

ments that would probably take place in consequence of the Confederation of the provinces. He also compared the American and Canadian systems of education, expressing himself (as might naturally be expected) strongly in favour of the latter. He referred particularly to the prospect of having the system of provincial certificates adopted throughout the Dominion. His remarks were warmly applauded. The musical part of the entertainment was under the direction of Mr. Carter, and, as usual, was a gratifying success. "Man the Life Boat" was sung by Mr. W. H. Hill, who was loudly applauded; and Mr. Coleman followed with—"In happy moments," in a manner that elicited warm marks of approbation. Mr. Fleming read an amusing scene from Dickens' "Pickwick Papers," which created much merriment. The well known ballad, "Castles in the Air," was then sung by Mrs. Stewart, and was received with deserved applause. Upon retiring she received a hearty encore, and acknowledged the compliment by singing another piece. Mr. Wright then sang "The Admiral," at the conclusion of which an intermission was announced. The second part of the evening's proceedings was commenced by the Rev. Mr. Stephenson delivering a very able address on the subject of education, which was very warmly applauded. The Reverend gentleman then read Poe's beautiful poem, "The Bells," with admirable effect, and was deservedly applauded. Mozart's famous composition, "Within this Sacred Dwelling," was then sung by Mr. Hill, who was warmly applauded. Mr. Coleman followed with the "White Squall," which he gave with fine effect. "The Brave Old Oak" was then sung by Mr. Wright in a manner which drew forth a hearty encore. Mrs. Stewart then sang the "Maid of the Mill" in very pretty style and was warmly encored. The proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the national anthem, and the company separated.

VOTE OF THANKS TO SECRETARIES.

Messrs. McMurchy and Ormiston, the Secretaries, received the following vote of thanks:—"Moved by E. B. Harrison, seconded by W. Miller,—That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the Secretaries for the efficient discharge of their duties, and that the sum of \$25 per annum be the salary of the Recording Secretary in future.

PROTESTANT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, LOWER CANADA.

A communication was received by Mr. McMurchy from Mr. P. J. Darey, M.A., Secretary to the Protestant Teachers' Association of Lower Canada, stating that a Convention of that body would be held on the 18th October next, and asking that a delegate be sent to that Convention. On the motion of Mr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Brown, this communication was received and ordered to be printed in the Minutes. E. Scarlett, Esq., was appointed the delegate.

RESIGNATIONS OF THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER

The proposed resignation of the Secretary, Mr. McMurchy, and of the Vice President or Treasurer, Mr. Anderson, came before the meeting at this stage and were accepted, the gentlemen in question having positively and frequently declined re-nomination. Mr. Hodgson then received a unanimous nomination as Secretary, and Mr. J. B. McGann as Treasurer.

FOUR WEEKS HOLIDAYS.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. McLellan, and seconded by Mr. Johnston, was carried:—"That the County Conventions be requested to procure the signatures of as many trustees as possible, to obtain the extension of the holidays to four weeks.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. William McCabe, L.L.B., Principal of united grammar and common school, Oshawa; 1st Vice-President, Mr. Robert Alexander, Principal Newmarket school; 2nd do., Mr. A. Macallum, M.A., Principal of Central school, Hamilton; 3rd do., Mr. J. B. Dixon, M.A., Principal of grammar school, Colborne; 4th do., Mr. James Hodgson, Principal of grammar school, Weston; 5th do., Rev. G. Blair, M.A., County Superintendent of schools, Durham County; 6th do., Mr. Wm. Watson, Superintendent of schools, York; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. D. Ormiston, B.A., preparatory department, Victoria College; Recording Secretary, Mr. A. McMurchy, B.A., Mathematical master, Toronto grammar school; Treasurer, Mr. Wm. Anderson, head master, Park street school, Toronto; Councillors, E. T. Crowle, Ph. D., and Messrs. Brown, Reazin, Harrison, Gillon and Cameron. Delegate to Protestant Teachers' Association of the Province of Quebec, Edward Scarlett, Esq., Superintendent of schools for the County of Northumberland.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. R. Parsons, seconded by Mr. J. B. McGann, it was resolved that a vote of thanks be tendered to the presiding officers of this

