

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.—The second annual meeting of the United Teacher's Association took place on Saturday at the School of Arts, Pitt-street, and was attended by about twenty of the teachers and their friends. Doctor Woolley having taken the chair, addressed the meeting at some length on the objects of the Association, and trusted that the efforts of the committee to extend the blessings of education would be more successful than during the past year. He was glad to be able to say, as a proof of the interest which was taken in the Society by many influential people connected with the colony, that he had received a letter from Sir Charles Nicholson, who had forwarded a present of books for the benefit of the teachers. The chairman then called upon Mr. Brown, the Secretary, to read the yearly report; after which the meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the gentlemen at present in office were re-elected unanimously. Several suggestions for improving the present system of education were then gone into in detail, and occupied the meeting for a couple of hours, every member of the Association appearing to take a lively interest in the proceedings.

OPENING OF THE NEW COURT-HOUSE, WOLLONGONG.—The Bench of Magistrates sat in the New Court-House, Wollongong, for the despatch of business on Monday last. No ceremony marked the occasion from the ordinary sittings. A brief description of the appearance and arrangements of the building, inside and out, may not be uninteresting to our readers. The Court room itself is a spacious one, being 33 feet long by 20 feet wide. At the further end, on a platform, elevated one foot from the floor, is the bench, the front being of plain cedar pannels surrounded with a neat beading, and about 3 feet 6 inches high. On the right hand, and immediately outside, of the bench is the witness box, also raised to the same level as the bench, and on the left hand side, against the wall and a few feet from the bench, is the reporter's box. Both of these boxes are pannelled in the same style as the bench, the panneling being varnished in all cases. Immediately below the bench, a large table is placed, at which the Clerk of the Court and the legal gentlemen sit. At about 13 feet from the front of the bench, a railing about 4½ feet in height crosses the room, outside of which is the space allotted for the public. There is an opening in the centre of this railing, giving access to the floor of the Court, at the right hand side of which a prisoner's dock will be erected, of about 3½ feet long and 2½ feet deep; the dock will be of open railing. Both inside and outside of this railing comfortable seats have been placed

the dock will be of open railing. Both inside and outside of this railing comfortable seats have been placed for the accommodation of suitors, witnesses, and other persons in attendance on the Court. In the centre of the side walls of the Court-room, two fire places have been built with chimneys running up, mainly for the purpose of strengthening the wall. The otherwise blank appearance of the wall at the back of the bench has been relieved by making two semi-circle arches, reaching to the ceiling, each of about 8 feet in width; the space between which is occupied by a pillar surmounted by a neat cornice; on the outside of these arches, two smaller pillars appear capped in a similar manner to the larger one. Light is given to the Court-room by two large and wide windows, with semi-circular tops on each side, and two small ones on each side of the entrance from the portico at the front. It is intended to erect a screen immediately opposite and inside of the front entrance for the purpose of breaking the current of air; this screen will be 9 feet high and 6 feet 3 inches long, and will be made of pannelled cedar. Ventilation is secured by an aperture in the centre of the ceiling, and by the windows lifting up from the bottom or lowering down from the top. The magistrates have a comfortable room at the back of the Court-room, with an entrance through a small lobby, which has a door on to the right hand side of the bench. On the left hand side of the bench is another door opening into a similar lobby from which access is obtained to a room devoted to the use of the Clerk of the Court which will be fitted with presses, &c., for the keeping of public documents; this room is also entered by a door from the back. In both these rooms there are fire-places, and they are each 14 feet by 12, and 11 feet high. The appearance of the building from the outside is very neat, if not imposing. The front is to be approached through folding gates, each wing of which will be 5 feet wide, from which a gravelled path will be made to the building. The front of the building itself displays considerable taste in its design and care in its structure. Across the entire front, 20 feet, extends a portico of 6 feet deep. This is formed by three semi-circle arches, of about 6 feet span each, supported by two square stone pillars; at the top of each is very tasteful capping. The building presents its gable to the front, and this gable, from the top of the portico to the roof, is a pediment of plain stone work, round the outside of which runs a deep cornice of stone. The inside of this presents rather a bare appearance, which would be greatly relieved by placing a coat of arms, or some such device in the centre; at present, the painter has endeavored to fill the blank by painting a few circles in the

device in the centre ; at present, the painter has endeavoured to fill the blank by painting a few circles in the centre of it. The whole of the outside, with the exception of the front, has been stuccoed and coloured. The front has been painted stone colour. There are three chimneys, one on each side and one at the back, each of which is surmounted by a cornice of a very pretty design and appearance. There are no out-buildings as yet to the Court, but it is intended, we believe, to erect the necessary ones for the comfort and convenience of parties attending the court. Altogether we think we are correct in saying that this structure will be found equal to the wants of the district for some time to come, even if District Courts should be held here, as it is expected and hoped will be the case before long. We are aware that the greatest care has been bestowed on the erection of the building by and under the direction of Mr. Stoddart, the contractor, Mr. Dawson, the Colonial Architect, has frequently inspected the work during its progress with the utmost attention, with the desire to make the building creditable in appearance, as well as adapted to the purposes for which it was intended.—*Illawarra Mercury*, February 4.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—Chatto and Hughes have requested us to remind purchasers of books, of their sale, This Day, of a new and superior assortment of popular books, from Blackwoods and other celebrated houses. The whole to be disposed of without any reserve. Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.