

AN INTERESTING SESSION.

Closing Meeting of the American Institute of Instruction.

The closing meeting of the American Institute of Instruction was held in Orpheus Hall Halifax, on Wednesday 11th inst. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Mr. Dobson.

The first speaker was I. Z. Brandford, (colored,) headmaster of Litchfield school, Jamaica. His subject was Life in Jamaica. He expressed his appreciation of the honor and the pleasure of addressing the audience, and also the responsibility he felt in speaking faithfully of his country, quoting those well-known words of England's hero—"England expects every man to do his duty." After a most graphic description of the character of the island, its beautiful climate, its healing springs, the wonderful tropical scenery that abounds on every hand, and the natural products that are exported, he gave a brief sketch of the early history of the colony, from its discovery by Columbus to the present time.

He characterized the inhabitants as intensely loyal and devoted to their Queen, hospitable to strangers, and industrious, with perhaps, a want of a little more of American "push" and energy in business matters. He compared the educational attainments of the Jamaica boys with those of Canada and the United States, and considered them nearly equal. He traced the growth and gradual development of elementary education prior to the emancipation of the slaves up to the present time—the success of which is due to the solid foundation that was laid by the faithful missionaries who have long entered into rest. After explaining the system of "Payment by Results," he gave instances of the various education commissions that had been appointed by the government, their recommendations, and as a result the amendments in the education laws of the colony, the present code of regulations being the outcome of the efforts of the commission of 1897. He stated that it was found necessary to close and amalgamate several schools, thus reducing their number from 893 to 757, but it was thought that this would not affect the attendance of the pupils.

He then gave the course of lessons and marks attached that had to be observed in all the elementary schools. He defined the three classes of elementary schools according to their qualifications. He stated that the prospects of higher education in the colony were exceedingly bright and encouraging. The schools can fairly stand such a high test as the Cambridge (England) examination, which speaks volume for Jamaica, and the way seems wide and free for greater achievements of the sons of Jamaica. The valuable scholarships offered by the government are great inducements, and many boys have distinguished themselves by means of aid thus afforded. Mr. Brandford, in concluding his most interesting account of Jamaica, expressed the hope that he had made some favorable impressions and that he might be able to find in each heart a warm place for his dear island of Jamaica.

The second address was by Rev. Wm J. Long, Stamford, Conn. His subject was "Nature and the child." He said "the teachers, your work is the divine work on earth. Men give to you their dearest treasures—their children. And their future, for good or ill, is in your hands. The future of both our countries, whether good or bad, is not to be decided at Washington or Ottawa, but in the schoolhouses of these lands. When nature teaches a man, then his soul soars up to heaven. Nature is old, but concerning age. There is a hundred centuries of history behind the child. Nature and the child are inseparably united to each other. I am not objecting to the science studies of the schools, though I must say I do

not think as highly of botany and kindred studies as many do; but I advocate studying the soul of nature in contradiction to the pulling of a flower to pieces in order to see the stamens, pistils, etc. Bring nature and the child together. How? That teacher will teach better who knows most and is most enthusiastic, not by studying books or nature, but by continual contact and observation of nature yourself. Go into the woods and commune with nature; see the fish-hawk mother teaching her little ones to fish, and see the object lessons which nature present for your observation and benefit. Mr. Long's address was replete with interesting anecdotes, told with great humor of bears, crows, foxes, deer, squirrels, etc. He insisted that men were blind and not nature. Nature is full of lessons, plainly presented for our benefit, but we are blind to them, and unless we love nature and are taught to interpret her myriad lessons, we see little or nothing of them or their beauty. How shall we see these things? Be still in the woods and the curiosity of birds and animals will soon supply you with an audience and instruction. Let your interest be awakened and that is done by practice on watching the wild things of nature. Anyone who goes into the woods will find both interesting and instructive entertainment. The child is in harmony with nature, and the best teacher is the one who treats the child in a natural manner, instead of the dry, routine, authoritative methods of the ordinary school. The greatest teacher the world has seen, said, "Except ye become as that little child, ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven." Bring the child into the presence of nature and stand aside. Allow the child to interpret nature's lessons for himself. His interpretations will in many cases be wrong, as yours were in childhood and still are; but he will derive advantage from his own personal investigation. It is all a question of personality. The speaker described, among other very interesting forest anecdotes, a "Caribou School" in which mother caribou were teaching their young the social regulations of the family—how to jump fallen trees—to be kind to their companions and above all to follow without hesitation their leader under all circumstances. Nothing is more interesting than Mr. Long's descriptions of nature, her wonders and lessons could be possible. It was certainly a revelation in natural science to the large audience that for over an hour listened intently to him.

