

short exercise, conducted by the Inspector, on the different phases of the *infinitive mode*.

In the afternoon the first subject was "Natural Philosophy," in which several questions were explained by Mr. S. M. Dorland. This was followed by "How to teach Reading to Junior classes," introduced by Mr. E. Roblin, and further discussed by Messrs. W. T. Kinney, Youmans and others.

On the second day, the first subject was "How to excite interest in study," introduced by the President and ably discussed by several teachers. "The subject of 'Drawing,' was well introduced by Mr. Sandford Johnson, and formed a very interesting theme for discussion by several teachers. "How to teach Fractions," was next clearly explained by Mr. J. A. Youmans. The subject of "Stock" was then brought forward by Mr. R. B. Mastin assisted by Mr. J. Kinney, in connection with which several difficult questions were explained by Messrs. Dorland, Nethory, J. Kinney and W. R. Brown. The last question discussed was "Object Teaching," which was gener-

ally regarded as a matter of great importance, yet still much neglected in many schools. The practical explanation of the subject was laid over to the October meeting.

The next in order was the enrolment of members and the election of officers. The Association makes an allowance of 25 cts. to each member who subscribes to the *ONTARIO TEACHER*. About thirty teachers in the County receive the publication.

The following officers were elected: President, G. D. Platt, B.A., County Inspector. Vice-Presidents, J. Kinney and S. M. Dorland. Sec-Treasurer, S. B. Nethory. Executive Committee, Misses. Mary Williamson, Eliza M. in, Sarah J. Brown, Sarah E. Kingston. Messrs. W. T. Kenney, J. A. Youmans, Roblin, R. B. Mastin and P. H. Veil.

The excursion on Saturday was patronized by three hundred, mostly teachers and their friends, who enjoyed the fine trip to the full. The proceeds of the Association was \$66.00. The next convention will be held in October.—*New Nation*.

TEACHERS' DESK.

J. C. GLASHAN, ESQ., EDITOR.

Contributors to the 'Desk' will oblige by observing the following rules:

I. To send questions for insertion on separate sheets from those containing answers to questions already proposed.

2. To write on one side of the paper.

3. To write their names on every sheet.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

WM. BRYCE, Watford, 71.

J. CAMPBELL, Hillsburg, 72.

D. FRANCIS, Mitchell, 72, 73.

WM. JAMIESON, Aberfoyle, 69, 70, 71.

W. S. HOWELL, Belleville, 66, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

65. *The* (=by *that*) is an adverb modifying *more*. This *the* is the old instrumental case of the article *the*, not, as Latham says, the ablative of *that*, for which however, it is used. "*The* is used as the

ablative of the demonstrative and relative with comparatives to signify the measure of excess or defect. *The sooner the better*, i.e. By how much the sooner, by so much the better." ABBOTT, Shakespearean Grammar § 94. *In vain* is what Earle calls a Phrasal Adverb. Others are *at best*, *at worst*, *at most*, *at least*, *at large*; *in earnest*, *in jest*, &c. See EARLE's Philosophy of the English Tongue §§ 445—450. *Vain* an adjective meaning *empty*, *useless*, or as here, *without effect*. A noun may be supplied or *vain* may be treated as a noun equivalent to its adjective force and the noun understood. The latter is the preferable method as the phrase was introduced at a time in which the substantive use of singular adjectives was common.

Former, is an adjective qualifying a very general and indefinite noun understood, which noun is so very often omitted (a common thing with such indefinite nouns when qualified by an adjective) that it is not unusual to call adjectives so used, pro- noun

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