

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

MEETINGS. Mr. Moran, Lodge No. 300, A. Y. M., meets second Monday evening of each month in Brown's building.

CELEBRATIONS.

Baptist Church—Washington street. Rev. J. W. Plummer, services on Sabbath 10 1/2 a. m. 7 p. m.

Brief Mention—Home-Made and Stolen.

Lengthening—The days. Chamberburg has scarlet fever. Fun to-night at Yenter's Hall.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HUNTINGDON COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE—Monday Dec. 26, 1870.

Pursuant to public notice, the Convention assembled in the Court House, at Huntingdon, at 2 o'clock, P. M., and was called to order by the County Superintendent.

Fellow Teachers—We have again met for the purpose of mutual improvement. If there is any class of persons whose duties, more than that of any other, require that they should make the most vigorous and persistent efforts to improve their minds and widen their sphere of usefulness, it is that to him is entrusted the education of the young; those whose tender and plastic minds are so susceptible of either good or evil influences.

It is not unusual for young persons, who have but a very superficial knowledge of the most common branches, to be highly elated if permitted to be so well qualified as to enter upon a work which the most virtuous and intelligent may well tremble to undertake; the training of that priceless treasure, the human mind. It is a most lamentable thought, that so many persons are eager to engage in the business of teaching, who have no adequate conception of the solemn responsibilities resting upon the teacher, and whose aspirations rise no higher than to secure a paltry sum of money for their service.

A young lady at the close of one of our County Institutes, remarked that she felt like going home and never attempting to teach again. "I always knew," said she, "that it was not as well qualified as I should be, but I never before felt so entirely unfit for the work of a teacher."

Now, permit me to say, this lady possessed something of the true spirit. It is not the teacher who imagines that he knows all that is necessary for him to know, who is most likely to learn anything more. Such a person will not condescend to read works upon teaching, take an educational journal, or attend a county or district institute, because forsooth he values his own contracted ideas higher than those of the most experienced and successful teachers.

J. R. Baker, A. H. Kaufman and M. R. Evans were appointed Secretaries. The teachers present now came forward and enrolled their names. Messrs. M'Kibbin, Black, Atkinson, Giles and Piper, were elected a committee on permanent certificates. D. M. Giles offered the following, which were, after some debate, adopted:

Resolved, That the members of the Institute, who open discussions, be limited to twenty minutes, and those who follow to fifteen minutes.

Resolved, That no speaker shall be allowed to speak twice on the same subject until all others have spoken.

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Prof. J. W. Shoemaker, read in his own inimitable style the following selection, viz: "No God," "Katydid," "The Yagabond" and "Darius Green and his Flying Machine."

The question, "Should Singing be one of the regular branches taught in our Common Schools?" was read for discussion. A. H. Weidman ably and eloquently advocated the affirmative.

The vocal organs are developed by their exercise and should be trained in early youth. Singing promotes cheerfulness and happiness, expands the chest and is conducive to physical health.

It is entertaining, attractive, refining and elevating. J. P. Giles was not opposed to music but did not deem it advisable to make it a common school study on account of the multiplicity of branches.

Because not all teachers could learn to sing. Prof. Atkinson regarded the science as easy of acquisition as any other and strongly favored its introduction. H. W. Fisher, Superintendent of Bedford County, favored singing because it cultivates the human voice, facilitates the acquisition of the art of reading, and also for its refining influences.

The subject was further discussed with spirit and interest by Messrs. Wier, Greene, Baker, Michener and Guss.

MORNING SESSION, Dec. 28th. Institute opened with music. Devotional exercises conducted by A. H. Weidman. The question—"Are our courses of study, and methods of instruction sufficiently practical?" was ably discussed by Prof. J. A. Stephens.

He urged upon the Institute the importance of thoroughness. He regarded the practice of crowding the pupil with too many studies an evil. D. M. Giles followed, dwelling chiefly upon the importance of orthography, reading and arithmetic.

Prof. Jos. Waugh, of Hollidaysburg, regarded grammar as the principal subject, among the most practical subjects that can engage the teacher's attention. J. R. Baker would regard a radical reformation, the adoption of a system of Phonetic characters for our language to supersede the one in vogue; H. W. Fisher thought the native talent of every pupil should be specially developed even at the expense of some loss of knowledge for which he has less taste and talent.

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J. R. Baker and others followed in the same vein, and the subject was closed with great effect by a brief and practical lecture, on Map Drawing, by angulation illustrating his method of instruction upon the blackboard.

Remarks on the same subject by Prof. Waugh, D. M. Giles, Rev. Mr. Brown, Prof. Atkinson and others followed. Prof. Shoemaker occupied the remaining part of the morning session with instructions upon the elementary principles of elocution.

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The cultivation of proper and natural tones of the voice in the conversation and the use of the first duties of the teacher. No pupil should be permitted to attempt the reading of any piece of composition which he is incapable of understanding and appreciating. A piece of vocal music, "The Lord is my King," by the Orphan School. The roll was called and those who had come in during the morning were enrolled, after which the Institute

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Prof. Shoemaker then read a number of selections both grave and humorous. "Twenty-third Psalm," "Over the River," "The Gambler's Wife," "An extract of 'Cassius against Caesar,' by Shakespeare, 'Sam Weller's Valentine,'" "Will the New Year come to-night," "The Kiss in School," "Scott and the Veteran," "The Beef Contract" by Mark Twain, and "The Ghost." These readings elicited frequent outbursts of merriment and applause, and were interspersed with most delightful music by the Caswell Orphan School, and some of the pupils of the Public Schools.

Prof. Shoemaker followed with blackboard and drill in reading. Pupils should be able to pronounce every word of a sentence quite readily before they are permitted to attempt to read it. In advanced teaching learners should be familiarized with the character of the author, and the circumstances which inspired the sentiments intended to be expressed.

MORNING SESSION, Dec. 27th. Devotional exercises conducted by D. F. Tussey and J. P. Giles. S. R. Henderson, who had been appointed to conduct the spelling exercises, stated that three hundred words had been carefully selected for the purpose, and that not only teachers, but all who desired to do so, were cordially invited to engage in the contest for the completion of the list. He then dictated one hundred words which were written by most of the teachers and some others present.