

The Christian Messenger.

March 26, 1884.

EDUCATIONAL.

We have before us the Report of the Superintendent of Education of the Schools in Nova Scotia, giving the results so far as may be gathered by statistics, of the work done in the Schools during the year 1883.

In its financial aspect this department of our provincial appropriations is the greatest of all—taking \$176,072.62 of the public funds, nearly one third of the Provincial Revenue, as well as \$436,817.17 of funds otherwise raised by the people for this purpose, making a sum far exceeding the whole of the revenue of the Province, and seeing that both in its expenditure and its effects on the domestic relations, it comes so close to the homes of the people it may therefore be regarded as of first importance.

From the Statistics of attendance at the Public Schools there appears to have been but little change for several years past. Some slight advance on the year 1882, appears in the Summer attendance, and a greater increase in the Winter term. There were a total number of 98,307 pupils at school against 95,912 in 1882, an increase of 2,395. This gives the proportion of the population at school in the Winter of 1 in 5.5 and in Summer of 1 in 5.3. The average attendance of pupils was but 53 per cent. This appears to be a little in advance of the previous year, but very far below what it should be.

There has been a decrease in the number of Male Teachers employed during the year, especially in the higher Grades, and a corresponding increase of Female Teachers. There being 644 Male Teachers and 1,287 Female Teachers. As compared with 1882, the male teachers have decreased by 21, and the females have increased by 54. The Superintendent says: "The constant increase in the ratio of female teachers to males is in part to be accounted for by the fact that the former in much larger numbers seek the advantages of professional training." It is probable we think that the smaller salaries paid to the latter has also largely to do with this item.

The following particulars may be of interest as showing the studies of the pupils, and consequently what is being done in the schools:

Table with 2 columns: Term, Per cent. Rows include Reading, Spelling, General Geography, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Canadian History, British History, Drawing, Elements of Natural Science, Algebra, Geometry, Latin, Greek.

The total Expenditure for the support of Public Schools during the past year was

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows include Government Expenditure, Local Expenditure, County Fund, Assmt on Sections, do. Buildings &c.

which was \$41,506.15 more than in 1882.

When the reader comes to the department Special Academies, he will be greatly disappointed to find mention made only of Pictou Academy, the Institution of Deaf and Dumb, and the Halifax High School. Why Pictou Academy should have the special character given to it and \$1,400 a year from the Province, while Horton Academy with an equipment perhaps superior, is left out in the cold does not appear.

The Report of the Schools in New Brunswick shows that a similar state of things exists there as is found in this province, that whilst the number of Male Teachers is diminishing, that of Female Teachers is increasing. The average attendance of the pupils is considerably higher than in Nova Scotia, it being in Summer 73.45 per cent, and in Winter 78.03 per cent. This is a very favorable and significant fact.

The Chief Superintendent, Mr. Crockett, in the commencement of his report bears testimony to the "faithful and zealous labors of his able and accomplished predecessor, T. H. Rand, D. C. L. On him Mr. C. says:—

"devolved the task of introducing the Free School system into the province, and of bringing it into a high state of efficiency. His rare executive ability enabled him to cope successfully with difficulties where even a strong hand would have failed."

There was an increase of 38 in the number of Schools during the past year and of Teachers employed 48. The whole number of Schools being 1,447, and of Teachers and Assistants 1,524 whilst the number of pupils at school was 66,775 an increase of the previous year of 2,034.

The proportion of the population at school being 1 in 5.87, not quite so large as in Nova Scotia.

It appears by Table 18 that the amount of Provincial Payments for the School Service for the year ending April 30th, 1883 was \$157,282.76.

We have been unable to discover from the Report what is the whole amount of the year's expenditure for Schools.

OUR brother the editor of the West-yan, has assumed the role of a prophet, and appears to have, at least, one of the prophetic qualifications, inasmuch as he offers a prediction the fulfilment of which to all appearances is against him. Our brother offers the very kind opinion, which might perhaps make the prediction more acceptable to some people, "that the hearts of most of our Baptist brethren are better than their creed." That is certainly very kind and generous of our brother, but he then ventures to prophesy that "they will yet adopt the 'open communion' principles." This our friend does in the face of the fact that the Baptists are increasing by a hundred thousand a year, and are adopting "their creed," which he, strangely affirms is not so good as their hearts. Whilst we believe in the goodness of our brethren generally, yet we could not claim that they are better than their creed, nor nearly as good. We believe in close communion in Christian churches—union in heart and life amongst the members, and that closer communion with the Saviour is most desirable. These will have the effect of leading them to appreciate more highly communion with their brethren at the Lord's Table in preference to the loose communion that admits persons who have not even made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus, or of obedience to his commands.

