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## ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual convention of public school teachers of the Province of Ontario was held on the 7th, 8th and 9th of August, in the theatre of the Normal School. The proceedings were opened by the reading of the 23rd Psalm and the offering up of a prayer. The Secretary read a letter from Principal Dawson, of McGill College, stating his inability to read a paper at the present meeting in consequence of his having made arrangements to take a geological tour through the Maritime Provinces. It was expected that the President of the Association, the Rev. Pres. Snodgrass, of Queen's College, Kingston, would be present and deliver an address, but the following letter from him was read by the Secretary: "I very highly appreciate and now gratefully acknowledge the honour of being elected President of your important and useful association. When the election took place I was under an engagement to visit Britain this summer. To that engagement I am obliged to adhere, and tomorrow (D.V.,) I shall leave Kingston for Quebec *en route*, so that it is impossible for me to attend your next annual meeting. I ask your acceptance of this explanation of my absence, and beg to assure you that I very much regret my inability to be with you. Were I present it would be with an earnest endeavour both to profit by your deliberations and proceedings, and to discharge to your satisfaction the duties of the office to which you have appointed me. Since learning that I might address you in writing without being present, I have been unable from the pressure of other business to find time to do so in a manner satisfactory to myself. I therefore crave your indulgence, but I do so with the expectation of attending one of your annual assemblies before very long, and of having an opportunity of stating my views on some subjects connected with the school system of Ontario. Earnestly hoping that you shall have a happy and successful meeting.—I have, &c."

Mr. Edward Scarlett, School Inspector for the County of Northumberland, the 1st vice President of the Association, in the absence of the President, took the chair.

INCORPORATION.—The Secretary then stated he had waited up on members of the last and present Government, and the result was

that he had been advised by these members not to press their request for incorporation this year at least. Mr. McGann (of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Belleville) moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. J. Campbell: "That Messrs. McMurchy, McCallum and Anderson be and are hereby re-appointed to attend to matters connected with the incorporation of the Association."—Carried.

REV. DR. RYERSON'S ADDRESS.—At the evening session the Chairman introduced the Rev. Dr. Ryerson as the lecturer of the evening. Dr. R. proceeded to give expression to his views on the subject of education in general. He regretted the absence of Principal Snodgrass, the President of the Association, as he would have done so much to interest and instruct them. He (Dr. R.) had been surprised at the request of the Committee of the Association, as it had been stated, so confidently and largely, that he had yet to learn the elements of his native tongue. Such had been the representations on the subject, that he (Dr. R.) had begun to suspect his own identity, and to ask himself whether it was not a delusion that he had in boyhood not only studied, but, as he supposed, had mastered Murray's two octavo volumes of English Grammar and Kames Elements of Criticism and Blair's Rhetoric, of which he still had the notes that he made in early life; and had been called to assist teaching a special class of young persons in English Grammar when he was only fifteen years of age; and whether it was not a fancy that he had taught, as he supposed, with some degree of acceptance and success, what was then known as the London District Grammar School for two years, and had subsequently placed himself for a year under an accomplished scholar in order to read Latin and Greek. Somewhat disturbed by these doubts, he thought he would satisfy himself by writing to the only two gentlemen with whom he was now acquainted, who knew him in these early relations. In reference to the statements alluded to, and for the information and satisfaction of his friends of the Teachers' Association, he would read the short correspondence to which he now referred. Dr. Ryerson then read the following letters:—

TORONTO March 9th, 1872.

MY DEAR SIR,—I believe you were part of the time a pupil in what was then known as the London District Grammar School during the years 1821 and 1822, when I was acting Master of it.

Will you have the kindness to let me know what is your own recollection as to the attendance at the School, especially in the winter months, and the impression of the neighborhood generally as to its efficiency during the two years that I taught it,

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully

(Signed) E. RYERSON.

Simpson McCall, Esquire, M.P.  
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