institution, and particularly to our worthy Secretary, Mr. McMurchy, and Mr. Anderson, Vice-President, for the very efficient manner in which they performed their arduous duties during the past year. Mr. McMurchy returned thanks on his own behalf and that of the corresponding secretary, Mr. Ormiston, who was not in the hall when the vote of thanks was tendered. Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Watson, moved that a vote of thanks be tendered to the Rev. Dr. Ryerson for the use of the Normal Buildings for the holding of the *Conversazione*, also to the editors of the daily press of Toronto, and the *Hamilton Times*, for their reports of the proceedings, and to the different railway companies for their liberality in granting return tickets to the members of the Association.—Carried.

INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The subject of the incorporation of the Association came up during the sitting to-day, and members generally expressed a desire that an Act of Incorporation should be obtained. Ultimately it was arranged that further time should be given the Committee having the matter in charge, and that they should report at next meeting. The business of the Convention having been all disposed of, its sitting for the present session closed.—*Globe and Leader Reports*.

II. Papers on Education in Ontario.

1. MEETING OF TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

In the present stir of politics other and very important matters are in danger, if not of being overlooked altogether, yet of not receiving that attention and discussion which their importance and general interest deserve. We have given a report of the meeting of the Teachers' Association for Ontario; but we have not yet had time to say anything about the various important questions which came under the attention of that Association, and there received frank and thorough discussion. We believe that such meetings do a very great deal of good. It could scarcely be that educated men, who have made certain subjects their favourite study, should come together for mutual consultation without a good deal being said greatly calculated at once to enlighten and to stimulate; and we are sure that this has been the result at the recent meeting of teachers in our city. It is of the last importance that everything should be done still further to improve our excellent system of common school instruction, and nothing, we conceive, is better calculated to secure this than such periodic meetings of the more prominent teachers of the Province. The modes of teaching then very naturally come under review; what the experience of some may have suggested to them as improvements will be stated, what are found practically draw-backs will also be discussed; what may be wanting and wrong in school books; what may interfere with the teacher receiving adequate remuneration; what may militate against his social position being what could be desired; what means might be taken to interest parents more; what are the objectionable features in the present system of licensing teachers; what is the general result of education upon the community; what further steps need to be taken to secure the full benefits of what is already in operation; how far making education compulsory is possible, and how far desirable, with many such kindred topics—all can with special propriety and special efficiency be discussed at such meeting.

For instance, there cannot be a doubt that the country is all but flooded with a large number of very inferior teachers. From the laxity of some, and, it is possible, the incompetence or indifference of other County Boards of Examination, not a few are teachers who ought to be otherwise employed; and these greatly help to lower the standing and the remuneration of those who are every way competent and deserving. It may not be very pleasant to have to say so, but we are afraid that it is indisputable, that with only too many trustees, the question of cheapness, in the matter of hiring a teacher is the prominent consideration. Ten or twenty dollars of difference on the year will frequently lead to a change very far from being to the advantage of the interests of education. Another point very much connected with the question of remuneration, though not exclusively, deserves far more attention than it has hitherto received, viz., the social standing of teachers as a class. We are afraid that the Anglo-Saxons in all their branches are greatly at fault in this. It is of no use to tell us that a good many teachers have quite a recognized and honourable position in what may be called "good" society. The fact is notorious, that as a class, they have not that place which their important duties, and the great influence for good or for evil which they exert, entitle them to hold. It is quite true that with far too many, social position has come to be looked upon simply as a question of income; but even that will not account for the anomalous position which teachers hold not only in old and aristocratic countries, but even in those of the west where the benefits of education are said to be specially prized. It is quite true that it