Several American Baptist churches have recently erected crosses on their chapels, claiming that the cross is a Christian symbol, older than Romanism and that it is a mistake to surrender to the Papists this beautiful and expressive design.

We find the following letter in the London Baptist of March 7th: WHO WILL GO? DEAR SIR,—I received a letter this morning from the secretary of the Home Missionary Board, Nova Scotia, asking for men for work in the Maritime Provinces. Should any ministerial brethren be disposed to go, on communicating with me I shall be happy to give them any information I may possess as to climate, salary, etc. I may say that the Board do not engage to pay passage but will see that a first class berth is provided on arrival. I need hardly suggest that it will be desirable to enclose a stamped addressed envelope, nor need I add that communications will be held in strict confidence.

Rev. W. E. Hall, the pastor at Hillsburgh wrote us three or four weeks since, pointing this out. We immediately wrote the Moderator, Rev. J. F. Kempton, on the subject, and have just received a letter from him saying that he had written to brethren on the matter and had just observed that, in the Baptist Calendar on the 2nd page of the cover of the Year Book for 1883, the Central Association is to meet on the 4th Saturday in June. He has therefore concluded, after consultation, that the N. S. Central Association will meet with the Baptist Church at Lower Aylesford on the 4th Saturday—the 28th day—of June, 1884.

A VERY important commission has been recently appointed by Her Majesty, comprising the Prince of Wales and a number of the leading men in church and state, to enquire into the housing of the working classes, of course with a view of removing or mitigating existing evils. This will doubtless have the effect of greatly ameliorating the condition of the large portion of the people living in tenement houses.

THE new Franchise Bill recently brought into Parliament by Mr. Gladstone is, generally, giving a vote to £10 yearly rentals, equally in England, Scotland and Ireland. This will add about two millions to the existing three million of voters.

BEAR killing was a pretty good business in New Brunswick last year. It cost the province, \$2,538 to despatch 846 of these animals. In the county of York there were 231 killed, and in Northumberland, 152. One man, Geo. Bartlet, killed 20. At this rate it would seem that Bruin will soon be one of the missing animals—an extinct species in that province.

REV. E. C. SPINNEY, D. D., late of Burlington, Iowa, has removed to Boston for a few months. His friends will be glad to learn that his health is daily improving.

WHERE the former times better than these? Some are always saying we are going from bad to worse. Here are a few statistics which would appear to show that there is slight improvement in Great Britain. In the year 1856 the commitments of juvenile offenders in England and Wales amounted to 11,808 boys and 2,173 girls, a total of 13,981. In the year 1881, notwithstanding that the population had increased largely in the interval, the commitments were reduced to 4,699 boys and 795 girls, a total of 5,483. Of the total commitments in the last-named year, 1,019 boys and 230 girls were committed to reformatory schools.

Here is a curious feature in the journalism of the present day: A daily newspaper has just been started in Paris which will change its politics every morning. One day the political article will be written by a Bonapartist, another day by an Opportunist, then by a Legitimist, and sometimes by an Intransigent. Each writer is to be at liberty to say exactly what he pleases. In like manner, the literary part of the paper will be surrendered upon alternate days to representatives of opposite schools.

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Shaw, Melksham, Wilts, March 4, 1884. Bro. Brown having been here will be able to give us correct information as any one. We trust it may be the means of bringing us a number of good men who shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

REV. I. C. ARCHIBALD writes us from Bimlipatam, India, Feb. 4, 1884: "We leave for Bhabili tomorrow. Please ask our friends through the columns of your paper to address all mail matter to us there. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill and family will sail from Bimlipatam in March. All our missionaries are enjoying their usual health."

MR. BENJAMIN RAND returned from Heidelberg, Germany, with his father Ebenezer Rand, Esq., of Cornwall, by the steamer Sarmatian on Sunday evening. Mr. Rand has been pursuing his studies in the Heidelberg University about a year. His health failed and he is obliged to suspend his studies. Mr. R. graduated at Acadia in 1875, and went on a tour to the Mediterranean and Black Sea, whence he wrote some exceedingly interesting letters for the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER. He afterwards studied at Newton and Harvard. Here he was elected by the Faculty to the first travelling professorship in

Philosophy. In this capacity he has been studying in Germany, and has translated some works on German Philosophy, one or two of which have appeared in the Journal of Speculative Philosophy. We understand that Kim Fischer the head of the Department of Philosophy at Heidelberg, formed a very high opinion of Mr. Rand's character and ability. We trust Mr. R's return to his native land will complete the restoration of his health, which has very much improved during the voyage home.

