

Mr. Thibault having been requested to act as Secretary, the minutes of the last conference were read and adopted unanimously.

The President then announced that there had been no meeting of the council, the previous evening, owing to want of a *quorum*. Messrs. J. B. Cloutier and D. McSweeney were requested to read their essays.

Mr. Cloutier dwelt forcibly on the importance of teaching *Arithmetic*, and Mr. McSweeney on School discipline.

At the instance of the Hon. Minister of Public Instruction, a Pupil-Teacher Mr. Chs. Chartré gave practical illustrations on the black-board, of certain new and ingenious Arithmetical processes indicated in Mr. Cloutier's essay.

After this very interesting exercise was brought to a close, the following subject came up for discussion :

"Is it expedient to diminish the number of conferences and to change the dates at which they have been hitherto held?"

The Hon. Mr. Chauveau kindly consented to open the debate, and in his usual felicitous style addressed words of sage counsel to the members of the Association, demonstrating the great importance of their reunions as one of the great sources of intellectual improvement as well as of material interest.

In order to prove to the Teachers the immeasurable advantages to be derived from such meetings, he cited the name of the late Hon. T. D. McGee. He said that this eminent speaker had been pre-eminently a debater, and that his great renown as an Orator and Writer was due in a great measure (all allowance made for his natural talents) to the constant study and great care he gave to the preparation of his lectures and discourses.

The Hon. Gentleman also entreated the members of the Association to assist regularly at all the conferences; he moreover suggested to them the idea of specially inviting the members of the Council of Public Instruction, the School Inspectors, and School Commissioners to attend their meetings.

In concluding, he complimented Messrs. Cloutier and McSweeney on the ability displayed in their essays, and requested them to have them published in the Journals of Education under his control.

Messrs. Thibault, Toussaint, Gilbert and Côté, then took part in the debate; but no decision was come to on account of the paucity of members present.

The President then announced that Messrs. F. E. Juneau and Napoléon Lacasse had just published an *Alphabet gradué d'après une nouvelle méthode*, and requested Mr. Thibault to review it. The latter consented, and said among many distinguishing features were three principal ones, viz: 1o. The happy gradation found throughout; 2o. The sign that the authors employ to indicate the *liaisons* to be made between certain words; 3o. The excellence of the models for reading. He besought all the teachers to introduce the work into their schools, because it was more rational and better adapted to the intelligence of children than any other similar treatise now in use in schools.

On motion of Mr. F. X. Toussaint, seconded by Mr. N. Lacasse it was

Resolved: 1o. That this Association has seen, with the greatest pleasure, the Hon. Mr. Chauveau's elevation to the important post of Minister of Public Instruction, a dignity to which his distinguished talents and experience justly entitle him.

2o. That this Association cordially thanks the Hon. Minister for having been pleased to assist at the deliberations of the conference.

It was then decided that the subject discussed at this meeting be resumed at that of August next.

The following Gentlemen inscribed their names either as members of the conference, or as debaters: Mr. Abbé Chandonnet, Principal, Messrs. Ls. Lefebvre, N. Lacasse, Jos. Letourneau, Cléophas Côté, Bruno Peltier and Norbert Thibault.

The meeting then adjourned until the last Friday in August next.

BRUNO PELLETIER, President,
NORBERT THIBAULT, Sec. pro tem.

Books Received.

Donation to the Library.—The Hon. Minister of Public Instruction begs to thank Messrs. D. & J. Sadlier, Montreal, for "Life of St. Paul of the Cross," 1 vol. pp. 437.

The publishers will forward it free on receipt \$1.13.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

— The Duke of Marlborough has withdrawn his Education Bill. In his speech in the House of Lords, announcing its withdrawal, he said that he had been quite aware that some modifications would be necessary, but when these had been acceded to, he had felt every confidence that the measure, supported as it was by the Primate, would have been accepted by Parliament; but when he considered the state of business in the other House of Parliament, and the condition in which public affairs there had been placed, it was impossible for the Government to retain the slightest hope that a measure, involving discussion of such a very intricate character, had the slightest chance of passing into law this year. He had, therefore, no option but to withdraw his Bill.

A blue-book of 576 folio pages has been published, showing the area and gross estimated rental of every parish in England and Wales, and the number of schools in the parish receiving aid from the Parliamentary grant. A summary now issued states the total number of these schools receiving annual grants to be 6992, and the number aided not receiving annual grants 2271. The average numbers in attendance are stated as follows: In day schools receiving annual grants 895,418, and in day schools not receiving annual grants 132,413; in night schools receiving annual grants 45,558, and in night schools not receiving annual grants 11,479. The total average number of children in attendance in all these schools, 1,084,868, is 5.47 per cent. on the population of the parishes in 1861,—viz., 20,063,793; but it would be nearer to 5 per cent. on the population now. In the chief towns the average number in attendance is shown to be above the mean of 5.47 per cent. in Hull, Bristol, Plymouth, Leeds, Manchester, and Salford—in Salford reaching 7.4 per cent. The proportion is below the average in the metropolis (police district), where it is but 4.6 per cent., and the same ratio is found in Birmingham; in Newcastle and Sheffield it is still lower, and in Devonport it is as low as 2.14 per cent.

— The Council of the Royal Geographical Society has adopted a proposal of Mr. Francis Galton, vice-president of the Society, to encourage the study of geography in Great Britain by the offer, on the part of the Society, of prizes for competition in the principal public schools. The principle and details of the proposal have been examined by a special committee, and on their report the following course has been determined on by the Council:—1. To offer two medals of gold and two of bronze, of appropriate size and design; one of each to successful candidates in an annual examination, on subjects of political geography and physical geography respectively. The examination to take place in the beginning of 1869, and to be repeated in each succeeding year until further notice. 2. To invite to competition about 23 of the principal English public schools, and a proportionate number in other parts of the United Kingdom; the claims of other schools to be considered hereafter. The number of candidates in each school to be confined within such limits as the Council may hereafter determine. 3. The examination to be conducted by two examiners engaged by the Society, and to be carried out by sealed papers sent simultaneously to the schools.

— *United States.—College Endowments.*—The year 1866 was one of unexampled liberality to American colleges, and nearly all the institutions of learning in the country received donations and bequests in large amounts. From a table prepared in Yale College, it appears that, during the year, thirty-one American colleges received gifts in money to the amount of £500,000, besides large grants of public lands made by Congress during that year to institutions of learning having agricultural departments. Cornell University, in New York, received £130,000; Harvard University, near Boston, £60,000; Tuft's College, Massachusetts, £50,000; Yale College, at New Haven, £30,000; Baldwin University, in Ohio, £15,000; Dickinson College, in Pennsylvania, Chicago University, and Washington University of St. Louis, Missouri, £14,500 each. Others received smaller amounts.

— *Education in Pennsylvania.*—The State of Pennsylvania has a system of common schools, supported by the commonwealth, of which her people are quite proud. In 1860, she had 11,597 schools, in which were 13,194 teachers and 365,303 scholars. The expense of the system for that year was £500,000. In 1866, the system had greatly increased its usefulness, there being in that year 13,146 schools, with 16,148 teachers and 725,312 scholars, while the total expenditure for the year was £800,000—which is believed to be a larger sum than was expended for similar purposes during the year by any other American state.

— *France.—Mme Marie Pape-Carpentier.*—The Halphen prize has just been awarded by the Academy of moral and political science to the above lady, whose life-story may be thus sketched. In 1835, at the age 19, she began her work of organisation and management in connection with infant schools, and she continued it in the provinces till 1847, when she was called to Paris to organise the first establishment founded in France for the training of infant-school mistresses. At the head of this