



**SECOND**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

*IN CONNECTION WITH*

**M'GILL NORMAL SCHOOL,**

**MONTREAL.**

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SESSION 1863-4.

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MONTREAL:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF J. C. BECKETT, 38 GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.

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## OFFICE-BEARERS.

### PRESIDENT :

PRINCIPAL DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS :

PROF. HOWE, M.A., PROF. ROBINS, B.A., PROF.  
HICKS, T. A. GIBSON, M.A.

### SECRETARY :

A. C. WILLIAMSON.

### TREASURER :

JAMES MACGREGOR, B.A.,

### COUNCIL :

MRS. SIMPSON,	PROF. DAREY,
MRS. LAY,	H. ARNOLD,
MISS LYMAN,	J. ANDREW,
OLIVER WARREN.	

## ANNUAL MEETING.

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The Second Annual Meeting of the Teachers' Association in connection with McGill Normal School, was held in the Examination Hall of that School, on Saturday, 28th May, 1864.

Principal Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., &c., President, in the chair.

After the opening of the meeting by prayer, by Mr. Williamson, and some routine business, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Mr. Warren; seconded by Professor Robins:—  
"That the Report now read by the Secretary be adopted."

The Association then proceeded to the election of Office-Bearers and Council.

Dr. Dawson was unanimously re-elected President; Professors Howe, Robins and Hicks, and T. A. Gibson, Esq., Vice-Presidents; Mr. Williamson, Secretary; Mr. Macgregor, Treasurer. Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Lay, Miss Lyman, Prof. Darcy, Messrs. Arnold, Andrews and Warren, Members of Council.

## REPORT

In presenting the Second Annual Report of this Association, the Council beg respectfully to state that the transactions of the past year have deepened and confirmed their impression of its value. Although its proceedings may be recorded in a few sentences, yet these they feel to be pregnant with important results, containing the embryo of a power which shall yet be wisely and energetically exercised in the accomplishment of our object—the elevation of the youth of our communities by the elevation of its preceptors.

The regular monthly meetings have been held, but it is to be regretted that they were not so numerously attended as is desirable or as the importance of the object demands, yet the opportunities which have been afforded for the interchange of friendly feeling, and the conversations which have taken place upon the various subjects submitted to the notice of members by the contribution of papers, have afforded much pleasure, and it is to be hoped a considerable amount of profit.

The first paper of the Session was read by Dr. Dawson, being, "The Reminiscences of a visit made to some schools in the United States." The striking feature of which seemed to be the liberal provision made for the physical comfort, convenience, and health of the pupils in the construction and arrangements of their School rooms: the means to secure and almost enforce attendance; and in general the quiet manner in which the Teachers engaged in their important vocations, as contrasted with the more noisy but energetic method pursued in Britain and in this Province.

The nature of catechising was introduced by Mr. Williamson, who gave a short exposition of Gall's verbal, general, connecting, and indirect methods. The subject was acknowledged to be important, and a hope was expressed by the President that some member would resume it and point out the kind of catechising suited for various lessons, and the accom-

ishment of the various objects to be kept in view by the Teacher.

Professor Hicks, in an interesting paper, gave an account of the labours of Bell, and Lancaster, and explained the principles of the system introduced by them, pointed out the benefits they had conferred upon society; and although the peculiarities of their system may now be superseded by the deeper interest taken in education, and the appliances of our own times, we should cherish a grateful recollection of the impetus their labours gave to the cause of popular education; and monitors, though unfit for the development and training of the capacities of children, may yet be profitably employed in conducting the more mechanical exercises of the School.

The Rev. Dr. Leach favoured the Association with a valuable lecture upon "The Great Desideratum in Education," which he held to be the teaching of morals apart from sectarian or religious subjects; and that Teachers generally dealt too exclusively with the intellect, and contented themselves with communicating a knowledge of what fitted for business, without explaining and enforcing the moral relations and obligations of society.

