

be remedied, Mr. Findlay dwelt more particularly on the subjects of Literature and Composition. The former he thought should not be confined so much as it is to special authors, where parsing and analysis receive the prominent place, but should be written in its character, covering more of the field of English Literature and its history. Composition should be taught by imitation of our best authors. Mr. Findlay was thanked for his address. An interesting discussion on a Chief Superintendent *versus* Minister of Education showed a diversity of opinion on the subject. At the afternoon session the subject of Discipline was introduced by Mr. R. Law, B.A., principal of the Wilberforce Educational Institute. The best commendation of the paper which can be given is that it gave rise to a highly entertaining discussion on "That bad boy," and how to manage him. The report of a committee of twelve teachers appointed to examine the rival series of authorized text-books was received. The committee were unanimous in recommending Gage's Canadian Readers in preference to the Royal. The report was unanimously adopted. The convention appointed Messrs. Colles and Bracker to cooperate with county committees on this same subject.

**LANARK COUNTY.**—The semi-annual meeting of the Lanark Teachers' Association was held in the Perth Collegiate Institute Building, with a good attendance of teachers. After the President's opening address, Mr. J. T. Noonan read an essay on "Composition," in which he recommended the teaching of this subject even to pupils of the First Reader. The essayist very clearly explained his method of teaching composition, and his plan met with the warm approval of the teachers present. In the afternoon Mr. T. O. Steele introduced the subject—"Teachers' Associations, County and Township." After dealing with the object of Teachers' Associations, M. Steele pointed out some of the defects in their working and advocated the formation of Township Institutes. The opinions advanced were agreed with by all, and we shall probably see several of these associations formed during the coming year. Mr. N. Robertson, of the Perth C. I., then followed with a lesson on "Punctuation," in which he fully explained the use of the colon and the dash. A lecture on "Canada, her people and teachers," by F. L. Michell, Co. Inspector, opened the evening session. The lecturer traced the progress of education from the earliest time to the present, and predicted a bright educational future for Ontario, whose system is yet merely on trial. He also dwelt strongly on the importance of the proper intellectual, physical, and moral education of the youth of the country. Mr. Goth, Reeve of Beckwith, and Edw. Elliott, Esq., of Perth, followed with short addresses. An admirably written paper, entitled "Change and Choice of Text Books," was then read by J. A. Clarke, M.A., of Smith's Falls. Each book of the rival sets of Readers was taken up, selections given, the merits and defects pointed out. The discussion on this paper was resumed on Saturday morning, when Mr. Steele moved the following motion:—"That it is the opinion of this association that the Royal Readers, possessing literary excellence of the highest order, are especially adapted for study by teachers, but that the Canadian Readers, as regards grading, simplicity of style, attractive typography, and amount of matter contained, are better adapted to our Public Schools; and we therefore recommend their adoption for use in the schools in the county of Lanark." This motion was carried; however, those members of the association who had examined the "Royal Canadian" Readers, which are issued by the Canada Publishing Co., and now before the Minister of Education for authorization, expressed themselves as preferring the series to either of the sets mentioned in the motion. The question of Minister of Education *vs.* Chief Superintendent was brought before the association. The following motion unanimously carried:—"That it is undesirable to make any change in the present construction of the Education Department, by substituting a Chief Superintendent and Council of Public Instruction for a Minister of Education; inasmuch as the greatest improvements in the working of our educational system have been made under the present administration." On motion of Mr. McCarter each teacher was requested to send to the Secretary, before the end of the year, a list of such books as he would wish to be added to the association library. "The study of History in schools" was then introduced to the association in an able lecture by Mr. D. M. Ross, of the Lanark Village P. S. He strongly condemned the system of teaching history pursued by many teachers—viz., that of cramming the child with a mixture of dates and events regarded simply as events without any reference to cause and effect. He illustrated his method by showing how he would teach the Hundred Years' War, the Crusades, and other historical events. In the discussion which followed Mr. Burwash moved the following:—"That it is the opinion of this association that English History cannot be properly taught in our Public and our High Schools, and at the same time the pupils be prepared to pass examinations on papers including all periods of the History, we would therefore recommend that suitable portions be selected for the Departmental Examinations." Carried. The first subject taken up on Saturday afternoon was "Style in School Exercises," by S. S. Burwash, B.A., of Carleton Place. The many practical suggestions of this paper cannot fail to benefit all who heard it, especially the younger members of the profession. A short practical address by the President on "Elementary

Writing"—a subject which is sadly neglected in many of our schools—closed the last session of the last day. The next meeting will be held in Almonte, at a time to be fixed by the Management Committee.

