

Association took place in Faraday Hall under the chairmanship of A. M. Phillips, B.D. The annual lecture under the auspices of the Association was delivered by Dr. Mackenzie of Aurora who took as his subject "The Functions of the Brain." In the evening the annual business meeting of the Alumni Association was held in their hall. Amongst other transactions it was resolved to petition the General Conference to permit the graduates of the University to elect six representatives to the Board in addition to those who now compose that body. In the course of the evening it was announced that Mr. Dennis Moore of Hamilton had subscribed \$25,000 towards the endowment of a chair in "Chemistry and Physics" and that with subscriptions already received for the "Ryerson Chair" this made a total of \$40,000. The officers of the Alumni Association for the current year are as follows: James Mills, M.A., President, James Allen, B.A., 1st Vice-President, A. M. Phillips, B.D., 2nd Vice-President; H. Hough, Secretary-Treasurer. In the evening the annual dinner of the Association came off in Victoria Hall and was a complete success.

#### CONVOCATION.

On Thursday took place the event of the week, Commencement proceedings proper. The large hall was densely packed. The arrival of the graduates and members of the Senate was greeted with loud cheers. The following gentlemen occupied seats on the dais, wearing their various academic costumes: President, Dr. Nelles; Professors Wilson, Burwash, Reynar, Bain, Hamel, and Bell; Rev. Drs Dewart, Sutherland, Wm Kerr M.A., B. M. Pritton, M.A., Judge Dean, Dr. Ogden, Rev. D. G. Sutherland, L. L. B., B. D., Rev. J. Philp, M.A., Rev. T. W. Jeffery, Rev. W. Hansford Lazier, L. L. B., J. Mills, M.A., H. Hough, M.A., D. C. McHenry, M.A., Dr. Purshaw, H. McLive, M.A., J. C. Field, M.P.P., J. Vance Graveley, Mayor, Mr. Dennis Moore, Rev. Dr. Stevenson. After prayer had been offered by Rev. T. W. Jeffery, Mr. John Shilton delivered the valedictory address choosing as his subject "Thomas Carlyle" and scoring with it a complete success. The ceremony of conferring degrees was then proceeded with and this was followed by the distribution of well merited honors and rewards amongst the successful students. After a brief address from Dr. Ogden to the retiring graduates Dr. Nelles referred in eulogistic terms to the late Dr. Brouse one of the earliest graduates of the University and to the late Rev. Dr. Ryerson who was its first President. Dr. Nelles thus concluded his admirable address: "He congratulated the sister universities of Canada on their growing strength and efficiency and heartily re-echoed the sentiment expressed the other day by Dr. Young of Toronto University, that the country is the better for a variety of colleges, and the similar expression of the Minister of Education for Ontario as contained in his last report, in which he speaks of the denominational colleges as testifying to the penetrating influence of religion in our educational system, and to that freedom of action which will preserve to our different institutions an individuality unknown in the uniformity prevalent in France and not absent in Germany. The example of Britain and the United States was against the system of consolidation, and it would be as unreasonable to work toward such an idea in Canada, as it would be to attempt the amalgamation of Oxford and Cambridge in England, or of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, in the United States. But while he congratulated Canadian universities on their growing efficiency, he was also obliged to condescend with them on their common complaint of inadequate resources - a complaint that comes even from our Provincial University, with her income of over \$50,000 a year, and may therefore be still more reasonably expected from the less richly endowed denominational colleges. But this financial distress will ere long pass away, as it has in the colleges of New England. The Wesleyan University of Middletown, which is only some 50 years old, and has had a history very similar to that of Victoria, has property to-day of the value of \$1,400,000 and an income of \$900,000. These facts should encourage the friends of Victoria, more especially when we remember that these augmented resources have come from the private liberality of friends and the efforts of Christian churches, and not from the State. There would be some further years of hard struggling before she would be able to boast of an adequate endowment, but we should not be discouraged on that account. Her hope lay in the soundness of the principles on which the University is founded, in the increasing number and wealth of our graduates, and in the strength and liberality of the great Methodist Church of this Dominion - a Church that numbers more than half a million adherents, increasing, too, at the rate of some thirty per cent. in ten years, and raising \$150,000 a year for missions. Such a Church is abundantly able, and would ere long be

