

We took a hand at History—its altars, spires and flames—
And uniformly mispronounced the most important names ;
We wandered through Biography, and gave our fancy play,
And with some subjects fell in love—"good only for one day ;"
In Romance and Philosophy we settled many a point,
And made what poems we assailed to creak at every joint ;
And many authors that we love, you with me will agree,
Were first time introduced to us in District Number Three.

You recollect Susanna Smith, the teacher's sore distress,
Who never stopped at any pause—a sort of day express ?
And timid young Sylvester Jones, of inconsistent sight,
Who stumbled on the easy words, and read the hard ones right ?
And Jenny Green, whose doleful voice was always clothed in black ?
And Samuel Hicks, whose tones induced the plastering all to crack ?
And Andrew Tubbs, whose various mouths were quite a show to see ?
Alas ! we cannot find them now in District Number Three.

And Jasper Jenckes, whose tears would flow at each pathetic word,
(He's in the prize-fight business now, and hits them hard, I've heard ;)
And Benny Bayne, whose every tone he murmured as in fair,
(His tongue is not so timid now ; he is an auctioneer ;)
And Lanty Wood, whose voice was just endeavoring hard to change,
And leaped from hoarse to fiercely shrill with most surprising range ;
Also his sister, Mary Jane, so full of prudish glee,
Alas ! they're both in higher schools than District Number Three.

So back these various voices come, though long the years have grown,
And sound uncommonly distinct through memory's telephone ;
And some are full of melody, and bring a sense of cheer,
And some can smite the rock of time, and summon forth a tear ;
But one sweet voice comes back to me, whenever sad I grieve,
And sings a song, and that is yours, O, peerless Genevieve !
It brightens up the olden times, and throws a smile at me—
A silver star amid the clouds of District Number Three.—*H. W. P.*

Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

COUNTY OF WELLINGTON TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.—The County of Wellington Teachers' Institute, held in Fergus on the 28th, 29th, and 30th May, 1884, was a great success, being well attended by teachers, trustees and others, and ably conducted throughout. It was probably one of the best county conventions ever held in Ontario. The committee were very fortunate in securing the services of E. V. DeGraff, Esq., M.A., a leading educationist from Washington, D. C., U. S. A. The teachers of Wellington had a good opportunity of comparing their methods of teaching with those of the leading teachers of the United States. As Prof. DeGraff said, his theory was not new ; his work was practical. He wisely confined himself to subjects taught in the common school. Judging from the way the teachers present used their note-books, it should be anything but a failure, if the note-books are studied when they reach home. Mr. Alex. Petrie, of Elora, President of the South Wellington Association, gave a suitable address of welcome to those present. He then introduced Prof. DeGraff, who, in course of his remarks said, the great object of teaching was to get the best methods of developing true manhood and womanhood. He first took up the subject of "Reading," and discussed the different methods ; he advocated the use of all, excepting the A, B, C, method, which he condemned as irrational and unphilosophical. He also gave an interesting lesson on "Phonics." The afternoon's session opened with the reading of two addresses to the Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education, one by the teachers, and one by the trustees of Wellington. Mr. Ross made a suitable reply : he said he was pleased with the work the Convention was doing. He took up the subjects of High and Public School Grants, Third Class Certificates, and the Superannuation Fund. He thought the grants should be divided according to (a) average attendance, (b) qualification of the teacher, (c) school accommodation, etc. The trustees and teachers seemed to agree with him ; but the high school teachers and trustees wanted, in addition, the grant of \$750 to Collegiate Institutes withdrawn, and divided among the high schools, as it tended toward centralization of higher education, thus weakening small schools already weak. Mr. Ross seemed to be in favor of having the Third Class Examinations conducted by a County Board, as formerly. The inspectors and older teachers are not in favor of it. All agreed that no permits should be granted except in unorganized districts, or in townships like the North of Hastings ; and that after their certificates expired, they should go up for examination every year. The Superannuation Fund was warmly discussed. Mr. Ross seemed to be in favor of abolishing the Fund, on condition that the vested rights of all should be respected. The younger teachers wish it abolished ; the older

