

He would always be willing to do what he could for the profession with which he had so long been connected. The convention then closed by singing the National Anthem.

NEW YORK STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

A most interesting convention of about 500 teachers of the State of New York, and other prominent American educationists, was held at Fredonia, near Dunkirk, in that State, during the latter end of July. The inhabitants of Fredonia entered with great zeal and liberality into the affair, and, so far as popular enthusiasm and cordial welcome could do, they succeeded in making the convention a great and pleasant success. Nor were the spirited efforts of the citizens of Dunkirk a whit behind those of Fredonia. The people of Fredonia provided homes for all the delegates to the convention, and in the evenings had the park beautifully illuminated and enlivened by a band of music, while the citizens of Dunkirk gave the delegates at the close of the convention a grand picnic at "the Point," on Lake Erie. Where so much was done it is difficult to give details; but we may mention that the convention divided itself into three sections, and occupied each forenoon to the reading and discussion of appropriate papers, while the afternoons and evenings were devoted to the general business of the Convention proper. Want of space will prevent us from giving more than a summary of the resolutions adopted by the Convention at the close of the meeting, as follows:—

Resolved, As the sense of this Association, that the township system of schools, with proper county supervision, is preferable to, and should be substituted for, the present system of disconnected and independent school districts; and that a curriculum of study, and a system of gradations for primary and higher schools, should be established by some competent authority. For the accomplishment of this, we ask for careful and speedy legislation.

Resolved, That the Educational interests of the State demand that a higher and more uniform standard of qualifications be required for licenses to teach in our public schools; and we would heartily endorse, and we invite, such action on the part of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as to him may seem proper, whether by securing additional legislation or otherwise, for the attainment of this desired end.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of examining into the scope and practicability of the law establishing drawing as a study in the public schools throughout the State passed by the Legislature last winter; and to recommend such alterations and amendments as will serve the greatest benefits to the common schools of the State.

Resolved, That we recommend that especial attention be paid to the study of United States History in all of our schools during the coming year, in which such instruction and study will be particularly appropriate and successful; this being the Centennial of the Republic.

Resolved, That the Executive Board of this Association be requested to provide for two historical addresses to be delivered at the next meeting of the Association; one general in its character, the other to have particular reference to the educational development of the State during the century.

The local papers thus report the last evening's exercises of the Convention:—

At the closing evening's session the hall was crowded to its utmost extent. The Committee on Necrology made a report of the deaths of the following teachers and trustees since the previous meeting:

Alden Sprague Stevens, Attica.
Prof. L. Hazeltine, Hornellsville.
Ezra Cornell, Ithaca.

After stating that brief addresses were in order, President Sanford introduced the Hon. Niel Gilmour, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who said:—To-day the word most used is centennial. Our fathers struck the blow which brought into existence America. They will never be forgotten. Why did they strike that blow? They did not do it for themselves, but for us, their descendants. It becomes us to perpetuate these institutions. There is a common ground on which we all stand. I refer to education. It must be diffused through the country. All must learn at least the rudiments. To you, as teachers, have been committed these trusts. All the States have believed in education, and New York State shows to us the means to educate. The Legislature of 1867, under the leadership of educators of this State, made our schools free. The Legislature of 1875 will be remembered for what it has done. Prior to 1875, education was closed to the deaf and dumb, but the State of New York passed an Act by which they, too, can be educated. For one Act more will this Legislature of 1875 live in history. It passed the Act for introducing drawing into the com-

mon schools. Let the teachers give it their influence. Soon the department will issue a circular calling upon teachers to give attention to this subject. Pupils can all learn something of drawing, though they may not all become skilled artists. We have proof of artistic taste in the existence of this Normal School building. In closing let me wish every teacher God speed. The Chairman introduced

J. George Hodgins, LL.D., Deputy Superintendent of Education for the Province of Ontario (who was present by invitation), expressed his diffidence at following the last speaker and addressing so many distinguished educators. His remarks were full of kindly feeling toward America, while still perfectly loyal to Her Majesty the Queen, to whom his allegiance is due. The mention of her name drew forth applause from the audience, and when the speaker claimed that the principles for which our fathers fought at Bunker Hill were identical with those struggles over at Bannockburn, Bosworth Field and Naseby, he was evidently in full accord with those about him. The influence of the school-master is felt among the nations. The battle of Sadowa was fought by the school-masters of Germany. To Dr. Ryerson, his chief, and to the laws providing uniform examinations for teachers and pensions upon retirement in old age, he gave due prominence. He said that in his own country the people had the same interest in this great cause of education. The enthusiasm of the people of New York which he saw exhibited here was proof of the hold which their schools had upon the public mind. Could he see the educational enthusiasm among our public men which he so fully witnessed here, he would have much encouragement. The Americans were in advance of them in some things, but they were also endeavouring to lay broad and deep the foundation of learning and trying to run the race with us. In Ontario there are uniform examinations throughout the Province for the teachers. The answers to the questions determine the standing of the teachers. They had all felt the importance of elevating the profession. He would return to his country with a high opinion of the enthusiasm and generosity of the people of New York and of Fredonia in particular.

State Superintendent Jilson, of South Carolina, was then called, who rendered thanks for the courtesies shown him, and said he was here as an adopted citizen of South Carolina to assure us of the allegiance of the people of his State to the red, white and blue; to report the dawn of a better state of feeling, which he hoped would receive its finishing stroke next year at Philadelphia. He asked sympathy for the South, in view of their educational condition and the work they have to do. But he is able to report some progress there. Their school law was passed in 1871, and the following year the attendance was 15,000, while the past year it has increased to 104,000. He said the problem of the South was to be solved by educating the people.

Dr. Wm. Wells, of Union University, Schenectady, spoke as follows:—"I have taken pleasure for these three days with you. The conclusion of this whole matter is that the teacher has his reward. We have seen the progress of the world as the result of our own labour. I thank God that it is my profession by love. I have felt sorry at hearing teachers say we are too little paid. We have far greater pay than money. I own no bank stock, but I see here and there loving eyes and warm hearts of those who have sat at my feet. This is a great reward for me to enjoy. I ask but one reward, that the slab that may cover my grave may have this written on it: 'He lives in the hearts of his pupils.'"

Dr. N. T. Clark, of Canandaigua, the President elect, said: "It was never my hope to receive my degree in Fredonia. I accept the honour you have conferred on me with thanks. It is an honour to be President of the New York State Teachers' Association. There are noble men in the Association. I am not insensible to the labours you have imposed on me. I hope you have not been unmindful of the obligations that rest on you as members of the Association."

Dr. Cruikshank, ex-President of the Association, said: "We have come to the close of our meeting. My thanks are due to you and the Association instead of yours to me. I rejoice in the success of this meeting."

After music, President Sanford called upon his seven immediate predecessors. All the ex-Presidents briefly responded. They all rejoiced in the prosperity of the Association, the growing interest on the part of teachers in the attendance upon such gatherings, and their increasing influence. President Morris, of the Fredonia Normal School Board; Dr. Armstrong, the accomplished Principal; Hon. Orson Stiles, Profs. J. M. Cossety and O. R. Borchard, with the venerable Dr. Lambert, also addressed the Convention in appropriate speeches.

President Sanford's valedictory was brief but heartfelt. Six of his predecessors—Chester Dewey, James McKeen, Charles R. Coburn, V. M. Rice, N. N. McElligott, and Leonard Hazeltine—