

new business, and it was for the Association, not for him, to decide whether such new business should be introduced or not.—Mr. McKee said it was a rule of the association that any business of this kind should in the first instance be brought before the Council.—Mr. Acres: We must not be shackled, but must be allowed to express what we came here to say.

*Common School Superintendencies.*—When the Convention re-assembled in the afternoon, Mr. Anderson, of Paris, read an essay entitled, "Suggestions towards Improvement in Common School Superintendencies." The essayist enumerated a variety of qualifications which he considered essential in an efficient Common School Superintendent, and indicated his opinion that in many cases there was much room for the improvement of that class of educational functionaries.—The thanks of the Association were voted to Mr. Anderson for his able and instructive essay.

*Denominational Schools.*—Mr. McGann moved, "That this Association, having a deep interest in the preservation and continued efficiency of the Common School system of Upper Canada, feels called upon to declare its opinion that the appropriation of the Common School funds to the support of schools connected with the various denominations, would be fraught with great danger to the educational interests of the Province." In supporting the resolution, Mr. McGann said the introduction of these denominational schools in the way proposed, would be fatal to the system. They were calculated to enthrone in the hearts of the rising generation, sectarian and intolerant bigotry. While in Ireland, he had taught in connection with the Church Education Society, and had submitted to sacrifice rather than teach in the National Schools; but since he came to Canada he had changed his views on this subject. If he wanted to find persons properly educated, he would look for them in the National Schools of Ireland, where children of all creeds were educated in the same school, and had the principles of brotherhood and mutual good feeling instilled into their hearts. (Applause.) The effect of denominational schools would be to instil bigotry into the minds of the children, and to stunt the growth of all the finer feelings of their nature. It would be a dark day for Canada when they were established throughout the country. Its educational system, instead of being an honour to the country, would then be a national disgrace. (Applause.)—Mr. Watson, Superintendent of Schools in York Township, seconded the resolution. He considered it was the interest not only of teachers, but of the whole people of the country, to keep our school system free from injury, by the further introduction of the sectarian element. He thought that sectarian differences were already too strongly marked in Canada. To provide sectarian schools for the rising generation, would only be to increase the evil. If his child went to one school and his neighbours to another school, of a different denomination, each would be asking, "Why cannot we go to school together?" And the answer that would be given them would have a tendency to lessen the friendly feelings they would otherwise entertain towards each other. Now he held that, as citizens of the same country, whatever our creed, we could not be on too friendly terms with each other, or too deeply interested in each other's welfare and in the prosperity of the country generally. But the effect of sectarian schools would be to separate our offspring more widely apart than we ourselves are. (Hear, hear.) They inevitably led to jealousies and heart-burnings, and the destruction of those good feelings which should exist among people of the same community. In his own township there were three Roman Catholic Separate Schools, and in his visits he made no distinction between them and the others. He believed their trustees respected him as much as they would one of their own religious persuasion, but he had not scrupled to tell them his views as to what he conceived to be the tendency of such schools.—The motion being put, was carried.

*Examination of Teachers.*—Mr. Anderson, of Toronto, seconded by Mr. Moore, of Brantford, moved: "That this Association considers the provisions of the present School Act, in reference to the examination of teachers and the granting of certificates of qualification by County Boards of Public Instruction, have a tendency to lower the professional status of teachers, and retard the progress of Common School education in the Province, by subjecting that large class of teachers not holding Provincial Normal School certificates to repeated and unnecessary examinations, and that it is highly desirable that a Central Board of Examiners be appointed, with power, after due examination, to grant certificates of equal extent and duration with those granted by the Chief Superintendent of Education to students who have attended the Provincial Normal School." Mr. Anderson explained the nature of the present system. Teachers who had not attended the Normal School were required to stand repeated examinations, without any object in view that

