

Rev. T. D. Phillips, M.A., after many years' service, has retired from the Mathematical Mastership of Ottawa Collegiate Institute.

Mr. J. J. Birchard, lately appointed Head Master of Perth Collegiate Institute, took a very high place some years ago in his "First A" examination. He has since completed his University course, taking very high honors, especially in Mathematics. We predict a successful career for him in Perth.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Daniel McDonald, Esq., Inspector of Schools for Pictou county from 1869 to 1879, died at his residence in New Glasgow on the 4th ult. During his early manhood Mr. McDonald efficiently served as a public school teacher in several of the villages of his native county. As an inspector of schools he brought to the discharge of his duties a well-trained mind, an upright conscience, and much valuable practical experience of school work. His retirement from the position was in no sense a dismissal, but the result of the reorganization of the Inspectorial System of the Province. We believe that no inspector stood higher in the esteem and confidence of the Educational Department. In Mr. McDonald's demise many good causes have suffered loss. He was a man who interested himself actively and multifariously in what concerns the welfare of society. Living, he was sincerely esteemed, dead, he is affectionately mourned.

John T. Mellist, Esq., A.M., Professor of Mathematics and Science in the Halifax High School, has been obliged to resign his position by reason of ill-health.

The following was the order of exercises at the Junior Exhibition of Acadia College, on the 16th ult. "The Study of History," Fred L. Shaffner; "The Formation of Character," Arthur L. Calhoun; "Napoleon 1st, as seen by Madam de Remusat," "The Function of the Orator," Ernest A. Corey, "Lord Macaulay," Arthur G. Troop; "The Political Destiny of Canada," Robt. W. Dodge; "The Rise of the Essay," Herbert W. Moore. After the delivery of the foregoing orations, the Rev. Dr. Sawyer, President of the College, gave an extremely interesting historical address. Just a quarter of a century had elapsed since his first connection with Acadia, he having, in the month of December, 1855, entered upon his duties as Professor of Ancient Languages. The college life of that period was vividly described. Interesting personal reminiscences of the students with whom he was then brought into contact were given, and reference was made to the distinguished positions to which many of them have attained. The growth of the college in numbers, equipment, efficiency, and prestige, was gratefully described, and the learned President predicted that in another quarter of a century the College will have an endowment of at least a quarter of a million of dollars, that new and larger buildings will have been erected, and more numerous friends will have arisen to cherish and perpetuate the interests of education.

During the current collegiate year, two students of Acadia College, Mr. Frank W. Morse and Mr. F. D. Martin, have been carried away by death. They were both held in high esteem by their classmates and friends.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The number of pupils passed for the Superior Allowance during the school year ended Oct. 31 was 589, giving \$11.88 per pupil. One half of this sum goes to the trustees and one half to the teacher.

The Christmas vacation in the public schools began Dec. 20th, to continue two weeks. For the first time in many years, the teachers and students of the Provincial Normal School have had a Christmas vacation of one week. This was rendered desirable by the lengthening of the session from five to nine months.

In the schools in the city of St. John, the one-session plan has recently been adopted by the Board of Trustees. The session begins at 9:30 a.m., and ends at 1:30 p.m. for the younger pupils, and at 2:30 p.m. for the older pupils, with two short recesses.

It is understood that on the 1st of January inst., the teachers of St. John were to be placed on their former footing, as regards salaries, the reduced rates having continued just six months.

The Queen's County Teachers' Institute is to meet at the Narrows on the 27th and 28th inst.

The name of the Hon. Charles Fisher, D.C.L., Judge of the Supreme Court of N. B., who died at his residence, in Fredericton, on the 8th December, will occupy a prominent place in the educational history of the Province. In the year 1858, when he was Attorney-General and leader of the Government, he prepared and conducted through the Legislature a comprehensive "Act relating

to Parish Schools," which inaugurated a new era in school affairs in the Province and continued in operation until 1871. The late judge was an honorary member of the Educational Institute of New Brunswick, as is also the gentleman who has succeeded him upon the bench, the Hon. George E. King, to whom the Province is indebted for her admirable system of free schools.

The Provincial Board of Agriculture has addressed a memorial to the Board of Education, praying them to take such measures as they may deem best adapted to give prominence to the study of the principles of agriculture in the schools and colleges of the Province.

"Tanner's First Principles of Agriculture" has been placed on the list of prescribed text-books.

The next annual meeting of the Educational Institute will be held at St. John, N.B., July 12th, 1881.

QUEBEC.

Towards the end of October, the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the Provincial Association of Protestant teachers was held in the City of Montreal—the great educational centre of the Province of Quebec. The railroads, steamboats, and public conveyances offered, at reduced rates, every facility to all teachers in the Province to attend this Parliament of Educationists, and it speaks well for the teachers and their professional enthusiasm that so many attended this Convention, and discussed, with no little ability, the various papers read on Educational subjects, all of a practical nature, with special bearing on all the circumstances of this Province. On the first day of the Convention, the schools of the city were kept open to allow all teachers coming from the country and a distance to see for themselves the Protestant School system in Montreal, a very choice arrangement, for apart from the admitted excellence of these schools, every conscientious, earnest teacher, who likes his profession and is devoted to it, cannot fail to learn much, and get many useful hints by seeing the systems and modes of instruction, classification, &c., adopted by others. He must be a very poor teacher indeed from whom no useful hint in the art of teaching cannot be learnt. In consequence of this wise provision for inspection of the city schools by the teachers, the Convention did not hold its first meeting for business till the evening, when the chair was taken by the President, the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, in the hall of the McGill Normal School, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and crowded to its utmost capacity by teachers and others interested in Education, to the number of four or five hundred persons. On the platform beside the President were Dr. Dawson, Principal of McGill College; Dr. Kelley, Montreal High School; Dr. McGregor, McGill Normal School; Dr. Robins, Secretary Protestant Board of School Commissioners, Inspector McLachlin, of Bedford, and Mr. Frank Hicks, M.A., Secretary of the Association. Letters of apology for absence were read from the Hon. Mr. Ouimet, Rev. Principal Lobley, Chancellor Henecker, and Hon. Solicitor-General Lynch. Invitations to visit McGill College, and Natural History Society's Museums were extended to the members of the Convention by Dr. Dawson and the Secretary of the Natural History Society. The first paper read was by Dr. Kelley, on text-books, and was no doubt caused by an Act of the Provincial Legislature, last session, requiring that the same text-books shall be used in all schools throughout the Province, allowing only two grades, one elementary, and the other advanced. There was no little discussion, but in the end the following resolutions were passed almost unanimously:—

1. "That it is desirable to assimilate, as far as possible, the subjects required for Matriculation in Arts, for the standing of Associate in Arts, for the Academy Diploma, and for admission to the study of the Legal, Medical, and Notarial professions, and this important matter be entrusted to a special committee, consisting of Dr. Dawson, Rev. Canon Norman, Dr. Howe, and the Hon. Solicitor-General Lynch."

2nd. "That whereas, by recent legislation, the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction is requested to revise its list of text-books before May 1st, 1881, and that this list remain unaltered for four years therefrom, a committee on text-books be appointed, to consist of the mover and seconder, and ten members, five chosen by the Central Executive Committee, and five by the Convention."

At the morning session of the second day's meeting, Mr. Parsons, the Chairman of the Committee appointed last year to amend the Constitution, read his report, which was adopted. When the new Constitution was adopted, Mr. Rexford proposed several alterations in the by-laws, which were carried. The Rev. Mr. Vial, of Quebec, then read a paper on the best principle for the classification of children in a large school. This paper gave rise to some discussion,