

At the evening session, addresses were made by the superintendent, Judge King, Senator Boyd, J. V. Ellis, the Rev. Dr. Hopper, Dr. Stockton, J. Allen Jack, Dr. Bydone Jack, and the Rev. Dr. Macrae. On the following day the meeting was continued. Inspector Oakes read an excellent paper on "Secondary Education," its importance, its present condition, and its needs. A discussion followed in which Messrs. Palmer, Jonah, Oakes, Jack, Cox, Belyea, and Steeves took part. In the afternoon Mr. John Lawson read a paper on the "Tonic Sul Fa System of Teaching Singing." At the evening session W. C. Gaunce's paper on "Temperance in the Public Schools" was read. This was followed by remarks by Mr. Crockett and the Hon. Mr. Boyd, and Mr. Chamberlain's paper on the "Study of Bird Life." In the morning of the third and last day of meeting Mr. Oakes' paper was further discussed, and a speech was made by Dr. Inch who received a warm greeting. In the afternoon Mr. Wilber read a graphic and humorous paper on "The Means for Securing Greater Permanency in the Profession of Teaching." Messrs. Hayes, Palmer, and Cox were appointed a committee to prepare and present to the Government a memorial with reference to the change of terms. A debate on the making of some change in the registers then took place, and a motion endorsing Mr. Oakes' paper was carried. In the evening a motion relative to an arbour day was carried unanimously. The result of the ballot for the executive committee consisting of nineteen members showed that the following were elected by the institute from its members:—Messrs. Cox, Hayes, Hay, Brydges, Wilber, Montgomery, Palmer, McLean, Inches and Barry; the other nine are the officers who are *ex officio* members. This ended the business of the institute.

RECENT EXPLORATION AND SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.

THE Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, Professor Hull, F.R.S., delivered the annual address of the Victoria (Philosophical) Institute in London, on the 28th of May, on which occasion the institute's new president, Professor Stokes, President of the Royal Society, took the chair. The report was read by Captain F. Petrie, the honorary secretary, and showed that the institute's home, colonial and foreign members were upwards of eleven hundred, including many who joined from a desire to avail themselves of the Institute's privileges. An increasing number of leading scientific men now contributed papers and aided in the work of bringing about a truer appreciation of the result of scientific inquiry, especially in cases where scientific discovery was alleged by the opponents of religious beliefs to be subversive thereof. The author of the address then gave an account of the work, discoveries, and general results of the recent geological and geographical expedition to Egypt, Arabia, and Western Palestine, of which he had charge. Sketching the course taken by him (which to a considerable extent took the route ascribed to the Israelites), he gave an account of the physical features of the country, evidences of old sea margins 200 feet above the present sea margins, and showed that at one time an arm of

the Mediterranean had occupied the valley of the Nile as far as the First Cataract, at which time Africa was an island (an opinion also arrived at by another of the institute's members, Sir W. Dawson), and that, at the time of the Exodus, the Red Sea ran up into the Bitter Lakes, and must have formed a barrier to the traveller's progress at that period. He then alluded to the great changes of elevation in the land eastward of these lakes, mentioning that the waters of the Jordan valley once stood 1,292 feet above their present height, and that the waters of the Dead Sea, which he found 1,050 feet deep, were once on a level with the present Mediterranean sea margin, or 1,292 feet above their present height. The great physical changes which had taken place in geological time were evidenced by the fact that whilst the rocks in Western Palestine were generally limestone, those of the mountains of Sinai were amongst the most ancient in the world. The various geological and geographical features of the country were so described as to make the address a condensed report of all that is now known of them in Egypt, Palestine, and Arabia Petrea. Sir Henry Barkly, G.C.M.G., F.R.S., moved a vote of thanks to Professor Hull, and to those who had contributed to the work of the institute during the year, which included Assyriological investigations by Professor Sayce, Mr. Boscawen, and others; M. Maspero's and Captain Conder's Egyptian papers; Professor Porter's Eastern researches; also a review of the question of evolution, by Professor Virchow, and the results of investigations in regard to the subject of the origin of man, as to which it had been shown by Sir William Dawson, that geology divided the chronology of animal life into four "great periods;" in the first, or Eozoic, in the Geological as in the Bible records, were found the great reptiles; and the last, or Tertiary, was again subdivided into five "periods," and it was only in the last of these, the "modern" period, that the evidences of man's presence had been found. Again, as regards his ape descent, the formation and proportions of the skull and bones of the ape considered most like man were found to be so different from those of man as to place insuperable difficulties in the way of the theory. In the gorilla, the high crest on the skull, which was also found in the hyena, was absent in man. Also, among other points, if the capacity of the brain of the anthropoid ape were taken at ten, that of man even in his savage state was twenty-six, or nearly thrice as much, a very important fact when, as it was known, any appreciable diminution in the brain of man was at once accompanied by idiocy. As regards the transmutability of species, Barchande's arguments against the theory, founded on the results of a life of research among the fossil strata, had not yet been overthrown; and modern research clearly pointed to the fact that one great bar to the transmutability of species lay in the refined and minute differences in the molecular arrangements in their organs.

The proceedings were concluded by a vote of thanks to Professor Stokes, under whose presidency it was remarked that the work of the institute would be carried out with the increased help and guidance of men of the highest scientific attainments, and in a manner to tend to advance truth. A *conversazione* was then held in the museum.