

THE EDUCATIONALIST

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AUGUST 16, 1861.

PROVINCIAL TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

The second Annual Convention of the Teachers' Association for Canada West was opened on Tuesday the 6th inst., in the Mechanics' Institute, Toronto, the Rev. Dr. Jennings in the Chair. The Rev. Chairman offered a few pertinent observations on the advantages of which such conventions would be productive, when conducted on the principle of brotherly fellowship. He regretted his inability to preside longer, as other important duties connected with the Synod had demanded his presence. He was, however, with them in spirit, and trusted their deliberations would prove a blessing to themselves and to the Province. On leaving

A. McCallum, Esq., Principal of the Central School, Hamilton, took the Chair in the unavoidable absence of T. J. Robertson, Esq., President of the Association.

A letter was read from Revd. Dr. McCaul, complying with the request of the Association to deliver a lecture for the benefit of the members in attendance at 8 o'clock p. m. The thanks of the Association were gratefully offered to the Rev. Dr. for having opened the doors of the

University from 9 till 12 o'clock for the use of the teachers assembled in the city, and also to Mr. Longman for opening the reading room and library to the teachers.

The consideration of the constitution framed in January last was then taken up, and became the subject of a lively and animated discussion, in which many present joined.

The meeting adjourned at 6 o'clock, and met at 7 o'clock, when the Constitution and by-laws of the Association were taken up.

At 8 o'clock Rev. J. McCaul, L.L.D., President of the University, delivered a very eloquent and argumentative address before the Association, on the Advancement and Dissemination of Knowledge in ancient and modern times, which elicited frequent bursts of applause. The learned gentleman's address lasted for one hour. At its conclusion he was waited upon by many of the teachers soliciting him to accept the office of President of the Association, a proposition to which he consented, to the great satisfaction of all the teachers, of whom there were 118 present from all parts of the Province.

The first business taken up was the consideration of the following preamble to the constitution and by-laws, which after some discussion was adopted:

The objects of this Association are,

1st. To secure the general adoption of the most approved system of imparting instruction.

2d. To secure the improvement of our text books or the adoption of others more suitable to the wants of the country.

3rd. To enlarge the views of teachers and stimulate their exertions for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge.

4th. To encourage the frequent interchange of ideas and kindly intercourse among the members of the profession throughout the country.

The meeting adjourned at 12 o'clock, and reassembled at 2 o'clock.

The Rev. Dr. Burns then delivered a most excellent dissertation on the educational duties of teachers and the qualifications which they should possess to mould and develop the tender mind of those who may be entrusted to their care with a view to their physical, moral and intellectual culture. The Rev'd Dr. concluded his very able address amid the hearty applause of the members of the Association.

The following officers of Association were then appointed for the ensuing year:—

President—Rev. Dr. McCaul, President of University College; 1st Vice-President—A. McCallum, Head Master, Central School, Hamilton; 2nd do—J. Herbert Sangster, A. M., Normal School; 3rd do—J. H. Boyle, Head Master, Central School, London; 4th do—Thomas McKee, do. do., Oshawa; 5th do—Thos. Nixon, Superintendent, Newmarket; 6th do—W. Anderson, Head Master, Park School, Toronto; Mr. Alexander, Treasurer; Mr. Aores, Secretary.

COUNCILLORS FOR COUNTIES—Ontario, Mr. Kobins; Middlesex, Mr. Anderson; Peel, Mr. Morton; Hastings, Mr. McShea; Stormont, Mr. Hay; Halton, Mr. Breckenridge; Oxford, Mr. Vardon; Brant, Mr. McFarlane; Northumberland, Mr. Young; Wentworth, Mr. R. Young; York, Mr. Rose; Carleton, Mr. G. Henderson; Wellington, Mr. Kidd; Perth, Mr. Strafford; Lambton, Mr. Taylor; Elgin, Mr. G. H. Brown; Durham, Mr. Rowse.

The Chairman (Mr. McCallum) in bringing the business to a close, said that he was highly gratified, not only with the manner and spirit in which the deliberations and discussions of the Convention had been carried on, but also with the kindness and courtesy extended to himself. He had been unexpectedly called upon to discharge the duties of the President of the Association, whose absence they all so much regretted. He (the Chairman) felt satisfied the present meeting had been interesting and profitable to all present, and that the next would be even more so, as the discussion of practical questions would then be more mingled with those of a theoretical and preliminary kind. The prospects of the Association were most encouraging, and it only required that its members and friends should do their duty in bringing its claims fairly before the teachers of the country to secure their earnest co-operation and support. No less than seventeen counties were represented in the present convention, and no less than eighty teachers had already become members. (Cheers.) He expected that the next meeting would be held in Hamilton, and he took the present opportunity of giving them a most cordial invitation to the ambitious, not little but great city. (Laughter and applause.)

It was then moved and seconded that Mr. McCallum do leave the chair, and Mr. J. B. McGann be called thereto.—Carried.

Mr. John Herbert Sangster moved,