Local Intelligence.

Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' Association.

For some time past our citizens have been looking forward to the meeting of the State Teachers' Association with considerable interest. The expected presence of so many of those who are engaged in the great cause of education, and actively employed in the arduous duties of a teacher's life was well calculated to arouse pleasurable anticipations. The local committee of which Colonel Wm. L. Bear is Chairman were assiduous in their efforts to provide for the comfort of the many expected guests. Our citizens kindly opened their houses, and the hotels agreed to reduce their rates of fares for the occasion. A committee met the teachers arriving at the depots and gave them all required aid in finding accommodations. The Court House was granted by the Commissioners to the Association as a place for meeting, and it looks very elegant in its new coat of frescoing and all the nicety of fresh paint and fine curtains. The graining of the doors, desks, seats, &c., is admirably done, and the curtains are of fine green damask.—The teachers of the State are the first to occupy the court-room since its thorough renovation.

At ten o'clock on Tuesday, the State Teachers' Association opened its seventeenth annual session in the Court House. The attendance, never large on the first day, promises well for a larger session than even the last years' meeting at Greensburg, when that ancient village was superprovided, and some visitors were obliged to stop at two hotels in order to get lodgings and refreshment, and did not fully succeed at that.—Our old city being somewhat larger, will doubtless comfortably accommodate all who attend.

It is a good-looking assemblage. Though not physically robust, especially the ladies, the faces evidence a higher intellectual and moral standard than the public assemblies to which we are accustomed.

President H. S. Jones, of Erie opened in a few remarks and introduced Rev. D. C. Sunderson, of St. John's Lutheran Church, who read from the Scriptures (1 Corinthians, XIII) and offered an appropriate prayer.

In the absence of the Secretary, A. M. Martin, of Corry, J. Morton Thomas, Philadelphia, was chosen Secretary *pro tem.*

The Treasurer, Amos Row, having left the State and the profession, D. M. Young, County Superintendent of Lehigh, was substituted.

A Committee on Enrollment was appointed to perfect a list of the members.

County Superintendent Evans read an address of welcome, conveying the good-will of the community, which he said was no idle profession. We extend our hospitality, and expect to derive both pleasure and benefit from your stay among us.—After contrasting the peaceful triumphs of education with the horrors of war, he drew a pleasant picture of the "garden spot," and passed on to its educational record and its well-known names, paying a fitting tribute to the labors and services in the common school cause, of Thaddeus Stevens, and advising a visit to the sacred spot where his remains repose. He did not look upon the work to be done with the same complacency as many others; much has been accomplished, but huge barriers yet obstruct our way. But year after year we approach nearer the realization of our hopes; and with more effort and more patience we shall at length secure the full attainment of our desires. The address was lengthy, and we have room only for this imperfect abstract.

Chas. W. Deans, Chairman of Executive Committee, responded briefly. He had not expected to do this, as in making the previous arrangements his work was supposed to be done, and the onus transferred to the officers of the meeting. We are aware, however, that we have come to a garden spot, not only materially but intellectually—a spot where many of the great reforms in the cause were born, as well as the resting-place of the great man whose memory would be ever green in the hearts of friends of education and all his fellow-citizens. The Association met herein its earlier days, and year after year making the circuit of the State, had returned, bringing the old friends and the new ones gathered on its progress. Some of your men who have originated great agencies for perfecting the work are living and some are here to-day; and not only are the common schools represented, but the academies and colleges of the State as well. We know we will be treated well, and expect a pleasant and profitable meeting.

Prof. Wyers objected to being designated as the *ex-officio* Vice President; although he was the oldest teacher in the association, still his heart was warm enough to respond to the words of welcome. Though no news to be told that this was the garden spot, it was pleasant to hear of its riches from one indigenous to the soil. The garden is rich in beautiful flowers, but a purer class of citizens on the right of the chair; and they will make the session more interesting, especially to the "seven wise men" of Philadelphia—the designation is not original, they had been likened to Solomon. He hoped we should not disgrace our welcome; and that the larger saloons, though selling the best of beer, would not get much of our money. He thought we would not be found an unruly crowd—the men, of course—and would make no occasion for extra police. We have come for profit—for new inspiration—for new strength; and though little individually, we are a big body. He hoped the discussions would be continued in honest friendliness and outspoken truth. With renewed thanks and promises to do justice to the good things presented to the inner man, and hoping to go away greatly increased in knowledge and in vigor, he concluded.

Col. Wm. L. Bear, on behalf of the Local Committee, then addressed the Association as follows—in the most complimentary and for its brevity and point, rarely combined in set speeches:

On behalf of the Local Committee, and of the Committee appointed by the School Board of this city, conveying the Lancaster, I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, and through you, the Ladies and Gentlemen of the State Teachers' Association, that we deem it a distinguished honor to have so large a body, and one of so important a character, to meet in our midst.—We welcome you most cordially. Through the favor of the Commissioners of the County, we have the pleasure, for a week or so, of giving you the occupancy, and to congratulate you as the first occupants, since its refitting, of this beautiful hall, dedicated to the ends of justice. It seems fitting and proper, that the temple of the goddess of dispensers of justice should have this honor.

