

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

During Thursday and Friday, February 2 and 3, the Teachers' Institute of Essex County was in session in the Methodist Church of Island Pond. It was largely attended by teachers from the county and by the townspeople. Among these present distinguished for their interest in State Education were M. S. Stone, State Supt. of Education, and Edward Conant, Principal of State Normal School at Randolph. After devotional exercises Thursday a. m., Rev. Geo. O. Howe gave to all present a most cordial welcome. He complimented the profession by his remark that there were two classes of people in the world to whom he would take off his hat—Grand Army men and School Teachers. Special attention was given first to the department in school work of writing and spelling; the discussion was introduced by preliminary remarks from Rev. A. H. Wheeler in the importance in life, financially, of correct spelling and legible handwriting. Many good points on both subjects were brought out in the discussion.

Geography had its place on the programme in the class work of Miss Lorimer; the outline method was illustrated. Mr. Conant's remarks on the teaching of geography were very helpful to all interested in the subject. He strongly recommended the topical method of work.

The subject of History was discussed by Mr. Wallbridge in a very clear and able manner. The aim of all teachers of the subject should be to inspire patriotism and bring out the moral lesson dependent upon the working of the law of cause and effect.

Arithmetic received a large share of the attention Friday a. m. It was taken up in logical order; primary number work was very clearly illustrated by Mrs. Alfred Farmer and her class. Little ones always hold the attention of an audience, and Mrs. Farmer understands how to put them at their ease. Mental Arithmetic was next discussed; the need of more purely mental work was shown, also some devices for interesting the pupils in the work. Miss Percival and class illustrated the method of teaching fractions; the work made even the difficult subject of fractions appear easy. This was followed by an excellent paper on Reading by Miss Goodwin.

Two discussions on Grammar were interesting and valuable. Miss Goodwin with a class gave a practical illustration of work in Syntax, showing the construction of simple, complex and compound sentences. Mr. Stone paid her the compliment of having the best exercise of the kind he had ever seen.

On Friday afternoon Prin. F. L. V. Spaulding of Gorham, N. H., gave a complete analysis and blackboard outline of the verb, which abounded in valuable hints and suggestions.

The more general subjects had their places in the discussions. The subject of Parental Duty and Influence was presented by Mr. Louis Follett in a practical light. He argued that the three essentials to every home where there are children attending the public schools are—Charity towards Teachers; Consideration for them; and Sympathy with them. He also dwelt at length upon the duty of every parent to visit the schools.

The subject of Discipline was presented by Supt. Stone. He showed clearly that he had learned from experience. In his opinion the five essentials to a good teacher are—Common Sense, Good Judgment, Moral Character, Good Health, and Love for the Work.

Mr. Dunbar presented a paper on the New School Law. He gave a good history of the schools in Island Pond and made them serve as a fitting illustration of the advantages of the town system.

The need of Special Training was emphasized with a paper by Mrs. E. M. Bartlett. Mrs. Bartlett regards teaching as both an art and science, and thinks that the Normal School is the best place for studying the science of teaching.

The paper by the County Examiner, Mr. W. D. Parsons, proved that one of the best treats of the Institute was reserved for the end. Mr. Parsons recognizes three kinds of education—the Ornamental, Practical and Disciplinary, and regards the true education as a judicious blending of the three.

The Calisthenics exercise under the direction of Miss Percival was loudly applauded, and justly. By request it was repeated the following day.

The evening lectures were intellectual treats for everybody. Mr. Conant showed that Vermont offered to every citizen an education free from tuition. Mr. Stone's lecture Friday evening was a continuation of the subject—A True Education.

Many "little surprises" were added to the enjoyment of all who attended the Institute. The two

organ recitals by Mr. W. B. Reeve were especially enjoyed. The recitations by some of the scholars took away whatever monotony might have been felt.

The Institute may justly be termed a great success. It was appreciated not only by the teachers present, but by the townspeople as shown by the good attendance at all the sessions. The interest manifested we trust will be long felt for good in the advancement of our schools intellectually and morally.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.
Extract from discourse delivered before The People's Society at Waterbury, Vt., Sunday February 5th by Porter H. Dale.

In the lives of some few men there is so much visible of the divine and the eternal that while they walk the earth with us it would seem as if they might not have to know, like the other men, the change which gives them immortality. As we have not to day to mingle along with our prayer and praise some token of respect for the memory of Phillips Brooks, we wonder at his joyous ambition through years of steady toil, his gentle heart, his happy faith; but when the thought comes that the mighty man moves no more among us, we are mastered by the event. That he whose brain has been a treasury of thought for the Universities of America and England, whose heart was so firmly gentle that all humanity could feel its love and sympathy, whose spiritual sight was so keen that it could pierce beyond all barriers; that he who could lead thousands to victory in the midst of conflicting creeds and hold the love of all men, that he should cease to be in that splendid body now pale and soulless, transcends the power of imagination—there are no words in language to express the pathetic mystery, nor ideas in the mind to think it.

