

Assessment law there is no doubt that the burdens of Common School education bear very unfairly on the people. In some cases the industrious father of a large family is required to pay a large proportion of the whole cost of the school, whilst the real owner of the property—he who holds the Deed of his farm as mortgagee is almost or wholly exempt. In other cases where a person has the greater part of his property in one School section where a school is in operation, but lives in another, where there is none, he must pay for the support of a school in which his family derives no benefit, in an educational point of view. Some of these cases perhaps no law would fully provide for.

If the statements, given by Mr. Welton in his communication of last week, may be taken as a specimen of what prevails in other counties, the state of things is not so bad after all as many might suppose from the statements put forth by interested parties. That efforts should be made to take advantage of the disturbed state of things by certain parties to further their own designs is not at all to be wondered at, but the attempts are commonly so transparent that they fail to mislead any except where ignorance or bigotry prevails, or, partizan feeling rejoices over the imperfection in hopes of reaping benefit therefrom.

The *Presbyterian Witness* is engaged in a series of articles on this subject. No. 1 starts with preaching a crusade against the appointments under the law, from the Council of Public Instruction down through those of Superintendent, Inspectors, School Boards, Surveyors and Examiners; all are bad; and notwithstanding these wholesale complaints against the personnel of the Act, the writer of the said articles affirms respecting the law that "its main features, we still regard as right in principle, and highly beneficial in tendency" &c.

We presume that the secret of this organized opposition to the School law and its appointments, is to be found in the plan sketched some time before the law was enacted by the Legislature, in connection with the resuscitation of Dalhousie College. As our readers may have forgotten it we will copy a brief extract from the Rev. Dr. Forrester's Report of 1862. After expressing his want of power over the Boards of School Commissioners, he says:—
"This anomalous and absurd state of things can only be obviated by the appointment of a Council of Public Instruction, of which Council the Superintendent of Education ought to be a constituent member and act in the capacity of Secretary. On this Board ought to devolve the whole management of the Educational interests of the Province, from the Common School up to the University; to possess and direct the Endowment of Dalhousie College, and to expend all the money that has been or may be granted in support of the Provincial University, or of the Normal and Model Schools; to make or alter, from time to time, with the consent of the Governor in Council, any statutes, rules and regulations, which may be deemed necessary for the government and discipline of the University and Grammar and Common Schools throughout the Province."

This very modest proposal was not adopted in the Act, and the plan seems to have been frustrated by subsequent arrangements. The administration of the law so "right in principle and highly beneficial in tendency" happened to fall into other hands; and so all the wrong must fall on the persons having it in charge.

The report of which the above is an extract it will be remembered appeared nearly simultaneously with the Dalhousie College Bill, and was probably intended to make a clean sweep in favor of that institution. Having secured possession of the building on the Grand Parade, and the revenues attached thereto, our neighbour seems to ask, What right has any one else to interfere with the direction of the Common Schools? Why should they not be made also to contribute to the aggrandizement of Presbyterianism? One would have thought, however, that having already obtained so much, the writer would have become more modest in his demands. But no, he seems to be emboldened by what he has secured, and prepared to make further gains, rather than to be satisfied with the lion's share, on which he is already feasting. He thinks probably this may be the best policy to pursue to enable his friends to retain the large emoluments now enjoyed.

It is not difficult for our contemporary to indulge in detraction. It is well that his opinion does not damage the parties so judged. He affirms that "one half if not three fourths of the country Schools are defunct—dead—killed by this cruel and thoughtless empiricism of a 'practical politician' and 'practical Superintendent.'" We are surprised that he should be so severe on the late Superintendent—Dr. Forrester—for the bill we are assured was of his preparation in all its essential features. His estimate of the Inspectors is not very flattering to those gentlemen, and

would probably be changed if another person were the Superintendent. He ventures to affirm that "Unfortunately many of the Inspectors are not fit even to teach a third class school!" He is evidently trying to say a few smart things, and each class of the officials get a share of his—we were going to say, impudence, and perhaps we should not be far astray if we did so characterize his flippancy. The county Boards, too, are a cumbersome monstrosity in his estimation. He would have a Council of Public Instruction with the Superintendent of Education (not Mr. Rand, of course), Chairman of the Board, and three Inspectors, at £800 a year, without any Commissioners to interfere with them. This is going even beyond Dr. Forrester's own plan, and would give the Superintendent an amount of power equal to the boldest wish of any autocrat.

One of the practical points of his article No. 3, is somewhat less objectionable, and in perfect agreement with what we expressed in November last, that a County Assessment for School purposes would be far better than the present Sectional plan. "Compulsory Assessment" he would prefer to that of the Voluntary rate. Another week or two will bring together our "Assembled wisdom" and we shall doubtless learn what are the proposals of the Council of Public Instruction as a remedy for the present state of things.

The able communication of "Laos" on "Free Schools for Nova Scotia" would have appeared in our present issue, but, as our space was appropriated before its arrival, we have been obliged to defer it till next week.

We have received a copy of the Memoir of the Missionaries, Rev. S. F. Johnston and the Rev. J. W. Matheson, &c., by Rev. G. Patterson. A review of this work may be expected in our next.