Since your first annual meeting as a State Association, in this city, in 1853, you have had the experience as an organization, of youth and manhood, and I trust that this meeting, from this new starting point, may give signs of full vigor.

You have come to take into consideration subjects of vital interest, affecting individuals, communities and the prosperity of this great Commonwealth, and deserve a more substantial welcome than lies in the power of the committee to give; but your object and purpose will enable you to rise above the trifling disappointments which you may meet. Repeating, on behalf of the Committee, and of the citizens interested in the cause of education, a most cordial welcome to you, sir, and to the members of this body, I trust your deliberations, and the results of this meeting will mark a new era in the history of your Association.

Opening speeches were limited to 15 minutes, other debaters to 10, and replies (second speeches only by unanimous consent) to 5 minutes.

The Committee on Enrolment were instructed—we publish this for information of members arriving—that those having excursion tickets need not report their railroad station and number, but those who had *orders for free return tickets* must furnish both to the committee.

Two methods of conducting the election of officers had been laid over from last session—the object of both being to obviate the loss of time in electing and especially electioneering.

One proposed, in short, the "Crawford County System"—all the names on a ticket, and scratching all but the required number.

The other referred the nominations to a committee of "nine prominent members" subject to ratification.

Prof. Burtt, Pittsburgh, moved the adoption of the latter, which brought out an animated discussion.

The committee plan was defended by its author, (Chas. W. Deans), and Profs. Burtt and Wyers, and opposed by Messrs. Parker (professor of the other plan) and Messrs. Cornforth, Wickersham and Ingram.

In the course of the debate it was alleged that the wire-pulling for office had been disgraceful an improvement even upon trickery. Prof. Burtt thought electioneering legitimate, and an essential result of democracy.

When we got to the question, the committee plan was voted down, and on motion the "Crawford County System" was adopted, after which adjourned.

The printed programme (18-page pamphlet) is a good thing containing all desirable information, the pieces to be sung and the constitution and by-laws of the body—a complete hand-book.

The attendance of citizens was quite numerous, and will doubtless increase as the work of the Association is developed.

Twenty Afternoon.—Vice President Wyers called the Association to order, and in the absence of the President, whose inaugural was the next order.

T. Clarkson Taylor, of Wilmington, Del., was introduced and gave us a graphic description of the Yosemite Valley, California, from personal observation of its wonders. The facts concerning the region are pretty well known, as almost every one has read "Beyond the Mississippi," or "Across the Continent," so we forbear repeating them, as the live, racy style of the speaker cannot be reproduced. His description of El Capitan, a rock wall rising 3,300 feet perpendicular from the floor of the valley, was interesting and well portrayed.—The Bridal Veil Fall was also beautifully pictured, and the effect of the grandeur of the scene imbued to be removing all sense of danger from the beholder, even in the most perilous places. The recital of these scenes, substantiated as it is by all the authorities, is almost incredible; a tree 150 feet high and 18 in diameter standing in the niche in the rock, so high above the observer as to be discerned with greatest difficulty; or the South Dome, upon the top of which the pyramids of Egypt, the most stupendous work of human hands, would be but ornamental addenda to the colossal pile.

C. H. Harding, formerly of the State Normal School sang something relative to "old Grimes' cellar door"—whether the old Grimes famous in other ancient songs we do not learn; but it was well sung and displayed to advantage a fine baritone voice.

The President (Prof. Jones) read his inaugural address, as required by the By-laws. His subject was proposed as "The Old and New in Education." Reverence for the old too often becomes idolatrous worship, and improvement and reform have always bitter and powerful enemies. He drew a dark picture of ancient ignorance, instancing the persecution of discoveries. By the old in education he meant the feeding upon the dry bones of the past and ignoring the rich healthful food of the present. The new reverse all this. We do not condemn the old because it is old. Truth never grows gray or wrinkled—it is ever young and elastic with adaptation; but the dead leaves and sloughed-off bark should be allowed to fall into dust, and the school stand leading and aggressive in the front of the forces that are battling for the good of humanity. It has moved on with astonishing strides, as have business, population and wealth. He next "went through" the schools of "the Hub" as they existed 25 years ago, in advanced pupils, and followed by picturing the growth of the work since, quoting the *School Journal*. The new education holds that a man's brain is worth more than his muscle; that the choicest property of a nation is not its material wealth, but in the children preparing for the work of the next generation that the teachers should have character, scholarship, special preparation, executive force and enthusiasm for his profession, that study for learning's sake is good, but for humanity's sake is far better. It holds that labor without brains is ignoble, but labor with brains is worthy of a king.

The following report, laid over from last session, came up for discussion as the next order:

Resolved, That certificates issued to well-qualified teachers should be permanent, except in cases where the holder is found to be morally or intellectually incapable of performing successfully the teacher's duties.