So complex is the mystery of living, so many are the adverse forces, so trying is the task of living even the plainest life with that we come with wonder at truth and nobility preferred throughout it all till the end cometh.

So multifarious are the divisions in church and state, that if a man choose one and therein becomes honored he has achieved success, and when one rises superior to sect or party, beloved alike by each, and in doing revered by all, 'tis marvelous. Phillips Brooks had grand and independent beliefs, but he felt no prejudice towards those from whom he differed, for his sympathies with all sorts and conditions of men hadly back of them the great virtue of charity. There was something so sublime about his thoughts that from the printed page they are full of inspiration, and something so inspiring about his rapid utterance of words that they moved his hearers with more than human force.

Phillips Brooks was a great spirit who led men beyond the years in which we live. Widely as his memory is cherished to day, another century will reverently with more universal appreciation. He was greater than any church, and, as Joseph Cook says truly, "He was the exponent of American Christianity."

In that happy day when churches shall have broader thoughts, and men have larger hopes, when all shall be united to bring the entire human race up to a fitness to dwell in our Father's house, it shall be said again, with deeper meaning of him whose going forth we mourn to day.

"How petty all the poor distinctions seem that would fence off the human and divide! Large was the utterance of the living breath, large as God's love by human tongue and dream; And now humanity's basest love is thine!" From whence came the power of this great man? It was not from his oratory—speaking of that as an abstract quality—for he never had time for oratorical display—his sublime thoughts and intense interest in humanity would not wait for artistic adjustment. His power lay not in his oratory as an abstract quality—Boston has had preachers in whom it did—but Phillips Brooks was an orator in the highest sense—that of a good soul speaking intensely for the good of others. His power came not from his being a thoughtful theologian, for his sermons are not those evolved by a great thinker, and besides, he saw that all human thinking can never be conclusive, and was content to await the revelation of the eternal dawn. Whence, then, came that magnetic force which moved his hearers to noble resolutions and a higher life? It came from those attributes which no master but the divine can teach, and no student but the Christian can learn.

In earliest manhood he determined upon a belief in God, in men as good, and in the world as beautiful. To him the Christian life was to be sought not through fear of the result of wrong, but through the glory of the result of right.

O young men mark well the truth that the marvelous power that dwelt with Phillips Brooks came not from oratory, nor from logic, but from the virtue of his soul!

He passed untroubled through his youth and college years by what are too frequently their accompanying evils. Other men who have yielded to youthful dissipation have made preachers, but none have possessed, nor ever could possess, the peculiar power of him of whom we speak. His name became known wherever the English language is spoken, and never did it become tarnished even by a suspicion. Famous as he became, he always kept his humility—the strong evidence of consecration to his Master. To the humblest and most prosperous he was the same kind friend, giving to their homes his genial presence, and to their lives his mighty stimulus.

He was the master at whose feet I desired most to sit, and next to him of Nazareth, he was my ideal of manhood. "Prophet—yes, I say unto you, and more than a prophet was with us but yesterday."

A circular letter in the Express and Standard announces that the Finance Committee of the Vermont Woman's

Suffrage Association invite all interested, to assist in the formation of an "Exchange," the proceeds to be used in the furtherance of the object of the organization. Donations of "useful or fancy articles, products of farm or shop, goods of all kinds," are acceptable. Local committees of towns are urged to solicit donations and secure contributors for goods without expense in transportation, so far as possible. Orders may be sent by those who get purchases, to Mrs. J. P. Alvord of Newport, Vt. For particulars address any member of the Finance Committee as follows: Mrs. L. E. Alvord, Newport; Mrs. A. P. Baldwin, Barton; Miss Laura Moore, Barre; Miss G. E. Davidson, Newfane.

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The covers are simple, durable, cheap, just what sugar makers have been waiting for, and all say they fill the bill for perfect covers.

In selecting these goods we have not sacrificed quality for low price, but have the very best articles in their line at as low price as can be offered. Call and get our prices.

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LARGE REDUCTION from regular prices, on all choice winter Goods.

IMMENSE ASSORTMENT to select from, and a rare chance to secure Bargains.

Sleigh Robes, regular price, \$5.00, reduced to \$3.49

Wool horse blankets, " " 3.25, " " 2.49

Cotton " " " 1.00, " " 79

Bed blankets, 10-1 " " 1.50, " " 1.10

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Comforters, full size, " " 1.00, " " .69

Look! 25 p. c. discount on our entire stock of Cloaks and Shawls. Special prices in Flannels and Dress Goods, at the popular store of

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Have just received a crate of the finest

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Dinner Sets, 112 pieces \$10.00

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Toilet Sets, 10 " 3.50

Toilet Sets, (with Covered Fall) 12 " 5.50

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