

Readings and Recitations.

THE TEACHER.

Tired teacher, toiling, trembling,
Whence those lines upon thy brow?
Fearful, in thy weakness stumbling,
Canst not read the promise now?
"He that goeth forth while weeping,
Sowing precious seeds in love,
Shall doubtless at the time of reaping,
Joyful, bear rich sheaves above."

Faltering teachers, fainting, fearing,
Why that tear-drop on thy cheek?
Clouds of doubt, not disappearing,
That he strengtheneth the weak?
Press then on in faith each hour,
And with joy thou'lt prove at length
That "To the faint he giveth power,
To the frail increaseth strength."

Stalwart teacher, struggling, straining
All the powers within thy soul,
Why thy hopes so early waning?
Why dost never reach thy goal?
On thine arm of flesh thou'rt resting,
Heeding not the "Stretched-out Hand";
All alone the fierce waves-breasting,
Thou'lt not gain the golden strand.

Grandest calling God has given!
Teacher, teach thyself this truth:
Thou art ever hiding heaven
In the ready heart of youth.
Such as it is, these will be
In the years that are to come,
And throughout eternity:
Wilt thou lead them, guide them home?

Teachers' Associations.

ALGOMA.—The semi-annual convention of this Institute was held in the village of Manitowaning, on the 2nd and 3rd of March, '82. H. Brown, President, in the chair. The meeting was called to order, one P.M. Owing to the very unfavorable state of the roads, only very few teachers were present, the following being the list:—President, H. Brown; Sec-Treas., J. Hanna; Librarian, T. Flesher; Messrs. Forrest, McDonald, Sim and Trotter, Misses Munroe, McDougall, Pentland, Gray, and McIvren. The President opened a very interesting and attractive programme by an essay entitled "Mistakes in Teaching" which was highly appreciated and fully discussed afterwards. This was followed by an excellent essay by J. Hanna, entitled, "Teaching Grammar to Junior Classes," which was well received and criticized in a friendly manner. Mr. McDonald then read his most excellent essay on "How to Teach Reading," and this certainly spoke volumes for his ability as a teacher, though he has had only a very brief experience as such, and called forth the most laudatory remarks of those present. Then followed Mr. Forrest with an appreciative paper on "How to Teach Geography," which met with the general approval of the meeting. On motion of Mr. Flesher, seconded by Mr. Sim, the evening session was dispensed with, to attend a meeting of the Debating Society, as, owing to the comparatively small attendance the entertainment could not have been as successful as desired. The President then gave an address, preparatory to routine business, in which he explained the formation of this Institute and its progress, and also explained the object of Teachers' Institutes, and how they may be made a success. The programme of second day opened by an interesting and humorous reading by J. Hanna, which fully explained the culinary capabilities of men in general. The reports of Sec-Treas. and Librarian were received and adopted, and the President then intimated that the second half-yearly grant from government was expected as soon as the report of this meeting was sent in. The accounts of W. L. Smith for printing, \$6.50, and the Librarian, for postage \$1.36, were ordered to be paid. It was then unanimously resolved that a question box should be opened in connection with the Institute, which means that all teachers are required to take note of, and submit for solution, any point or problem upon which they may be desirous of receiving information, more especially in mathematics, other subjects however are not excluded from the box. H. Brown was appointed receiver and custodian of the questions, which are to be published in the "Expositor" as reserved by him, and the solutions made known at next meeting of the Institute. This routine business was followed by a very interesting reading, entitled "Education of Farmers' Children" by Mr. Forrest, which was duly appreciated. In the afternoon Miss Munroe gave a very excellent and instructive essay on "How to Teach Writing," which was very well received. Mr. Brown, President, then gave an

essay on "Physical Education in Schools," setting forth the great lack of elementary scientific training in our Educational System, and urging upon educationists of Canada the necessity of putting forth a determined effort to remedy this evil, for which he was accorded a unanimous vote of thanks. This was followed by an interesting essay by Mr. Flesher, entitled "Oh yes, Learning is a very Fine Thing," which was well received and duly appreciated. Then came a lecture on "Elementary Chemistry" by Mr. Forrest, after which the lecturer answered many interesting questions, proposed on the subject by persons present. It was then resolved on motion of Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Forrest, that a vote of thanks be tendered the village School Board for the use of their room. The meeting throughout was very harmonious, pleasing, and instructive, and well attended by many of the villagers, and all retired, feeling much benefited, encouraged and strengthened to meet, and if possible conquer, the numberless troubles which perplex the teacher in his profession. The date of next meeting was not decided upon, it being deemed advisable to consult Mr. P. A. Switzer, P. S. I., on this point, with a view to having him present at the summer session.