he could discover. In the third-class, certificates were granted for one year only, and for a single township or even section. In the second-class, they were granted for two years. In the first-class, teachers had to come back at the end of five years to undergo another examination, and receive, if successful, the highest grade of certificate, first-class A. But that was not sufficient; at the end of another five years they had to come back the third time, and if they again passed first-class A, they then received certificates for life—but certificates confined only to the single county. If the teacher went into the next county, he had to undergo a new examination, and this had to be repeated until he again underwent his third examination. But teachers who had attended the Normal School, after undergoing an examination, received first or second class certificates, but in each case for life.—Miss St. Remy, of Toronto, corrected Mr. Anderson, by remarking that the Normal School second-class certificate of the lowest grade C was only for one year.—Mr. Anderson thanked the lady for putting him right, but said all the other five grades were for life. He could not see the propriety of such a distinction being made in favour of one class of teachers, and against others who might be equally well qualified. It was said that the Normal School certificate was more valuable, because it guaranteed a certain amount of special training. If this was a good reason, it should equally apply to Grammar School teachers; yet Provincial certificates were granted to teachers of Grammar Schools without undergoing any special training.—Miss St. Remy thought it would be a better course than that suggested in the motion, if only those certificates issued on the second examination were to hold good for life, for the teaching of the applicants could at the second examination be brought into consideration. (Hear, hear.) Mr. McKee opposed the motion. Its object, he said, was to intimate to the people of Canada that there was no use for the Normal School or its teachers. (No, no!) The system it proposed would have the effect of placing untrained teachers on the same footing as trained teachers. The aim in getting up the Normal School and the present system of Provincial certificates, was to secure that the mode of teaching throughout Canada should be as far as possible assimilated, so that when a teacher was leaving and another came in his place, a new system might not be introduced.—Mr. Moore supported the resolution, and gave some instances of want of qualification on the part of the county examiners.—Mr. W. Carlyle thought if the Central Board was appointed by the Board of Public Instruction, the proposed system would work admirably.—Mr. Rouse moved that the resolution be laid on the table.—This motion gave rise to a tie, 15 voting yea and 15 nay. The chairman voted with the nays, and the discussion proceeded.—Mr. James Carlyle, of the Model School, warmly opposed the motion. He regretted the discussion, which he said only tended to increase the jealousy between teachers trained in the Normal School and other teachers.—Mr. Acres supported the resolution.—After some further discussion, the resolution was negatived by a small majority.

*The Essays.*—Mr. McFarlane, seconded by Mr. Nichol, moved: "That Messrs. McCallum, Alexander, and Anderson, be requested to place their essays in the hands of the secretary, for publication."

*Election of Officers.*—The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*—Prof. Wilson, LL.D., University College, Toronto. *Vice-Presidents*—Messrs. A. McCallum, Hamilton; J. H. Sangster, Toronto; Thos. McKee, Kingston; J. W. Acres, Paris; R. Moore, Brantford; and C. H. Luak, Oakville. *Secretary*—Mr. W. W. Anderson, Paris. *Treasurer*—Mr. Robert Alexander, Newmarket. *Councillors*—Messrs. W. McCabe, Ontario; A. Anderson, Middlesex; — Raine, Peel; J. Breckenridge, Halton; James McFarlane, Brant; W. Carlyle, Wentworth; W. Anderson, York; E. J. Barritt, Wellington; G. Henderson, Perth; J. Disher, Elgin; W. H. Rouse, Durham; W. Ayers, Haldimand; F. Cullen, Oxford; J. H. Smith, Huron; J. B. McGann, Toronto; J. B. Boyle, London; R. Cranfield, Hamilton; and James Shier, Kingston.

*The Next Meeting.*—A resolution was passed recommending the Board to call the next meeting of the Association to be held at Kingston, on the first Wednesday in August, 1863. The Convention then separated.—*Globe.*

— CONGREGATIONAL UNION—THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.—We regret having unintentionally given currency to a mis-statement of the Rev. Dr. Lillie's views on the University Question, in our Report of the "Educational Proceedings of Synod," &c., published in the last Number of this *Journal*. In justice to the rev. gentleman, we reprint from the *Globe* of the 24th of June, his reply to that misstatement, as follows. He says:—"In a summary of the proceedings of the Congregational Union of Canada, at its late meeting in Hamilton, supplied by a correspondent, and contained in your paper this morning [June 21st], my name is introduced in a way