TWO LADY MISSIONARIES FOR INDIA.—The Foreign Mission Board of the Baptist Convention held a meeting at St. John N. B. on Thursday last and accepted two young ladies for mission work in India, one—Miss Hettie Wright of Halifax, recommended by the N. S. Central Board of the W. M. A. Societies, and the other Miss Leonora Hamilton, recommended by the ladies of the Central Board of New Brunswick. Miss Hamilton has been a teacher in one of the public schools of New Brunswick for the last two or three years, and holds 1st class teacher's licenses of both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. She is a native of Truro and a graduate of the N. S. Normal School and a valued member of the Truro Baptist Church. Miss Wright is an esteemed member of Granville Street Church. The testimonials of these young ladies are of the highest character, and their having offered themselves and both being accepted by the Board at the same meeting is a pleasing circumstance, that will be gratifying to the missionaries and promotive of harmony in the operations of the Societies in the three provinces.

REV. DR. DAY has preached in Halifax the two past Lord's Days—on the 16th, in Granville Street in the morning and in the North Baptist Church in the evening. Being in Halifax again last Sunday on Foreign Mission business he took part in the morning service and preached in the evening.

News from the Churches.

HEBRON, N. S., March 22, 1884.—Rev. A. Cohoon writes: "I baptized three at Hebron on Sunday the 9th, and three more on Sunday the 16th."

WOLFVILLE NOTES.—There are very encouraging indications of increased interest in religious matters in the Wolfville church. A few extra meetings are being held and several are seeking the Saviour.

A Lecture on "Constitutional Restrictions to Legislation" was given before the Athenaeum on Friday evening, by Mr. Newcomb, of Kentville. It was a very instructive address.

The Dartmouth Baptist Sabbath School on Friday evening gave a highly interesting service of Scripture and Song, on "Some of the Words and Works of Jesus." Mr. Charles L. Weeks, the organist had so arranged the service, and trained the young people in reciting and singing that there was not a falter in either of the twenty-three passages recited, or the twenty-four appropriate hymns sung. It was all admirably done and afforded the large audience present a most interesting evening.

MONCTON, N. B., March 15.—Rev. Geo. O. Gates writes, I am being encouraged in the work in my Master's Vineyard by the fact that He is so abundantly blessing many of our pastors and churches. With these pastors I rejoice and pray that they may continue to reap rich harvests. We too in this field are not without tokens of Divine favor. Five were baptized last Sunday and these with three by letter were welcomed into the church at the evening service. All our meetings are full of interest. We thank God and take courage.

CAMBRIDGE, CORNWALLIS.—Rev. Dr. Saunders writes March 24, 1884: Twenty-five were added to the church here yesterday by baptism. A very general religious interest pervades the community. Many more are seeking the Saviour.

WESTPORT NOTES.—REV. S. McC. Black writes:—It may interest some of your readers to learn what measure of blessing the church in this place is enjoying. Three-fourths of a year ago I became the pastor of this church. For the first six months the outlook could not be called encouraging. Priory and Conference meetings were thinly attended. Many of those who had declared for Christ and promised to serve Him had apparently gone over to the enemy. There was much in the condition of the church to grieve over, and little to inspire and help those who remained faithful.

We are glad now to be able to report a better state of things. The Lord has been gracious to us. Special meetings began with the week of prayer, have been continued to the present. For a time there seemed to be no special interest in the meetings. But one stormy night in a little meeting, there was heard the cry of a penitent soul—a son returning to his Father's house. Then many other wanderers came back, and when these began to take their places and to call upon the name of the Lord and pay their vows in the presence of His people, sinners were aroused and converted and the unconverted began to come to Christ. The ordinance of baptism has been administered on three occasions. Thirteen in all have thus been added to the church. Some of them are quite young in years, but all have offered themselves freely and gladly, evidently with a good understanding of the importance of the step they were taking. A number of others have spoken of their hope in Christ and will, we doubt not, in due time follow Him in baptism. Others still are saying, "Pray for us."

There have been, we believe, deep searchings of heart in this community, and many, we have reason to know, from whom nothing has been heard in our meetings have yet been feeling powerfully the influence of this work of grace. May God help them to take that stand and enjoy that liberty to which they know He is calling them. The interest has been very general among the young people of the place and many of those converted are members of the Sunday school.