Resolved, That inasmuch as at present two permanent certificates are provided for by law, viz: The certificate granted by the State Department, which is permanent within the county for which it is granted, and may be made permanent for any other county by being endorsed by the County Superintendent thereof, and the State Normal School Certificate, which is permanent throughout the State, no other form of permanent certificate is needed; and we therefore advise that no further legislative action be had upon the subject of permanent certificates.

Resolved, That great care should be exercised by the County Committee on permanent certificates, to avoid recommending unworthy applicants, and that said committee should recommend none without examination, unless they have ample evidence from other source that the applicant is thoroughly qualified.

Resolved, That we believe an act of Assembly cancelling certificates given as permanent, to be a violation of public faith, and an unwise and unjust measure.

Resolved, That in all cases where teachers' certificates are held by persons notoriously incompetent, such certificates should be cancelled by the proper officers according to law.

Jesse Newlin, County Superintendent of Schuylkill, opened the discussion, *vice* Passmore announced on programme. We need a high standard and strict enforcement thereon. In our section, the holders of permanent certificates are sought for lucrative vacancies. The certificate has character which exercises a good influence upon the lower grades of teachers. There should be a uniformity of examination and standard.

Prof. Burtt advocated the permanency of the highest certificate. If a County Superintendent, and a Board of Directors and a Committee who have an interest in granting their own grade, all endorse a teacher, what other safeguard can we have? In Harrisburg so pure that all good may be expected to come from thence? He said there should be uniformity as to who are entitled to vote and elect this examining committee; none ought to vote upon a certificate of lower than professional grade, else a majority may easily be secured for the weakest committee. He complained of a law that should cancel all certificates, good and bad, at one fell swoop. Let the power of Superintendents to cancel for cause suffice.

H. B. Whittington re-affirmed his views of last year. The great variety of standards makes the difficulty. Let the Faculty of each Normal School be empowered to examine for that district, and the qualification required be three years' successful teachings. Then let all who can come up to the standard receive a certificate on which they can teach anywhere; and let it only be revoked on sound moral grounds.

S. D. Ingram had read the report to last session on which all this was built. He had recommended an additional certificate, of the highest grade, given by the State, and not subject to be annulled—one which would relieve good and competent teachers from the drudgery to which they are now subjected by law, of an examination by Superintendents often vastly their inferiors.

State Superintendent Wickersham said the idea that had gotten abroad beyond the mountains, of intended interference by the Department was entirely erroneous. No one would oppose such action more strongly than he. Power should come up from the people, not down from authority. The teachers should be satisfied with provisional, or professional, or so-called permanent certificate, but should aim at once which should be good throughout the State. He thought the highest grade of a higher grade was that of the certificate of the Normal Schools. It is true that some hold even the permanent certificate whose right not—some even among the select 600; but if we all unite we can prevent the evil from spreading further; even as it is, these 600 are the salt of the profession. He thought it improper to use the expression "violation of public faith" in reference to legislative action. It may be bad policy to undo what has been done, but it is hardly a breach of contract. He objected to the expression "notoriously incompetent."

S. D. Ingram disagreed and reiterated his own position on the question.

It was moved to act upon the resolutions *seriatim*, but withdrawn, and by the request of A. O. Newpher, who will handle the same subject to-morrow, and so action upon the matter was postponed for the present.

Prof. Burtt briefly defended the phraseology of the report.

Prof. Shoemaker sang "Katy Lee and Willie Gray", just as good music as Prof. Harding's.

The Auditing Committee was appointed: A. N. Raub, Lock Haven; J. A. Montgomery, Millersville; H. M. Jones, Westmoreland.

Adjourned to half past seven P. M.

Evening Session.—Opened about a quarter to eight with music by the "Eolian Circle" of Chambersburg—"Gathering Home." This was our first opportunity of hearing the Circle, and we were agreeably disappointed, as we had not expected so much from an amateur organization. The solos were good, the basso having a particularly fine voice. Their music will add greatly to the interest of the session.

Miss Lillie Bache, Bristol, Pa., read an essay on Moral Instruction in Public Schools—a subject upon which we had heard such a multitude of talk, that it did not promise much interest. While there was little new to say, the lady's manner of treating the subject, and her careful utterance and well-sustained, clear tones, made up an interesting exercise. Our pupils, she said, are too often trained physically and mentally, while the crowning work is left undone. Many things are superior to learning, valuable though it be; honesty is superior to wit, truth to piety is. The essayist made use of strong individual contrasts in history to enforce her doctrine.—Upon the best minds and consciences, judging from the specimen yonder, why so sadly neglect its cultivation here. The Bible in the schools received attention. God's word is to the soul as the air to the body—the essence of life.

"America" was sung by the audience, led by Eolian Circle; the leader promised to sing it "lively," and he did it a little too much so in our opinion.

