PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
AT BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

TOGETHER WITH
The Constitution,
AND
THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST MEETING,
OF THE
BRIDGEWATER NORMAL ASSOCIATION.

HELD AUGUST 20TH, 1845.

PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

UNION!

BOSTON:
PRINTED BY DAVID CLAPP, JR.
184 Washington Street.
1845.
PROCEEDINGS, &c.

The graduates and students of the State Normal School at Bridgewater, assembled in the School-room, according to notice, on Wednesday morning, August 20th, 1845, for the purpose of holding their Fourth Annual Convention.

The Meeting was called to order by A. Conant, Chairman of the Committee of Invitation, and organized temporarily, by the choice of James E. Leach as Chairman, and John A. Goodwin as Secretary.

It was then voted that the subject of a proposed Association of Normalites, be laid before the Convention; thereupon a Committee previously chosen for the purpose by the Scholars of the School, submitted a Report, and also a plan of a Constitution for such an Association. The Report was accepted, and the Convention voted to form an Association in the manner proposed by the Committee. The reported Constitution was then taken up, article by article, and after much discussion, was adopted. The Association then organized by the choice of the following officers, for the year ensuing:

James E. Leach, President.
A. Conant, B. Burt, Jr., E. G. French, Vice Presidents.
John A. Goodwin, H. A. Pratt, Secretaries.
M. C. Bryant, Treasurer.

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After the transaction of some miscellaneous business, the private session closed; the teachers of the School, accompanied by the invited guests, having entered the meeting, Mr. Tillinghast, the Principal, then addressed the Association for some time upon the Teacher's profession. Mr. T.'s remarks were in his usual dignified, feeling, and impressive manner, and showed the sincere friend, the faithful and affectionate teacher, and the almost paternal love bestowed by him upon his pupils. Our limits forbid our giving even a synopsis of this address; those of our brothers and sisters that were absent, lost that which would have infinitely rewarded them for the trouble and expense they might have incurred by being present. Mr. Morton, of Plymouth, succeeded Mr. T., and occupied the floor until 12 o'clock, at which time the Association and its guests formed in procession, under the direction of N. F. C. Pratt, marshal for the day, and proceeded around the public square to the commodious and elegant Town Hall, and there partook of an abundant collation, provided by the members and their friends. Before proceeding to discuss the good things upon the tables, grace was invoked by Rev. Mr. Colby. An interesting part of the feast was the cutting and distribution of the "Normal Cake," which was furnished by the same kind friend as formerly. After the physical appetites of the company had been satisfied, Mr. Tillinghast, who presided at the table, gave the following toast: "Common Schools—may they be like the common air, all-embracing in extent, and life-giving in quality."

Mr. Morton having responded to the sentiment, Mr. T. remarked that although we were sound protestants, there was a Pope present, from whom we should like a "bull." Rev. Mr. Pope, of Kingston, then made a few happy remarks upon his school-boy days, and after paying a compliment to his former teacher, Mr. Thayer, of Boston, who was present, concluded with the following: "Corporal punishment—the lowest officer in the educational army—promotion will spoil him." Mr. G. F. Thayer then responded to the toast of his pupil, and proceeded to speak at considerable length upon the "lights and shades" of the Teacher's profession; he concluded with the following:—"Common Schools—may they become so good as to supersede all others." At Mr. Mann's plate was a card on which were two roses, one in bud, the other in blossom. Mr. Tillinghast gave as a sentiment, "Hon. Horace Mann; he has seen the Normal Schools in the bud—may he yet behold them in full bloom." Mr. Mann responded to this call, in a powerful and felicitous manner; he spoke of the commencement of the Normal School at Bridgewater—of the many difficulties it had to encounter, and of the uncertainty then felt, as to its being sustained by the people; he then spoke of his visit to the Museum in Glasgow—said he, "I there saw the first steam-engine that James Watt made; I looked upon the rough, uncouth machine, and examined its rude, unfinished wheels, rods and screws; then thought of the many essential improvements that had been made upon it—then of the mighty effects of the steam-engine—that it had ploughed the waters of every sea with commerce—that it had spread civilization and industry, through many lands, and that it had almost revolutionized the world; and as I did so, I could not help saying, who knows but this may be the glorious destiny of the Normal Schools." Mr. Mann spoke for some time further; his remarks were received with great attention, and interrupted, from time to time, by enthusiastic applause. Mr. Pope next gave the following.
to the improvement of his race. A Committee, consisting of Messrs. H. Willey, C. Leonard, G. W. Beal, G. A. Walton, and S. S. Wilson, appointed for the purpose of drafting resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, then reported the following, which were adopted.

1. That the objects to be attained in Education, are, the development of all the powers, moral, physical and intellectual; preparation for the active duties of life; and the advancement of the race towards the perfection of all its faculties.