found willing to sustain her universities and schools, and he would venture to say that this educational work is the one enterprise which just now most urgently demands the attention and energetic support of the Methodist Church of Canada. (Loud cheers.)" Addresses were also delivered by Drs. Cochrane, Sutherland, and Dewart, by Principal Mills of the Agricultural College, and by Judge Dean. The proceedings of the week were closed by a brilliant conversation in the evening.

#### THE WILBERFORCE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE.

One of the peculiar educational institutions of Ontario is the school which is known by the above title in the town of Chatham. It is, in its present form, the resultant of the amalgamation of the "British and American Institute" and the "Nazrey Institute," the former of which was founded in 1841 through the instrumentality of Thomas Butler, Rev. Josiah Henson, J. C. Brown and others, while the latter originated in 1860 through the exertions of the Right Rev. Willis Nazrey, the Rev. R. R. Dinsey, the Rev. Walter Hawkins and others. In 1872 the "British and American Institute" was incorporated under its present name and in 1873 the "Nazrey Institute" was incorporated with it, Acts being passed for that purpose by the Legislature of Ontario. The property is at present vested in a board of trustees who have the power to appoint new members whenever vacancies occur. The endowment is sufficient to enable them to pay a fair salary to the Principal; the present head of the school A. M. Lafferty M.A., receives \$1300. The programme of the school, which serves the purpose of a "high school" for coloured pupils, is the one used in the Provincial high schools. A considerable proportion of the pupils are in the preparatory department which is to be regretted as the energies of the staff might be more usefully expended on high school work proper. The building is somewhat antiquated but the tuition is perfectly free. Mr. Lafferty's incumbency is expected to terminate in a few months and it is to be hoped that he will be succeeded by some one who is at least equal to him in scholarship experience. It would be well worth while to make a special effort to put the Institute in a thorough and equipped condition. To found such a school would at the present time be no easy task and it would be a serious loss to the locality should it be allowed to fall into a state of inefficiency.

#### 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.

CHATHAM DISTRICT, COUNTY OF KENT. - The half-yearly convention of the Chatham District Teachers' Association, which has for its constituency West Kent and the town of Chatham, was held at the latter place on Thursday and Friday the fourth and fifth of May. The various sittings took place in the Central School except the Thursday evening popular lecture which was delivered in the Temperance Hall. The lecturer on this occasion was Thomas Kirkland, M.A., Science Master in the Toronto Normal School. He took for his subject "The Succession of Life upon the Earth" and by the aid of the stereopticon and the oxy-hydrogen light made it highly interesting as well as instructive. To the regret of the teachers the audience was not by any means as large as the reputation of the lecturer and the nature of the occasion justified them in expecting. The proceedings of the convention proper commenced on Thursday morning with the usual routine business after which Mr. C. P. Kellogg gave an admirable illustration of his method of teaching reading as an elocutionary exercise. Mr. Kellogg took for his lesson several passages in the second reader containing dialogue and made the pupils read them with correct emphasis and inflection, omitting the whole of the narrative words. He did not burden their memories or confuse their understandings with rules of any sort but gave them good models to imitate and succeeded wonderfully in getting them well imitated and in keeping both pupils and spectators fully interested. The next division was devoted to "Canadian Series of Readers" and in the absence of W. M. Nichols B.A., whose name was coupled with the subject on the programme, it was briefly discussed by W. Houston M.A. representing the firm of W. J. Gago & Co., and Mr. David Boyle of the Canada Publishing Co. No action was taken by the Association except to declare a new series of readers a necessity. In the afternoon a number of questions were collected on slips of paper to be answered by a committee afterwards through the press. Mr. Thomas C'Hagan, principal of the Chatham Roman Catholic Separate School then read a suggest-