

THE CANADA  
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY  
AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

---

OCTOBER, 1886.

---

ADDRESS TO THE ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

BY SAMUEL MACALISTER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

LET my first words to you this evening be those of thanks for the honour you have done me by making me President of the Ontario Teachers' Association. It would be the shallowest hypocrisy on my part to pretend that I do not feel proud of a position which is the highest that it lies in the power of my fellow-teachers to bestow. I must not forget, however, that with the honour comes the responsibility of seeing that the work of this Convention is conducted to a successful issue, and I trust I shall have your forbearance, as well as your support, in any efforts I may make towards this end.

Let us keep in mind that we assemble here as a deliberative body, with the purpose of bringing our opinions to bear upon the general interests of education in the country, and of those engaged in it. To do this successfully we must reduce those opinions to a focus, though they may

be as varied as the colours of the rainbow.

The programmes of business which the Board of Directors, and the Committees of the High School, Public School, and Inspectors' Sections have prepared, will make the three days of our meeting very busy ones. I am sure they will be pleasant, and I trust they will be profitable, so that we may be able to look back to the Convention of 1886 as one in which valuable progress was made in the cause which we all have so much at heart.

I propose to pass in review some of the important reforms that have had their origin in the deliberations of these Conventions, and I do this that we may be encouraged and stimulated in our work, and that some of our younger fellow-workers, who have not yet borne the burden and heat of the day, may be convinced of the utility of our meetings, which, strange to say, they are disposed to question.