

Ho walled it in, and hung with care a ladle at the brink;
 Ho thought not of the deed he did, but judged that toil might drink.
 Ho passe'd again, and lo! the well, by summers never dried.
 Had cooled ten thousand parched tongues and saved a life beside.

A dreamer dropped a random thought; 'twas old, and yet 'twas new,
 A simple fancy of the brain, yet strong in being true.
 It shone upon a genial mind, and lo! its light became
 A lamp of life, a beacon ray, a monitory flame;
 The thought was small, its issues great, a watch-fire on the hill,
 It sheds its radiance far adown, and cheers the valley still.

A nameless man amid a crowd that thronged the daily mart,
 Let fall a word of hope and love, unstudded from the heart,
 A whisper on the tumult thrown—a transitory breath—
 It raised a brother from the dust, it saved a soul from death.
 O germ! O fount! O word of love! O thought at random cast!
 Ye were but little at the first, but mighty at the last.

CHARLES MACKAY.

Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

WATERLOO COUNTY.—The semi-annual convention of the Waterloo Teachers' Association was held in the Model School, Berlin, on the 28th and 29th ult. Mr. W. F. Chapman, President, called the meeting to order at 9.30 a.m. on the 28th, and after prayer, the minutes of previous meeting were read by Mr. Steuermann, sec.-treasurer, and adopted. On the motion of Mr. Suddaby, H. M. of Model School, Berlin, seconded by Mr. Groh, the first hour of each afternoon session was devoted to general business. Mr. Alexander, Galt, said that in the business hour he would ask "how many teachers had agreed with their trustees respecting holidays." Mr. Marshall took up "Mathematical Geography," and gave some good ideas relating to methods of ascertaining distances on the earth's surface; computing latitude, longitude, &c. Mr. Ballantyne illustrated his plan of teaching "Penmanship" so as to fit pupils for business work. He advocates the use of movable head-lines which prevented the pupils from copying his own imperfect writing, thus retarding improvement; occasional use of the black-board to exemplify the principles, drawing to be taught in connection with the subject, supervision of the teacher at intervals; preliminary lead-pencil writing on scribbling books, and recommended the teacher to use the pupils' pens occasionally to test their suitability. Mr. Wm. Linton argued that setting copies took up too much valuable time required for supervision, also that as a teacher's successor in a school may not be able to set head lines so well the pupils would be at fault. He (Mr. Linton) thought Beatty's system and copy books were best adapted for all requirements. The debate was continued by Messrs. Groh, Gray, Knowles, Winter and Marshall. Inspector Pearce bore high testimony to the efficient state of writing in Mr. Ballantyne's school, and the earnestness and silence which marked the pupil's performance of that lesson. After some further remarks on the subject from Messrs. Alexander, Horner and Gray, the session adjourned till 2 p.m. At general business in the afternoon Mr. Alexander put his question, stating that, if on engagement the teacher made no proviso respecting holidays, the trustees could curtail the time by two or three weeks if they wished. On investigation it appeared that all the teachers present were entitled to the maximum amount of vacation. The treasurer (Mr. Steuermann) read his report by which it appeared that there was a balance of \$44.10 to credit of association. On the motion of Mr. Horner, seconded by Mr. Groh, Mr. C. B. Linton was unanimously elected delegate to Provincial Association. Miss Hutchinson read a very practical essay on "Conduct and Discipline in Schools," for which on the proposition of Mr. C. B. Linton, seconded by Mr. Knowles, she received the warm thanks of the association. Mr. Alexander, H. M. Galt Model School, in taking up the subject of "Spelling Reform," said that his own dreams were that when the metric system is adopted, and some old fashioned ideas are consigned to oblivion, that words will be spelled as they are pronounced. He reviewed the history of the spelling reform movement since its inception, and entered into the changes which were suggested in the alphabet together with the new letters that represented the different sounds. He thought that from the beginning of a child's education in reading, all logical faculties were crushed down by teaching them the different sounds the same combination of letters will make. Phonetic teaching means rapid advancement as shown by the progress of schools in Malta where Italian reading is learned in 945 school hours, while the same proficiency in English takes 2,320 hours, because Italian is a phonetic orthography. The spelling reform has been pooh-poohed and ridiculed but it is making its way, and is now recognized by many of the foremost writers in educational literature. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Horner said that in the Boston primary school books, the letters not sounded are printed in fine hair line type, and the scholars made as much progress in one year in reading as other schools in two. He was opposed to the spelling reform

