

**THE JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE NATIONAL TEACHERS '  
ASSOCIATION, HELD IN BUFFALO, N.  
Y., AUGUST 8, 9 AND 10, 1860**

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The Journal of the Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting of the National Teachers ' Association, held in Buffalo, N. Y., august 8, 9 and 10, 1860 by Various

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## PROCEEDINGS.

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### AMERICAN HALL,

BUFFALO, N. Y., August 8, 1860.

In consequence of an arrangement made with the American Normal School Association, the National Teachers' Association assembled in the American Hall, at 3 o'clock, p. m.

The Association was called to order by the President, J. W. Bulkley, Esq.

As an address of welcome had been delivered by his Honor the Mayor, to the Association in connection with the Normal Association, which convened the day previous, and was responded to by the President, further ceremonies were omitted.

By request, the Constitution of the Association was read by the Secretary.

On motion, Mr. Pomroy, of Buffalo, was chosen Local and Assistant Secretary, for registering names, and for receiving applicants for membership.

The President then delivered his inaugural address, in which he gave a clear and impressive explanation of the objects and mission of this Association.

On motion of Mr. Roberts, of Penn., the thanks of the Association were unanimously tendered to the President for his address; and a copy solicited for publication in the educational journals.

A communication was received and read, from Wellington Meech, inviting the members of the Association to attend the Theater, to see the grand spectacle of Faustus, at half the usual price of admission; which, on motion, was laid upon the table.

On motion of Mr. Stone, of Illinois, a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Stone, of Ill., Crosby, of Mass., and Wells, of Chicago, to consider and report upon the several topics embraced in the President's address.

On motion of Mr. Sheldon, of Mass., a committee for nominating officers for the ensuing year was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Sheldon, of Mass., Nestlerode, of Iowa, Edwards, of Missouri,

Phelps, of Conn., Phelps, of New Jersey, Stone, of Illinois, and Gildersleeve, of New York.

Mr. Phelps, of New Jersey, offered the following resolution, in relation to *Barnard's American Journal of Education*:

*Resolved, 1st.* That we hereby express our high appreciation of *Barnard's American Journal of Education*, as the most complete and comprehensive educational periodical that is published in the English language.

*2nd.* That the teachers of the country owe it alike to their own elevation and improvement, and to the general advancement of education, to give this journal their most hearty co-operation and support.

*3d.* That we can and will raise a list of one hundred new subscribers to the Journal at our present meeting.

The resolutions were ably discussed, and heartily concurred in by Messrs. Phelps, of New Jersey, Northrop, of Mass., McJilton, of Maryland, W. H. Wells, of Illinois, McElligott, of New-York, Richards, of Washington City, Wickersham, of Penn., Sawyer, of S. C., Ansoerge, of Mass., Henckle, of Ohio, and Philbrick, of Boston, and adopted.

A dispatch was received from Schenectady, dated Aug. 8th, to the following effect:

"The New-York State Sabbath School Teachers' Association sends greeting to the National Teachers' Association, now in session in Buffalo; and would rejoice in being permitted to acknowledge your members as fellow-members and laborers in the great work of the moral education of the children and youth of our land. We respectfully tender our best wishes for the largest measure of success to attend the deliberations of your body. Unanimously adopted.

"ALONZO C. PAIGE, *President of the Convention.*"

The Association authorized the President and Secretary to return a suitable response.

The Association adjourned to 7½ o'clock, p. m.

#### EVENING, 7½ P. M.

The session was called to order by the President.

Mr. Cruikshank, chairman of a committee appointed at the last session, to prepare a system of By-Laws and Rules of Order, made the following report:

"That, in view of a series of resolutions, adopted by the Board of Directors, subsequent to the adjournment of the last meeting of the Association; one of which looked toward the division of the Association into two departments, the Pedagogic and the General; and the appointment of committees to prepare a programme for the present meeting, in consonance with such division; your committee have felt at liberty to neglect the duty assigned them, of preparing specific rules, until the result of the resolution referred to, should indicate more clearly, the precise nature and extent of the labor required of them. They ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

"Respectfully submitted,

"JAMES CRUIKSHANK, } *Committee.*  
"A. GREENLEAF, }

The report having been read, on motion of Mr. Richards, the committee were continued, and requested to report next year.

