

COMPLIMENTARY VOTES.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Alexander, "That this Association regrets that on account of ill-health Mr. Wm. Anderson, of Toronto, the Treasurer of this Association, has been compelled to leave the profession; and the Convention being mindful of his continuous and unwearied exertions in behalf of the welfare of the Association since its earliest infancy, hereby express their warmest wishes for his prosperity and success in the new field of labor into which he has entered, and further, that in appreciation of his valuable services in connection with this Association he be elected an honorary member, with the hope that we shall still have the benefit of his counsels at our meetings." Mr. McCallum moved, seconded by Mr. Dixon, that this Convention learns with extreme regret that William McCabe, Esq., LL.B., late President of this Association, is about to remove from the Province, and thereby to sever his connection with the body, and being mindful of his continuous and unvaried exertions for the well-being of this Association since its formation, hereby express their warmest wishes for his prosperity in the new field of labour on which he is about to enter, and request to have a copy of this resolution forwarded to him, signed by the President and Secretary.

VOTES OF THANKS

Were passed to the Educational Department for the courtesy extended to the Association; also to the Rev. Dr. McCaul, for having allowed the members an opportunity of visiting the University; likewise to the railway companies for having carried the members at reduced rates; and also to the reporters of the city press for the valuable reports which they gave of the proceedings of the convention.

The National Anthem was then sung, after which three rousing cheers were given for the Queen, three for the Chief Superintendent of Education, and three for the Ontario Teachers' Association. The convention was then finally adjourned. A pleasant trip to the Falls was made next day by the members of the Association.

4. ONTARIO GRAMMAR SCHOOL MASTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The third annual meeting of the Ontario Grammar School Masters' Association convened in the Mechanics' Institute on the 4th inst. Mr. Wm. Tassie, M.A., Galt, President of the Association, in the chair, and Mr. J. Howard Hunter, M.A., Dundas, acting as Secretary. The President, previous to the reading of the minutes, read the following address:—

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

On meeting you on the present occasion, the second annual meeting of our Association, I have, gentlemen, to return you my warmest thanks for the honour you have done me in electing me your President, to do this ought to be a pleasing duty on my part, and would doubtless be so, were I not conscious of my inability adequately to discharge the duties of the position in which your kindness has placed me.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

In the programme which has been furnished you, three objects have been proposed for your careful consideration, viz.:—The High School Bill, the proposed curtailment of summer vacations, and the incorporation of the Association. Of those, the most pressing and important is the first named. Without entering on the provisions of the Bill, I would merely remark that, if the proposed marked changes in our present Grammar School system should take effect, the only practicable way of introducing, so to speak, the measure to the country, would be to vest in Dr. Ryerson and the Council of Public Instruction, a large discretionary power; and such a course naturally suggests itself to us, viewing as we do the educational institutions which now exist among us, institutions which will cause his name to be recorded in the history of this our common country.

CLASSICAL STUDY,—ENGLISH THE BASIS OF OUR SYSTEM.

The propriety of the study of the classical languages seems to be periodically called in question. It is, I believe, generally conceded, however, that the study of those languages is more than any other conducive to the development of the mental powers, and so we may leave the subject to the able advocacy of Mr. Stuart Mill, the *North British Review*, and others. The object Mr. Lowe had in view when he depreciated the study of classical literature, was the cutting up of the University of Oxford—to speak against the system of that University which gave particular attention to classics and nothing else. Notwithstanding Mr. Lowe's remarks, however, the speaker attached the greatest importance to the study of classical literature. He found that boys who took precedence in classics showed themselves equally proficient in every-

thing else, and he was convinced that the study of classics had an excellent effect on the mind. Notwithstanding all this, however, all, I think, will agree with me in thinking that the English language should form the basis of our system of Public Instruction, and this can be done, I think, without interfering with the study of those languages at least until a late period in the education of a boy. The question of the study of these languages has another aspect, and one commonly overlooked, and that is, their utility in the acquirement of a thorough knowledge of our own composite language. For this purpose a limited knowledge of them by competent teachers is more than desirable.

OBJECT AND IMPORTANCE OF THESE MEETINGS.

It is to be hoped, gentlemen, that these meetings may serve to impress on us a sense of the moral responsibility resting on us, to whom has been entrusted the task of forming the young mind. High scholarship may, it is true, be attained, but if that young mind has not implanted in it the principles of religion and morality, little, I fear, has been done for it.

THE USE OF TOBACCO AMONG BOYS.

In connection with this I have resolved to call your attention to a practice which has hitherto been looked upon as harmless,—if it has been useless—I refer to the use of tobacco among boys; so long as learning its use was deferred to the period of manhood, as it used to be, it attracted little notice, *but now*, when boys of eight years and even younger are found not only smoking but chewing tobacco, I think I shall be sustained by all in saying that the time for attempting at least to stay the progress of this vice amongst school-boys has fully arrived.

COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

The Secretary said that during the year he had received a vast number of communications on the subject of the Upper Canada College investigation, and on various matters connected with their Association; but their number was so great that it would take all day to read them. Their reading was therefore dispensed with.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary read the report of the Executive Committee, which was taken up *seriatim*. The first clause was to the effect that the Committee would recommend that if at any time it seemed desirable, the Association should take steps towards a co-operation with a larger body, [referring to the Ontario Teachers' Association.] Mr. Kirkland moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. DeRoche, that the second clause of the constitution be not altered.—Carried. The second clause of the report, which recommended that the annual meeting be held at such time as shall be directed by the Executive Committee, elicited some discussion, and resulted in an amendment, moved by Mr. Kirkland and seconded by Mr. S. Woods, to the effect that the amendment to article iv. of the constitution be not adopted.—Carried. The third clause of the report recommended that the clause of the Constitution which made the meetings of the Association open to members, and to representatives of the Press only, be amended by adding the words "and to visitors introduced by members." Mr. S. Woods moved in amendment to the report, seconded by Mr. DeRoche, that the amendment to the first by-law, section 2, be adopted. Mr. Lafferty, M.A., asked what was meant by the term visitors, as used in the report. Did it mean the wives and sweethearts of the Masters, or was it meant to apply to Grammar School Teachers only? He would move in amendment to the amendment that the report remain as it is. The introduction of visitors was an innovation and would lead in the first place to visitors being permitted to take part in the discussion. The next step would be to grant assistant masters the privilege of voting and finally in all probability common school masters would be admitted likewise. The Secretary drew the attention of Mr. Lafferty to the fact that they expected Mr. Hodgins down in the afternoon to speak in reference to the High School Bill, and should they concur in his amendment that gentleman would have to be excluded, and they would not be permitted to hear his explanation. Mr. S. Woods, M.A., on the ground of courtesy if on no other ground, would support the proposed amendment to the Constitution. The clause of the report was adopted.

OFFICIAL INVITATIONS.

Mr. Kirkland moved, and Mr. Houghton seconded, that the President be requested to invite the Rev. G. P. Young, M.A., late Inspector of Grammar Schools; the Rev. J. G. D. Mackenzie, Inspector of Grammar Schools, and J. G. Hodgins, Esq., LL.B., Deputy Superintendent of Education, to address the Association, and that Messrs. Buchan and Kirkland be a deputation to convey the invitation.

FINANCE REPORT.

Mr. Buchan submitted the Finance Report which showed,