"Preparation of American Youth for College," was the subject of a paper by Prof. J. H. Shumaker—eloquently written, but losing some of its effect by being read from the manuscript. We will attempt a brief abstract. The millenium has not yet come, nor is the world prepared for it. It will be ushered in, not by miracle, but by training mankind up to a point where war, violence, wrong and cruelty shall forever cease. In this grand work, America, young and fair, strong and beautiful, will find an ample field for the employment of her mighty energies, in the development of her national manhood. This is a day of grand opportunities; shall our nation be free, prosperous, happy, Christian—or shall it decay and die as all other republics? The answer depends on the kind of education the youth of this generation shall receive. Every one capable of receiving should have all that our best colleges can give.—Half-educated men are always at a discount. Preparation for college involves something more than so much Horace, Homer and Euclid—discipline of the mind, heart and physical powers. Self-respect must be developed in the pupil—he must have character, moral strength—without this he can never be fit for college; it is no place for him. He then described the drill necessary to secure thoroughness, and demonstrated the value of the dead languages for mental discipline. Next were treated the hindrances to such a course—deficiencies in teacher or pupil, the brevity of the time allowed, and above all, the low and narrow views of education that prevail—the idea of parents that what was good enough for them will do for their children. We ought to have 50 colleges for young ladies, with 400 students each; and then we would only give one women in 1000 a liberal education. The glory of Christian civilization is that it has raised woman, and is raising her still higher toward the perfection of her nature. A warm-hearted Christian woman is nearer an angel than any being that walks the earth; and to every gift and grace of nature, education adds charms. If the privilege of voting will help them, give them that too. To be a help-meet for man, woman's culture must be liberal as his. She was not designed for muscular achievements; but the woman who teaches her son to govern himself and use his powers aright—who builds up a manly character—surpasses the achievements of Hercules. The training of youth up to the highest physical, mental and spiritual perfection, is a work that angels might rejoice in. Towards this perfect culture the human race is tending, and true educators are praying and laboring to hasten its coming.

Music—"O, how I love my Mountain Home."

Henry Houck, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, opened the question "Should Public Schools prepare Pupils for College?" The question is—"Who Shall Educate? He believed the State should give the highest education, from principle and policy—give every child a chance to learn all he wants.

Supt. Maris, of Chester county, made a live speech in favor of extending the common schools, until they shall include colleges and a university—until which time our system would never be right. Education is the foundation of our republic; and any system which gives the rich an advantage over the poor is essentially wrong.

H. B. Whittington, Phil'a., made a rambling speech about the deficiency of educated skilled labor, the grades in the Philadelphia grammar schools, and an order which the Governor had given to one of his boys for the scientific course in the University of Pennsylvania.

The discussion closed at 9:30, with the understanding that it was to be again taken up.

A duett "Gently Sighs the Breeze" by two ladies of the Eolian, and we adjourned.

Wednesday Morning.—Opened with music—solo and quartette—"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"—the soprano very sweet, and the quartette excellent, of course.

Prof. Wyers read Proverbs xiv.

Prayer was offered by Prof. Shoemaker.

"Our Home with Jesus," by the circle.

The roll of members was called, and the Executive Committee urged those present to be enrolled and reinforce the treasury.

Prof. Beistle, of Titusville, read a paper on Reading the Bible in the Schools. We have outgrown the age of intolerance. The common schools are designed for all and paid for by common contribution. The State educates that it may reap the benefit of increased intelligence in its citizens.—The object of common schools is secular instruction; and while we need moral instruction for the benefit of the State, we may not offend the conscience of any, and thereby practically banish them from their common property in the common schools. Where a school is divided, let their version be read; if Catholics, that version; but in mixed schools, respect for the rights of all demands that neither be conforced. None must be banished, nor compelled to submit to what they believe to be morally wrong. No apportionment among sects, or exoneration from tax, is practicable. Our common schools we must have; and let them be free to all, no matter what their religious creeds may be. Let every American let the opportunity be given of acquiring an American education.

Col. Cornforth was to answer the question, "What cause shall be pursued by the education to prominent religious culture?" The chief object of the schools is not religious, but secular instruction. There should be in most schools reading the Scriptures, prayer, deference to the Bible as the word of God. The life of the teacher should be a rebuke to vice and an exhortation to virtue—an example pure and blameless. In schools where Protestant and Roman Catholic are together, he agreed with the last reader, that the reading would infringe on the rights of the minority. Majorities must not be proscriptive.

S. D. Ingram offered a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Bible should be read in the public schools.

At the suggestion of Prof. Brooks, the resolution was subsequently withdrawn.

Prof. Burtt, Pittsburgh, said that in a few years our children would be ashamed to read that we took advantage of numerical strength to force the sectarian ideas of a majority upon an unwilling minority. All knew the same Christian protestantism in their own religion—the Chinaman and the Jew, as well as the Protestant and Catholic; and also those who are called free thinkers—one of the speakers had assumed that all were agreed that the Bible was the only inspired book. This was not correct—that was an open question, many wise and eminent men recognizing inspiration in other noble works. He did not intend arguing the question, but it must not be assumed.

