



THE EDUCATIONALIST.

MAY 1, 1861.

SOCIETY FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB AND OF THE BLIND.

The Report of this excellent organization for the year 1860 has been sent to us by the head master Mr. J. B. McGann. The Report shows a thriving state of the Institution and gives some interesting statistics of its progress. In order to excite an interest in so benevolent a scheme, the Society has adopted the method of sending a portion of the pupils through the country to various localities for an exhibition of their acquirements, and the plan has had a most beneficial effect. Subscriptions have been largely given, and there is every prospect that the institution will go on increasing in usefulness and stability, until it becomes one of our most flourishing charities, and ranks first not only in utility but in permanency. Misplaced benevolence is to be deprecated, but here is an opportunity for the charitable to contribute their mite in a cause which aims at the elevation and improvement of a certain class of unfortunates whose benighted condition commend them most strongly to the compassionate regards and merciful efforts of their fellow creatures. The cause of the deaf and dumb and of the blind cannot but be a proper one for the exercise of a pure and unostentatious benevolence.

Any contributions will be cheerfully received by the Treasurer Wm. McMaster Esq., Toronto.

CONVENTION OF THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION FOR THE EASTERN RIDING OF THE CO. OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

This Association met at Hilton, on Saturday, the 23rd March, forty-seven members being present.

The proceedings were commenced by Mr. Perry, who explained his method of teaching the National Reading Books.

Messrs. Blackmore, of Brighton, and Bell, of Campbellford, conducted the exercises in Grammar, the extract chosen for analysis being that by Arkenside, on "Taste," in the 5th Book. Considerable discussion took place on some passages.

An exceedingly interesting Lecture, on the Early History of the World, was delivered by Mr. Macoun, of Belleville.

After a short intermission, the Convention took up the subject of Arithmetic; Mr. Scarlett lecturing on Vulgar Fractions, and Mr. Blackmôté on Decimals.

Messrs. O'Sullivan, of Percy, and Ruth-erford, of Asphodel, lectured on Algebra.

After the conclusion of the lectures, considerable interest was displayed by the members as to the place for the next Convention, which it was ultimately decided should be held in the Village of Brighton, on Saturday, the 6th of July, the following subjects and instructors being chosen:—

Grammar—Fourth Book, Section 1, Lesson 20, p. 77—Detached pieces—Messrs. Bell and O'Sullivan.

Arithmetic—Arithmetical and Geometrical Progression—Messrs. D. McColl and I. Squier.

Algebra—Factoring and Simple Equations—Messrs. J. Macoun and Wilmut Squier.

Geometry—E. Scarlett Esq. Doctor. C. M. Gould will deliver a Lecture on "Animal Chemistry."

Mr. Paul Blackmore having stated, that, as he was about to leave Canada, he wished to resign his office as Corresponding Secretary to the Association.

It was proposed by E. Scarlett Esq., seconded by T. S. Gillon Esq., and unanimously resolved,—

That the talents, education, and gentlemanly deportment of Mr. Paul Blackmore having gained for him the esteem and confidence of those who have become acquainted with him since his arrival amongst us, it is a source of regret to the friends of this Association to lose so valuable a member. That we wish our esteemed friend a favourable voyage to his native country, and assure him, that if, in the arrangements of an all-wise Providence, he may deem it his duty to return to this colony, he will at least ever meet with a warm reception among his friends in the County of Northumberland.

On motion of Mr. Scarlett, seconded by Mr. Macoun, Mr. B. Brisbin was appointed Corresponding Secretary in the room of Mr. Blackmore.

Moved by Dr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Blackmore, and resolved—

That the thanks of this Convention are due to Messrs. Webster, Richmond, Potts, Gillon, Thorpe, Phillips, Fiddick and others, for the kind and generous

hospitality shewn by them to the Teachers and Members of this Association.

The Convention then closed; the members appearing well pleased with the proceedings of the day, which were calculated to increase the growing interest in the cause of Education, and to excite the emulation of Teachers, by bringing the various branches of their professional duties prominently before them.

T. S. GILLON,
pro Secretary.

REFLECTIONS.

Far back in the unfathomable depths of the "beginning" was conceived the creation of the universe, and, touched by the hand of Omniscience, myriads of worlds came forth, vying with each other in rendering homage to Him "who spake and it was done." The "morning stars sang together" in the joy of their new existence. The Creator beheld the beauty, the harmony, the glory of His work, "and it was very good."

Indelibly written on every leaf was the character of its Author, but it was not complete until mind preface the great book of Nature—the likeness of Divinity. Fallen spirits read and envied, and with "malicious leer malign" they sullied the purity of that likeness, and sin, with all its hideous forms, marred the symmetrical beauty of the greatest work which ever emanated from the hand of the Divine Artist.

Man, eager to solve the mysteries of obscurity, strives in vain to unravel the intricate purposes of God which He has wisely hidden from his dependent creatures. Although man has made great discoveries in regard to the laws which govern the material world, and has made the elements obedient to his will, spanning the waters of the deep, and looking into the starry heavens to measure other worlds, there are boundaries to knowledge which he may not pass. The finite is lost in the infinite, and in the incapacity of his soul, he sees the distance between the creature and the Creator. But this strange part within, struggling to break the fetters that bind it as it roams through radiant fields of thought in search of something to answer the inspiration of its existence, is it never to soar at pleasure beyond the confines of its material abode? Yes, we thank our Maker for the immortality He has given us. There will be a time when