

and ruler, and given numerous exercises in Drawing. Several illustrations of suitable work were given on the board, in drawing, arithmetic, blank exercises, and composition. Card exercises of various kinds were explained, and various artifices in arithmetic shown on the board. Colored crayons should be used frequently to interest pupils, and give variations in coloring, etc. Tablets should be placed on the walls, to be used by the children. Short pieces of stick should be given to very young children, and they should be encouraged to form with them different letters and represent short words and sentences. On motion of John McClung, seconded by Alex. McLeod, Mr. Dearnness was tendered the thanks of the Association for the able assistance rendered during the meetings. John Millar moved, seconded by A. McLeod, That in the opinion of the Association, it is desirable that teachers should form a Union. F. C. Powell moved in amendment, seconded by Thomas Rankin, That the matter of union be postponed until the next meeting of the Association, and placed on the programme for full and free discussion. The amendment was carried by a small majority. The beautiful display of flowers and plants in both the school-room and town hall added much to the general effect, and were fully appreciated by all who attended.

OXFORD TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.—The seventeenth session of the Oxford Teachers' Institute was held in the High School on Thursday and Friday last. There were about 150 teachers present, and great interest was shown in the proceedings of the Institute. Dr. McLellan was unable to be present through illness, but his place was admirably filled by W. Houston, M.A., of Toronto, whose addresses were intensely practical and contributed greatly to the success of the session. A cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Houston by the assembled teachers for his discussions before the Institute, and for his excellent lecture on Thursday evening. The Institute opened at 10.30 on Thursday morning. The time until 12 o'clock was occupied chiefly in transacting business. The afternoon session opened with the discussion of "Literature to Junior Classes." J. P. Archibald, of Beachville, and Mr. Dowler, of Springford, presented the subject in a very interesting way. Mr. Archibald gave the Institute the results of his teaching of Literature in Beachville public school. We are sorry that space will not permit a full explanation of Mr. Archibald's system of creating and sustaining a love for good Literature in the minds of pupils. Suffice it to say that a much-desired reform would take place in our schools if the principles enunciated by the Principal of Beachville school were practised by all teachers of Literature. Mr. Dowler's remarks were also well-received by the Institute. Next followed a very interesting exercise on "Book-keeping in Public Schools," by J. W. Westervelt, Principal of Forest City Business College. W. Carlyle, I.P.S., then addressed the Institute, explaining the Cleveland system of education. Cleveland has an education system, separate from the State to which it belongs, and managed by a Board appointed by the city. The system has many advantages which are worthy of imitation. Mr. Houston followed with a discussion on "Reform Spelling." He takes no extreme view of the spelling reform, but favors only those changes which can be made according to philological principles. His two principles were:—The spelling of a word may be changed if the change can be brought about by improving the word philologically and not injuring it phonetically, and *vice versa*. His opinions on this question were endorsed by the majority of the teachers.

Friday morning session was well attended. Mr. Houston discussed "Composition." In this, as in all his addresses, the learned gentleman impressed the teachers with the importance of a rational method of teaching. Mr. Taylor, Mathematical Master of Ingersoll Collegiate, then took up the subject of Arithmetic. His leading ideas were that pupils should be taught to put their solutions of mathematical problems on paper in an intelligible way, and further, that in giving explanations the teacher should insist on having answers expressed in the form of complete sentences. These ideas were illustrated by examples. "Philology" was then discussed by Mr. Houston, and the morning session closed. In the afternoon, Inspector Smith, of Wentworth, addressed the Institute on the "Art of Questioning." This gentleman was well received and listened to with marked attention. Prof. Freeland, of London, and Prof. Misner, of Norwich, explained the merits of the two systems of music, Tonic Sol-Fa and Staff Notation, Mr. Freeland supporting the claims of the former, and Mr. Misner those of the latter. Each gentleman succeeded in showing advantages for the system he represented. During the afternoon a committee was appointed to visit the Methodist Conference and present an address of greeting and welcome to the Ministers in conference assembled. The committee was warmly received. The following is the address of the Institute and the reply by the Conference:

... the President and Members of *Nia ara* Conference of the Methodist Church in session assembled:

The Oxford Teachers' Institute, this day by resolution, appointed the deputation to be before you to convey to your venerable body their fraternal greetings, and to extend to you a hearty welcome to the County of Oxford.