This speech evidently made a sensation, and out of it grew a warm discussion.

J. R. Sypher said that as the question of religious culture included the reading of the Scriptures, and he regarded that as proper, the reasons for his belief were in order.

The speaker suspended his remarks for a motion to permit visitors from other States to take part in the discussions.

Mr. Sypher thought it not worth while to discuss the idea that the Bible was a sectarian book. The only contest had been between sectarian and non-sectarian schools; and the latter had always yielded. We recognize God and the Bible in the forms of judicial proceedings, and reject the testimony of a man who disbelieves in them. The versions are essentially the same. There was a time when the observance of the Sabbath, of religious worship, of moral training—an American conscience; and no man who is backed by that conscience who rejects the religious element in training. We should teach it in our schools, not by legislative enactment, but by a greater power, the universal conscience of the people.

Prof. Wyers thought the discussion had wandered from the channel, but did not object to the widest and freest discussion of any question. He relied on the power of truth, and was willing to let error do its worst while truth was free to combat it. The worst while truth was free to combat it. There was a period when it was demanded the utmost liberty of opinion for himself, and granted it to others. Unless profound religious conviction could be called a prejudice, he thought it to be the highest grade of intelligence. Religious culture in our day can mean nothing, unless it rests upon the Bible. Whether we should enact the reading of it he was not certain. We want, as means of moral culture, a system of good government, consistent treatment, and clear distinction between mere mischief and moral transgressions. We must teach the pupil to govern himself, to restrain his passions, to develop a manly conscience. With regard to "offending the conscience," so much feared, so far as the Roman Catholic element is concerned, it is not the reading of the Bible, but the whole Protestant school system, which they oppose; and for the infidel, what conscience has he got, that we should respect it?

Brief remarks were made by Messrs. Moore, of Philadelphia, and Parker, of Buffalo, N. Y., after which

Prof. Brooks took a strong stand for keeping the Bible in the schools as a basis of religious instructions. Our schools are criticised as godless, and some honestly believe that they ought so to be—but it is based on a false idea—that the state is without a conscience—an idea that says the very foundations of national life. Science is a natural product, religion a supernatural—not a discovery, but a revelation. Our civilization to-day is not one of thought, or invention, but of the Bible. We must have a free Bible for our corner-stone. Where all are Protestant, use that version, where Catholic, use theirs; where they are together, let both agree on what shall be read—portions upon which they do not differ. We want only the essence—love to God and man, and salvation through a crucified Redeemer.

S. D. Ingram, Harrisburg, took up Prof. Burtt on placing the Chinese religion upon an equality with Christianity.

Prof. Brooks offered the resolution:

"That it is the opinion of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' Association that there should be religious instruction in the schools, and that the Bible should be made the basis of such instruction."

On this the previous question was called, and a confused time prevailed for some minutes, finally terminated by a motion to adjourn, which prevailed, though Mr. Sypher and others endeavored to have it ruled out of order.

The adjournment was proper, as many who desired to speak upon the resolution, against it, some of them had been waiting vainly endeavoring to gain the floor, and complained of being subjected to "gag law." The question brought out the best discussion thus far had, and we hope it will be again considered.

Wednesday Afternoon.—The session opened with the reading of a paper on Civil Governments by Supt. W. J. Mintiken, of McKean county. He divided the subject into three parts: 1. The end of government; 2. The best form of government for securing that end; 3. The means of its preservation. In five years man has not carried the science of government beyond the uncertainty of experiment. States have been created, risen to their highest point, decayed and fallen. Shall the future develop anything self-sustaining and perpetual, higher than the present and nearer? We have seen the past has come to naught. The sure seed in this, all other motives must be subordinated to national preservation; even then, success would not be assured. That government succeeds best which best secures its end. What, then, is that end? Plato said "to make men wise, virtuous and happy." How shall it be done. He accepted the theory of the Declaration of Independence, that the true end of government is to secure the rights of all; and reviewed all history to demonstrate that our representative democracy was *the* form for securing that end. As to its preservation that he said would depend on the education of our people. Ignorance and corruption may destroy us, but not until ignorance becomes so dark, and corruption so besotted, that the interests of liberty are forgotten. The production displayed thought, but was much too lengthy, and lost much in the delivery.

Music by the Circle—"Far away."

Col. McFarland offered a resolution to appoint a Committee of five, to communicate with representatives of the different educational interests of the State, upon adopting a graded course of study for schools of all classes, and report at next session.

The Committee are Col. McFarland; Prof. Parker, Philadelphia; Prof. Wyers, West Chester; Prof. Brooks, Millersville; Dr. Cattell, President Lafayette College.

Prof. Burns was substituted for S. D. Ingram, of Harrisburg, on the Executive Committee.