The closing address of the institute was delivered by Doctor McRobb, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia. Dr. MacRoy pointed out a few of the tendencies in modern education. He referred to the great value of the United States, bureau of education, and the desirability of a similar institution for the Dominion. If we couldn't get it from Ottawa he would be ready to co-operate with Washington. He referred to the tendency in favor of education on an industrial basis, and pointed out how it could directly from the best basis for the professional and even literary classes. He concluded with a few complimentary allusions to eminent educationists present and to their work, and to the good effects of such international gatherings, concluding with the poet's words:—

"Better lo'ed ye canna be,
Will ye no come back again?"

PERSONAL.

Councillor Brown went to St. John today.

Mr. Stramberg, of New York, is visiting Mrs. S. Lowe.

Mrs. James Gillan and two children, arrived in Charlottetown from Boston last night.

Mr. Alex. Martin, M. P., and Mr. J. H. Bell, M. P., returned from Ottawa last night.

Captain Colville, of the Crescent, and a party of officers, went to Morell yesterday afternoon.

Mr. J. Martin, of the Canada Paper Company, Montreal, is among the latest arrivals at the Davies.

Mrs. W. T. Huggan will be "at home" to her friends on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ashton Preston arrived in Charlottetown last night. They spent the winter in Montreal.

Mr. Alex. McDonald, Miss Nellie McDonald and Miss Edith Dutcher, crossed to the mainland by the Northumberland today.

Mr. Allen Sinclair, of this city, intending leaving for the Northwest on Monday morning where he will remain for a few months.

Mr. W. J. Farrand, of the Canadian Drug Company, was a passenger by the Princess this morning.

Mr. B. Trainor, of the Post office Department, who has been on a holiday trip to Boston and other cities of the United States, returned to Charlottetown last evening.

Rev. A. N. Simpson, of Southport, will exchange pulpits with Rev. R. F. Whiston, of Charlottetown, tomorrow. Mr. Whiston has been preaching at Cross Roads during the past week.

The Montreal Witness publishes a list of those who have passed the examination required for entrance to McGill University. In medicine we notice the name of Mr. Angus B. Mackenzie, of Kensington, P. E. Island.

Miss Penzie Partridge, daughter of Mr. John Partridge, Royalty East, left the city yesterday with her parents, for Minneapolis. Previously Miss Partridge had taken an excellent course in shorthand and typewriting at the P. E. I. Commercial College, under Principal Oxenham, and made such satisfactory progress as to fit herself for a good position awaiting her in the land of her adoption. Our best wishes go with her and her relatives who accompany her.

Local and Other Items

THE PROBS.—Moderate southwest and west winds; fine. Sunday—Moderate to fresh west winds; fine and warm.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH.—Mrs. (Dr.) Bayfield will sing during the offertory at the First Methodist Church tomorrow evening.

BAND MUSIC.—The band from the Crescent is coming ashore this afternoon, and will probably play in Queen Square Gardens.

TEA AT HAMPTON.—Between two and three hundred people left Charlottetown by the Jacques Cartier this morning to attend the tea at Hampton.

ZION CHURCH PICNIC.—When? Thursday 19 inst. Where? Birch Grove. Freetown. Don't forget the place—Train leaves at 9 o'clock local time. Tickets 30c.

POLICE COURT.—This morning W. McGregor was fined \$2 or 10 days for drunkenness. Frank Nelson, for assault and battery, was fined five cents and costs.

SAILORS' CHURCH PARADE.—One hundred and fifty men from H. M. S. Tribune will parade to-morrow morning to attend the eleven o'clock service in St. Paul's Church.

ZERA SEMON.—Powell the Wizard, under the management of Zera Semon, popular with Charlottetown audiences, will be at the Opera House on Tuesday evening beginning a three night engagement.