and ridiculed some of the changes. The movement was also combated by Messrs. Morrison, Bingeman, Knowles and McIntyre. Mr. B. Hal Brown would agree to the reform if the several sounds were represented by distinctive characters. Mr. Alexander ably replied to the objections. Mr. Knowles spoke for a short time in opening a discussion on "Whether the Minister of Education should acquire (or control) copyright of all text-books. A desultory debate ensued, joined in by Messrs. Alexander, Conner, and C. B. Linton." At 7.30 p.m. a large audience assembled in the same room to listen to a debate on the subject "Are Township Boards Desirable." The chair was ably filled by the president, Mr. W. F. Chapman. The affirmative was maintained by Messrs. Marshall and Alexander, and the negative by Messrs. Hilliard and Bingeman, each side performing prodigies of valor in the war of words. The utmost good humor prevailed, and the intervals in the combat were filled in with vocal music as follows.—Duet by Messrs. Groh and C. B. Linton; duet by Minnie Young and Melvina Klipperet—children about nine years of age, whose admirable singing provoked rapturous applause and an encore; Quartette by the Misses Zeigler, Messrs. Winter and Chapman, encored; duet by Miss Zeigler and Mr. Winter, encored, duet by Miss Zeigler and Miss Weaver; quartette by Miss Weaver, Miss Babcock, Mr. Gray and Mr. Chapman. After a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Suddaby for the use of the organ, and to the ladies for their appreciated aid in the entertainment, the proceedings were closed by singing the National Anthem.

Second day.—At 9.30 a.m. Mr. A. H. Clemmer gave a brief exposition of his method of teaching "Reading—2nd part of 1st book." His plans which were very practical were well criticised by Messrs. W. S. Brown, S. Horner and W. Linton. Mr. A. F. Cull read a well compiled essay on "How to teach composition." In the discussion which ensued, Mr. Groh said he would connect the subject with object lessons, in which Mr. Alexander agreed. A lively debate followed, sustained by Messrs. Gray, Suddaby, C. B. Linton, W. Linton, Breitner, Knowles, Erb, and the President, and several practical ideas were elicited. Mr. C. B. Linton read a paper on the "Superannuation Question," and moved the following resolutions, which were seconded by Mr. Alexander, and carried *seriatim*. (1.) That the annual fee be not less than \$5; optional between \$5 and \$10. (2.) That the pension should be in proportion to the amount paid in as well as to the years of service, irrespective of grade of certificate. (3.) That no refund be paid to any teacher whose time of service falls short of ten years. (4.) That no teacher be entitled to a pension who has taught for a shorter period than 15 years. (5.) That every public school teacher be entitled to claim the benefit of the fund when he shall have reached the age of 55 years, provided he has not taught less than 15 years; or after having taught 30 years, irrespective of what age such teacher shall then be. (6.) That provision be made for teachers' widows and orphans, beyond the simple amount paid in, with interest at 7 per cent. (7.) That candidates be charged when being examined, and a certain refund be made to those who have been successful; and that the whole or part of such money be paid into the fund; but such only to pay for 3rd, 2nd and 1st class certificates without paying for the grades in such classes. As an amendment, Mr. Groh moved and Mr. Knowles seconded, "That the superannuation fund be made optional, as it was prior to 1871." The amendment was lost, and the original motion having been put was carried. It was ordered that a copy of the above resolutions be sent to the Minister of Education, and also to the M. P.'s of Waterloo local session. Mr. Suddaby, on the part of the Committee on Promotion Examinations, read their report, which was adopted; the report of the auditors was also adopted. In the afternoon the managing committee handed in a programme of business for next convention. The nomination committee also gave in their report as follows, which was adopted:—President, Mr. S. S. Horner; Vice-President, Mr. B. Hal Brown; Sec.-Treasurer, Mr. Charles B. Winter. Executive Committee, Miss A. C. Young, Miss Coutts, Messrs. C. B. Linton, S. Eby and D. K. Erb. Mr. A. H. Morrison, of Galt, read a carefully prepared essay on "The Beauty, Use and Abuse of Words" which reflected the highest credit on his literary culture, and elicited the warmest commendation of the members by whom it was much appreciated. Mr. Suddaby then took up his subject "How to make the Provincial Association Representative." Owing to lack of time and the importance of the subject, it was decided to postpone discussion on it until next convention. After disposing of some formal business the association adjourned to meet again on the 9th of September next.

GLENGARRY.—A very successful meeting of the Glengarry Teachers' Association was held at Alexandria, on 3rd and 4th February. The President of the Association, D. McDiarmid, I.P.S., being in the chair. About seventy teachers were present from different parts of the county; and from the interest taken in the proceedings, and the careful and able papers contributed by the members upon subjects connected with the teaching profession, we infer that substantial benefit was derived from the last meeting. The following officers were elected for the present year:—D. McDiarmid, M.D., I.P.S., President and Treasurer; Alex. Kennedy, H. M. Model School, Vice-President; W. D. Johnston, B.A., M.M., A.H.S., Secretary; W. D. Johnston, D. J. Hunter, Auditors; J. D. Houston, R. Seldon, W. McLaren, D. D. McDonald, and A. B. McDonald, Directors. A number of resolutions were passed with respect to certain educational questions submitted by the Provincial Teachers' Association.