The Rev. Dr. was followed by the Rev. D. H. MacVicar, upon "The study of the Pupil, necessary to success in education." As the artizan has to study the nature of the material upon which he has to operate; so the Teacher should be well acquainted with the mental and moral powers he has to deal with. He then alluded to some of the more important faculties of the mind and the leading facts in mental philosophy; pointed out the errors of some recent writers on Psychology, and the bearing of right moral upon intellectual culture.

The want of cheap and suitable apparatus for the illustration of the leading truths of Physical Science, has often been felt by Teachers, especially in country districts. To obviate this, Professor Robins, in a valuable lecture, exhibited cheap and simple methods, by which Teachers could, from materials always at hand, construct various pieces of apparatus, which would interest pupils and demonstrate the truths presented to them.

The next paper was read by George Murray, Esq., B. A., Oxon, upon the "Etymology of the English Language." The object of it was to awaken and deepen our sense of the value of our language as a deep treasure of thought and feeling; to induce teachers to study the structure of its great Saxon fountain, and produce in the minds of scholars a desire to understand and appreciate its value and lead to the perusal of those works which so conspicuously exhibit its riches.

Another paper was to have been read by T. A. Gibson, Esq., M.A., upon "Scotch Scholastics," but much to the regret of the Council, he was prevented from doing so by severe personal indisposition.

But perhaps the most important subject which engaged the attention of the Association during the past year, was the formation of a Provincial Association of all the Protestant Teachers of Lower Canada.

At the first annual convention of this Association, held on the 20th and 21st of May last year, a resolution was unanimously passed, that the Secretary, under the direction of the Council, put himself in communication with the Bedford and St. Francis Associations, and ask for suggestions on the subject of the formation of a central Teachers' Association for the Protestant Teachers of Lower Canada.

This resolution was carried out, communications were received from Inspectors of Schools, Presidents and Secretaries of Associations. Mr. Long appeared as a deputation from the Bedford Association to this one. Your Council seriously deliberated on the matter, assisted by Mr. Long, passed a series of resolutions and appointed a sub-committee to arrange these in the form of a Constitution, to be submitted to the various Associations for consideration, with the view of carrying them into effect at a Convention to be held for that purpose.

More effectually to secure this object, a Deputation from this Association was requested by the Bedford one; Professors Howe and Robins kindly undertook this office, and furnished with printed copies of the proposed Constitution, the latter

gentleman held a friendly conference with the Bedford and St. Francis Associations, which resulted in the recommendation that the proposed Convention for the final arrangement of this important matter be held in Montreal, sometime between the 1st and 12th of June next.

Your Council has fixed upon Friday and Saturday, the 3rd and 4th of said month, as likely to be most convenient for all parties, when the above Convention is to be held.

The programme of proceedings will be submitted for your consideration and approval this morning, and the Council trust that its important proceedings and deliberations will be seriously and earnestly engaged in

Twelve ordinary members have been added to the list this year. Total on the list since commencement,—Fifty-eight.

The Rev. Dr. Leach, the Rev. Mr. MacVicar, and the Protestant Inspectors of Schools for Lower Canada, were unanimously elected Honorary Members.





**DR.**  
**JAMES MACGREGOR IN ACCOUNT WITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.**  
**CR.**

1863.		1864.	
April 13, To Balance, cash.....	\$ 1 28	May, By Advertising (Dougall).....	8 4 25
Oct., 10, " Savings Bank.....	12 00	" " " Printing (Becket) .....	5 00
1864.		October " Carriage, (Baneroff).....	3 00
May " Members' Fees.....	40 00	" " " Printing, (Becket) .....	19 00
		1864.	
		January " Advertising (Dougall) .....	14 46
		" " " (Gazette).....	2 00
		May " S. P. Robins,.....	4 30
		" Balance.....	1 27
	\$53 28		\$53 28

Examined and found correct,  
 May 26, 1864.  
 H. ARNOLD.