

teachers were prevented from attending by the unfavorable state of the roads in the country districts, the association numbered nearly seventy enrolled members. L. S. Morse, Esq., inspector of schools, presided at the various meetings with dignity and efficiency. The posts of vice-president, and secretary-treasurer, were acceptably filled by A. McRae, Esq., principal of the county academy, Annapolis, and G. B. McGill, Esq., principal of the graded school at Clementsport. The programme of exercises, which was well carried out, was as follows: "The Necessity of having Trained Teachers in charge of our Primary Schools," Alex. McRae; "Grammar and how it should be Taught," W. H. Magee; "Teaching School versus Keeping School," G. B. McGill; "The Teacher's Social Position," J. W. McGregor; "Questioning," J. W. H. King; "Some of the causes of Indolence in Pupils," A. J. McKenna. The papers were all evidently the product of much careful thought, and some of them evinced the result of large experience in the practical work of teaching. A pleasing feature of the association was the readiness of the members to turn to account the opportunity offered for interchange of views. The discussions, while animated, were in the best of temper. The association, while passing no formal resolutions, through the general drift of remark, and what indeed may be termed a manifest consensus of opinion, strongly pronounced in favor of insisting on a more careful preparation for the duties of teaching as the most effective means of increasing at once its dignity, efficiency, and remuneration, of natural and educative modes of instruction as contrasted with torpid routine and profitless cram, of somehow securing and retaining greater outside interest in the work of the teachers, and of rightly guarding a rapidly developing public sentiment which is making itself felt on the subject of technical education. The Superintendent of Education was present at all the meetings, and during parts of several of them was kept pretty busy in answering, or helping to answer, the many pertinent questions which were propounded for solution, bearing on various branches of study, on educational methods, and on some of the legal aspects of the teaching profession. The public educational gathering held on the evening of the 27th ult., addressed by the Rev. J. Ambrose, A.M., ex-inspector of schools, J. E. Munro, Esq., A.B., Barrister at Law, the Rev. William Ainley, and the Superintendent, was very largely attended. Another gratifying fact characterizing this session of the association was that a large number of gentlemen interested as citizens in the cause of education were in attendance at several of the meetings. In particular, the Rev. John Ambrose, Rector of Digby, placed the association under great obligations both by instructive words and kind attentions.

The Digby academy, under the energetic principalship of Mr. W. H. Magee, is enjoying a fair measure of prosperity.

B. McKittrick, Esq., A.B., has resigned the principalship of the model schools, Truro, to resume his former position at the head of the county academy at Sydney, C.B.

The vacancy in the Kentville county academy, caused by the retirement of Mr. Denton, as referred to in last month's JOURNAL, has been temporarily filled by the engagement of W. G. Parsons, Esq., A.M.

WEALTH OF AMERICA.—Mr Mansal has reconsidered his astonishing and altogether acceptable figures on the wealth of this country, which he estimates at 49,770 million dollars, against 40,640 millions ascribed to Great Britain. He estimates that from 1870 to 1880 our wealth has increased 35 per cent. His principal table is as follows.

	Millions of Dollars.	
	U. States.	G. Britain.
	1880	1880.
Houses.....	\$13,400	\$10,600
Furniture.....	2,600	2,400
Manufactures.....	5,200	1,900
Railways.....	5,200	2,500
Shipping.....	300	600
Bullion.....	700	700
Lands.....	9,600	9,400
Cattle.....	1,800	1,220
Crops.....	2,000	720
Invested abroad.....	500	6,300
Sundries.....	700	600
Wealth proper.....	42,000	38,940
Roads, public lands, etc.,.....	7,770	1,700
Grand total.....	49,770	40,640

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Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

