

XI. Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

— **TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.**—In accordance with a resolution passed at the October meeting of the County of York Teachers' Association, and published in the *Journal of Education*, a convention of the teachers in Upper Canada was held on the 25th ult. in the County Court Room, Adelaide street, for the purpose of discussing the propriety of forming a Provincial Teachers' Association. The convention was largely attended, there being representatives from seventeen counties in Upper Canada present. On motion of Mr. T. J. Robertson, of Toronto, seconded by Mr. T. Nixon, of Newmarket, the Rev. Dr. Jennings, Chairman of the County Board of Public Instruction, was called on to preside. The Chairman, after thanking the meeting for the honour they had done him in calling him to preside, remarked on the great progress of education in Canada within the past few years, and the number of talented teachers engaged in the very important work of imparting instruction to the young. He assured them that they had his entire co-operation in the organization of a Teachers' Association, and said that he felt confident it would be productive of much good. On motion, Mr. R. Alexander, of Newmarket, was requested to act as Secretary to the convention. Mr. Nixon, of Newmarket, moved, seconded by Mr. Irwin, of Holland Landing—"That it is expedient that the teachers present form themselves into an association, to be styled 'The Teachers' Association of Canada West,'" which was carried. Owing to the Rev. Dr. Jennings being obliged to leave the meeting, Mr. T. J. Robertson was requested to preside. Mr. Irwin moved, seconded by Mr. Sangster, that a committee be appointed to draft and report a constitution, and that the following persons compose such committee:—Messrs. Nixon, McCallum, Alexander, Carlyle, McKee, Thompson, Brown, and Mrs. Clark. Carried. An adjournment took place, in order to allow time for the committee to propose a constitution and by-laws. On reassembling, Mr. McCallum, of Hamilton, on behalf of the select committee, presented a draft of the constitution and by-laws. The first Article in the constitution provides:—"That any lady or gentleman engaged in any department of instruction, members of the Council of Public Instruction, members of county boards of instruction, superintendents of schools, editors of education journals, and ex-teachers, shall be eligible for membership," by paying \$1 and signing the constitution. Persons may become life-members by paying \$10. The third Article provides that the officers of the Association shall be a president, six vice-presidents, a secretary, treasurer, and one councillor from each county represented in the Association. Article IV. provides that a meeting shall be held in August, 1861. After a lengthened discussion, the constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the Convention adjourned till half-past seven o'clock in the evening. On re-assembling at half past seven o'clock, Mr. McCallum was called to the chair, and the members of the Association proceeded to the election of office-bearers for the current year, as follows:—*President.*—T. J. Robertson, Esq., M.A., Toronto. *First Vice President.*—A. McCallum, Esq., Principal Central School, Hamilton. *Second V. P.*—Mr. James McLelland, St. Mary's. *Third V. P.*—Mr. Alexander Campbell, Toronto. *Fourth V. P.*—Mr. Wm Anderson, Toronto. *Fifth V. P.*—Mr. Thomas Nixon, Newmarket. *Sixth V. P.*—Mr. Angus Hay, Cornwall. *Secretary.*—Mr. J. W. Aeres, Paris. *Treasurer.*—Robert Alexander, Newmarket. *Councillors.*—Ontario—Thomas McKee, Principal C. S. Oshawa. Lanark—Mr. Kidd. Peel—Mr. Morton. Middlesex—Mr. Grant. York—Mr. Carlyle. Hastings—Mr. McShea. Halton—Mr. Froot. Wentworth—Mr. Cameron. Oxford—Mr. Vardon. Brant—Mr. McFarlane. Northumberland—Mr. Young. Dundas—Mr. Bell. Carlton—Mr. Henderson. Perth—Mr. Stafford. Lambton—Mr. Taylor. Elgin—Mr. Brown. Stormont—Mr. McDiarmid. Wellington—Mr. Reid. It was then resolved that the next meeting of the Association be held in the first week in August next in Toronto, and that the teachers of the city be requested to act as a committee of reception. On motion of Mr. McGann, Toronto, Mr. McCallum vacated the chair, which was taken by Mr. J. Thompson, of John street school, Toronto. Mr. McGann then moved that the thanks of the meeting are due and are hereby tendered to Mr. McCallum for his impartial conduct in the chair. Carried by acclamation. The Chairman in returning thanks, said it spoke well for the Association that there were present representatives from seventeen counties in Upper Canada, and he sincerely trusted that before the August meeting, the great majority, if not all, the teachers of Upper Canada,

would be members of the Association. A vote of thanks having been given to the secretary, Mr. Alexander, the convention adjourned.—*Globe.*

