

**ABSTRACT OF THE
PROCEEDINGS,
1845-80**

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Abstract of the proceedings, 1845-80 by Massachusetts Teachers' Association

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MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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PROCEEDINGS,
1845-80**

ABSTRACT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Massachusetts Teachers'
ASSOCIATION,
1845-80.



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P R E F A C E .

THE MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION was organized in 1845. Its history is substantially embodied in the following abstract of its proceedings. In preparing this abstract, the committee to whom the work was assigned have aimed to record every important act of the Association; to give the names of all persons who have favored it with lectures, papers, or illustrative exercises, and the subjects thereof; to specify the topics of all the discussions and the persons who participated in them; and to furnish a complete list of the officers of the Association and their time of service, and of the editors of the *Massachusetts Teacher*. The limits necessarily assigned to this publication are such as to forbid all attempts to present an abstract of the discussions. Such an abstract would fill several volumes.

The changes made from time to time in the Constitution of the Association have been stated in immediate connection with the original articles. Two of the changes are specially noteworthy, as having been the occasion of long-continued discussions. Ar-

Article 6 excluded the Vice-Presidents from the Board of Directors, making their office simply honorary. In 1846 Mr. Gideon F. Thayer proposed an amendment which was designed to include those officers among the Directors. In 1847 the amendment was rejected. In 1849 Mr. Thayer again presented his motion to amend. The next year it was again rejected. In 1853 a special committee reported in its favor. The following year it was for the third time rejected. Mr. William H. Wells renewed the proposition to amend. No further action on the subject was taken until 1858, when Rev. Charles Hammond revived the amendment, and in 1859 it was adopted, thus constituting all the officers members of the Board of Directors.

The other change, which is far the most important of all the amendments that have been adopted, relates to membership. Under the original second Article of the Constitution, only male teachers were eligible to membership. By a vote of the Association, female teachers were invited to contribute essays on educational topics. In 1851, Rev. Cyrus Peirce proposed an amendment to strike out of the second Article the word "male," in order to admit female teachers to membership on equal terms with male teachers. The following year the proposition was negatived by a large majority. Mr. Peirce renewed his motion. In 1853 he called up his amendment, but it was soon laid on the table. He once more renewed his motion. In 1854

it was rejected, but, in its place, an amendment admitting female teachers to honorary membership was adopted. In 1858 Mr. Homer B. Sprague presented the original amendment. The next year the Association refused to take the subject from the table. No further action on the proposed change was taken until 1866, when Mr. D. B. Hagar, in behalf of a special committee on amendments to the Constitution, presented a report in favor of granting full membership to female teachers, and the word "male" was then unanimously stricken from the Constitution. Since that time a large number of female teachers have become members of the Association, a goodly number of whom have served on the Board of Directors.

In 1868 an important change was made in the mode of conducting the exercises of the annual meetings. Then, for the first time, the Sectional System was adopted. A part of the exercises were held in general session, and for the remainder, the Association resolved itself into three sections, called respectively Primary School, Grammar School, and High School Sections. This system has been followed at all subsequent meetings, excepting that of 1872. Among its results have been a great increase of interest in the work of the Association and a much larger attendance at its annual conventions.

During the thirty-six years of its existence, the Massachusetts Teachers' Association has accom-