D. L. Schoedler, Bethlehem, on behalf of the Verein of the German press of Pennsylvania, offered the following:

Resolved, That, for reasons which, because they are well known to every educator in the State, need not be enumerated here, the State Teachers' Association of Pennsylvania would hereby earnestly recommend the introduction of the German language into our common schools, not, however, as a mere ornament to the course of study, nor yet as a mere bait to attract and retain pupils who would otherwise go to other schools, but as a branch of regular, systematic, and thorough instruction.

Resolved, That in order to reach the aim involved in the preceding resolution, more German-English teachers should be appointed to the various positions in our common schools.

Resolved, That in order to produce a larger number of German-English teachers, a German-English professorship should be established at our State Normal Schools, and the study of the German language made compulsory in each of said schools.

A. O. Newpher, Middletown, read a paper on State Aid to Permanent Teachers. The proposition he advocated was this—we give it in his own words: "That it shall be the duty of the State Superintendent of Common Schools to set apart, from the gross amount of all funds appropriated by the State for Common School purposes, such an amount as shall be sufficient to pay to each school district or institution of learning that employs, in teaching or superintending any school or schools, persons holding certificates of graduation from Normal Schools, or persons holding permanent certificates, the sum of four dollars per month for the first year, and six dollars per month for the second and all succeeding years, for each person so employed; provided that the number of months reckoned in any one year, for one teacher, shall not exceed ten." This, he thought, would act as a stimulus to all grades of teachers, and would exempt first-class teachers from underbidding by those of lower grade. It would also bring more professional students to the Normal Schools. The plan, whether feasible or not, was well advocated.

Mrs. Randall being present, read, by request, "Toll, Roland, Toll!"

Music by Circle—"Auld Lang Syne."

The resolutions offered by the Committee on Permanent Certificates, laid over from last session, and discussed (and published in yesterday's *Intelligencer*), now came up for further action.

Prof. Burtt was proceeding to discuss the resolutions, when Mr. Newpher, by permission offered the following as a substitute:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair to prepare and secure the passage of a law to provide a State Board of Examiners, who shall examine all candidates for graduation from State Normal Schools, and all applicants for State Permanent Certificates; and to provide for the payment of a certain sum in addition to the quota of the general school fund, to those school districts which shall employ graduates of Normal Schools and holders of permanent certificates.

Prof. Parker, Philadelphia, and Prof. Burtt, chairman of the committee, opposed the substitute, the latter saying that it was out of order, but he would waive that in order to get a vote.

A motion to postpone the consideration of the substitute was lost.

Prof. Burtt said (those who wanted the Legislature to meddle with their certificates should vote for the substitute; those who did not, should vote it down.

And it was voted down.

The resolutions then were taken up, and the first "that all certificates issued to well-qualified teachers should be permanent," was adopted, after some sparring between Prof. Burtt and Vice President Wyers—the latter thinking the resolution absurd.

The second resolution, declaring that no additional form of certificate is needed, was laid over until to-morrow.

The third, fourth and fifth resolutions, as heretofore published, were then proposed to be adopted *en masse*.

R. S. Gates objected to such hasty proceedings, and thought it tomfoolery in an association like this to take important action without discussion.

Prof. Harrison, of Pittsburgh, said he understood the gentleman's position, but hoped we would have a vote.

Mr. Gates was glad the gentleman understood him.

Mr. Harrison—"You don't, yourself."

Which last observation had some point, as Mr. Gates had become considerably tangled.

The resolutions were adopted.

It was agreed that Prof. Newpher's resolution should be considered during the sessions.

Adjourned.

Wednesday Evening.—The first business was the nomination of officers, and the following were named:

For President—A. N. Raub, Lock Haven; W. W. Woodruff, Chester county; Henry Hauck, Lebanon; C. W. Deans, Chester—withdrawn.

Vice President—Sallie H. Bundel, Lancaster; W. Schoch, Philadelphia; C. W. Deans, Chester, Del. co.; Lillie Bache, Bristol, Bucks county.

Recording Secretary—I. S. Geist, Marietta.

Assistant Recording Secretary, Jennie Ralston, Pittsburgh.

Corresponding Secretary, J. P. McCaskey, Lancaster; W. C. Shuman, Lancaster county.

Treasurer—J. H. Shumaker, Chambersburg, withdrawn; E. J. Young, Supt. Lehigh Co.; D. S. Barns, Harrisburg; Henry Houck, Lebanon, withdrawn.

Ticket Agent—C. H. Harding.

Assistant Ticket Agent—E. O. Lyte.

Executive Committee—H. B. Whittington, Philadelphia; James L. Harrison, Pittsburgh; Jno. G. Moore, Philadelphia; N. Gantz, New Castle; G. M. Fields, Beaver; A. O. Newpher, Middletown; C. W. Deans, Lancaster county; John Morrow, Allegheny City; Robert Curry, Pittsburgh.

W. R. Ford, of Pittsburgh, named that city as the place of next meeting.

On motion of State Superintendent Wickersham thanks were returned for Dr. Cattell's address.