— **NORTH ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.**—From the recent proceedings of this association we learn that an application has been made to the County Council for aid in procuring a Library, and some attempt at agitating for the formation of a Provincial Association. Regarding the first of these important matters, no reply has yet been received from the County Council. The second is making good progress, and will probably be much expedited by a meeting which was lately held in Toronto.

— **ROMAN CATHOLIC AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE NEAR TORONTO.**—An important social meeting was lately held in Toronto, to promote the establishment of an Agricultural College near this city. The Right Rev. Bishop Lynch presided. In proposing a toast the Bishop thus explained the object he had in view in establishing the College. On coming to this country he immediately perceived vast tracts of land unoccupied, and vacant lots in the cities, at the same time a good deal of poverty. He considered that there was something wrong. There was and is plenty of labour and strength. If these were applied to the land we would become rich. He perceived many fine boys running about the city; if these received education and were taught to cultivate the earth they would be made happy. It became his anxious wish to collect these fine boys; to develop their talent; to make them ornaments to society. These boys are friendless in a friendless world, and, one ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure, it became of vast importance to the country to provide for them and enable them to live honestly. Before sitting down he would propose the toast—"The Agricultural College of St. John, of the Gore of Toronto. May it be a home where the impoverished youth may be sheltered from the cold blast of a friendless world, where their hearts may be moulded to every noble and religious principle; their intellect cultivated in every science and art; and may they learn in its hallowed precincts the art of winning from mother Earth an honest livelihood and to share it with others."

— **BAPTIST LITERARY INSTITUTE, WOODSTOCK.**—We regret to learn that the buildings erected at Woodstock by the Baptist Denomination, to answer the purpose of a college and literary seminary, have been burnt to the ground, and so completely destroyed that nothing remains but a blackened front to show where the spacious and well-proportioned building once stood. It was fortunately vacation time, and some of the Professors, with nearly all the pupils were away; otherwise, many lives could hardly fail to become victims to the flame—so rapid was the progress of the fire. At a late meeting of the Trustees, the following resolution was passed, *Resolved.*—That we hereby tender to the Board of Common School Trustees our thanks for the offer they have made us of the use of the East End School House, but as we have so generously been put into possession of the Woodstock Hotel, by the citizens of Woodstock for the use of our School, we are not now in circumstances to require the building they have so kindly offered us.

— **LAVAL UNIVERSITY.**—Free public lectures are being delivered by the professors of Laval University in Quebec on Canadian history and natural philosophy.

GREAT BRITAIN.

— **UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.**—The third half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh was held last month, Sir David Brewster, Principal and Vice Chancellor, presiding. The Secretary read the deliverance of the University Court on the representation of the last meeting of the General Council on the subject of middle-class examinations. It stated that the Court concurred with the Council as to the advantage of instituting a University examination equivalent to the middle-class examinations of the English Universities, and they had the satisfaction to learn that a measure relating to the subject was under the consideration of the Professors. The following resolutions were then passed:—Mr. George Steel moved, "That the General Council represent to the University Court the importance of bringing before the notice of Parliament and of Her Majesty's Government, the just claims of the Scotch Universities to have their separate representatives in the House of Commons, of whom one shall be returned by the University of Edinburgh, one by the University of Glasgow, and one by the Universities of Aberdeen and St. Andrew's." Sir H. Moncrieff seconded the motion. Mr. Sheriff Hallard moved, "That it be represented to the University Court that, in the opinion of the General Council, a separate and distinct Chair of Poli-