CARLETON COUNTY.

BY D. W. HAMILTON, B. A.

Many of the first school masters (and the teachers were all masters at first) were employed by the English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The rules and regulations of the society for the guidance of masters emphasized the fact that their duty was: "The instructing and disposing children to believe and live as christians. They are therefore to take special care of the manners of their scholars both in schools and out of them, warning them seriously of those vices to which children are most liable; teaching them to abhor lying and falsehood, to avoid all sorts of evil speaking, to love truth and honesty, etc." As regards secular instruction the directions were simplicity itself: "To teach the scholars to read truly and distinctly, also to write a plain legible hand in order to the fitting them for useful employments, with as much arithmetic as shall be necessary for the same purpose." As regards discipline the suggestions (not at all drastic) were: "That they (the masters) use all kind and gentle methods in the governing of their scholars, that they may be loved as well as feared by them; and that when correction is necessary they make the children to understand that it is given them out of kindness for their good."

Many of the old masters were very diligent. With one, at least, the hours for attendance at his school were from six to one o'clock, and from two to six o'clock, during the summer; and in winter from eight to one o'clock in the forenoon and from two to five in the afternoon. All the early teachers were masters. As late as 1796 we find the S. P. G. "had thoughts of employing women to teach the younger children of the poor, but have not been able to find any properly

qualified for the work." In 1649, when Oliver Cromwell was supreme, an act was passed by the Long Parliament incorporating a society known as "The President and Society for the Propagation of the gospel in New England." The design of the society was to educate and christianize the Indians. After laboring for over a century in New England, after the close of the Revolutionary war, the society was transferred to Upper Canada and New Brunswick. Governor Carleton, Chief Justice Ludlow, Judge Allen, General John Coffin, Dr. Wm. Paine, (who first suggested the founding of New Brunswick College, now the U. N. B.) and others, were appointed commissioners for New Brunswick. The society retained the name of the New England Company; and during their operations in N. B .about fifty years in all-they expended about \$150,000, of which about 30% went to salaried officials who had little or no direct hand in the work of instruction. The Indian village at Meductic, now Woodstock, attracted the early attention of the commissioners; and at their meeting on Feb. 26, 1787, they requested Major Coffin to write to Frederick Dibblee, then living at Kingston, Kings Co., asking his services in establishing a school for the Indians at Meductic. After a consultation with the members of the board, Mr. Dibblee consented and was appointed June 25, 1787. Frederick Dibblee was about 35 years of age, a native of Stamford, Conn., and a graduate of Kings (now Columbia) College, New York. His stipend from the New England Company was £50 sterling per annum. The society allowed the sum of £50 sterling for the purpose of building a school house at Meductic on land granted by the government. Mr. Dibblee proceeded to his field of work during the summer of 1787; where the next year, we find him comfortably settled with his family. There were at that time at Meductic village 337 Indians of whom 98 were men, 74 women and 165 children; and about 20 white families were settled there. If it had not been that Mr. Dibblee kept the Indians in good humor by his personal influence and judicious distribution of presents and previsions, they might have made it uncomfortable for the white settlers. In 1793, after Mr. Dibblee left, the Indians showed themselves disposed to attack the white settlements, but were kept in check by the garrisons at Grand Falls and Presque Isle. During the autumn of 1788 a log school house was built at Meductic

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HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN village, probably a little below the site of the old fort. This first of school houses built in Carleton County or in fact on the river above Fredericton, was a log building 26 feet long and 22 feet wide, with two small windows 21 by 4 feet, with 7 by 9 glass, on each side; and smaller windows at the ends, all placed high above the floor so the children could not see out; the roof was covered with handshaven pine shingles, three feet long, laid twelve inches to the weather. There were three doors, which were probably those of porch, schoolroom and closet or class room. The entire cost of the building was about £87 or \$340.00 of our money. From a letter dated Jan. 4, 1790, written by Mr. Dibblee to Col. Isaac Allen, we give the following extract :- "I have succeeded in opening a school for the Indians, and have now twenty-two scholars; eighteen of them have been to school since the 20th of November. There are eight families (the heads of three of them are widows) who have made their wigwams close by me on the school lot. My scholars consist of five married Indians, two married squaws, five young squaws and ten boys. They require clothing and provisions which I have complied with. They receive for five persons, one bushel of corn and one piece of pork per week, and there are forty-seven individuals. They often want beans and potatoes and then they are deducted out of the corn. They have received 21 yards of blue cloth for coats and stockings, and 25 yards of linen for shirts, and thread each; and hats and books what I have received. They are constant in their attendance and exceedingly quick in receiving instruction, five of them in particular are amazingly so, having made great improvements both in spelling and writing. They are continually making applications to be received, and there are now thirteen who are making their wig wams with the idea of becoming scholars and receiving provisions and clothing. I believe there is no doubt but there will be a constant school, for their prejudices are removed and they appear to be ambitious of learning and the whole of them will become scholars if they can receive provisions and clothing." Surely they ought to have become scholars on those conditions?

