

Prof. Parmelee, which dealt with the consideration of some of the educational problems of the present time—how to meet the demands made upon education by the public, and the question of free and of compulsory education. Before and after the address a short programme of music and reading was performed by Mrs. R. G. Brown, Mrs. A. A. Murphy, Miss Rickert, Dr. Kneeland, and the secretary. Adjournment was made after the president had thanked those who had contributed music and reading, and Messrs. Willis & Co. for the use of a piano.

—The beginning of a most important and novel educational movement was made in New York the early part of this month, for the purpose of bringing about a closer union and a better understanding between professionals, parents, and persons interested in education. This association will open up avenues of communication between parents and teachers, and will endeavor to influence the public to take more interest in educational matters, especially in scientific pedagogical methods, and the proper administration of the schools. The work of the teacher and the basic principles of education are but little understood by parents, so that if this association did little else than change this, a great good would be accomplished. It will attempt more than this, however, with the help of educators and the interest and sympathy of the public—the public interested in education.

### **Literature, Historical Notes, etc.**

One hundred years ago a remarkable story appeared in Europe. It was prolix after the fashion of that day, and is now rarely read. Yet its characters and action were as real and as new in fiction as Kipling's best, while the author's passion for moral and social reforms was as all-controlling as Tolstoi's.

It was a tale of homely life in a Swiss village—of peasants who beat their wives, and of dirty children who stole potatoes, and only on gala days had the cream left on their milk. The good preacher was growing duller; the doctor more quackish; the schoolmaster more mechanical. The squire—who also kept the beerhouse—was getting everyone in his debt, and extracting and using for his own wretched end all domestic secrets. There was the gossip, the hypocrite, the liar, the fool, the sot; and everywhere increasing superstition, scandal, intrigue, and vice.

But there was one good woman in this dismal hamlet—Gertrude, the mason's wife, who taught her children cleanliness, courtesy, maxims, hymns, prayers, and simple industries, with such devotion and success that the neighbors begged that their