

### Eighteenth Conference of the Teachers' Association in connection with the Jacques Cartier Normal School.

At this meeting, held on the 29th August last, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Superintendent of Education, Messrs. Grondin and Valade, School Inspectors, Mr. Desplaines, President, and twenty members of the Association were present.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and adopted, the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—Mr. François X. Desplaines, President; Mr. François X. Héti, Vice-President; Mr. G. T. Dostaler, Secretary; Mr. M. D. Boudrias, Treasurer; and Messrs. T. Amyreault, J. Duquette, J. C. Guilbault, P. H. St. Hilaire, A. Lamy, D. Lefebvre, U. E. Martineau, P. V. Maucotel and J. Ringnette, Committee of Management.

Mr. Maucotel gave the only lecture delivered at this meeting, —subject: "The progress successively made by France in the sciences from the conquest of Gaul by the Romans, and the influence of the clergy on French civilization."

Mr. Chauveau then addressed the teachers, suggesting among other things, the propriety of subscribing to the *Journal of Education*, not only because that periodical contained much new and valuable matter not to be found in the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique*, but because it would also give them an opportunity of making use of their English acquisitions in a practical and agreeable manner, thus preserving them from decay.

The discussion which had been commenced at the last meeting was now re-opened by Inspector Valade and Messrs. Archambault and Boudrias, and summed up by the President, who pointed out that a combination of the three methods, *Simultaneous*, *Mutual*, and *Individual*, was to be preferred—an opinion in which he was supported by the meeting.

The following motions were next proposed and adopted:

Mr. Archambault moved, seconded by Mr. J. C. Guilbault,—That the thanks of the meeting are due to the Superintendent of Education and to Inspectors Grondin and Valade for the advice they had given and for the punctuality with which they attended these Conferences.

Mr. Duquette moved, seconded by Mr. Archambault,—That thanks be voted to the out-going members of the Committee of Management.

Mr. Boudrias moved, seconded by Mr. P. H. St. Hilaire,—That the meeting be adjourned to the last Friday in January next, at 10 A. M.

The question, *Whether, in teaching, the synthetic or analytic method was preferable?* was changed into the following: *What are the best methods of teaching?*

### International Courtesies and Historical Reminiscences.

It is with much pleasure that we feel called upon to advert to two recent events, almost trivial in themselves, but deriving much importance from the fact that they tend directly to renew and cement that *entente cordiale* with our bellicose neighbors across the frontier, which had temporarily suffered in consequence of the unfortunate complications of last winter. The first of these events was the opening of the railway between Watertown, Rome and Ogdenburgh, celebrated by a grand "jubilee" at Ogdenburgh, and a pleasure trip to Ottawa—that place being the terminus of a Canadian railway connecting with the new line at Prescott. The reception by the citizens of Ottawa was warm and enthusiastic, and worthy the hospitality of the future capital of Canada. A banquet, presided over by the Mayor, was tendered the guests at the hall of the *Canadian Institute*, where many excellent speeches were made and friendly sentiments reciprocated.

The other incident to which we have alluded was the presence of the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee at the literary celebration given by the Maine Historical Society at Fort Poplar, Maine. Mr. McGee was called upon to respond to the following toast, which together with the speech, we copy from the *Portland Advertiser*:—

"The memory of *Sieur de Champlain*, the fearless navigator and accomplished statesman; the first to explore and designate these shores; whose plans of Empire, more vast and sagacious than any of his time, failed of success, only through the shortsightedness of his sovereign, in allowing the Atlantic shores of

New England, to fall into the hands of his rivals, thereby changing the history of the New World."

The Hon. Thos. D'Arcy McGee, President of the Executive Council of Canada, addressed the assemblage in response to this sentiment. He said: I beg to assure you, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Maine Historical Society, who have done me the honor to invite me here, that I feel it a very great privilege to be a spectator and a participant in the instructive retributive ceremonial of this day. This peninsula of Sabino must become, if it is not already, classic ground, and this 29th of August, the true era of the establishment of our language and race on this continent, one of the most cherished *fasti* of the English speaking people of North America. It is, on general grounds, an occasion hardly less interesting to the colonies still English, than to the citizens of Maine, and, therefore, I beg to repeat in your presence, the gratification I feel in being allowed to join in the first, of what I trust will prove, but the first of an interminable series of such celebrations. I would be very insensible, Sir, to the character in which I have been so cordially presented to this assembly, if I did not personally acknowledge it; and I should be, I conceive, unworthy of the position I happen to occupy as a member of the Canadian government, if I did not feel still more the honor you have paid to Canada, in the remembrance you have made of her first Governor and Captain General, the *Sieur de Champlain*. That celebrated person was in truth, not only in point of time, but in the comprehension of his views, the audacity of his projects, and the celebrity of his individual career, the first statesman of Canada; and no one pretending to the character of a Canadian statesman could feel otherwise than honored, gratified, when Champlain's name is invoked, publicly or privately, in his presence. We have no fear that the reputation of our great Founder will not stand the severest test of historical research; we have no fear that his true greatness will dwindle by comparison with the rest of the Atlantic leaders—the chiefs of the renowned sea—chivalry, of whom we have already heard such eloquent mention. We Canadians ardently desire that he should be better known—be well known—and perhaps, you, Mr. President, will permit me, to indicate some of the traits in the career, to point to some of the traits in the character, which haunts for us, forever, the name and memory of the *Sieur de Champlain*. What we esteem most in the life of our Founder, is that chief virtue of all eminent men—his indomitable fortitude; and next to that we revere the amazing versatility and resources of the man. Originally a naval officer, he had voyaged to the West Indies and to Mexico, and had written a memoir, lately discovered at Dieppe, and edited both in France and England, advocating among other things the artificial connexion of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. From the quarterdeck we trace him to the counting rooms of the merchants of Rouen and Saint Malo, who first entrusted him in 1603, with the command of a commercial enterprise of which Canada was the field. From the service of the merchants of Rouen, Dieppe, and Saint Malo, we trace him to the service of his Sovereign—Henry IV. For several successive years we find his flag glancing at all points along this rockbound coast on which we are now assembled, from Port Royal to Massachusetts bay. Whenever we do not find it here, we may be certain it has advanced into the interior, that it is unfurled at Quebec, at Montreal, or towards the sources of the Hudson and the Mohawk. We will find that this versatile sailor has become in time a founder of cities, a negotiator of treaties with barbarous tribes, an author, a discoverer. As a discoverer, he was the first European to ascend the Richelieu, which he named after the patron of his latter years—the all-powerful Cardinal. He was the first to traverse that beautiful lake, now altogether your own, which makes his name so familiar to Americans; he was the first to ascend our great central river, the Ottawa, as far north as Nipissing, and he was the first to discover what he very justly calls "the fresh-water sea" of lake Ontario. His place, as an American discoverer is, therefore, amongst the first; while his claims as a colonizer rest on the firm foundation of Montreal and Quebec, and his project—extraordinary for the age—of uniting the Atlantic with the Pacific by artificial channels of communication. As a legislator, we have not yet recovered, if we ever shall, the ordinances he is known to have promulgated; but as an author we have his narrative of transactions in New France, his voyage to Mexico, his treatise on navigation, and some other papers. As a diplomat, we have the Franco-Indian alliances, which he founded and which lasted a hundred and fifty years on this continent, and which exercised so powerful an influence, not only on American but on European affairs. To him also it was mainly owing that Canada, Acadia, and Cape Breton were reclaimed by, and restored to France, under the treaty of Saint German-en-Laye, in 1632. As to the moral qualities, our Founder was brave