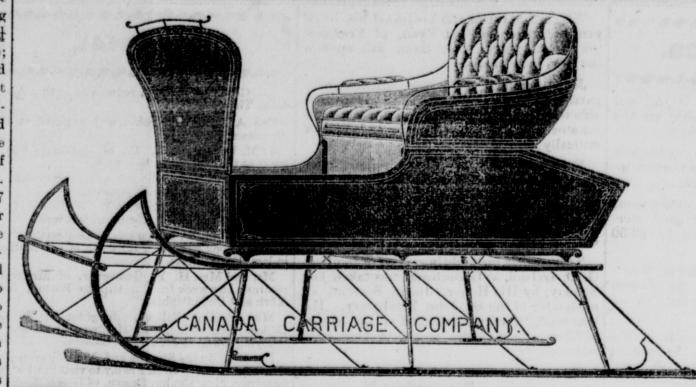
> Mr. Dibblee had on the rolls of his pupils such names as Pemmyhawick, Franwagemic, Pemmacola, Grand John, Little Joe, Molly Brisket, etc. His scholars according to a return of Feb. 1st, 1790, numbered 35. During six months £106, 12s., 11d. were expended for necessaries for the native Indians at school at Woodstock. Of this amount, how much do you think was for educational purposes-just the price of eight spelling books at 1s. 6d. each, and three quires of writing paper at 1s. 6d. per quire, or about \$3 30 for books and paper and \$529.12 for provisions and clothing-no wonder the Indians liked to go to school.

Mr. Dibblee's mission proved not by any means a fruitless one; for besides keeping the Indians in good humor as already spoken of, they acquired some little civilization and was used as a school house for the white children of the neighborhood. The first Ten Commandments. In schools established teacher was James Yorke who came from Maugerville to Woodstock in 1791. He received for his services the sum of £10 per annum voted by the government under the act of 1802, together with such other remuneration as the people could provide. He taught school at Woodstock from 1795 to 1806, when he removed to the parish where his descendants still reside. For several years he was the only teacher on the river north of York County. Beginning in 1812 he taught in the Parish of Wakefield for a short time, and afterwards was a school trustee and for many years a clerk of the

About the year 1806, John D. Beardsley, son of Rev. John Beardsley, rector of Maugerville, began to teach at Woodstock. The trustees or "visiting committee" were John Bedell, Esq., Capt. Geo. Bull and Capt. Joseph Cunliffe. From the government Mr. Beardsley received £5 per annum, and in 1810 the S. P. G. took him on their list of masters and added £10 a year to his stipend. He retired from teaching in 1816; but continued for many years to be one of the parish school trustees.

The second School Act of the province was passed in 1805, but it was productive of little benefit beyond the establishment of a Grammar school at St. John. It was not until 1816 that any practical advance was made. The Act, then passed, contained the germ of our present free school system; but it proved to be in advance of the spirit of the time. It provided for the appointment of parish trustees, who were to summon a meeting of the freeholders of the parish for the purpose of voting a sum not less than £30 or more troubles, we can strongly recommend Paine's than £90 for the establishment and support Celery Compound. This wonderful medion of schools, that the youth might be taught than £90 for the establishment and support cine is the prescription of an eminent phy- orthography, reading, writing and arithmetic. The people were encouraged to provide school houses, to hire duly licensed teachers, and fix the salary of the school master. The in one and two pound wrappers, at this principle as regards support was optional, office.

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NOV. 20, 1901.

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either by subscription or assessment. The trustees were further required to visit and learning at his hands. The school was closed inspect the schools, try to secure regular atabout the year 1749; and for the next twenty | tendance, to provide rewards for pupils, and years the building, which was built on a little also to expel any teacher or pupil of wicked knoll nearly opposite the little Episcopal or abandoned habits. No reward was to be church, about three miles below Woodstock, given to any pupil who could not repeat by heart the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the by assessment, scholars were to be taught free of all expense other than their own books and stationary and the individual proportion of fuel. In 1818, the Act of 1816, was amended so as to allow the people to raise money only by assessment. About 1853, raising money by assessment was again made optional. It was destined that many years should pass before the principle of free schools and compulsory assessment of ratepayers for school purposes became the law in N. B., and then only after a hard fought battle at the polls. In 1822, a School Act was passed under which for many years the schools of the province were conducted.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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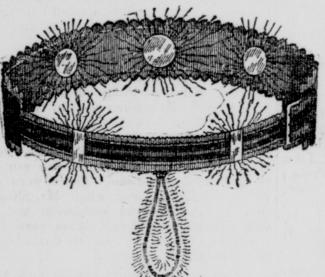
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