According to arrangement, Prof. Edward North, of Hamilton Col-

lege, N. Y., delivered a highly interesting and classic address, upon "The Scholarship of Shakspeare." The following report was taken from the Buffalo *Express*:

"Its object was to refute the prevalent impression that the great English dramatist reached his high place in literature without the aid of classical culture. It was held to be unjust and unfraternal for scholars to exclude Shakspeare from their number, or to allow him to be excluded. Such an exclusion need not injure the cause of classical education, but the demands of historical truth would not permit it. As for the opponents of classical education, when they planted themselves on the assertion that Shakspeare was with them, they committed a blunder as stupid as that of Sinbad's crew, in mistaking a whale's back for an island.

"Prof North's argument for the scholarship of Shakspeare was based on the social position of his family, the known particulars of his life, and the character of his works. During the boyhood of Shakspeare, his father held honorable offices in the borough of Stratford. It is on record, in the College of Heralds, that a coat of arms was conferred on him. Still more ancient and reputable was the family of his mother, a beautiful and gifted woman, in whom her grateful boy no doubt worshipped a fairer prototype of each heroine that wins our homage in his matchless dramas. The inference is easy that the parents would wish to see their son educated as were the sons of other families in the same social rank. This would imply thorough instruction in Greek and Latin, especially in Latin, which was used in the keeping of public records, discussing religious and political questions, and often in ordinary correspondence. If Shakspeare went to school at all, he must have sat on the Latin form, and gone through the Greek gradus with the other boys. It is positively certain that Shakspeare was sent to the free school at Stratford. He was probably kept there until the age of fourteen, when his father's pecuniary losses may have caused his withdrawal from school, but not necessarily from study and reading at home. At fourteen, Shakspeare may have had a good knowledge of Latin and Greek. Why not? when we know that Lord Bacon was entered at Cambridge in his thirteenth year, and that Goethe, at eight years, wrote French, Italian, Latin and Greek with grace and correctness. Compared with Shakspeare, Pope's genius was but a rush-light; yet at fourteen he had distinguished himself by his translations from Statius and Sappho. According to Aubrey's statement, Shakspeare undertook the instruction of youth after he became the husband of the notorious Aune Hathaway. This, again, would imply that he was versed in the ancient languages, for they were taught in all the public schools. Whenever Shakspeare introduces a schoolmaster on the stage, he never fails to be liberal in quoting Latin phrases.

"But the best proof of Shakspeare's classical attainments is found in his choice of subjects for dramatic writing, and in his manner of treating them. Hardly an English author can be named, whose uses of classic fable, imagery and phrase are more frequent, pertinent and felicitous. As there was nothing in the tastes of a miscellaneous audience making it imperative that his illustrations should be taken from Greek and Latin, we are bound to conclude that his selection was determined by the character of his previous studies.

"Ben. Johnson's assertion that Shakspeare had 'small Latin and less Greek,' was next disposed of. Johnson was intimate with Shakspeare, and his statement cannot be set aside as altogether untrue. The expression is vague and indefinite. It compels us to believe that Shakspeare had *some* knowledge of the classics. If he was ignorant of Greek, it would have been as easy for Johnson to have said 'no Greek,' as 'less Greek.' The truth probably is that Johnson, himself a prodigy of learning, and inclined to be jealous, thought his friend's attainments inconsiderable, simply because they were much less than his own.

"The lecturer closed with an apology for giving only a partial view of 'the most august of created intellects.' In looking at 'the many-sided' as a scholar, he had aimed to bring into view a part of the *polyhedron* not often exposed to scrutiny, yet one frequent in openings to curious speculation and useful research. Such inquiries help to enlarge and brighten the exceeding glory of Shakspeare.



They help to make sure his hearty recognition as the favorite poet of human orders and conditions, of the learned and the unlettered, the rich and the penniless, the gay and the sad.

"The address, of which this synopsis conveys but a feeble idea, was singularly ingenious, graceful and eloquent. Professor North has a mind stored with the golden fruit of patient and industrious research, a fancy particularly rich and prolific, and a command of language that is as remarkable as it is felicitous. He is, at once, the cultivated scholar, the finished rhetorician, the elegant writer, and the unconscious poet. We only regret that our space prevents us from doing something like justice to the man and his effort. His address last evening was listened to with the closest and most delighted attention, and won for him the pleasant reward of cordial applause, as well as a universal sentiment of praise."

