



E. T. McKEEN, PRINCIPAL SYDNEY ACADEMY.

Dr. MacKay, in eloquent terms, thanked the inspectors and teachers for their kindly appreciative address and the accompanying testimonial.

He then resumed the chair, and in proceeding to the more particular work of the session, he thanked the members of the Convention for the public spirit which had brought them together from the different parts of the Province, at much personal inconvenience and expense. For the last four years he had been accustomed to meet the teachers of several inspectorates in full convention two or three times a year, and was delighted with their spirit of progress. He was now specially glad to meet them in Provincial Convention, after a hibernation of nearly five years. The Christmas weather of Halifax in 1890 was rather cold. That might account for the absence of any request for the resuscitation of the organization until he had ventured to call it for Truro, in good working weather, not holiday time.

There had been many changes since. Something had been done—always a dangerous proceeding. To exculpate himself he said it was all in the old chief's will; but he was glad that although the will was executed, however inefficiently, that they would have the pleasure of the testator's bodily as well as spiritual presence with them for at least a portion of the time at this Convention.

The wind blew sometimes hot and cold. They all knew from the papers that the Education Department was under the control of anarchists, who lowered the standard of examination, opened the floodgates, deluged the country with teachers, which, under the laws of supply and demand, would depress the salaries. They knew on equal authority that the prescriptions and examinations were too extensive and severe, preventing the country from having a sufficient supply of teachers. That the temperance people and the legislature thought the course of study was too narrow, that the correspondent thought it was too crowded. That some of the