**SOUTH GREY.**—The semi-annual convention of the South Grey Teachers' Association was held in the school-room, Durham, Oct. 18th and 19th. The convention met at 10.30 a.m., the president, J. C. Bain, in the chair. The meeting was opened with the reading of a portion of Scripture, and prayer by Mr. M. P. McMaster. The president read a very interesting address, which was listened to with marked attention. He pointed out in a very clever manner the great necessity of a thorough training of teachers before taking charge of a school; instead of three months at our training schools, should it not be three years? He was glad to know that an improvement in our reading books had taken place, although he regretted that the Minister of Education had authorized two series. In giving the statistics of the different countries regarding Public Schools, he stated that Canada was behind the other countries of the world in attendance according to population. A committee consisting of Inspector Ferguson, Messrs. McMaster and Grier, were appointed to report on the address. Moved by Mr. Gorsline, seconded by Mr. Ramage, that the secretary be authorized to purchase a sufficient number of copies of minutes of Provincial Association and distribute to each member.—Carried. An account from Durham Mechanics' Institute for the use of piano in town hall was presented, amounting to \$6. Moved by Mr. McMaster, seconded by Mr. McArthur, that the account be referred to Managing Committee.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Ramage, seconded by Mr. McMaster, that we adjourn to meet again at 1.30 p.m.—Carried. *Afternoon Session.*—Meeting opened at 1.00, J. C. Bain, the president, in the chair. Minutes of forenoon session read and confirmed. Moved by Mr. Jas. Sharp, seconded by Joseph A. Snell, that a committee consisting of Messrs. McMaster, McDonald, McArthur, Sharpe, and Snell, be appointed to examine the two sets of authorized Readers (Gage's Canadian and Nelson-Campbell Royal) and bring in a report as to which series the association shall adopt.—Carried. Mr. Hill then took up the subject of "Writing." He gave an excellent address with practical illustrations on the blackboard. He analysed the whole of the alphabet and showed how he would draw the attention of the class to correcting errors. A discussion of the subject was entered into by the President, Mr. Winterbourne, Mr. McMaster, Mr. Millar (W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto), and Mr. Gorsline. Moved by Mr. Gorsline, seconded by Inspector Ferguson, that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Hill for his able paper on "Writing."—Carried. Rev. Mr. Forrest then read a practical address on "Duties and Encouragement of Teachers." The whole of the address was a masterly piece of composition. Moved by Mr. McMaster, seconded by Mr. Snell, that a committee consisting of Inspector Ferguson, Messrs. Winterbourne, Dunbar, and the mover, be appointed to report on the rev. gentleman's address.—Carried. Mr. H. Dunbar, of Markdale, then read a very carefully prepared paper on "Minister of Education *vs.* Superintendent." A lively discussion was entered into by the following gentlemen: Mr. Geo. Jackson, ex-M.P., Inspector Ferguson, Messrs. Winterbourne, McMaster, Millar (Gage & Co.), and Gorsline. Moved by Mr. Winterbourne, seconded by Mr. Ramage, that the discussion on "Minister of Education *vs.* Superintendent" be left over for six months.—Carried. Meeting then adjourned. *Second Day.*—The convention met at 1 o'clock. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President, Mr. Chas. Ramage, occupied the chair. The meeting was opened with prayer by Inspector Ferguson. The committee appointed to examine into the two series of Readers brought in the following report: "Your committee to whom was referred the question of Readers now before the public, beg leave to report, that they find Gage's Canadian Readers superior to the Campbell/Royal Readers, in the following important particulars: Book I. Brevity, simplicity, type, script, grading, attractiveness. Book II. Lessons fully explained, numerous questions for testing knowledge of the pupils, script continued, difficult words spelled and pronounced. Book III. Explanation of literary difficulties, rhetorical pauses indicated by spaces, explanations of difficult words as in Book II. Books IV. and V. Numerous aids for both pupils and teachers in the preparation of the lessons, making Gage's Fourth Book much superior to the Royal Fourth Book in preparing pupils for the High School Entrance Examination. The price is also much lower. All of which is respectfully submitted. M. P. McMaster, Flesherton; John McDonald, Priceville; Chas. McArthur, Artemesia; Wm. J. Sharpe, Egremont; Joseph A. Snell, Egremont." Moved by Mr. H. Dunbar, of Markdale, seconded by Mr. McDonald, of Glenelg, that the report now presented on the Readers be adopted by this association.—Carried. Report of Managing Committee on Mechanics' Institute bill of \$6 for use of piano was read, and recommended the payment of \$3. Moved by Mr. McMaster, seconded by Mr. Snell, that the report, as read, be adopted.—Carried. Mr. Millar (W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto) addressed the meeting on the "Reading Books and Tablet Lessons." Mr. Millar was listened to with marked attention, as he gave a very practical address which was interesting to all present. Mr. C. Threadgold read a paper on "Temperance." He pointed out in a very able manner the great evil resulting from intemperance and the great benefit which