They deem it of the highest importance that the work of cultivating the moral and intellectual faculties of the youth of our land should ever be in harmony with the teachings of the Word of God, the principles of which are so faithfully and efficiently

inculcated by the Church which you represent, and which has so greatly contributed to the moral and spiritual elevation of the people of this Dominion.

We pray that Divine Wisdom may guide you in your deliberations, and that the blessing of the great Head of the Church may be richly showered upon you in your self-denying efforts for the elevation of our fallen humanity.

D. H. HUNTER, Chairman Committee.

RESOLUTION OF CONFERENCE.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Burns, seconded by Rev. S. J. Hunter, and resolved, That this Conference has been much pleased with the visit of the delegation from the Teachers' Convention of the County of Oxford, and would assure them of the sincere and hearty sympathy of the Conference with them in their honorable, patriotic and Christian work. We can promise them the unbroken and unequivocal co-operation of the Conference, and we may say, of the Church we represent. Next to the work of the Christian Minister, and hardly less important, would we place that of the Teachers of our land, and we sincerely pray that in their patient, plodding efforts for the intellectual development of our country, they may find their brightest and fondest anticipations more than realized.

WILLIAM J. HUNTER, President.

J. S. WILLIAMSON, Secretary.

T. J. PARR, Secretary Oxford Teachers' Institute.

NORTH YORK.—The regular meeting was held in Aurora's fine new school-house on Thursday and Friday, 10th and 11th June. About 80 teachers were present. Dr. McLellan was there and gave addresses on "The ABC of Arithmetic," on "Teaching of English Literature," and on "The Art of Questioning," besides a public lecture, Thursday evening, on "The Teacher's Work." His lectures were interspersed with considerable humor, and were highly appreciated by all present. Excellent papers were given by Mr. Price, of Queensville, on "Composition to Third and Fourth Classes"; by Miss Lizzie Ross on "Look and Say" and "Phonic Reading"; by Mrs. Wylie, of Richmond Hill, on "Primary Writing"; by Mr. Wilson, of Sharon, on "Uses and Abuses of Text-books"; and by Mr. Dickson, of Newmarket, on "Difficult Points in Teaching of Grammar." Mr. Lent, of Richmond Hill High School, gave an address on Teachers' Unions, during the course of which he emphasized the necessity of increased efficiency on the part of each teacher to secure an elevation of the profession. At the same time, he strongly advocated a union for the sake of greater protection, and of securing more control over the entrance to the profession. To this end he suggested a remodelling of our Central Committee, making it an elective body, chosen by the teachers. It should be given extensive powers over the examination and admission of candidates to the profession, and over the authorization of text-books, etc. This would remove the possibility of such blundering as had characterized the work of the Department the last few years. He pointedly contrasted the Departmental action in the case of the Scripture readings, where they had submitted the work to the revision of a representative body of clergymen, who were the most competent for such a work, and their action in the case of the Readers, and still more recently, in the case of the new Public School History that has been authorized ere it issued from the press,—before the public, especially the teachers who, in such a case, are the most competent body to pronounce a verdict on its merits, had ever seen it. Had such a representative body as suggested had control no such mistake would have occurred. He moved a resolution "That, in the opinion of the teachers of North York, the time has arrived for a closer union of the teachers of Ontario for the purpose of mutual aid and protection." It was carried unanimously, as was also a resolution expressing approval of the course of the Department in preparing a series of Scripture readings. Mr. Dickson and Mr. Lent were elected delegates to the Provincial Association. Mr. Fotheringham and Mr. Rennie were re-elected President and Secretary respectively; the other officers being about the same as before. There was a marked absence of discussion, a matter much to be regretted. It was suggested that in future parties introducing a subject take only 20 minutes or thereabout,—not read lengthy papers. It would be better, too, if they had a less number of subjects on the program, then there would be no excuse for such summary shutting-off of attempts at discussion. A proposal to try Township meetings in the fall was lost. It was resolved to have the next meeting in Aurora. The hospitality of the people was very marked, and every one went into raptures over the new school-house. Certainly no finer or better equipped school is in Ontario.

Literary Chat-Chat.

"Yes," said the bookseller, "we have a great deal of fun in our line of business; but I presume a great many of the things that seem funny to us would not strike the ordinary observer as specially amusing. For instance, a person came in the other day, and wanted to know the price of a set of Mr. Waverley's novels. Another asked for a list of David Copperfield's works in paper bindings. A lady, looking for something to read, was recommended by one of my clerks to try something of George Eliot's. 'He is a good writer,' said she; 'I have read a number of his works, and like them very much.'—Exchange.