CHATHAM DISTRICT.—The semi-annual convention of the Chatham District Teachers' Association was held at the central school, on Thursday and Friday, May 10th and 11th. According to the constitution of the association, the meeting was opened by prayer, by Rev. A. McColl, the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, and communications read. Mr. Campbell, of the Canada Publishing Company, then addressed a few remarks to the convention, directing attention to what he considered the peculiar advantages of the "Royal Canadian Readers." Mr. Gage, of the firm of Gage & Co., publishers, was then called upon to address the meeting on the subject of "Readers;" but that gentleman, after courteously thanking the teachers for the opportunity thus extended to him, declined, stating that it was utterly impossible to compare the books in a few minutes; and, furthermore, that the two series were now before the Government for authorization, and when matters were in court it was customary for discussion thereon to cease while judgment was pending, and, consequently, he would not take up the teachers' time in useless discussion. The next subject in the programme, "Hygiene," was very skillfully handled by Dr. Tye, who divided the subjects into two parts, "Personal Hygiene" and "Public Hygiene." The doctor brought into prominence the well-known facts, that the body receives gains, and wastes. He, moreover, stated that there is, as it were, a strict ledger account kept of personal hygiene, which account is strictly balanced. After the doctor had presented the subject in its various aspects in a very able manner, several of the teachers entered into the discussion, especially on the subject of ventilation. Moved by Mr. Birch, seconded by Mr. Nichols, B.A., P.S.I., "That Dr. Tye be made an honorary member of the association."—Carried. Moved by Mr. Colles, seconded by Mr. Kellogg, "That a vote of thanks be tendered Dr. Tye."—Carried. The meeting then adjourned till afternoon. The afternoon session was opened by Mr. Davis, B.A., who illustrated the subject of "Mensuration" by means of a set of instruments, prepared for the purpose. Mr. Colles, head master of the central school, then conducted a class in reading, showing the results aimed at in that branch of education, and the method of obtaining these results. Next, Mr. Thrasher conducted a class in mental arithmetic, which, he stated, was an important subject, to which sufficient attention was not paid. The next subject in the programme, "Denominate Numbers," was introduced by Mr. Ayrast, who showed how some difficulties in the way of the pupils, regarding these numbers, might be explained away by illustrations in simple rules. This opened some discussion about the relative values of the old and new methods of borrowing, or rather taking, in subtraction. Mr. Hamilton, B.A., editor of Chatham Planet, next explained a new method of representing meteorological facts. The meeting was then adjourned till next day. On Friday morning, after the meeting was opened by prayer, by Rev. A. McColl, Mr. Nichols, B.A., P.S.I., introduced the subject of "Botany, and how to teach it." He wished to remove the prevalent idea that botany was a formidable study. The teacher should begin with the seed, and by placing before his pupils seeds and plants, in various stages of maturity, explain the phenomenon of growth. One of the chief objects of this study is to make the child observant. The subject on the programme, "Essentials of Grammar, and how to teach them," was delegated to Mr. Lawe, B.A., principal of the Wilberforce institute. That gentleman began by stating that our system of education was by far too theoretical, and not sufficiently practical; that our people were crammed with useless studies, that our universities were in that respect worse than our high schools, and our high schools infinitely worse than our public schools. The fine arts are not sufficiently well cultivated in Canada; and that, as the most flourishing periods of literature were before grammars were compiled, grammars should be abolished from our schools. This subject, of course, raised much discussion. Mr. Nichols thought that grammars should not be abolished altogether, especially as telling a child a certain form of speech is correct, and another incorrect, is not sufficient, for the child will demand the reason why these things are so. Mr. Kellogg objected to Mr. Lawe's ideas; he thought that the subject of study, being an old one, was sufficient reason for us to continue its use. This, I think, was the one weak point in Mr. Kellogg's remarks, as we must know that the mere fact of a subject being old is not enough to warrant its continuance, or we would be in a very different state of civilization from that which we are at present enjoying; we would in that case be living in the rude manner of our ancestors; rush-lights would be used, instead of the brilliant glow of electricity; and our books, instead of being printed, would be produced by the hard toil of writing by hand; and the old woman who, on her first sight of a steamboat, exclaimed, "What a sin to tempt God Almighty's wind in such a way," would never have been troubled. Progress is the watchword of the world, for God has so constituted the human mind that it