

the Convention, and expressed the great pleasure and profit he had experienced during the Convention. A cordial vote of thanks was then tendered to the President for his services.

WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD BE TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS?

Mr. Miller opened the discussion. He thought the principal subjects that should be taught in our schools were the three R's—reading, writing and arithmetic. These were the fundamentals, and to these the energies of the teacher should be principally directed. Or rather instead of arithmetic he should say mathematics, including algebra, geometry and mensuration. The last he considered of great importance in agricultural Canada. He considered physiology as next in importance, because in some rural districts where medical aid was not always at hand and accidents were so frequent, it was very necessary that some knowledge of physiology should be diffused among the people. Grammar he considered, was of next importance, and then geography. Book-keeping should come next, and then business correspondence, and after that history. He would also have a little music occasionally. Mr. J. Cameron read a brief but able paper on the subject, and argued for the utilitarian element mingling largely with their system. He maintained that length, breadth, accuracy and symmetry should characterize all teaching. There was too much in the schools of leaving the pathway of industry to gather flowers

Which wither in a day.

They should stick to the good hard work of every day life, and drive the waggon of facts and figures perseveringly, though it may be slowly along, till their children arrive at the top of the hill of industry. Mr. McMurphy thought Grammar should succeed the three R's. Respecting arithmetic, he could state from experience, that that subject was far from being efficiently taught in their Common Schools, and he was prepared to show that if the rule with respect to entrance to their Grammar School was rigidly enforced in the matter of arithmetic, 50 per cent. of the candidates would be turned away. Mr. T. M. Brown argued for the teaching of agricultural chemistry and botany. They were an agricultural people, and by giving farmers' sons a good idea of these two sciences, they would advance the interests of the country more than by teaching the principles of the binomial theorem. Mr. Brebner argued for more attention being paid to composition, and gave some good hints on the method of teaching that important study. Mr. Scarlett thought they had forgotten the important fact that their great care should be the formation of the character of their pupils. He need not introduce creeds or religious teaching directly, but every day the teacher, being a good man himself, has many an opportunity of impressing his own character upon those of his pupils, and he should lose no opportunity of doing so. He thought mental arithmetic might be made of great use in quickening the energies of the pupils. Mr. Dixon thought that the subjects already taught in our schools were just what should be taught, if only a little natural science was added. Mr. McCallum made several remarks, and spoke of the importance of teaching their girls sewing. But the great matters after all were right habits of thinking and acting. These should be at once at the bottom and summit of all their energies. The all-absorbing end of education should be clearly kept in view. To teach our pupils how to learn is the business of the school-room; the formation of right habits of thought and action, the most important part of a teacher's duty. For it is not the abstract acuteness and capacity of any mind, but the proper direction of its powers that should be a matter of tender solicitude. A splendid intellect devoted to the advocacy of error is a fearful curse, while the humblest talents plighted to truth, and wisely directed, may prove an enduring blessing. To educate our children is to give them strength of purpose, discipline of mental energies, self-command; we do not always reveal this aim of their education, we speak to them about their place in the division, the honour card at the end of the week, the promotion at the end of the session, the prize at the close of the year. True, these are not the highest incentives to study, they may be even considered partially injurious; but they stimulate and lead on from day to day, and from month to month, a healthy emulation being the result, the effect is highly beneficial. The great argument in favour of this plan is, that it is the way God has been pleased to act towards our race, and the nearer we come to act as He does, the better we shall fulfil the great object of life.

REPORTS OF COUNTY DELEGATES.

Mr. Scarlett reported from the County of Northumberland Branch Association, which consists of fifty members, and seems to be in an active and flourishing condition. Mr. Miller reported from the Thames Association, County of Kent, which is doing good work. Mr. McLellan, of Oxford, said that the Association there was last year all but defunct, and but a few months revived some-

what, and now numbers twenty members. Mr. Spencer represented the City of Hamilton Association, which consists of forty members, and holds a meeting once a month. Mr. Watson, of the West York Association, the Association seems to be on the wane. Mr. Brebner, of Lambton, gave a satisfactory account of the Association in his district. Mr. Platt, of Prince Edward, reported their Association in a most hopeful condition. There was, however, a fatality about such Associations in Prince Edward, as two had died within as many years. Mr. Ormiston, of West Northumberland, said they had a very genial and social Association. Mr. Dixon reported from the Peterborough Association, which has been lately organized, and consists of from thirty to forty members. Mr. McMurphy said the Association was growing so large, comprehending as it does members from the east of Kingston, round by Owen Sound, and away to Sarnia, that he would too accelerate the work of the annual conventions. It is advisable to appoint a committee to prepare subjects relating to the inspection of schools; the work of grammar and common schools; each committee to consist of five members, three of whom shall form a quorum, viz.:—County Superintendents—Messrs. Scarlett, Platt, Watson, Harrison and Tilley.—Grammar Schools—Messrs. Strachan, Ormiston, Preston, Rev. Mr. McClure and McMurphy. Common School—Alex. McCallum, Brebner, Johnson and Campbell. Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Alexander gave a verbal report from the committee appointed to bring about an amalgamation between the Grammar and Common Schoolmasters' Association. The committee had done nothing, as no advances had been made by the Grammar School party. Mr. Cameron read the Treasurer's report.

PAYMENTS.

Secretary's salary.....	\$ 25 00
Rent.....	25 00
Printing, &c.....	73 97
Delegate in Montreal.....	12 40
Postage.....	9 77
Total.....	\$146 14
Balance on hand.....	53 75
	\$199 89

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year.....	\$128 79
Receipts during the year.....	62 85
Interest.....	8 25
	\$199 89

The committee regret to observe that the expenditure of the Society during the past year exceeded its receipts by \$83 39, and strongly recommend rigid economy on the part of the Managers. The Committee regret also to have to remark that one cause of the smallness of receipts arises from the fact that a considerable number of teachers who attend the convention neglect to pay the small annual subscription. They would urge every teacher who attends the convention to purchase a membership ticket.

Mr. Brine thought this report touched on the vitality of the Association. They had no rent this year and they must throw some thing attractive about their Association if they wished to keep it going. The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Mr. Scarlett presented the report of the Committee on the appointment of office-bearers. The Committee recommended the following as office-bearers for the ensuing year:—President, Dr. Nelles; 1st Vice-President, Mr. R. Alexander; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. A. McMurphy, M.A.; 3rd Vice-President, Mr. W. Watson; 4th Vice-President, J. B. Dixon, M.A.; 5th Vice-President, Mr. J. R. Miller; 6th Vice-President, Mr. D. H. Cameron; Recording Secretary, Mr. Jas. Hodgson; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. D. Ormiston; Treasurer, Mr. Samuel McAllister; Delegate to New York Teachers' Association, A. McCallum, M.A.; Councillors, Messrs. Scarlett, Archibald, McClure, Strachan and Johnston.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Moved by Mr. Scarlett, seconded by Mr. Watson, That this Association re-affirm its resolution of last year to endeavour to secure an "Act of Incorporation;" and that in the changes that may take place under the provisions of the new School Bill, this Association would respectfully claim that hereafter this Association, having secured an Act of Incorporation, have the nomination of one member of the Council of Public Instruction, who shall continue in office not longer than five years. Carried.