A VALUABLE CARGO.—The City of Ghent, which arrived at Summerside yesterday morning, took from there to Halifax a \$13,000 cargo, consisting of 1000 cases of lobsters shipped by Mr. R. T. Holman to Great Britain, 1600 bags of oats and potatoes, besides hay and sundries.

GOLD MEDAL.—The medal presented by Mr. G. F. Beer to Prince Street School for "Current Events," won by Miss May Cotton, has been received. The medal is of gold, is star-shaped and very neatly chased. It is pleasing to note the continued interest in the schools of Charlottetown taken by Mr. Beer notwithstanding his removal from the province.

FOR THE CHARLOTTETOWN HOSPITAL.—The lady friends of the Charlottetown Hospital intend having an after tea and garden social on the beautiful grounds of St. Augustin's College on Tuesday and Wednesday 24th and 25th of July. There will be tea, refreshments and ice cream tables, also dancing and lots of amusements. Don't fail to attend, as the ladies are determined to make this the grandest event of the season. Don't forget the dates, 24th and 25th inst.

BALL AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. McIntyre entertained a large party at Government House last evening, including Admiral Sir Frederick Bedford and Lady Bedford, and officers of the Majesty's ships in port, the Premier Farquharson, His Worship the Mayor, Mrs. Warburton, Judge Warburton, Attorney General and Mrs. McKinnon, many other citizens of Charlottetown. The music by a detachment of the band of H. M. S. Ship Crescent was excellent and dancing was kept up until an early hour this morning.

K. of P.—A. Macbeth, Deputy Grand Chancellor, assisted by Brothers G. J. Lane and J. L. Thomson, acting Grand Prelate and Grand Master-at-Arms, last evening installed the following officers of Empire Lodge, K. of P.:
Chan. Com.—A. G. Peake.
Vice Chan.—A. J. McLean.
Prelate—M. McLeod.
Master of the Work—F. P. Newson.
Keeper of the Records and Seal and M. of F.—J. H. Williams.
Master of Exchequer—F. S. Jost.
Master at Arms—J. W. Sutherland.
Inner Guard—Geo. Worthy.
Outer Guard—Frank Smallwood.
Tourists who wish to take in the beauties of our Island should go to Zion Church S. S. Picnic, Thursday 19th, at Freetown. Train leaves at 9 o'clock a. m. Tickets 30 cents.

MEET ME AT THE ALWAYS BUSY STORE.

New Black Blister Cloth at Stanley Bros

We have just opened a very fine assortment of Black Fancy Dress Goods.

They are the newest patterns in high grade goods, and the price is 10 to 20 per cent lower than usual.

Prices Range From 80c To \$1.90 PER YARD

STANLEY BROS

It Pays to Buy at Perkins'.

Good Cashmere Hose

32 Cents per pair.

F. PERKINS & CO

THE MILLINERY LEADERS.

Furnishing News For Saturday

We pride ourselves in showing the largest and noblest lot of neckwear in the city.

We have them at any price from 2c to 75c

Another strong line with us is our Shirts.

White and colored shirts, soft outing shirts collars attached, silk front shirts. See our double thread Balbriggan Underclothing, 85c per suit.

Extra bargains every Saturday night, Store open until 11 p. m.

Gordon & McLellan

..... Men's Stylish Outfitters.

A New Lot of Fishing Gear

has just been received at **Hughe's** Apothecaries' Hall.

Pretty Rings.

We have provided for the demands of fashion and display as fine an assortment of rings as was ever shown in the city.

Every dainty setting and combination is to be found in our collection—and end of style to.

As to price, simply a question of what you wish to pay, for we have rings from \$1.00 to \$50.00.

W. W. Wellner
Jeweller & Engraver.

SPECIAL

Blouses
The balance of our spring stock.
50 per cent off.

Ladies Capes
Every cap must go at
50 per cent off.

Ladies Hats
The balance of our stock.
50 per cent off.

Summer Dress Muslins
If you want a pretty dress now is your chance.
33 1-3 per cent off.

Dress Lengths
We have 16 Dresses left you can have your choice at HALF PRICE.
We have many other bargains but cannot mention them at present.

WEEKS & CO.
THE PEOPLE'S STORE.
BARGAIN STORE.

Try our Soda Water.

Only the purest fruit juices used, fresh cream and soda with a good "snap" to it.

5 cents.

Johnson & Johnson
DRUGGISTS