

his best endeavors with the Government to cause teachers to be appointed to inspectorships. The measures taken by the Department of Education for preventing any reduction in teachers' salaries were then adverted to, as also the influence which the teacher possessed over his neighbors in the parishes—an influence which, said Mr. Chauveau, should be exerted to the utmost in preventing the wholesale emigration now unfortunately going on. After further remarks on this subject, the Superintendent advocated the teaching of the History of Canada in all the schools, as one of the means calculated to develop in the rising generation that love of country which would more firmly root it to the soil.

Mr. Bellerose then read a paper on *Heat*.

A discussion followed between Mr. Emard and Mr. Priou on *The best method of teaching Simple and Compound Proportion*.

Mr. Paradis, in a review of the question, expressed the opinion that although the usual systems of proportion had their merit, the analytic system was preferable, inasmuch as, while requiring more profound reasoning on the part of the pupil, the operation itself was more simple.

An essay on *The last moments of Kondiaronk*, the famous Huron chief, was read by Mr. Boutin; after which

The relative merits of Bonneau's French Grammar and that of the *Brothers*, came up for discussion. In the debate that followed, Messrs. Paradis and Archambault expressed themselves, on the whole, in favor of Bonneau's.

Mr. Priou read an essay on *The Teacher*, in which he said that happiness consisted in a teacher's faith in God, confidence in himself and his calling,—which aimed at the moral, intellectual and physical excellence of his pupils,—and in the hope of that reward which awaits those who willingly devote all their powers of body and mind to instructing their fellow-creatures.

It was resolved, on motion of Mr. Emard, seconded by Mr. Cassegrain, that the conference intended to be held in September, should take place in August.

A vote of thanks was, on motion of Mr. Emard, seconded by Mr. Chagnon, tendered to Mr. Archambault and the other office-bearers, for having filled their respective offices with advantage to the Association and honor to themselves.

On motion of Mr. Boudrias, seconded by Mr. Paradis, it was resolved that the Librarian should be authorized to buy six copies of the excellent treatise on *Teaching* by Rev. Mr. Langevin.

On motion of Mr. Archambault, seconded by Mr. Cassegrain, a vote of thanks was tendered to the proprietors of *La Minerve* and of *L'Ordre* for having published advertisements for the Association gratis.

The Treasurer's accounts were received and approved.

Resolutions based on the report of the committee of management, were also adopted, as follows:

1. That a committee be named for *proposing, correcting, and crowning* essays, which shall be open to the competition of all the teachers belonging to this Association.

2. That the following members compose this committee: The Principal of the Jacques Cartier Normal School, as Chairman, with power to choose a professor of said school as assistant; one inspector of schools and one teacher, members of this Association, the two last to be elected annually by ballot at the general election in the month of May.

3. That the competition shall take place only once in the year.

4. That the theses shall be proposed and published at the convention held in May in each year, and deposited in the hands of the Principal of Jacques Cartier Normal School, at the conference of the ensuing month of January at the latest.

5. That each *thesis* shall be transmitted under a fictitious name, or motto, the author sending also a sealed letter having for superscription the same name or motto as the thesis and giving within his true name. This letter shall be opened only at the conference in May, and then only in the event of the thesis being crowned.

6. That the committee shall award a prize to the author of the thesis thus crowned; and when two theses shall be equal in merit, the prize shall be divided.

7. That every crowned thesis shall be preserved in the archives of the Association.

Inspector Valade and Inspector M. E. Archambault were appointed members of the said committee.

Messrs. H. Pesant, P. P. Auger, H. Martineau, J. B. Delage, A. Gervais and C. Brault were requested to prepare each a lecture for the convention in August next.

The following subjects will be discussed: "Should children be taught to define the rules of arithmetic, or is it sufficient that these rules be explained to them? Is Poitevin's French grammar preferable to *Chapman's*?"

Then, on motion of Mr. Boudrias, seconded by Mr. Gauvreau, it was resolved that the next meeting should be held on the last Friday in the ensuing month of August, at 9 a. m.

McGill Normal School.

DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS.

The annual meeting of this school for the distribution of diplomas to the teacher-pupils was held on Friday afternoon, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, LL. D., Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada, presiding.

On and near the dais were Professor Dawson, LL. D. F. R. S., Principal and Associate Professor of Natural History and Agriculture; Rev. Canon Leach, Vice Principal; Hon. James Ferrier, and B. Camberlain, M. A. B. C. L., Fellows, Members of the Corporation of the University; Rev. Messrs. Bond, Kemp, Muir, and Corder; also, Professors Howe, Hicks, Robins, Craig, and W. C. Baynes, Esq., B. A.; and Messrs. Lunn, McGregor, B. A.; Murray, and Andrews.

The Rev. Mr. KEMP opened the proceedings with prayer.

Hon. Mr. CHAUVÉAU then addressed the meeting, observing that he believed this was the eighth distribution of prizes and diplomas to the teachers in training at the McGill Normal School. He understood that the usual number would be distributed on this occasion. In addition, they would give what had always been offered since it was founded, the medal and prize presented by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The prize was one which had not only to be obtained by the relative success of one pupil over the others, but by an absolute degree of success. That was to say, the pupil who obtained the medal and prize must not only exhibit superiority over the other pupils, but attain to a certain standard in the final examination. So it had happened that the prize had not been given sometimes. For the diplomas themselves, a very strict examination had to be gone through. It was almost necessary for him to call the attention of the public to the good work done by this school, and although the attendance that day was not so great as it had been on previous occasions, still he might argue from the increasing applications from the country parts, that the people of the country were taking a great interest in this school. The superiority of the pupil-teachers who left it was everywhere acknowledged. He had only to return to the Principal and his co-adjutors his thanks for the good work they were doing. The curriculum of the school was so large, and the subjects so important, that every one must see at the first glance that a great deal of labor was necessary, and that the whole time of the teachers was occupied. The examinations were very strict, and as a consequence, there was a general attention to duty. To those who got diplomas he had only to say, that they would always secure to them some of the best places in the profession of teaching in Lower Canada. Still they must not think that everything was done when they received this diploma. He who did not aim at continuous success was sure to go back. The teacher had to learn something every day. It was just the elements of each branch they learned at the Normal School; just enough to place them in such a position that they could improve themselves by their own exertions afterwards, having the key of every science they would have to teach their pupils. But it was only by giving their undivided attention to their calling that success could be attained. For his own part, he had watched carefully the efforts and success of the pupils from the Normal School, and although some of them, owing to the small salaries received, have given up education, yet a great majority of them had taught the three years prescribed by the regulations, and a majority of them had also continued teaching afterwards. They had his best wishes for their success. They had not come there by compulsion; they had not come as children obliged to fulfil a certain course; but they were there of their own free will, to follow out a noble profession—one in his opinion, and in that of everyone who had given some attention to the subject, ranking only after the ministry. (Applause.) There was every reason, therefore, to believe, that having taken that determination beforehand, they would follow out their course of study, resolved to be successful. As far as his ministerial duties were concerned, they would always find in him one to guide, help, and protect them. (Hear, hear.) Some of them would only receive the elementary school diploma; but if they took his advice they would remain one year more and take the model school diploma.

Principal DAWSON, in introducing the list of teachers in training presented for diplomas, stated that in the past session the number of students had been 65, and that though this number was not quite so large as in some previous years, the class had been of more than average quality in point of talent and preparation. At the close of the examinations, which were very severe, and had continued for three weeks, four students had taken the Academy diploma, ten the Model