

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1891.

TEACHING THE BLIND.

PUPILS WHO ARE SKILLED IN MUSIC AND FANCY WORK.

The Halifax School and Something About the Daily Life of Its Inmates—How They are Taught, and the Wonderful Results Shown.

HALIFAX, June 2.—Have you ever been at a School for the Blind? If not, come with me for an hour to our own institution at Halifax, where perhaps you will be surprised to find a goodly number of New Brunswick boys and girls.

The large stuccoed-brick building fronts on Morris street; in front is a pleasant open square; behind our own grounds stretch their green length to South street. A sunny cheerful place it is with its many trees and grassy fields. Rather a noisy place, too, you may fancy, for from the open windows float, in unpleasing combination, organ and pianoforte practice; the patient iterated notes of the cornet or alto horn, mixed with strains of singing. At intervals a bell rings. For an instant the uproar ceases and then begins anew.

There is a busy life going on within those grey walls. Half-past six a. m. summer and winter finds the pupils and teachers astir, while at eight o'clock finds the regular school-work begun.

Music, of course, forms an important part in the education of the blind. Many of our scholars will earn their livings by teaching vocal and instrumental music. This department is under the direction of A. M. Chisholm, himself deprived of sight. His pupils are not only taught to play, but are also given a thorough knowledge of music in harmony, theory and staff book classes. New music is either committed to memory or written in the Braille music alphabet—somewhat similar to the Braille reading alphabet explained further on. In the staff-book all characters used in music for the seeing are reproduced in raised print, so that the pupil has the exact appearance of the printed page constantly before him.

The music for the brass band is also written in raised print by the players, who practice their parts separately, and meet for a general rehearsal each day. A bright faced set of boys they are, too, throwing their best energies into the work of the hour, as they stand on the stage of the new assembly hall, and give us the "May Blossom Waltz" in perfect harmony.

In the school choir there is the same evidence of careful training, both words and music having been committed to memory. The choruses range from a

burlesque round for boys' voices—"Johnny, Johnny, can you count sixteen"—to the exquisite "Spinning Song" in *Martha*.

Perhaps you wonder a little as the class dismisses and the pupils quietly withdraw that there is so little stumbling or groping, which may have seemed to you the indispensable accompaniments of blindness. They are not, I can assure you.

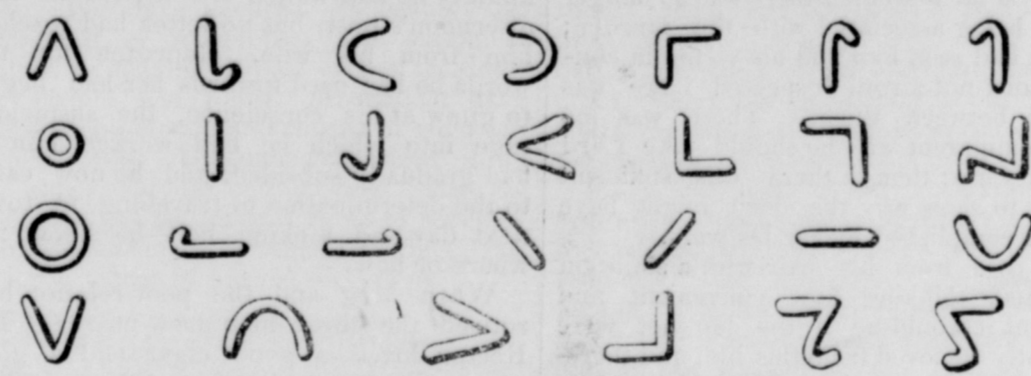
Above the assembly hall, are dormitories and corridors. Off of one of these, six small rooms open. As we pass down the hall, we see the pupils at organ or piano practice, through the glass set in each door frame. Here Clifford Williston, of Newcastle, N. B., will play us a sonata by Beethoven, or one of Mendelssohn's songs in good style. Still another occupation presents itself. In the tuning room D. A. Reid (one of the graduates of the school, now a well-known tuner) is giving a lesson in the art of tuning and repairing piano-fortes. This is a work at which many of our pupils are particularly skillful, and their success is due in no small measure to the thorough instruction given by their teacher.