teachers wish to continue to pay into the Fund, as they were forced into it in the first place. Inspector Craig thought that if the Government wished to economize, they might begin with the civil service and not with the teachers. A petition was signed on Friday, requesting the Minister to allow all those who wished to pay into the Fund to do so ; thus leaving it optional. In the evening Mr. Ross delivered a practical educational address. *Thursday.*—On Thursday morning, Mr. Bright, of Drayton, President of the North Wellington Association, after a brief address, called on Prof. De Graff, who took up the subject "How to Teach Reading to Beginners." He would show an object to the children, and ask questions about it ; he would draw the object, or show a picture of it. Then he would write the word on the board, taking great care to write well. He would not use a book. In reply to a question, he said he was in favor of having the primers printed in script. He would teach writing from the first, because it was economical ; once learned it was learned forever. He said, when you have taught a pupil to read well, you have taught him everything except arithmetic. He would make every lesson a language lesson. Principal Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, followed with a short, but excellent address. He spoke of the excellency of the Scottish school system, instituted by John Knox ; and the necessity of enthusiasm in a teacher. Experience seemed to count for nothing in the teaching profession. Teachers should be faithful to duty, no matter who were unfaithful to theirs. In the afternoon Mrs. Hunt, of Boston, Mass., gave an able address on "Compulsory Teaching of Temperance in Schools." She showed the effects of alcohol on the human system from the scientific standpoint ; she spoke of the possibilities of the Anglo-Saxon race were it not for strong drink. The greed for gold is the mainspring of the liquor traffic. She believes in educating popular opinion, and then suppressing the evil by legislation. It was carried unanimously that the Convention should urge upon the Education Department the necessity of having scientific temperance taught in the schools. Col. Clark, M.P.P., read an interesting paper on topics relating to school work and the school. In the evening Principal Grant lectured to a large audience on "Across the Rockies on foot." *Friday.*—On Friday morning at 8 o'clock, separate meetings of both Associations were held for the election of officers, and the transaction of necessary business. Prof. De Graff took up the subject of "Spelling." Spelling is a question of form, not sound. The forced attempt to reproduce that which is vague or indistinct is injurious ; all spelling should lead up to composition. He next took up the subject of "Language." It cannot be learned by rules, parsing, analysis, etc. It is learned from (a) parents, (b) teachers, (c) associates, (d) books. "Things that have to be done should be learned by doing them."—Comenius. For the last 50 years, he said, we have been teaching the science of the art, instead of the art which is practical. Mr. Jos. Carson, I.P.S., of West Middlesex, treated the subjects, (a) "How to Teach Arithmetic to Beginners," (b) "How to Assign Lessons in Literature," in an able manner. Prof. De Graff next took up the subject of "School Management." He said the use of corporal punishment showed the weakness of the teacher. In the evening the Professor lectured on "Elements of Success, or Bound to Win," to a large audience. He strongly urged young men to stop on the farm, or be good mechanics, as thousands of young men in the profession, etc., cannot get anything to do, at any salary. At the close of the lecture, thirty young ladies from Guelph Central School, in uniform, gave a calisthenic exhibition, under Adjut. Clarke. It consisted of club-swinging, marching, etc. ; it was admirably, and highly appreciated by the audience.

CARLETON.—The semi-annual session of the County of Carleton Teachers' Association was held in school-house No. 4, Bell's Corner's, on the 22nd and 23rd—the president, Mr. Smirle, I. P. S., presiding. The president, in his address referred to important subjects which would present themselves for careful consideration, such as superannuation fund, etc. The minute relative to text-books was freely discussed, and the questions submitted by the committee in Toronto regarding Teachers' Superannuation Fund were carefully replied to. Moved by James Argue, seconded by H. McKercher, and carried, that the Secretary-Treasurer be a paid officer. Moved by James McElroy, seconded by D. D. Keenan, that the president be appointed a delegate to the Provincial Association.—Carried unanimously. The Midsummer holidays were freely debated upon by Messrs. H. McKercher, Jas. McElroy, A. Smirle, and H. S. Moffatt. It was moved by Mr. Wallace, seconded by Mr. McKercher, and carried, that in the opinion of this Association it is regretted that an option should be allowed school boards of shortening said vacation. The payment of teachers' salaries was discussed at some length, when it was moved by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Argue, and carried, that this Association approve of the salaries being paid quarterly. The president introduced Mr. Munroe, (Principal of Central School East Ottawa,) and Mr. McMillan, (Principal of Collegiate Institute), who followed respectively with "Teachers Extra Duties," and "Teacher before his Class." It is needless to remark both gentlemen received much applause throughout ; their subjects being handled in a masterly manner. The president, and Messrs. Smith, Mc-