

STORMONT.—The twelfth half-yearly meeting of the Stormont teachers' association, was held in Duvall's Hall, Newington, on Thursday and Friday, May 17th and 18th. The president, Mr. McNaughton, I.P.S., occupied the chair, and after the usual opening, called upon the secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly read and approved. An agent of the Canada Publishing Company who was present, received permission to address the association. He introduced to the notice of the teachers assembled a newly published series of readers which he was confident would soon be authorized for use in schools. He pointed out the superior excellencies of said publications as compared with other similar text-books, and called particular attention to the lessons on temperance, hygiene, &c. A discussion ensued on the respective merits and demerits of the books compared, and a committee consisting of the president, the secretary, and Messrs. Talbot, Cook, and Bissett, with power to add to their numbers, was appointed to examine them, also those published by Gage & Co., and report the result of such examination at some future time. The president read an extract from the Minister of Education referring to text-books, also from the official report referring to teachers. He showed that Stormont furnished as many certificated teachers as other counties in the province. He spoke of a meeting of inspectors in the city of Kingston, that passed resolutions recommending an increase of government grant to increase the salaries of teachers. He thought the government should pay at least one-sixth such salary. Several teachers expressed their approval of the suggestion of the president. Mr. Relyea thought if teachers would work harder they would be better paid. Mr. Baker read an essay on "The Teacher's Personal Duties," dwelling especially on the necessity of energy of character and gentleness of manner in order to the proper performance of those duties. Remarks complimentary to the essayist were freely made upon the various points of interest in the essay and the thanks of the listeners were given him. Mr. Casselman next showed "How to Teach Composition." He emphasized the importance of making the work easy to beginners by teaching them how to express clearly their ideas of familiar things. In the discussion which followed, some difference of opinion was elicited as regards the time when the little ones should be expected to begin to write sentences. Thanks were given Mr. Casselman for the ability displayed in his treatment of the subject, and the benefits likely to be derived from his effort by those listening. On motion of Mr. Bigelow, a committee consisting of Messrs. Casselman, Talbot, and Cook, was appointed to answer the questions found in the question drawer. The first subject disposed of the second day was "The Art of Penmanship," by Mr. Cook. He explained the principles upon which the formation of the letters depends; showed how to form the letters from those principles; spoke of the correct method of holding the pen; and called attention to the proper position the pupil should assume at the desk. Some objections were urged by the speakers who followed against the Spencerian system of penmanship on account of its alleged impracticability. Mr. Bissett dealt with the subject assigned him on the programme, viz.: "Incentives to Study." He thought the principal power to be employed by the teacher to incite his pupils to intellectual effort was his own personal approval or disapproval of their conduct. He should cultivate a pleasant and persuasive manner; have tact to praise at the proper time; and know just how to provoke a healthful emulation among his scholars. He should be able to discriminate between those who require help and those who have the ability to help themselves, if they can be induced to develop the disposition. He thought the publication of honor rolls a questionable practice, and the results following of a doubtful tendency. He left the question of prizes open; if awarded at all great care must be exercised in doing it. As usual the various pleasing and practical points in the essay were reviewed in discussion upon it. Mr. Harrington who was prevented by circumstances from being present in person, sent his paper on "The Turks," which was read by Mr. Casselman. He alluded to the early history of that troublesome people, sketched the causes that led to their present degeneracy, and suggested plans by which the now deplorable condition of the Turkish Christian might be made as secure as that of the residents of other European countries. Mr. Talbot spoke of "The Teacher's work out of School." Attention was called to the necessary preparation to be made at home of the lessons to be taught in school; to the teacher's presence on the playground and the influence he should exert over the recreations indulged in there; to his position in society where he must uphold the dignity and command the respect due to the profession. The treasurer's financial report was read and adopted. Several questions of practical interest, asked through the medium of the question drawer, were satisfactorily answered. Messrs. I. R. Ault, and F. Anderson, of Aultsville, were voted honorary members, on account of services rendered the association. Officers for the current year were elected as follows: Mr. McNaughton, President; Mr. Talbot, Vice-President; Geo. Bigelow, Secretary-Treasurer; Messrs. Cook, Relyea, Casselman, Harrington, and Baker, Management Committee. It was decided to continue to furnish the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL to the members of the association, on the payment of the membership fee, and the usual club was formed. It was moved, seconded, and carried, that the next meeting be held in Cornwall, on the 4th and 5th October next. On the evening of Thursday a public lecture, under the auspices of the association, was delivered in the M. C. C., to an appreciative audience,