Notices, &c.

Annapolis Co. Ministerial Conference.

The next meeting of the Annapolis County Conference of Baptist Ministers will take place, D. V., at Bridgetown, on Tuesday the 7th day of Feb., next, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Preaching on the previous evening 1st the Baptist Meeting House, Bridgetown, at 7 o'clock.

Lower Granville, Jan. 20th, 1865.

A Donation Visit will be made for Rev. D. McKee, on Tuesday, 14th of Feb., all friendly to the cause are invited to meet at 5 o'clock, P. M., at the Baptist Meeting-house.

Little Forks, Jan. 26th, 1865.

The friends of the Rev. Geo. Armstrong propose making him a friendly visit on Wednesday the 8th of February, and to do so, a party of 25 or 30 persons are invited to meet at 10 o'clock, A. M., at the Baptist Meeting-house.

We regret to learn that our aged friend, Rev. W. Chipman, has been laid up by lameness for the past five weeks. In all his affliction, however, he finds the promises of God fully realized.

Rev. B. Vaughan, also of Kempt, Hants County, we are sorry to hear has been sick for several months. He has been able to preach but once for the past four months.

Letters Received.

Rev. J. F. Kempton, 16th. W. Gremley, 21st. \$2. D. H. Jenks, 21st. \$9.50. Asaph Marshall, Esq., 25th. \$6.50, per W. L. Marshall. Rev. George Armstrong, 23rd. W. T. Waterman, 21st. 1 sub. W. Aymon, Esq., 21st. \$12. Rev. J. C. Morse, 21st. J. W. Barnes, Esq., 25th. \$2. L. McNayer, Esq., 15th. \$6. Mrs. R. McCulloch, 24th. \$4. G. W. Freeman, 21st. \$20. 1 sub. M. Kinman, 24th. \$10.—Can be obtained from Abolition Office for \$10 per 100, and \$2 for each additional 100. James Desbriess, Esq., 24th. \$4. S. J. Healey, A. G. Mungrave, 23rd. \$16.40. H. E. Payson, Esq., Reply sent by return mail. Jos. D. Masters, 25th. 2 subs. \$8.—All right. Rev. P. E. Murray, 27th. \$5. J. Lantz, 25th. S. Wheelock, 27th. \$12. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 27th. \$4. Rev. D. W. C. Dimock, 28th. 1 sub. C. H. Whitman.—Copy of Ritual sent. H. Mills, 27th. P. Wickwire, 27th. \$4. W. B. Harris, Esq., 27th. \$20. Rev. S. McLeod, 17th. \$4. A. J. Ledbetter, 17th. \$4.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

The City Council have before them a proposal for opening a new street in the northern part of the city from Canard to North Streets.

ALMOST AN ACCIDENT occurred on the North-west Arm, nearly opposite to Oaklands, one day last week, by a young lady skating too near the edge of the ice, when she was precipitated into the water. About a dozen gentlemen flew to the rescue and consequently broke through, and were also in a perilous condition. They were all lady and gentlemen, eventually brought safe to land, with nothing worse than a cold bath.

Sydney Coals are selling in Halifax for \$6.50 per chaldron.

TEMPERANCE LECTURERS.—The Rev. Mr. McArthur will lecture at South Rowdon this day Feb. 1, at Hillsdale on the 2nd, at Newport Corner on the 3rd, and at Brooklyn on Monday the 6th.

Mr. R. M. Barratt is advertised to lecture as follows: Goldenville, Wednesday, Feb. 1; Glentag, Thursday, " 2; Guysborough, Monday, " 6; Manchester, Tuesday, " 7; Guysboro' Intervale, Wednesday, " 8; Crow Harbour, Thursday, " 9. Collections will be taken up at each meeting in aid of the G. D. Agency Fund.

It is hoped that Friends in localities that may be visited by the Agents will render them necessary assistance in the prosecution of their good work.

The New Dartmouth Ferry Steamer was launched last week.

In the Court of Vice Admiralty, on Saturday, His Honor the Chief Justice gave his decision in the case of the steamer *City of Petersburg*. The ground of the case was a suit brought by a number of seamen against the master of the vessel, for the recovery of a considerable sum of money which they alleged was due them as a balance of wages. His Honor decreed that the case be dismissed, and that the matter of costs remain an open question.—*Chron.*

Our City Banks are informed object to give gold for Yarmouth Notes—there being no depot in Halifax for their redemption.

THE CHALMERS CHURCH SOCIAL SOIREE took place on Friday evening last in Temperance Hall. Vocal and instrumental music enlivened the evening. Speeches were made by the Revs. Messrs Maxwell, Dr. Pryor, Lathern, Cumming and Murray.

