

medals, was elected honorary member of societies, and received honor everywhere. What a contrast to the dirty little printer who walked the streets of Philadelphia, eating bread while he sought employment that would enable him to buy more when that was gone!

He was a man that read practical lessons of life from the most commonplace incidents. We give the following in his own language:—

When I was a little boy, I remember, one cold winter morning, I was accosted by a smiling man with an axe on his shoulder. "My pretty boy," said he, "has your father a grindstone?" "Yes, sir," said I. "You are a fine little fellow," said he, "will you let me grind an axe on it?" Pleased with the compliment of "fine little fellow," "Oh, yes, sir," I answered, "it is down in the shop."

"And will you, my man," said he, patting me on the head, "get me a little hot water?" How could I refuse? I ran and soon brought a kettleful. "I am sure," continued he, "you are one of the finest lads that ever I have seen; will you just turn a few minutes for me?"

Pleased with the flattery I went to work, and I toiled and I tugged till I was almost tired to death. The school bell rang, and I could not get away; my hands were blistered, and the axe was not half ground.

At length, however, it was sharpened, and the man turned to me with, "Now, you little rascal, you've played truant, be off to school or you'll rue it!"

"Alas!" thought I, "it is hard enough to turn a grindstone, but to be called a little rascal is too much." It sank deep into my mind, and often have I thought of it since. When I see a merchant over-polite to his customers, methinks "That man has an axe to grind."

When I see a man who is in private life a tyrant flattering the people and making great professions of attachment to liberty, methinks, "Look out, good people! That fellow would set you turning grindstones!"

Boys, you who are destitute of the many advantages of worldly possessions that others seem to possess, should not become discouraged, but set your mark high up on the ladder of fame and honor. Many mountains that seem insurmountable will rise before you, but with the perseverance of a Franklin, you may scale their very peaks, and reach high and verdant fields beyond.

Let his maxim ever be fresh in your mind—"He who is diligent may some day stand before kings."—*Southern School Journal.*

A son of St. Crispin having been summoned to appear before a School Board in the Midlands to explain the cause of the irregular attendance of his daughter, sent the following letter:—"To the _____ School Board, assembled in their barbarous imitation of a Gothic Temple. Gentlemen,—Do you as a body claim to be political economists? I trow not, or you would not require me to lose time, which to me is money indeed, to appear before you. Do you as a body set up any pretensions to philosophy? I am doubtful, or you would not require girls to be regularly at school, for most assuredly there must be a time for them to acquire a knowledge of domestic affairs, or how are the ranks of domestics to be filled? Education at school is but a means to an end—that end being life—for all, but for girls there must be education, or its equivalent education, at home. I need not tell you that the London School Board have become really alive to this. Why don't you become a vigilance committee and visit your schools, to see that there are plenty of hat-pegs, wash-hand basins, towels, &c., and so teach ORDER, which is heaven's first law; and cleanliness, which is godliness? This in my opinion would be more commendable than spending postage stamps in badgering the industrious poor, who should be allowed some discretion over the juvenility days of their children. I never heard of School Boards interfering with the four months' holiday per year of the sons of beef eaters. Why don't they send them summonses and say, BRING THIS WITH YOU? Bring this with you. Great heavens! You ought to deliver yourselves up to Her Majesty's Privy Council and take lessons in common politeness. I feel awfully insulted; however, I promise to send the girl to school to day.—Gentlemen, yours obediently, — — —"

THE TEACHER'S MISSION.

Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot,
To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
To breathe the enlivening spirit, and to fix
The generous purpose in the glowing breast.

—Thompson.

Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

ARTHUR.—The first meeting of the Teachers' Association of Arthur Township was held June 19th, at the Kenilworth Public School. Present—Mr. Clapp, the Inspector, Misses Ghent, Sparks, McTaggart, and McGillicuddy, and M. Corbett, A. Allen, G. P. Allen, A. Hellyer, and T. A. Brough, besides the trustees and pupils of the school. Mr. Corbett was appointed chairman, and Mr. Brough secretary. Classes in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Literature, Grammar and Geography were taught by the teachers present, twenty minutes being allowed for each class. When the pupils had been dismissed for the day, Mr. Brough read a paper on "How to Construct a Time-Table," and exhibited the one used in his own school. Mr. Corbett, in a paper on "How to Secure Regularity of Attendance," advocated merit-cards, plants in the school room, and flowers and shade-trees in the yard. While discussing the above subject, one of the trustees present said that the Government should appoint an officer in every district to enforce attendance, and should not expect trustees to have their neighbors fined. After a vote of thanks to the chairman, friends, and visitors, the association adjourned to meet in the same place next year. The work done was practical in its scope and the teacher's manner in dealing with each subject and class was freely criticised; and by this means errors were corrected, and new and valuable points brought out.

WEST LUTHER.—The first Teachers' Convention of this township met on Wednesday, June 20th, in the school-room of S. S. No. 6, Miss Anderson, teacher of the school, being appointed to the chair and Mr. Smith as secretary. The business of the convention was opened by Miss Spark giving a practical method of teaching dictation, her mode of correcting errors being excellent, namely, making a distinction between those in punctuation, capitals, and spelling. The after discussion, especially the remarks of D. P. Clapp, B.A., P. S. I., impressed upon the minds of the teachers the necessity of using written exercises to secure proficiency in this subject. Local geography to second class was then taken up in a pleasing manner by Miss McGeehan. The criticism on this subject was interesting, referring chiefly to the point: "Is it necessary to teach definitions, and, if so, to what extent?" Miss Ritchie then introduced the subject "Numeration and Notation" to second class, which she taught in a skilful manner. In the after discussion Mr. Segaworth, late Deputy-Reeve, while commenting on the simplicity of the explanation and comparing it with the method used in the schools of his youth, gave a good thought in saying that "the old system worked on the principle of the hardest possible way to do a hard work." Mr. Smith commenced the afternoon session with a lesson on the "River System of North America," beginning with the pupils' own ideas about water and its manner of flowing. He took up the great mountain chains and the rivers flowing from them. The mountain system of Europe was then ably taught by Mr. Lipton. His method, which was that of drawing an outline map on the board and filling it up as the lesson proceeded, rendered the work interesting and instructive. A short essay on "Uniform Promotion Examinations" was then read by Mr. Smith. The essayist dwelt chiefly on the improvement in attendance, in interest, and in the thinking faculties of the pupils resulting from the examinations. After several suggestions as to changes in examination regulations, made by our efficient and observing inspector, had been agreed to, Miss Spark favored the convention with an essay on the correct keeping of registers, dwelling especially on accuracy and neatness, and bringing out the thought that well-kept registers should be a teacher's pride. It was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Miss McGeehan, that the thanks of this convention be given to Mr. Clapp for the valuable hints which we, as teachers, have received from him during the exercises of the day. Carried. After a vote of thanks had been given to the chairman, secretary, and other members who had assisted in the entertainment of the day, the convention adjourned.

EAST AND WEST LAMBTON.—A union meeting of the East and West Lambton Teachers' Association was held in the Methodist school-room, Sarnia, on Thursday and Friday, 20th and 21st September. There was a large attendance of teachers from both divisions of the country, but considerable disappointment was at first experienced owing to the failure of Professor DeGraff to be present, although Professor Houston, who came to take his place, proved to be an able man in the line of work, and added something to the success of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m., John Brebner, president, in the chair. The meeting was opened with prayer by Thomas White. Mr. Brebner gave an opening address, stating the difficulty under which the association was laboring owing to Professor DeGraff not being present, after which Mr. Barnes explained how he would teach mental arithmetic. A