

M., Ph. D. (of Leipsic), and now Professor in McMaster Hall, Toronto.

Among the impressive incidents of the anniversary week was the unveiling of a tablet erected in the college library to the memory of the late Professor Hartt, by his classmates (1860.) After appropriate remarks by Dr. Rand, Dr. S. Alward, of St. John, N.B., read an address on the life and labors of the distinguished deceased. Prof. Hartt had taken part in four Brazilian exploring expeditions previous to his appointment by the Emperor Don Pedro II., as chief of the Geological survey of the whole Empire, at a salary of \$10,000 a year. During his scientific career he conducted himself as a pupil of the immortal Agassiz, and his death at an early age deprived science of one of its brightest lights.

The Alumni Society at its annual meeting elected the following officers:—President, Judge Johnstone; Vice-President, Rev. D. G. Macdonald, Sackville, N.B.; Secretary-Treasurer, Frank Andrews, B.A.; Board of Directors, W. L. Barss, B.A.; E. D. King, M.A.; J. W. Manning, B.A.; Rev. E. J. Grant; Prof. Jones, M. A.; B. H. Eaton, M.A.; and J. W. Longley, M.A.; Auditor, A. J. Denton, M.A.

The Halifax Board of School Commissioners have advertised for a teacher of Modern Languages and Industrial Drawing in the high school, offering a salary of \$1,000 per annum. Among other steps recently taken by the Board may be mentioned the abandonment in toto of the custom of presenting prizes to the pupils out of the funds of the Board, and provision for regular meetings of the teachers under the direction of the Supervisor.

Mr. A. J. McEachern, of St. Francis Xavier Academy, has accepted a position on the teacher's staff of St. Patrick's school, Halifax. Mr. McEachern will be a valuable addition to the city roll of teachers. The Antigonish Casket in referring to his learning, says, that town pays a high tribute to his skill as a teacher and his character as a man. For several years Mr. McEachern has been one of the Secretaries of the Provincial Educational Association.

Under the somewhat lengthy title "*Progress of Education in Nova Scotia During Fifty Years, and Lights and Shadows in the Life of an old Teacher*," Mr. J. Willoughby has made an interesting contribution to educational and biographical literature. The author of this modest volume was a member of the first class which was graduated from the Provincial Normal School in 1856. His career as a teacher began, however, as far back as 1841, and as it has continued unto the present day, it affords abundant material for interesting and instructive reminiscences. Mr. Willoughby incidentally treats of the vexed question of religious instruction in schools in a most common sense fashion. Much important historical information is embedded in the biography.

Mr. F. A. Rand has resigned his position as teacher of the second department of the Morris St. School, Halifax.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The closing of the city schools for summer vacation was performed this year in a manner which, not only elicited the warm approbation of the trustees and a large number of visitors, but also testified to the excellent progress made during the term. The teachers were highly complimented on the present state of efficiency in every department, and also on the splendid order and discipline apparent in every school. The Governor-General gives a medal in each of the three schools for general proficiency, the School Trustee Board awarded certificates, and numerous friends sent a large assortment of valuable books and other prizes for the best answers in the various branches of instruction, and for good conduct and punctuality. The singing, recitations and exercises were most creditable. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board, the distribution of prizes was made by Archibald Kennedy, Esq.

The closing exercises of the pupils attending the school of the Convent, of the Congregation de Notre Dame, Charlottetown, were of a most pleasing and appreciative nature. Crowns, gold medals, and a large variety of other prizes were distributed by the Bishop of Prince Edward Island, assisted by Rev. Father Carroll, and at intervals between the distribution to the several grades and classes, music, both vocal and instrumental was afforded. Five pianos, an organ and a harp formed the orchestra. The pianos, each played by two young ladies, were in such perfect accord and the fingering so exquisitely true that the effect was as if only one instrument was being played on. Some of the choicest pieces of modern music were rendered on the seven instruments, with a taste and precision that evidenced the careful and thorough instruction imparted in

