

"It happened that the day of our first meeting for organization was made a holiday at the Normal and Model Schools to enable the masters and students to attend. Mr. Robertson, then Head Master of the Normal School, presided, and the masters of the Model School took an active part in the proceedings. The names of these gentlemen appearing in the published reports, County Board teachers concluded that the Association was under the control of the Normal School, and many of them, on that account, would have nothing to do with it. However, before long it was found that County Board teachers were in the majority; and then the complaint might be heard that the Association was *opposed* to the Normal School.

"Even after the organization was fully established, many teachers who had been attracted by the novelty of the movement began to fail off, and a variety of other obstacles presented themselves, which it was very difficult to remove. But as teachers met in convention, and became better acquainted with one another, they discovered that no class held control—that the members were willing to throw aside local prejudices, and forget the petty distinctions arising from the difference of locality in which their knowledge or experience had been acquired.

"But, perhaps, the most formidable difficulty in the way of securing combined action among us was, and is still, the want of permanence in the profession.

"Teaching has long been used as a means of reaching other professions. A young man proposes to study divinity, law or medicine, but his finances being insufficient to enable him to complete his course, he becomes a teacher for a year or two, for the purpose of earning money. His leisure is entirely taken up in pursuing a special course of study entirely unconnected with teaching. Having put in his time and drawn his salary, he troubles himself no further about either teaching or teachers, and, of course, gives himself no concern whatever about Teachers' Associations. It is difficult to ascertain the entire number of teachers that enter other employments every year; but turning to the annual report of the Chief Superintendent for 1867, we find that up to that year, 2,544 Provincial certificates had been granted to students of the Normal School. Of these, 964 had expired or been superseded by others, leaving 1,580 valid at that date; but only 601 persons holding such certificates were then engaged in teaching.

"These were among the difficulties to be met by those who ten years ago inaugurated this movement. They had but slight inducements to offer to their fellow-labourers to come forward and take part in the work. The obstacles were numerous, the attractions but few. But they felt that they had a duty to perform, that they must make some sacrifice, and that ultimately success was certain, and they have not been disappointed. The fact that this Association has been in successful operation for nearly ten years, has been attended by hundreds of leading teachers from all parts of the Province, affords ample