

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

WENTWORTH COUNTY.

FIRST DAY—FRIDAY, OCT. 20TH.—Mr. W. R. Manning, of Ancaster, delivered an address on "Our Profession." He called attention to the fact that many of the pupils in the Public Schools do not continue their studies after school life, and to the necessity of having right ideas of the nobility of the teaching profession, its preparation, work and rewards. He contended that the education of the physical, intellectual, emotional, æsthetical and moral natures of pupils was necessary, as well as that of the will. He also spoke of the teacher's encouragements and rewards.

Mr. G. Mercer Adam was then introduced to the Association, and delivered an address upon the subject of "Leave to be Useful," which was particularly to be gained in the Association by mental contact, which must have a quickening and enlivening effect. The difficulties of teachers from their isolation while engaged in their work were great, and the aims of the Association should be kept before their minds during the interval between meetings, as this would increase their usefulness. No half purpose ever produced a whole deed. They should consider how and with what effect women have found "Leave to be Useful." He heartily sympathized with their co-education with man. A new era has opened for them in intellectual and artistic fields. Women's chief work so far has been prose fiction, in which they have won a high position. We should learn the secret of "How to Read," as books inspire to lofty aims. He referred to the abolition of postage on newspapers, giving some interesting statistics of the trammels on the freedom of the press in the past.

The best of books are now published in such a cheap form that no teacher can be excused for not being well read in the best literature. They should indulge their taste discreetly, and give a literary flavour to the meetings of their Associations, and add papers on popular science. In reference to Canadian literature, two forces must be present, the moment and the man, and as our country is yet young, no doubt both will come. At present the political arena absorbs the literary talent of the country, but as politics and literature, except in rare cases, are antagonistic, this complaint would pass away. Many of our political leaders were unable to write an ordinary letter and would bungle a leading newspaper article fearfully. He then referred to the discouragements and encouragements of teachers and the increasing numbers of those who are engaging in literary work—a work which affords them now great encouragement, and that without the hope of fee or reward. The Press might be helpful in giving critical reviews of national literary work, especially as there is an increased desire for good reading, although political matters still attract a great deal of attention. The cry for a more educated ministry and more effective preaching opens up another field of usefulness to teachers.

The address occupied an hour in its delivery, and was replete with valuable ideas dressed in good language. At the conclusion it was moved by Mr. Bissonnette, M.A., of Dundas, seconded by Mr. Faulkner, of Beverly, That the hearty thanks of this Association be presented to Mr. Adam for his most excellent and stimulating address.

Moved by Mr. Bernard, seconded by Mr. Carruthers, That the thanks of this Association be presented to Mr. Manning for his address.—Carried.