The girls' work room may be the next to engage our attention. Miss Kate McLaughlan, a clever girl from Curryville, N. B., one of our senior pupils, will explain the scope of this department. Here, for two hours each day, knitting, sewing, crocheting and bead work are taught. Each girl learns to make stockings, socks, mittens, lace, babies knitted garments and crocheted work of all varieties. The bead work is the distinctive feature in this department. All kinds of fancy articles are made of beads and wire—dainty baskets, tiny chairs or miniature tea-sets. All the work is for sale, the profit going to the workers. A pretty penny is often earned during the school term, while, still better, the habit of industry is formed.

A small boy from Moncton, also a pupil, having swiftly acquired the art of square hand writing does the advertising for this department. A sample "ad" begins thus: This style of writing is done on a groove d

cardboard, over which the paper is creased. The letters are then made with the lead pencil. At one side of the workroom are two

well filled bookcases containing the circulating library for the use of the blind of the maritime provinces. Some of these books are embossed in coarse lines called moon print. The letters, from A to Z, are shaped as below:



This print is especially adapted to the aged, explains the young lady who acts as librarian. Reading matter, free of charge, is supplied to any sightless person in the provinces on application to the librarian. Among the volumes we notice many biographies, historical and religious works.

The school department is not behind hand in interest, though being intimately connected with it myself, I speak of it with diffidence.

The pupils are first taught to read and write in Braille characters. The alphabet is simple of comprehension, and can be read rapidly. It is superior to any other print for the blind, as it can be both written and read with the utmost ease. The letters are represented by dots grouped in different ways. The slate on which the Braille alphabet is written consists of a grooved metal bed. Over this is fitted a brass guide, punched with oblong holes. The bed and guide are hinged and attached to a light wooden frame, the paper to be written on being placed between the grooved bed and the guide. The letters are then impressed with a blunt stiletto. When the paper is taken out the letters are found raised on the reverse side. The writing is performed from right to left; the reading from left to right.

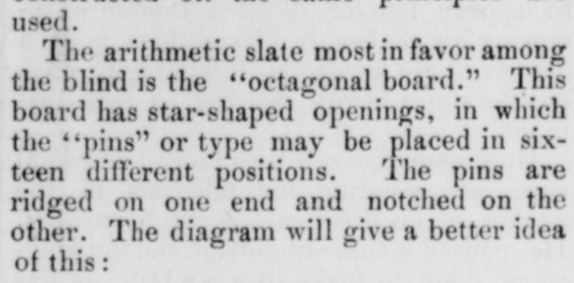
After Braille has been mastered, education can be carried on as in other schools. Raised print books—Royal Readers, Geographies and Histories—are at hand

and the lessons are prepared out of school.

For geography there are wooden maps of the eastern and western hemisphere. The land surface rises above the water level, throwing capes and coast waters into

bold relief. The islands are similarly represented. A cut in the wood-work does duty as a river, a depression answers for a lake. The boundary lines between counties are of small brass-headed tacks. Single dots represent towns, while conical-headed nails serve as mountains. For individual work card-board maps of many countries constructed on the same principles are used.

The arithmetic slate most in favor among the blind is the "octagonal board." This board has star-shaped openings, in which the "pins" or type may be placed in sixteen different positions. The pins are ridged on one end and notched on the other. The diagram will give a better idea of this:



These boards are also used in the study of algebra where, however, a pin of another shape is required.

Geometrical figures are constructed on flat pin-cushions by means of pins and string, or by using wires, straight and curved.

The kindergarten classes are among the most interesting in the school. There the stiff fingers of the new arrivals begin to de-

velop that delicate sense of touch on which, in so large a measure, their success in life will depend. Kindergarten mats in many patterns are woven. Drawing is taught on large flat pin-cushions lined both horizontally and perpendicularly with machine stitching. The drawing lines are of steel perforated at each end and fastened down with pins. A simpler form of drawing is taught in the peg-board class. The peg-boards are square tablets of walnut bored at intervals of an inch. In these holes the pegs are inserted so as to form squares, triangles, etc. Clay modelling will also soon be added to this department.

For natural history lessons there is no lack of helps, a complete set of animals in china or plaster Paris serving all purposes of illustration.

Perhaps the musical kindergarteners are at work. If so, they will be charmed to clap time to music of any description, to name notes or chords struck at random on the pianoforte, to sing to bright airs their multiplication tables, or to give pretty action songs from their own especial song book.

A platform at the back of the main building leads to the industrial departments. The technical shop for the junior boys claims first notice. Here, from two to four p. m. each day, may be heard the sound of the hammer, plane, and saw. The use of all ordinary tools is taught, and here is acquired a handiness otherwise impossible to a blind boy. The instructor, one of our senior pupils, James Upham, of Albert county, N. B., has a thorough knowledge of his business, and can turn out pieces of work not at all inferior to those of his sighted brothers.