Prof. Brooks called up his Bible resolution, postponed from this morning. It was again read.

C. H. Harding inquried *what* Bible was meant?

Prof. Brooks (easily ely) answered "*The* Bible;" and on being further interrogated said he took the name in its broad sense—the Word of God—His revelation.

A. L. Harrison advocated liberality.—Nothing was to be gained by passing the resolution, and there may be something lost. He moved to lay on the table.

The motion was lost.

J. R. Sypher regretted that such a motion had been made, especially from the side that desired further dicussion this morning.

Prof. Burtt hoped no motion would be made to prevent a square vote, and proceeded to make the best speech upon his side of the question. He might be wrong, but he was firmly convinced of the truth of his position. Those who burned what they called heretics believed themselves right, but posterity knows better. Those who hung Mary Dyer on Boston Common, because she was a Quaker, thought they were right; but we know better. Now are we not applying the same tyrannous principle when we say that we will have the Protestant Bible in the State schools, for which all are taxed—that we will tax the parents to pay for teaching their children to disbelieve in their religion? He would not be surprised at being voted down, but protested against being called unsound in the faith. He was sounder than his opponents; *he* was willing to trust Christianity in a fair field, while they seemed to fear for its permanency as the religion of the intelligent of the earth, and were desirous of bolstering it up by legislation or otherwise. Can we not give the five hours of school to literary and moral training—having all the rest of the day, and Saturday and Sunday besides, for religious teachings at home. He did not wonder at the Roman Catholic fearing the light of history; but the truth need not fear. Give a man the light of knowledge, and he will the quicker believe God's truth. He denied that the scripture alone had made us a great and wise people. Buckle and other great investigators of modern civilization agree in ascribing our high position to intellectual culture. Enlightened people will have a high religion—the ignorantare always superstitious. Twenty-five Protestant divines believed the Bible had better be out of the schools. His own district was Catholic; if there was nothing objectionable to them, their children could be brought into the school; but religious liberty gives a chance to argue against it, and you cannot give them a chance for light. The Catholics of his district would rejoice at the passage of the resolution, because it would enable them to keep up the agitation.

Miss Martha Scofield, of Darby, followed. She said we need not give up Christ, or Christian teachings, or Christian example; but must we force creeds upon those who too long have used as an excuse to remain in darkness, and would rather be ignorant than wise. We shall think before we vote on so important a question as this.

Prof. Wyers made the representative speech in favor of the resolution. Religious instruction must be based on the Scriptures; by which he understood King James' version. We have been referred to the lights of this 3d quarter of the 19th century—why not go back 150 years, or further. History is the best proof upon this question. With the ability of a ripe scholar, he then gave us instances of the condition of the people under the various forms of ancient and modern civilization—civilization of the intellect. All had failed to elevate the masses, and the last had culminated in the Reign of Terror—fitting fruit of such a system. As a legislator he would, however, oppose forcing the Bible into the schools; of the State, they being for temporal, not religious purposes.

A. O. Newpher favored the use of the Bible as a devotional exercise.

The question was adjourned after some filibustering by a decided majority.

"I Am Waiting" was sung.

Mrs. Randall read "Seets of the Bells."

Prof. Hall sang "Childhood's Recollections."

Adjourned.

Thursday Morning.—Opened with music "Rock of Ages."

W. W. Woodruff, Chester county, read the XVIII Psalm—"The heavens declare the glory of God."

Vice President Wyers offered a prayer.

Statements were made concerning membership and railroad arrangements.

Music—"Home Sweet Home."

The discussion—"Should Public Schools Prepare for College?" was re-opened.

Prof. Burtt found that where the High School Department was made a specialty, the schools generally did not succeed as well. We make a big thing of this college preparation—worthless things are usually most talked of. We should give all the education necessary to make wise, good and intelligent citizens, and we shall succeed in common schools. Many believe the old college course to be bad and only bad. The old style colleges had better be reformed and adapted to the common schools, rather than the schools prepare for them. While the colleges are as now, preparation for them would be injurious rather than beneficial to our pupils.

Prof. Higes, York, would rather spend the time and money wasted in college preparation, upon a system of manual training. We need practical teaching to fill the want of skilled labor.

H. H. Hutton, Troy, Bradford county, believed we ought to teach the classics in high schools.

H. B. Whittington, A. O. Newpher and Prof. Shumaker spoke briefly.

T. J. Craig, of Pittsburgh Board of Education, thought it a waste to teach classical studies, and hoped the College doors would soon be opened to all who were qualified to receive the highest culture.

N. Parker, Buffalo, thought the principal object of a man should be himself—there knowledge begins and ends. Let us decide what is true education—what the world wants. When wise men have decided on this, it will be time to form our system.

And Whereas, Delegates made a humorous preference to the procuring of degrees and the possessors of them as well.

Music—"The Laugh of a Child."

State Superintendent Wickersham offered the following, as best, to prevent misconstruction of last night's action on the Bible question:

Resolved, That in passing the resolution approving of religious instruction in public schools, this Association did not contemplate any legislation on the subject.