including the teachers, by the Rev. W. Raney, of Aultsville. The lecturer in an impressive manner, referred to the duty of teachers, as an influential class in the community, taking the aggressive side in the temperance work, and laboring to educate those under their charge in true temperance principles. In a very forcible manner he showed that the question of legal prohibition was one that must be decided by the electors at the polls, and that each voter was personally responsible for the use he made of the franchise. Rev. Mr. Robinson expressed a wish to circulate the temperance pledge which was accordingly done, and a large number of signatures was obtained. The musical part of the audience enjoyed a rich treat in the singing which enlivened the proceedings, under the leadership of Mrs. Robinson. A vote of thanks was tendered the lecturer, for it was felt that his lecture had added much to the pleasure and profit derived from attendance at the association, also to the president who had so ably discharged the duties of the chair. The meeting was a most successful one whether viewed from an intellectual, moral, or social standpoint.

RENFREW.—The semi-annual meeting of the county of Renfrew teachers' association, was held at Arnprior, May 10th and 11th. The meeting was opened at ten o'clock a.m., H. L. Slack, Esq., taking the chair in the absence of the President. After the reading of the minutes, and transaction of routine business, the meeting adjourned till 2 p.m. In the afternoon, Mr. Barron, the vice-president, took the chair, and called upon Mr. Dunlop, teacher of S. S. No. 3, Pakenham, to read the opening paper on "How to Teach Spelling." The paper was a most thoughtful one, and reflected great credit on the writer. In it he pointed out many of the absurdities of our mode of spelling English words, and advocated the adoption of the Phonetic method in preference to that now in use. The next subject was introduced by Mr. Slack, on "School Culture." He believed that too much dependence was placed on text-books in our present method of education. More care should be taken in the physical training of children, as to posture in answering questions, studying, walking, sitting, &c. Courtesy and respect to each other, and to their teachers, parents, and other superiors, ought to be more earnestly insisted upon. In the evening, Prof. Dawson, head master of the Arnprior high school, delivered a lecture in the town hall on "Science and Skepticism." There was a large audience, who listened with close attention throughout. Friday—Mr. McDowell, head master of the Renfrew high school, gave a good practical exercise on the subject of "Arithmetic." He advocated teaching it mentally, and opposed following blindly the text-books. He discountenanced the giving to pupils such mathematical puzzles as are frequently found in our examination papers. Mr. McKay, head master model school, Renfrew, read a carefully prepared paper upon "Syntax." A lively criticism on this paper followed, carried on by Messrs. Barclay, Slack, Barron, and McNab, during which many of the niceties of the English language were discussed *pro et con.* At the close of this paper, Mr. A. D. Campbell distributed among the teachers present, sample copies of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, advising them at the same time to become subscribers for it. Mr. B. Sawyer, teacher of penmanship and book-keeping normal school, Ottawa, gave a class lesson in "Writing," showing his method of presenting the subject to a class of beginners. He strongly advocated the Spencerian system. Mr. A. D. Campbell considered this system unfit for practical purposes, it being too ornamental as generally taught, and that the attempt to teach it in our public schools by means of the present copy books is the real cause of the prevalence of bad writing. Mr. Dawson thought this system destroyed individuality in hand-writing. Mr. Slack said there was something wrong either with the system or mode of teaching it, as the writing in our school at present is far from what it ought to be. This paper was followed by a short address by Prof. Dawson, on the relation between High and Public Schools. He urged upon teachers to encourage their pupils to prepare themselves to take a high school course. The election of officers then took place with the following result: President, Wm. Alford; Vice-President, Miss H. Reynolds; Secretary-Treasurer, A. D. Campbell; Management Committee, Teachers of Renfrew village schools; Auditors, W. B. C. Barclay, and H. L. Slack.

PREScott.—A meeting of the teachers of the county of Prescott, was held at the high school, Hawkesbury, on Friday and Saturday, the 1st and 2nd inst., at which a large number of the teachers of the county was present. Classes from the public school were in attendance and practical illustrations of the methods of teaching were given as follows: Mr. Summerby, I.P.S., explained before a second class, also before a third class, how language lessons might be taught in connection with the reading lessons. By judicious questioning he led the children to find out for themselves the uses of words in a sentence. He showed how grammar might be taught without burdening the mind with definitions, rules, &c., and how much time and labor might be saved to teachers and pupils on this important subject. Miss Hydro taught a third class a lesson in reading. She was careful to have the pupils thoroughly understand what they were reading. Mr. C. Gray, assistant master, model school, Vankleek Hill, taught an oral lesson in geography to a junior class. He awakened the curiosity of the pupils with regard to the shape of the earth. Mr. Summerby took a junior class and taught