the Convent. The large audience was more than satisfied—and was loud in praise of what they had heard. The solos given by Miss Palmer, Mrs. Byrne and Miss E. Farmer were much appreciated, and Prof. Caven's song, "The Village Blacksmith," was warmly applauded. The Orchestral Glee Club gave their talented aid in making the concert a most enjoyable treat. Previously to its conclusion, Miss Ellie Hickey, one of the graduates, delivered a neatly worded address of thanks to the Bishop, and in response His Lordship spoke in the highest terms of praise of the progress made during the term, and his approbation of the condition of the school. His Honor, Chief Justice Palmer and Judge Reddin both testified to the great satisfaction the exhibition had afforded. The examination papers were valued by Prof. J. Caven, of Prince of Wales College, and it is worthy of record, that in the graduating course three young ladies, Misses Hickey, Coonan and Reddin obtained one hundred per cent.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

SHEIDIAC, July 10.

The Teachers Institute met at two o'clock. After roll call Mr. J. G. A. Belyea, A. B., read a paper on "Our Profession." The paper pointed out the necessity of raising the profession of teaching by increasing the efficiency of the teachers. This was to be done by studying the pupil, by studying professional literature and by devotion to the profession. The paper was generally endorsed and considered an able exposition of the situation.

An interesting discussion followed and many profitable suggestions were made.

A lesson was given to a class from the Grammar School by John Britain on "Plant Life."

Mr. Crockett, A. M., being present, stated that some changes had been made in text books at last Tuesday's meeting of the Board. The text books on Geometry, Geography and Canadian History were struck off the list and others adopted, viz: Campbell's Geography, Archer's smaller Canadian History, Hamblin & Smith's Euclid.

Mr. John Britain forcibly stated his objections to the shortening of the holidays.

Mr. J. G. A. Belyea pointed out that the schools would be but partly attended and pupils have no interest in the studies, and asked Mr. Crockett for the reason for the change.

Mr. Josiah followed in a vigorous attack upon the Legislature for lowering the Government allowance and shortening the holidays. His remarks were vigorously applauded and heartily endorsed by the teachers.

Mr. Crockett, in reply, said that the salaries as lowered would be higher than in Nova Scotia, and the holidays as shortened were as long as in Ontario or Nova Scotia; that the Government did not willingly take off 10 per cent from the Government allowance, but were obliged to do so.

In the evening Mr. E. J. Smith, as chairman, called the public meeting to order, and introduced Mr. Wm. Crockett, A. M., as the lecturer.

Mr. Crockett said he would not give any fine spun theories of education but some plain statements respecting the course of education suited to our country. He proceeded to say: The public school system ought to prepare pupils for the duties of good citizenship. The practical question is, are the pupils being prepared for the duties of life. Provision has been made for this end. If the subjects are not fitted to reach the end the fault is with the powers that be. Wrong methods are the fault of the teacher. Some hold that the 3 R's are sufficient, others more; but the subjects to be taught are not of so much importance as the methods by which the work is done. Let us see what a course of 3 R's may accomplish. Reading may be made educative from first to last. The pupil gains from his reading new power, new ideas. To catch an idea and express it in his own words will do more for correct expression than all the rules of composition. To write a plain legible hand should be expected of all. I do not think the present system of copy books is suited to produce a good legible hand, the letters are too small and complicated by useless complications. It is hoped that the Board of Education will prescribe a better series of books. In Arithmetic, the inductive method by which the pupil is lead to find out the principles for himself, our schools have in this respect been fairly successful. But some complaints are made that not enough accuracy is possessed by the pupils. This can be accounted for by lack of drill after the rules have been acquired. The practical work of the pupil can be extended to measuring the playground, &c. These subjects, therefore, contain the substance of what the pupils want to know in life. Too much has been imposed upon the schools and too much has been attempted and but little done. For the average country teacher the course of instruction is unsuitable. The essentials first, the non essentials afterwards, should be the rule. Geometry and arithmetic are eminently fitted to cultivate the reasoning powers, and drawing the observing powers. Any subject may be made educative if the right methods are employed. We cannot go so far as to teach trade as is attempted in the United States, but industrial drawing, etc., is fundamental to many industrial pursuits and is therefore useful.