Prof. Brooks moved its adoption, which was agreed to.

O. N. Shingle, Chester county, read a paper on "Vocal Music"—strongly urging its introduction into schools as a valuable means of culture.

The resolutions of Mr. Newpher relative to a State Examining board, were now taken up, and the discussion developed considerable bitterness existing between those who are and are not Normal graduates.

Geo. Lackey, Pittsburgh, said it was an outrage for school districts to employ the Normal teachers. From year to year we are called on for this kind of action. Let the Normal pupils stand on their own merits.

Prof. S. S. Haldeman, as usual, wandered into an attack on inaccurate book-makers. The amount of knowledge in the applicant should be the question—not the place of his education, Normal or otherwise.

C. H. Harding said the resolutions were perfectly fair, and allowed all applicants for permanent certificates on an equality, whether Normals or others. Though displaying too much feeling, this was a powerful speech, and went right to the point.

W. R. Ford, Pittsburgh, objected to the resolutions. They are not desirable except to a few. Our present system has not had a fair trial. It would be impracticable, as Prof. Burtt pointed out, for the teachers to attend the time would come when colleges graduates would go to these schools to learn to teach, and when he wanted a teacher of language he could send to Professor Brooks and get one. He would not repeal his Greenshing questions.

Prof. Brooks hoped he would do so.

Prof. Wyers said his objection lay mainly against the law. The faculty of one school examined and recommended another's graduates, he did not doubt their honesty, but we all are but men, and would there not be a disposition to make the examination more gentle, lest severity should provoke retaliation? Let the school committee, or of employing, as teachers and professors of a school, its own graduates; a stream cannot rise above its source, and a certain sameness would ensue; on the same principle that inbreeding produces deformity, especially run in a somewhat narrow groove.

Prof. Brooks said that they had found the selection of their own graduates to work well—having so much material, they had a wide field to choose from. The recent examination was a delicate matter, but no better method had yet been suggested, though the subject had been much thought of. He could recommend to Prof. Wyers a distinguished teacher—Mr. Harding—who would be acceptable. He was abstractly in favor of academic pupils, but it did not believe in a limitation—based on scholarship—it would shut much of our best, most available material.

Prof. Carver objected to requiring a pledge to teach—we should waste our money on dry sticks. Neither should we cut off the industrious poor boy—the noble exponent and advocate, the members of the association a successful and valued co-laborer and the human family one of its largest hearted and most charitably disposed members.

We all deeply sympathizing with his bereaved widow and children, the Corresponding Secretary of this association is hereby instructed to furnish them with a copy of these resolutions.

Adopted by a rising vote.

Prof. Wyers was called on, and said the President showed a just appreciation of the laws of order. He had begun at the summit; the opening board, then examining board, and now he asked the humble representative of the Academy, to take his turn. It was cruelty to make a man squeeze his brain in the vain search for an idea, in a strange place like this. We have spoken something, and quarrelled less than is our wont. We have behaved ourselves pretty well, and not needed the police. He was overwhelmingly applauded.

Prof. Hall sang "The Wanderer's Evening Hymn."

State Superintendent Wickersham said, when called, that he was the last man who ought to be expected to talk here—he had been so long and so often called upon. They have been present at this session four gentlemen who were at the formation of the Association on December 28, 1852. He traced the history of both from that time to the present, and drew a fine picture of the wonderful growth of the cause, which no one could fully appreciate but those who had seen it grow. Among the features of our work are the steady increase of the school term; the County Superintendency, the right arm of the School System; the progress of the Normal Schools. We now want a closer union of all hearts; and it is coming, as these sessions have shown. If injustice is done, as he thought was the case, to any class of teachers, let us all go to work and remedy it; united, we have the school affairs of the Commonwealth, aye, and its future destiny in our hands. He would rather command an army of teachers with their spelling books than an army of soldiers with their muskets.

Prof. Hall sang "Childhood's Recollections," and, in response to an encore "The Folly of Wooing at Five O'clock in the Morning."

The Eolians gave "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah."

The President then returned his thanks to the Association for its cordial support and assistance, and introduced the President elect, Prof. A. N. Raub, who on rising to exhibition a few minutes, spoke a few words and the Association adjourned with the Long Metre Doxology.

FIRE INSURANCE.

THE Columbia Fire Insurance Co.,

OF COLUMBIA, PA.

Insures BUILDINGS, MERCHANDISE, and other Property against Loss and Damage by Fire, on their Stock or Mutual Plan, on AS REASONABLE TERMS AS OTHER RESPONSIBLE COMPANIES.

Losses Paid Since 1860, $325,000.

OFFICERS:

President—S. S. DETWILER. *Vice President*—H. WILSON. *Secretary*—J. F. FRUEAUFF. *Treasurer*—HERBERT THOMAS.

DIRECTORS:

S. S. Detwiler,	Robert Crane,
Herbert Thomas,