After a recess of five minutes, Anson G. Chester, Esq., of the Buffalo *Express*, read a poem of much merit, entitled "The Gods." The Association adjourned.

## SECOND DAY.

### THURSDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

The Association met according to adjournment; and was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Wilbur, of Buffalo. The minutes of the preceding day were read and approved.

Communications were read, from Prof. Daniel Reed, of Wisconsin, D. B. Hagar, of Massachusetts, and E. A. Holyoke, Secretary of the Kentucky Association of Teachers, inviting the members of this Association to visit the Mammoth Cave with them, under liberal arrangements. The communications were referred to the Board of Directors.

The Local Committee, through Mr. Arey, reported that they had made arrangements for an excursion to Niagara Falls, by the Delegates, on Friday or Saturday, by Boat or by Railroad. After some discussion, the Association concluded that its business was of too much importance to lay it aside for pleasure, and it was concluded to go on Saturday morning, at 9 o'clock, after closing up the business of the Convention.

A communication from Mr. C. S. Pennell, of Missouri, with his Report on School Statistics, was referred to the Committee on Statistics.

Mr. O. C. Wight, of Washington, D. C., from the sub-committee of the Board on new members, recommended the following persons as members; who were duly received, viz:

Charles H. Allen, Wisconsin; F. A. Sawyer, Charleston, S. C.; L. C. Grovenor, Mass.; E. A. Lawrence, Penn.; S. H. White, Illinois; Wm. F. Phelps, New Jersey; John Basil, Jr., Baltimore, Md.; S. H. Wiley, N. C.; S. L. Rugg, Ind.; James Marrie, Ohio; D. F. Wells, Iowa City; E. Danforth, Mich.; R. S. Fielden, S. C.; D. N. Camp, Conn.; E. F. Wood, Mass.; G. F. Phelps, Conn.; W. H. Wells, Chicago; W. Johnson, Maine; C. H. Gildersleeve, Buffalo; J. N. McElligott, New York City; E. P. Weston, Maine; Richard Edwards, St. Louis; Edward P. Stone, Woburn, Mass.; W. H. Lewis, Mo.; Heman Perry, Mich.; F. L. Griswold, Ill.; B. G. Northrop, Mass.; J. C. Pelton, California; Prof. E. North, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York.

The regular subject for discussion was taken up, viz: "Oral In-

struction and the proper use of Text Books." The discussion was opened by Mr. Ansorge, of Mass.; and thoroughly considered by Messrs. Stowitz, of N. Y., Sawyer, of S. C., E. P. Stone, of Mass., A. Greenleaf, of Brooklyn, Northrop, of Mass., Marvin, of Ohio, Webster, of Rochester, and Dr. McJilton, of Baltimore.

After a recess of five minutes, at 11 o'clock, Prof. Richard Edwards, of St. Louis, Mo., delivered an able and deeply interesting address, on "Our Professional Ancestry."

On motion of Dr. McJilton, the thanks of the Association were tendered to Prof. Edwards, and a copy requested for publication.

Adjourned till afternoon.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The convention re-assembled, according to adjournment.

On motion, the Association accepted the invitation of the friends of the North Presbyterian Church, to occupy their house for the evening session, and lecture by Prof. Youmans.

On motion of Mr. Richards, a committee for preparing the usual closing resolutions, was appointed by the chair: Messrs Phelps, of New Jersey, McElligott, of New York, and Northrop, of Mass.

The subject for discussion, viz: "Adult Education," was taken up in order.

The discussion was ably opened by Mr. Sheldon, of Mass., who considered Lyceums and public lectures as among the most important means for educating the masses of adults, who have not enjoyed the proper means of early training. He further considered it the duty of educators, to take the lead in providing suitable means for the intellectual improvement of adults.

Prof. Thompson, of New York, referred to the system of evening schools, which had been successfully adopted in that city.