In the large room upstairs D. A. Baird (also blind) teaches basket-making and cane-seating. There we find William Huntington, of Campbellton, N. B., learning his trade of willow working. Twenty-one patterns are taught, among which are market and lunch baskets, ladies' work-stands and children's toys. Several boys are engaged in cane-seating. By means of this accomplishment many of them will make the summer pecuniarily profitable.

Perhaps the readers of Progress will aid us a little. With our new building we have ample accommodation for more pupils. There are blind children in New Brunswick whom we do not know of, and whose parents do not know of us. To them we offer freely advantages impossible at their homes. There we find William Huntington, of Campbellton, N. B., learning his trade of willow working. Twenty-one patterns are taught, among which are market and lunch baskets, ladies' work-stands and children's toys. Several boys are engaged in cane-seating. By means of this accomplishment many of them will make the summer pecuniarily profitable.

What impresses our visitors always, is the absence of depression or sadness about our pupils. Those who visit us with feelings of pity for the so-called "helpless blind," usually leave with an intelligent sympathy for those who so perseveringly struggle on in the dark, patiently laying the foundation for a good education, taking advantage of all opportunities for improvement, and keeping one goal constantly in view—total independence.

ELLA J. HUNTER.

THEY MADE IT PAY.

Sums That Genius Has Earned with Pen, Ink and Paper.

William Shepard makes the following statements in regard to "The Rewards of Literature:"

Tennyson receives from his publishers an annual income of about \$20,000. The verses beginning

What does little birdie say In her bed at peep of day? were bought by a periodical at \$40 a line. The *Nineteenth Century* gave £300 for "The Ballad of the Revenge." Robert Bonner of the *Ladger* paid \$5,000 for "The May Queen."

The publishers of the *Cornhill Magazine* gave George Eliot \$75,000 for "Romola." More than twice that amount was paid for "Middlemarch."—Harper & Brothers themselves are reported to have given \$40,000 for the American priority—and that book coined money for all concerned in its publication.

Both Scott and Dickens won for themselves a grand total of something over \$1,000,000, with no other capital to start on than an ink bottle and a pen. The first check which the Longmans handed over to Macaulay on account of copyright for the "History of England" was for £20,000.

The check is preserved as a curiosity among the archives of the Longmans' firm. And the history is still selling—at the rate, it is said, of some 70 copies a week—and copyright money is still pouring into the coffers of Macaulay's heir. Victor Hugo received \$80,000 for "Les Miserables," and corresponding sums for his other works. Eugene Scribe is said to have left an estate of nearly \$1,000,000. France, indeed, is the El Dorado of writers. George Sand, Alexander Dumas, nearly all of the leading writers of fiction, amassed wealth by their labors.

Mrs. Stowe received \$40,000 for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Mrs. Augusta Evans Wilson cleared \$100,000 in eight years out of her novels.

As to Mark Twain, it is well known that that genial gentleman has found a bonanza mine in literature—\$300,000 has been named as the sum realized from *The Innocents Abroad*—as well as in the drama.

TRUSTEES' SALE. TURNER & FINLAY'S STOCK.

Sale begins at 8.30 a.m. every day, and continues until the Stock is sold out.

24 Unapproachable Bargains!

A SALE which all ST. JOHN should attend.

BLACK CASHMERE.

NO. 1. Lots of BLACK UNION CASHMERE. Elegant Quality; 50 inches wide. Cannot be equalled in the city. To be sold at 40c. to 55c. Per Yard.

SERGES.

NO. 3. All-Wool French Cashmere Serges, in all the newest and most fashionable colorings. A Bargain that every customer should see. Well worth 80 cents. Now being offered at 55c. Worth 80c.

LACE CURTAINS.

NO. 5. Nottingham Lace Curtains; new goods, handsome patterns; all this season's importation. We are offering the entire stock at prices that will be to the advantage of every lady to see them. Prices from 45c. to \$4.50 per pair.

BLACK HOSIERY.

NO. 7. See the old standard makes. We have always kept for Ladies, Girls, Boys and Gentlemen Sox. Note you save a sure 20c to 30c. on each dollar's worth. Full fashioned. DODDS & JOLLY make. Is this your care?

REAL FUR MANTLES.

NO. 9. We do not keep hare, rabbit, dog, cat, and sell them as choice, fine selected Fur-lined garments. What we offer are Furs; good, sound, selected skins, in seven styles. It is the Fur, not the Cover is the value, and you can get Bargains. See Them.

