

School Examination.—On Tuesday last, an examination of the Dundas Common School, under the tutorship of Mr. Calder, took place, in presence of P. Thornton, Esq., District Superintendent, and a few others. The number of scholars usually in attendance, we are told, ranges from 125 to 140; of these about 65 are well advanced in the principal branches of an English education, and the remaining portion in the juvenile departments. 30 are free. The class was submitted to a close examination by their teacher, and also by Mr. Thornton, at the close of which the latter expressed himself greatly pleased with the proceedings of the day.—[Dundas Warder.

School Examination.—On the 11th ult., the annual examination of the pupils attending the Orillia Common School, taught by Mr. E. Slee took place. The children were examined by the Trustees and Visitors of the School, and the result gave the highest satisfaction to the parties present.—[Barrie Magnet.

The Quarterly Examination of the School in Section No. 2 of McNab, was held at Burnstown, on Thursday last, the 1st inst., in presence of the parents and a number of visitors unconnected with the School. The appearance of the scholars was highly creditable to their Teacher, Mr. Joseph Warren, and to themselves. They were examined in Geography, Grammar, Reading, Composition, Arithmetic, and in the Greek and Latin Roots, and acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of every person present. It is really gratifying to see education making such progress in the back Townships, and to know that the efforts of a good and efficient Teacher are understood and appreciated.—[Bathurst Courier.

Opening of Knox's College.—Another Session of this valuable Institution was opened with an introductory Lecture from Dr. Willis, on Wednesday the 17th ult. The Lecture was characterized by the usual ability of the Rev. Professor—presenting a review of the subjects of study pursued in the College—defining their limits, and distinguishing their claims upon the regard of the Students. Useful hints were given for the proper prosecution of the varied studies, and the object of all study was pointed out—to fit the students for the service of God, in the Church of the world. Many of the Students were present, though a considerable number are still expected. Professors and students had met by the kindness of Providence, their ranks unbroken by disease or death. Several of the members of the Church, and other friends or the College were present at the interesting occasion.—[Globe.

A Teachers' Association has been formed in the Township of Dumfries, with the view of elevating the character of Common Schools. Quarterly meetings are to be held, open to the public, for the discussion of Educational questions.

UNITED STATES.

NATIONAL COMMON SCHOOL CONVENTION.

FIRST DAY.

Wednesday Oct. 17, 1849.

The National Convention of the friends of Universal Education commenced its Sessions at the Athenæum in Philadelphia, on Wednesday morning. Hon. Joseph R. Chandler presided over the preliminary organization, and afterwards the following gentlemen were chosen officers of the Convention:

President—Hon. Horace Mann, of Mass.

Vice-Presidents—Joseph Henry, of Washington; John Griscom of New Jersey; Samuel Lewis, of Ohio; Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, D.D. of Penna.; J. B. Duncan, of La.

Secretaries—Charles Northend, of Mass.; Pemberton Morriss, of Penna.; S. D. Hastings, of Wisc.; S. Janner, of N. Y.

Hon. Horace Mann, on taking his seat as President, made the following remarks:—

He said that he owed his election to the State and people from which he came, rather than to himself; he therefore mingled their thanks with his own, for the honour which the Convention had conferred upon him. He saw before him many engaged in the conduct of public schools. They knew how grateful to them and how valuable was the interchange of sentiments with his co-labourers from other parts of the country. He enlarged upon the good that would accrue from such an exchange of experience. State Superintendents of Common Schools, Committees and Boards of Control, as well as Teachers, would derive from such Conventions great assistance from the knowledge they would thus acquire from each other with regard to the distribution of offices, management, &c., of scholars, character of studies, age of children for attendance at school, standards, &c. Others engaged in the advancement of objects of public benevolence had long been in the habit of thus acquiring aid from each other by association

with a view to the introduction of uniformity of system. Yet although Education was equally, if not more important than any of them, it had hitherto had no such aid. Such advantages would be invaluable to education; and to illustrate this the speaker gave examples. Such communion and such association would give to education body, shape and importance beyond what it now possesses, and at the same time would infuse a new life and a new enthusiasm to the great cause. He adjured the Convention, by every consideration which can operate on a philanthropist or a patriot, to save the thousands now sunk in ignorance from that ruin to which they are certainly devoted without educational care.

Letters from John Sergeant and Martin Van Buren, regretting their inability to be present, were also read by Mr. Chandler.

Bishop Potter stated that letters similar to these latter had been received from Hon. John C. Spencer, Hon. Edward Everett, Hon. George Bancroft, and Professor A. D. Bache.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.—The delegations present then made their reports on the state of Public Education in their respective States. The following is a summary of them:—

Delaware.—The School system had originated but a few years back, in the face of much opposition, but it had since overcome this, and was now prospering, increasing and advancing. Still there was much need of increasing interest, for there were some thousands of children in the State who had never crossed the threshold of a school house.

Louisiana.—For years education has suffered great depression in this State. Year after year it was found that the State had appropriated more money in proportion than any other State, and derived less benefit. At the last session of the Legislature, however, an efficient law had been passed, and an appropriation of half a million of dollars made to carry it into execution. A system of taxation for the support of the same was also provided. A State University was established, and \$85,000 appropriated for the erection of edifices for the same. Two of these had been finished, and the departments of Law and Medicine set in complete operation in them.

Maryland.—In Baltimore the school system is admirably organized, crowded and prosperous. A High School heads the system there. It contains 300 scholars. The thorough education of each pupil in these Public Schools costs \$25. To get the same education at private schools and academies, would cost \$1,000 for each pupil. In the rural districts of the State, schools are in a bad condition. The annual State appropriation is \$75,000. The Baltimore School Commissioners have exhausted their funds, and are unable to meet the demand for more schools. This prosperous system will be extended throughout the State. It is also intended to establish a Teachers' College.

Massachusetts.—From this State there were lengthy reports, embracing the history, organization, details, evils and improvements of the system there. We cannot pretend to give a tithe of the information communicated. Hon. H. Mann, on retiring from the office of Secretary of the Board of Control, had recommended that the Public Schools be made a branch of Government. This has been carried into effect. The schools have suffered much from unequal distribution of Scholars, but more from the character of the Teachers. To reform this evil, County and State Associations of Teachers, Manual labour and Idiot schools have been established.

New Jersey.—The Public School system was established in this State twenty years ago, but under it the same number of scholars attended the schools then as did six years ago. This act was owing to the imposition of the duties of the State Superintendent of the Public Schools upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The friends of education finding this an incubus upon the system, and upon all progress, made several successive efforts to get a bill through the Legislature, creating a separate office for the sole care of the Public Schools. After many failures, it finally passed, in such a way as to give the proposition a trial, by establishing a School Superintendent for two counties, the latter to pay the expense. The result was so highly satisfactory, that at the next session of the Legislature the State office was created. Since then the appropriations of the State have advanced from \$40,000 to \$100,000, and in proportion, the scholars have, in five years, increased from 42,000 to 96,000.

SECOND DAY.

Thursday, Oct. 18.

It was resolved to hold a Convention in Philadelphia in 1850, on the fourth Wednesday in August, to appoint a Committee of five to make arrangements for that Convention, and to appoint a Committee of five to draft a plan for the organization of a National Association.

The next topic, "School Architecture, including the location, size, modes of ventilation, warming and seating, &c. of buildings intended for educational purposes," was referred to a Committee of three for deliberation and future report.

The subject of School Attendance—including the schoolage of children