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The Liverpool Transcript of Thursday last gives an account of a melancholy disaster in the loss of the *Heroic*, Dunlap, master, which for some time past had run as a packet between Liverpool and Boston. It appears that she left Boston on Monday the 16th for Liverpool, on Wednesday she struck a ledge off Tusket Islands, and became disabled, filled with water and drifted towards Pubnico, no signal could be made to attract attention from the shore. On Thursday night the hull parted from the cabin, on which were the passengers and crew, twelve in number, in a perfectly helpless condition and suffering fearfully. On Friday parties on shore observed them and with much praise-worthy courage put to sea to reach them. Failing in the first attempt they came on shore and again obtained sight of them, and pulled off again, this time successfully reaching them. Before this two of the passengers, a Mrs. Daly and her grand child, had died. They landed at Clark's harbor, Cape Sable Island, and shortly after, another one, Mrs. Guthrie, mother of the child died; her husband on seeing this, also, fell exhausted and soon after expired. Others of the passengers and some of the crew were badly frost-bitten, but are recovering. The people of Cape Sable Island shewed great kindness to the sufferers.

An American ship, bound to Cow Bay, was lost on McNutt's Island on the same night (Tuesday), and melancholy to relate four of the crew were drowned.

The French packet from St. Pierre, with a mail, arrived at this port on Sunday morning. The Captain reports that the schr. *Lalour* with a cargo of coal, put into St. Pierre, having lost all her sails in severe gales which she experienced around the coast. Capt. Gautier also reports the loss of the schr. *Rob Roy*, which left this port some time since for Sydney. The latter vessel was owned, we believe, by Lewis P. Fairbanks, and was one of the oldest craft sailing out of Halifax. The crew are to come up in the *Lalour*.—*Recorder.*

Canada.

The Montreal *Witness* gives a list of new buildings erected in that city last year, reaching a total of 1,019.

OTTAWA.—The following table of distances gives some idea of the centrality of Ottawa in view of Confederation.

OTTAWA IS DISTANT FROM—

Montreal, C. E.	100 miles.
Three Rivers, C. E.	175 "
Quebec	210 "
Saguenay	322 "
Chicoutimi Port	322 "
Fredericton, N. B.	455 "
St. John, N. B.	480 "
Pictou Mines, N. S.	665 "
Halifax, N. S.	612 "
St. John's, N. F.	1150 "
Kingson, C. W.	95 "
Port Hope	172 "
Toronto	254 "
London	354 "
Windsor	430 "
Sault Ste. Marie	475 "
Lake Superior Mines	560 "
Port Gary	1140 "
Red River	1140 "

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THE MOST WONDERFUL INVENTION OF THE AGE.
Price only \$2.50.

For further description, see *Halifax Morning Journal*, or address the Agent, Messrs. A. BUCKLEY, Bookellers and Stationers, Clinton Block, Windsor, N. B.

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A LARGE and beautiful assortment embracing all the newest and most fashionable colours, at
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SKIRTINGS! SKIRTINGS!

THE balance of a large stock of Plain and fancy Balmoral Skirtings is offered much below regular prices.

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IN-Drab and White, all the sizes, at Reduced Prices.
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Dec 14. 6 lbs.

OLD EYES MADE NEW.

A PAMPHLET directing how to speedily restore sight and give up Spectacles, without aid of Doctor or medicine. Sent by mail free on receipt of 10 cents. Address
J. B. FOOTE, M. D., 1130 Broadway, New York.

Sept. 12.

WESTON'S METALLIC ARTIFICIAL LEG.

THE Lightest, Cheapest, most Durable, and most natural ever invented. Price \$75 to \$100. Send for a pamphlet.
J. W. WESTON, 491 Broadway, New York.

Sept. 12.

WOODILL'S GLYCERINE LOTION,

FOR BEAUTIFYING THE COMPLEXION AND REMOVING ALL

Tan, Pimples, and Freckles.

ERUPTIONS OF THE SKIN,

and acts as a charm in preventing and curing

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This lotion is perfectly free from anything unwholesome, and may be used freely on the most delicate infant.

The only genuine is prepared by

WOODILL BROTHERS, City Drug Store.

Nov. 9.

JAS. McDONALD, Financial Secretary.

Jan. 18.

3 wks.

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For the rapid cure of Coughs, Colds, Influenza, Hoarseness, Croup, Bronchitis, Incipient Consumption; and for the relief of Consumptive Patients in advanced stages of the disease.

So wide is the field of its usefulness, and so numerous are the cases of its cures, that almost every section of country abounds in persons who have been restored from alarming and even desperate diseases of the lungs by its use.

When once tried, its superiority to every other expectorant is too apparent to escape observation, and where its virtues are known, the public no longer hesitate what antidote to employ for the distressing and dangerous affections of the pulmonary organs that are incident to our climate. While many inferior remedies thrust upon the community have fled and been discarded, this has gained friends by every trial, conferred benefits on the afflicted, and can never forget and produced cures too numerous and too remarkable to be forgotten.

We can only assure the public that its quality is carefully kept up to the best it ever has been, and that it may be relied on to do for their relief all that it has ever done.

Great numbers of Clergymen, Physicians, Statesmen, and eminent personages, have lent their names to certify the unparalleled usefulness of our remedies, and space here will not permit the insertion of them.

The Agents below named furnish gratis our AMERICAN ALMANAC in which they are given with also full descriptions of the complaints they cure.

Those who require an effective medicine to purify the blood will find Ayer's Cherry Pectoral the remedy to use. Try it once, and you will know its value.

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Dec. 14.