Gen. H. K. Oliver, of Lawrence, Mass., spoke of the means for adult education in the city of his residence. He said that *night schools* were in successful operation during the past winter; and he thought that such were the most promising means for *adult* education; and he urged upon teachers and the friends of universal education the importance and claims of these instrumentalities.

The time having arrived for the special order of the session, Mr. W. H. Wells, Superintendent of Schools in Chicago, delivered a highly interesting and valuable address, upon "The Philosophy of Education."

On motion, the thanks of the Association were tendered, and a copy requested for publication.

Prof. Phelps, of New Jersey, presented a series of resolutions, in memory of the late Paul Farnum, of Beverly, N. J., which were as follows:

*Whereas*, It has pleased the Great Dispenser of events to remove from the scene of his earthly labors, that noble hearted citizen, and generous patron of education, Paul Farnum, Esq., of New Jersey, therefore,

*Resolved*, That this Association will ever cherish with profound reverence, the

memory of one, who, when living, manifested so deep an interest in the highest welfare of the rising generation.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Farnum, by his generous donation of fifty thousand dollars to aid the cause of Normal Schools in our country, contributed most powerfully to the elevation of our noble profession; and entitled himself to the lasting gratitude of all who acknowledge the immortal worth of sound moral and intellectual culture.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this Association be directed to forward to the family of the deceased, a copy of these resolutions, as an expression of our sympathy with them, in their sad bereavement, and of our high appreciation of the character and services of the lamented dead.

Appropriate and interesting remarks were made by Prof. Phelps, Gen. H. K. Oliver and Mr. Northrop, of Mass., and Dr. McJilton, of Baltimore. The resolutions were adopted, by a standing vote.

Prof. Thompson, of New York, offered the following resolutions, supplementary to the discussion upon Adult Education, which were passed:

*Resolved*, That the education of Adults, who, from any cause, have been deprived of its blessings, in their earlier days, is a subject worthy the attention and sympathy of all teachers, and friends of humanity.

*Resolved*, That we heartily commend the formation of *adult classes*, in connection with evening schools, to the attention and co-operation of School Committees, Boards of Education and Philanthropists, in all our large towns and cities, where such persons are usually found.

The Committee on Nomination of officers for the ensuing year made the following report, in which they recommend the following ticket:

*President,*

JOHN D. PHILBRICK, Boston, Massachusetts.

*Vice Presidents,*

WM. ROBERTS, Philadelphia, Pa.,	WM. F. PHELPS, Trenton, N. J.,
G. F. PHELPS, New Haven, Conn.,	C. C. NESTLERODE, Tipton, Iowa,
ISAAC STONE, Ottawa, Ill.,	E. McMILLAN, Salem, Ohio,
C. S. PENNELL, St. Louis, Mo.,	JAS. G. ELIOTT, Faison's, N. C.,
C. H. ALLEN, Madison, Wis.,	Z. RICHARDS, Washington, D. C.,
J. N. MCJILTON, Baltimore, Md.,	CHAR. ANSORGE, Dorchester, Mass.

*Secretary,*

JAMES CRUIKSHANK, Albany, New York.

*Treasurer,*

O. C. WIGHT, Washington, D. C.

*Councillors,*

WM. H. WELLS, Chicago, Ill.,	W. E. SHELDON, West Newton, Mass.,
C. H. GILBERTSLEVE, Buffalo, N. Y.,	W. D. HENKLE, Lebanon, Ohio,
E. J. BRODIE, Philadelphia, Pa.,	F. A. SAWYER, Charleston, S. C.,
DAVID N. CAMP, New Britain, Conn.,	J. ESCOBAR, Chihuahua, Mexico,
R. EDWARDS, St. Louis, Mo.,	D. MCN. TURNER, Tallahassee, Fla.,
T. C. TAYLOR, Wilmington, Del.,	J. C. PELTON, San Francisco, Cal.,
S. SCOTT, Alexandria, Va.,	D. F. WELLS, Iowa City, Iowa,
S. H. WILEY, Salisbury, N. C.,	E. DANFORTH, Grand Rapids, Mich.,
E. P. WESTON, Gorbam, Me.,	J. BARK, Jr., Baltimore, Md.

The President appointed as tellers, Messrs. Northrop, Stowitz and Grosvenor.