

young teachers deserved the heartiest commendation for their pushing energy, but are too ready to leave their schools and go to another. To do this is bad policy, for a lasting reputation is hardly to be earned by floating from school to school, and it is equally bad policy on the part of trustees to dismiss a teacher who is doing good work because he happens to ask a few dollars more than one who has never been tried, or, perhaps, one of whom they know nothing. A teacher who fails cannot, however, be too speedily dispensed with. As it would be invidious on my part to make a distinction, I shall refrain from stating what schools are doing good work, and what schools fail to some extent. It may not be amiss to state that the teacher alone is not invariably responsible for the low condition of a school. It is gratifying that so many of our young teachers betake themselves to school when preparing for a second-class certificate, for although it is possible to obtain a second-class certificate without going to school, yet to attend where they can come in contact with cultivated minds, is accompanied with a lasting benefit."

5. SOUTH HASTINGS TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

At a recent meeting of this Institute the following subjects were respectively taken up:—Difficulties in Analysis, by the Inspector; Fractions, by Mr. W. J. Osborne; Reading, by Prof. Dawson; and Natural History, by Prof. Bell. All these subjects were handled in a manner highly creditable to the several gentlemen, showing a thorough acquaintance on their part with the art of demonstrating and illustrating whatever they undertake to teach. Prof. Bell's discussion on Natural History, which touched upon all its various subdivisions, and especially Zoology, was able, concise and instructive, and was listened to with earnest attention by the teachers. After this the following address was then read, and the presentation made:—

"To JOHN JOHNSTON, Esq., Inspector of Public Schools.

"We, the teachers of South Hastings, having regard to your industry and zeal in the cause of Education, especially in the untiring efforts you have put forth to elevate teaching as a profession, and also in reducing the science of teaching to a uniformity hitherto looked upon as impracticable, consider you worthy of some acknowledgment at our hands, as an indication of our appreciation of your valuable services.

"Your work, dear Sir, in the cause of Education in this county cannot be properly understood by the thousands of children, and hundreds of parents and guardians, who are benefited thereby. It is only in the future that your zeal and labours in the interests of all—pupils, parents and teachers—and the good results flowing from your efforts, will be properly understood and valued.

"We, as teachers actively engaged in the work of instructing the young, already realize the great benefits which your labours have conferred upon the cause of Education. You have succeeded in establishing order and uniformity in the system of teaching throughout this county, and as a consequence removed many of the difficulties which beset teachers heretofore, and which frequently cause them to change their sphere of labour. The establishment of our Teachers' Institute and its present prosperous condition are mainly due to your assiduous attention and punctuality at the monthly sessions. In addition, your personal popularity with the teachers, whose esteem you have won by urbanity and kindness in the discharge of the difficult duties imposed upon you, in your official capacity as Inspector of Public Schools, may properly be considered the chief cause of this prosperity and unanimity amongst the teachers of this Institute. Through your efforts the teachers have an opportunity at our monthly meetings of comparing and discussing the various plans adopted in teaching, and thus of mentally improving each other.

"In presenting you with this gold watch and chain as a slight indication of the esteem in which you are held by the teachers of South Hastings as a body, we sincerely and unitedly wish you a long, useful and happy life; and while you continue to labour in this the highest and best of all earthly works, we also pray that health may be given you to enable you to persevere in the good work which you have been instrumental in building for the advancement of Education and the elevation of the profession of teaching in this county, to a yet higher standard than it has attained."

The address was beautifully engrossed by S. G. Beatty & Co., Ontario Commercial College, and was signed on behalf of the teachers by the Secretary. Mr. Johnston made a touching and eloquent reply, expressing his gratitude for the magnificent present, and assuring the teachers that he would ever hold them in grateful remembrance, and that their gift would always be a bright reminder of their kindness to him.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year:—President, John Johnston; Vice-President, Miss Templeton; Recording Secretary, C. H. Sangster; Corresponding Secretary, S. A. Gardner; Treasurer, J. Irwin; Councillors.—Sidney, W. J. Osborne; Thurlow, E. Cook; Hungerford, A. H. Gilbert; Tyendinaga, W. Emerson; Belleville, J. H. Redick; Trenton, W. S. Howell.

6. UNAUTHORIZED TEXT BOOKS IN THE SCHOOLS.

The attention of Trustees, Inspectors and Teachers is called to the following letter written to Messrs. James Campbell & Son, on the subject of their efforts to introduce unauthorized text books into the Schools:—

"EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, 28th January, 1876.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to state, that, in a printed list of 'School and College Text Books' just issued by you, and dated 'January, 1876,' you state that 'Campbell's Modern Geography and Atlas' has been 'authorized by the Council of Public Instruction.'"

"The only solution agreed to by the Council of Public Instruction on the subject, and communicated to you, was as follows:—

"Resolved: That Mr. John Lovell be invited to have his Geographies 'revised, and to submit the same to the Council, with a view to their consideration by the Text Book Committee; and that Messrs. Campbell & Son be also invited to revise and submit to the Council 'their Geography, with a view to its recommendation for adoption in the Schools of Ontario, if placed on the same footing as Messrs. Lovell's Geography, and reported by the Text Book Committee as approved.'"

"As you have never complied with the terms of this resolution, and as neither the Text Book Committee nor Council of Public Instruction have approved of the work, it is clear that the intimation given by you to the public in your printed list is incorrect.

"I notice also that you have intimated on the same list (by the absence of the asterisk *), that the 'School History' published by Mr. Lovell, and a book on 'Christian Morals,' published by Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co., have been struck off, or are not now on the list of books sanctioned by the Council. They have not been struck off, but are still sanctioned by the Council, so that the intimation you give is very unjust, under the circumstances, to the publishers, for the authors have no pecuniary interest in them.

"I further notice, in recent advertisements which you have issued, that you make the offer of half-priced books to teachers to induce them to introduce into their schools the Nelson and various other unauthorized books, and thus violate the law and regulations on the subject.

"These proceedings of yours conflict with prescribed duties of Inspectors and Trustees, and are calculated to give them much trouble in the discharge of their duties. One of the duties imposed by law upon both Trustees (Section 22) and Inspectors (Section 112, clause A.) of Public Schools is 'to see that no unauthorized books are used in the School,' and in the case of Inspectors 'to prevent the use of unauthorized, and to recommend the use of authorized books in each school.' As several enquiries have recently been addressed to the Department in regard to correct lists of authorized text books, I shall be compelled to publish this letter in the *Journal of Education*, as explanatory of the matter, unless you promptly recall the misstatements of your catalogue and advertisements, so far as they affect our Public and High Schools.

"I am anxious to do all in my power to promote the diffusion of useful knowledge, and I admire your energy in promoting the sale of your books; but an attempt to contravene the law, and introduce confusion into the Schools by the use of unauthorized text books, is not the true way of advancing the Schools or of diffusing useful knowledge.

"I have, &c.,
(Signed) "E. RYERSON.

"Messrs. James Campbell & Son,
Publishers, &c.,
Toronto."

In reply to this letter, Messrs. James Campbell & Son, say: "We are in receipt of your favour of the 28th ult., drawing our attention to sundry misprints in our trade list, and we have the honour to state in reply, that we shall be happy to give your remarks the attention necessary."

As this letter was not considered conclusive and made no reference to a discontinuance of the efforts made to induce teachers, by half-priced books, to introduce "the Nelson and other unauthorized books" into the Schools, the Chief Superintendent addressed an