PARRY SOUND.—The first semi-annual meeting of the PARRY SOUND Teachers' Institute was held in the School House, Parry Sound village, on Thursday and Friday, March 2nd and 3rd. Notwithstanding the bad state of the roads, which prevented those at a great distance from attending, there was a fair number of teachers present, who by their work and interest, seemed desirous of making the meeting successful. *First Day.*—The President, Mr. W. Symington, took the chair at 10 a.m. After the preliminary proceedings were concluded, Mr. Knox took up the subject "First steps in Reading." He showed the importance of proceeding slowly, of teaching few letters at a time, the necessity of knowing the words by sight, and how to teach phrase-reading on the tablets and blackboard. A lively and instructive discussion followed. Mr. Steel, in giving "Elementary Arithmetic," said, he would begin by teaching the pupil to count. He showed methods of teaching *tens* and *units*. The four simple rules should be taught simultaneously, he thought. Messrs. Symington, Mathewson, and Knox, gave their views on the different methods adopted in teaching the subject. Miss Somers illustrated her method of teaching a lesson in "Reading" to a second class. She required always a thorough knowledge of the words, phrases and expressions in the lesson, before reading, explaining to the pupils what they could not reasonably be supposed to know themselves. Expression and intonation were illustrated by examples. The speaker always required a synopsis of the lesson, as an exercise in language, from the children before leaving it. Modes of teaching "Spelling" were debated by Messrs. McMillan, Steel, Mathewson, and Knox. *Second Day.* The first subject, "Elementary Grammar," was taken up by Mr. Knox. The speaker showed how to teach the "parts of speech" by drawing on the pupils' own knowledge of words; also how to have them arrive at a correct definition of the words. The order to be followed, in his opinion, should be first, classification; second, sub-classification; third, inflection; fourth, relation of words. In answer to questions, forms for analysis and parsing were given on the blackboard; and the following order was given for dealing with the sentence; 1st, subject and predicate; 2nd, enlargement; 3rd, different enlargements; 4th, different kinds of sentences. Capt. Macfarlane was listened to with much interest while giving "First lessons in Music." He advocated rote singing, at first, of selections from the readers. By a modulator and staff he showed his method of teaching the notes to more advanced classes; but would not advise the introduction of the theory into public schools. Moved by Capt. Macfarlane, seconded by Mr. Knox, "That a letter of sympathy be sent to our respected and worthy Inspector, Mr. P. A. Switzer, expressing our deep regret at his absence, coupled with our sincere hope that he may soon be able to resume his labors."—Carried. Much regret was expressed at the absence of Mr. Parker, Inspector *protem* for the District. Moved by Mr. Knox, seconded by Captain Macfarlane. "That it be recommended to the Inspector to set the time for the next Institute, so as to fall on the two days preceding the Teachers' Examination."—Carried. Moved by Mr. Knox, seconded by Mr. McMullen. "That a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Symington for the close attention and deep interest displayed by him during the many years in which he has been connected with this Institute; also that he carries with him to the distant country to which he is about to remove our sincere good wishes and hopes for his prosperity and happiness."—Carried. Mr. Symington thanked the Institute in a few appropriate words. Mr. Switzer made a few remarks, regretting his inability to attend, and expressing interest and sympathy in teachers' work. Mr. Ireland followed with a similar expression of good will. Capt. Macfarlane sang "Be kind to Auld Grannie," in his usual happy style; when the meeting adjourned.—JOHN D. KNOX, Sec. P. S. I. Inst.

EAST MIDDLESEX.—*Saturday Morning.*—The President opened the meeting according to the programme. Accounts were passed to the amount of \$31.40. Mr. R. K. Row made a well-pointed introduction to his practical address on "Incentives to Work and Good Conduct." He treated the prize question and strongly condemned the manner upon which prizes are very often awarded, but gave unqualified commendation of the system of giving prizes, or rather reward books, on the basis of a-