2. That Moral Education possesses the highest claims, and demands the first place in every system; and although home is the appropriate place for instilling moral sentiments into the youthful mind, yet the school presents opportunities of inculcating virtuous feelings, which Teachers should not neglect; every occasion should be embraced of impressing a sense of justice, a love of truth, a spirit of self-denial, and a hatred of all that is low and dishonorable; and the Teacher, in his daily intercourse with his pupils, should commend these principles to them, by the uprightness of his own life.

3. That in educating the intellect, the pupil should be taught to discover, rather than to repeat; his reasoning powers should be cultivated; his curiosity aroused; he should be so taught as to delight in every new acquisition, and ever to desire fresh attainments; in short, he should be made a man, and not a machine.

4. That training should be combined with instruction, and the pupil's knowledge be impressed upon his mind by frequent repetition, so that he shall not be at a loss to apply it when necessary, to the practical business of life.

5. That good discipline is essential to the success of a school, and must be preserved. Those higher motives of our
nature, which exist freshest in the hearts of children, should be appealed to in governing them; and the great aim of the Teacher should be to accomplish this with the least possible resort to bodily punishment.

6. That Physical Education has been too much neglected; and that the penalty which inevitably awaits the violation of the physical laws may be avoided, those laws should be made a prominent subject of study.

7. That a knowledge of the Laws and Institutions of his country is peculiarly important to the American citizen; and therefore the study of them should be introduced into our schools, and such instruction given as will enable a freeman to perform his duties, and take his part in the administration of government, in an enlightened manner.

8. That we regard as a defect in our system of public Education, the absence of a regular gradation of schools; that, if we would receive the full advantages of them, such a gradation is necessary; and that we hope the time is not far distant when a system shall be adopted, which will enable every pupil to advance regularly from the lowest to the highest stages, and to fit himself for any pursuit.

9. That the importance of general information to the Teacher cannot be too highly estimated; he should not be satisfied with the mere pursuit of school studies, but should “scout far and wide” into the realms of knowledge; he should embrace every opportunity of increasing the stores of his mind, and of enlarging his views; since by so doing he will become better fitted to discharge his duties, and will contribute to exalt his vocation.

10. That we cannot entertain a low opinion of our profession; we regard it as a high and holy one, involving great responsibilities, and requiring much preparation; and holding these opinions, we are resolved by patient labor, and fidelity in the discharge of our duties, to procure for our calling that respect which it merits; and though we may not “win the world’s applause,” we hope to secure the consciousness of having faithfully discharged our duty, and of having contributed to our country’s welfare.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, the resolutions were but partially debated. The discussion was as follows:

2d. Advocated by H. Willey and S. S. Wilson, and opposed by J. Morehead, Jr.

6th. Advocated by D. P. Colburn, and illustrated with incidents from the diary of a Normal Teacher in his own town (Dedham).

7th. Advocated by Messrs. J. A. Goodwin and M. C. Bryant in a humorous style.

9th. Advocated by H. Willey, D. P. Colburn and J. A. Goodwin; opposed by E. Clapp.

The other resolutions were adopted, with little or no debate. It was then, on the motion of Mr. Morehead, Voted, That the thanks of the Association be presented to the Hon. John Davis, of Boston, for his recent useful and munificent present to our Normal School, of a copy of the London Encyclopedia.

Voted, That the Secretaries transmit a copy of the above vote to Judge Davis.

The President then mentioned that Mr. David B. Tower had presented the Association with copies of his Gradual Reader and The Intellectual Algebra, and that a liberal discount would (at any time) be made to any of the members who might wish to obtain them for their schools. The regular meeting of the Association, then adjourned until the third Wednesday of August, 1846.
PREAMBLE.

The State Normal School at Bridgewater, being now permanently established, it is desirable that the graduates and scholars of the institution should effect a more perfect organization than has hitherto existed. It is believed that an Association, embracing the advantages of a "Corresponding Society," a "Teachers' Institute," and a "Social Gathering," of all who have been, or may become members of this school, would give permanence to the friendships here formed, would strengthen the attachment of its members to the duties of their calling, and in many ways be an important auxiliary to the cause of Common School Education. For the promotion of these objects, we, the graduates and scholars of the Normal School, in convention assembled, hereby form an Association, and agree to be governed by the following

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1st. This Association shall be called the Bridgewater Normal Association.

Art. 2d. The Officers of this Association shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, and a Treasurer; and these Officers shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Art. 3d. This Association shall hold a meeting at Bridgewater, Mass., annually, on the third Wednesday of August, for the purposes of transacting business, hearing addresses, and of discussing questions relating to Education.

Art. 4th. These Officers shall be chosen annually, and shall perform the duties usually incumbent on such Officers, together with those hereinafter specified.

Art. 5th. All the graduates and scholars of the State Normal School at Bridgewater, shall be considered members of the Association.