As to our Sunday school it has felt the quickening influence at work in our midst. There has been an increase both in numbers and in interest. With good officers, faithful teachers and an attendance of scholars which overflows present accommodations, we feel that the outlook for our school is inspiring. And the more so when we remember the vital relation, both present and prospective, between the Sunday school and the church.

Our vestry that is to be.—Active measures are now being taken to supply a need long felt in connection with our sabbath school and prayer-meeting services. A vestry has long been talked of. Something also has been done. A lot of land has been secured, some funds raised by the Sabbath school. An old house of worship has been taken down and its available material put in readiness to go into the new building.

At a meeting called to consider the matter on Tuesday evening last it was resolved to proceed with the work of building, and a building committee appointed which should report estimates, circulate subscription papers for a building 55 x 35 ft. and report results.

This looks like business. We are able to have this building. Our purses are long enough and we hope our hearts are large enough, if not we believe the Lord will enlarge them, and we shall have the vestry.

One item more: On the evening of the 13th occurred that very interesting event—the annual donation visit. Our friends came out in force on that occasion, filling the parsonage with happy faces and good cheer, with music especially the melody of those old tunes which our grandfathers used to sing. I have heard of singing that was enough to raise the roof, but I give it as my opinion that a roof cannot be raised in that way, for the roof of the Westport parsonage is still where the builders put it. But they gave us not music only but money, some \$45.00 and useful articles in value \$20.00, \$65.00 in all. A freewill offering and not a part of the salary.

Brother Bishop, the highly valued pastor of the Freeport church, labors faithfully with his charge, just across the passage from us. Results are seen in a quickened Church life and in gradual upbuilding. A time of ingathering for the Freeport church also is, we trust, not far in the future.

PORT MEDWAY, MARCH 20th 1884.—Dear Brother,—Your readers have already learned through Bro. Cohoon that God has again visited His people in this place. Four weeks ago last Sunday evening Bro. Isa Wallace came among us and although the Church was in a very low state, and the prospect of a revival looked exceedingly dark, yet it was soon found that our good Brother came in the power of the Spirit, and signs of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit were soon manifest: On the following Sabbath Bro. Wallace baptized four rejoicing converts; since then God has wonderfully blessed us with a general outpouring of His love, twenty two having been baptized, making in all twenty six who have been received into the Church by baptism and six by letter and otherwise. It seems worthy of remark that twenty four out of the thirty two who have thus been added to the Church are heads of families.

Three of the brothers who have embraced the Saviour are leaders in the Choir and they now are able to praise Him in sweeter melody.

The meetings, during the four weeks that Bro. Wallace has been with us, have been characterized by great solemnity and large numbers have come out during the week as well as on the Sabbath to hear our Brother's earnest exhortations.

Owing to our increased membership, it was thought best by the brethren to appoint two additional deacons to assist those who had long borne the burden, and at the conference on Saturday last brother N. T. Baker and John Hutt were unanimously elected to that office. These brothers together with brother Samuel Atkins, who had been elected to the office of deacon about three years ago, were ordained on the following Sabbath by brother Wallace assisted by brother Weeks of Liverpool.

As brother Wallace had made arrangements to preach in Liverpool on Sunday evening, those who had been baptized in the morning were received into the church after the 3 o'clock p. m. service and our brother bade us a hasty adieu, followed, we believe, by many earnest prayers that he would meet with like success in other fields. During his stay he was a frequent visitor in all our homes and he goes away occupying a large place in the hearts and affections of the people in Port Medway. Brother Weeks preached a very able and impressive discourse on Sunday evening and about seventy-five remained to celebrate the communion. There are a number here who are still deeply impressed and who we still hope to see come forward.

We hope that God may soon direct to us a faithful man to take charge of the church here so that the good work may still advance. N. T. B.

MELVERN SQUARE JOTTINGS.—The Baptist Church here comprises four sections, about four miles apart from each other. The mountain portion embraces three of those parts. Each section is supplied with a comfortable place of worship, with an organ and all complete. Each of them raises the amount of funds assigned to it, by the voice of the church, in the support of the minister. In those four sections we have established monthly missionary collections in order to meet our share of the finances in sustaining our missionary and educational institutions. The Convention scheme has never been adopted by this church as far as I am informed, nevertheless there is a willingness among the people to aid in every good work, and I think when the claims of our benevolent institutions are fairly presented to the people there will be a ready response to do their share of such service. I can truly say I have never seen any where in my travels ladies more energetic in raising funds by societies and otherwise for any extra expenses that frequently occur in sustaining the worship of God decently and comfortably.