BOYS' SUITS.

NO. 11. "Dollar saved is money made." If a dollar saved is two made, our reduced prices are actual and real. The stock must go. Batt's all right boys. Sizes 1 to 12 years.

FRENCH CASHMERE.

NO. 2. We are offering some of the most celebrated makers' goods known in the world. Extra wide widths. The prices will be found very much lower than the same class of goods ever shown in the city. 70c. to \$1.25 Per yd.

REAL LACES.

NO. 4. Choice patterns; Maltese, in Silk and Cotton. Also Duchess Flouncing. Now is your opportunity. ENGLISH THREAD. See them.

WHITE COTTONS AND GREYS.

NO. 6. It is surely worth the attention of all prudent persons that they can save 1 to 5c. a yard on every yard of Grey, White and Shirtings they buy. Shirtings and Pillow Cottons, 5 to 10c. a yard. A Word to the Wise is quite enough. See them.

LADIES' HOSIERY.

NO. 8. A lot of Ladies' fine quality Underverts are being sold out at 35c. each. Worth a Look. Finer goods to best, you save 25c. to 30c. on each dollar.

TABLE DAMASK.

NO. 10. Loom Table Damask, all pure linen, 62 inches wide, and extra heavy, actually worth and retailed elsewhere at 50c. to \$1.00 per yard, to be sold by us at this special sale at only 40c. to 75c. per yd.

RIBBONS.

NO. 12. Pieces Best Quality All Silk Ribbons, for hat trimmings, consisting of Plain Gros Grain Ribbons, Satin Edge Gros Grain Glasse Ribbons and Fancy Ribbons, 1 to 3 inches wide, an elegant assortment of shades, sold elsewhere at 50c.; our special price only. 6c. to 25c. per yd.

New Goods at the Lowest Prices Ever Heard Of!

PARASOLS.

NO. 13. Also Sunshades. Real, not Sham, and June and 1st July sure to come. The reductions are... See Them.

GIBSON'S SHAKER FLANNELS.

NO. 15. in handsome stripes, good colors; would be cheap at 9c. per yard, to be closed out at only 6c. per yd.

SHAKER FLANNELS.

NO. 17. Gibson's and Sr. CROIX; best make and finest quality, stylish patterns, absolutely worth 12 1/2c. to be sold at this sale for.... 8c. per yd.

GINGHAMS.

NO. 19. Genuine Zephyr Gingham, without question the best bargain in Dress Gingham ever offered, positively worth today from 40c. to 60c., to be offered in our Print Department at only 20c. and 30c. per yd.

CHOICE DRESS ROBES.

NO. 21. The only fault we ever heard was, they are so elegant and over what we can give. We have cured all the trouble, we have cut the prices down and left all the style. Best Line to select from in Canada, today, for Style and Beauty. See Them.

BLK. & COL'D. VELVETEENS.

NO. 23. The best makes in the world to select from, and at half what it ever cost to put into St. John—to be found in black and all new and art shades. See Them and Note the Quality.

RUBBER MANTLES.

NO. 14. We keep sound, rain-proof Mantles that keep rain out, and the prices for an honest and fit garment will be found that 1.50 to 10.00

GIBSON'S SHAKER FLANNELS.

NO. 16. Handsome patterns, a bargain that every lady should be sure to examine, are being sold at.... 6 1/2c. to 10c. per yd.

NEW PRINTS.

NO. 18. in light and dark colors, stripes and figures. The entire stock must be sold at once. To accomplish this we offer prices that will make this sale the shopping event of a life-time. The regular prices are from 10c. to 17c., now offered at.... 7 1/2c., 8c., and 10c. per yd.

CAMBRICS AND PRINTS.

NO. 20. The absence of summer weather has made many thousands defer their summer shopping, in consequence of which we have on hand a large stock of the NEWEST GOODS, which we must now force out at only... 12 1/2c. to 18c. worth 17c. to 18c.

FANCY SILK VELVETS.

NO. 22. One of the most perfect stocks ever shown to select from, and in this day of style and dash you will find White, Cream, Colored, Black, in Brocades, colors and fancy without end; the Rainbow, the variety.... At Prices the Goods never left Looms at. See Them.

BOYS' OVERCOATS.

NO. 24. Only the best left over, but they must go, and to do so the price will make some careful and thoughtful mothers buy to hold over until next winter. Prices, \$1.75 to \$5.50. But see them.