Art. 6th. It shall be the duty of the members to communicate to the Executive Committee, their names, places of residence, the P. O. address of themselves and of their parents, and the length of time they have taught school.

Art. 7th. They shall also communicate by letter to the Committee annually in June, their address at that time; whether they have been engaged in teaching during the past year; if so, in what town and for what time; and such other remarks as they may deem interesting.

Art. 8th. The letters shall be written on post paper of ordinary size, having margins at the top, bottom and sides of each page, of at least an inch in width; they shall be unsealed, enclosed in a sealed envelope, and directed (post-paid in all cases) "Committee of Normal Association, Bridgewater, Mass."

Art. 9th. Any member who neglects these requisitions any year, shall not be entitled to an abstract of the letters received that year, should one be printed.

Art. 10th. The Executive Committee shall cause the information received, in accordance with the provisions of the sixth article, to be recorded; also the terms of the members' attendance at the Normal School, and the date of the record.

Art. 11th. The Committee shall cause the letters of each year to be bound in alphabetical order, with a list of the writers' names annexed, and to be deposited in the Library of the Normal School.

Art. 12th. The Executive Committee shall call a meeting of the Normal School, within a week after the commencement of the Fall term, for the purpose of choosing a
Committee of Arrangements for the Annual Meeting; they shall also attend to all arrangements necessary, prior to the choice of said Committee of Arrangements.

Art. 12th. This Constitution may be amended by vote of a majority of the members present at the Annual Meeting.

JAMES E. LEACH, President.
ALBERT CONANT, V. President.
BENJ. BURT, Jr., "
E. G. FRENCH, "
JOHN A. GOODWIN, Secretary.
HIRAM A. PRATT, "
MERTON C. BRYANT, Treasurer.

Executive Committee.

In the evening a social gathering of the Normalites took place in the Town Hall; the first part of the evening was spent in friendly conversation, promenading, singing, renewing former acquainances, and talking of "Auld Lang Syne." All was joy and hilarity, and many a peal of merry laughter rang from circles, whose members had not met since they parted the year before, in the shade of their "Alma Mater." The songs and hymns, which enlivened the first classes of the Normal School, were again sung; the absent brothers and sisters were fondly remembered; and those who had passed "that bourne from which no traveller returns," were often mentioned with sadness and affection. At 8 o'clock the company partook of a collation, provided from the remains of the previous repast, after which, remarks were made and sentiments given, of which the following is a brief notice. "Mr. Tillinghast; may he never have reason to feel ashamed of his Sons and Daughters." Mr. T. in responding to this sentiment, took occasion to call the attention of his former pupils to the present condition of the school, and the inconvenient building occu-
pied by it; he said that his opinion, ever since his connection with the institution, had been, that with a suitable edifice for the use of the school, the instruction given in it would be double the value to the pupils, as at present; that a sum of money had been appropriated by the Board of Education for the purpose of erecting a school-house, but it had proved insufficient, from $500 to $1000 being necessary in addition; and concluded by suggesting to those present, the raising of a small amount by each person, by subscription or otherwise, to assist in supplying the deficiency. Mr. Greene, Assistant Teacher of the school, being called upon, made a few appropriate remarks, and gave an amusing and instructive recitation. Mr. Ritchie, former Assistant Teacher, and at present, Preceptor of the Partridge Academy, Duxbury, then addressed the company very eloquently upon the Teacher's life and duties; after remarking that "Normal" meant true, he gave, "Though all our friends may not be Normalites, may all our friendships be Normal." Mr. Rodman, also a former Assistant Teacher, then responded to the following toast, "Although much has been said against Corporal punishment to-day, we have heard no Rod-man;" his remarks were upon the maxims of Roger Ascham, and were very spirited and elegant. The Asst. Teachers of the W. Newton school, Miss Tilden and Miss Lincoln, being present, the following toast was given and enthusiastically applauded; "Our Sisters of W. Newton, we tender them the love of Normalites." The following were given and responded to by the members of the Association. "Our President; may he prove to the body politic, a faithful and skilful 'leech.' " "Our first Vice President; may he prove as worthy an example for imitation as his name-sake the 'cone ant.'" "Our first Secretary—
in gaining him we have made a 'good win.'" "The B.
Y. M. Lyceum: concomitant with the Normal School, may
it grow with its growth, and strengthen with its strength." "The
profession of Teaching; let us elevate it, and it will
elevate us." "Friendship and Union; may these be the
only 'secret signs' Normalites may ever need." Many
remarks were made and other toasts offered, but we are
unable to give them; those who were present heard for
themselves.

Union Forever!

Note.—The 8th Article of the Constitution, prescribes
the minuteness of the letter writing and folding, in order that
the letters may be bound together in one volume, and that
the outer edges may not be torn by seals and wafers. These
reasons render it necessary that the directions should be
strictly obeyed.

Respectfully and Normally,

The Executive Committee.