

"RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER"

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TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD, Editor.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1877.

EDUCATION REPORT.

The Chief Superintendent's Report of the Common, Superior, Grammar, Training and Model Schools of New Brunswick for 1876, is now in the hands of the public. It contains a summary view of the progress of the year ended in April last, a review of the results of five years' operation of the Schools Act, and some suggestions for Legislative adoption. The statistical tables are very full, and the whole furnishes a very interesting and satisfactory exhibit of the state of education in the Province. The Superintendent in the beginning of his Report refers to the severe and prolonged test the School system has had, by reason of the industrial and social depression of the year, and makes the gratifying statement that, notwithstanding the depression, the efficiency of the Schools in general has been greater than any previous year, while a very considerable area of the Province has, for the first time, been brought within the beneficial operation of the system. There has been an increase in the attendance of pupils over that of previous years, which indicates a very satisfactory degree of educational progress.

The number of Schools, teachers, and assistants, and pupils, for the Summer Term, ended 31st Oct., 1876, is as follows:

1. The number of Schools was 1,274—increased 100; Teachers and Assistants 1,320—increased 103; Pupils 52,020—increased 3,384.
2. The proportion of the population of the Province attending the Schools during the Term was 1 in 5.49 of the population—increased 1 in 79.74 of the population.

3. The number of different pupils attending the Schools during the year, ended 31st October 1876, was 64,089—increased 2,400. The proportion of the population of the Province attending the Schools during some portion of the year was 1 in 4.41—increased 1 in 122.12 of the population.

Summing up a review of the more important results of five years operation of the Free Schools Act, the Superintendent is justified in saying:

"It is clearly demonstrated that the outcome of the educational activity of the past five years is the establishment of the great outlines of an enduring and efficient School System. With much pains and labor, but not without success, the system of the Province has been brought into the hands of the people. Twelve hundred and seventy-four Schools have been set in operation. The number of School-houses owned by Trustees-Corporations has increased 11,193 per cent. The School-houses belonging to them, 138,771 per cent, and 66 per cent of the Houses previously owned have been enlarged or extensively repaired. School Furniture of the most approved patterns has been introduced into one-half of the Schools now existing in the Province. School playgrounds have very generally been procured, and considerable proportion of them have already been suitably enclosed, while School Premises have been improved in a marked degree. The Value of School-houses, grounds and furniture has increased 11,193 per cent; nearly two-thirds of the expenditure for which had been discharged on December 31st, 1876, and of the income of the Province, 1876-77, the School Districts outside the seven Districts which embrace the Cities and Incorporated Towns. Insurance to the amount of \$225,550 has been secured on School Houses and Furniture. A uniform and superior series of Text-Books has been provided, eleven of which have been prepared at the instance and under the supervision of the Board of Education, while the selection and adaptation of others has received special care; and the series is now in universal use in the Schools. A good beginning has been made in the way of introducing necessary School Apparatus. The enrolled attendance of pupils has been increased 33.09 per cent, and the percentage of average daily attendance has been increased 35.66 per cent, and upward over the five years to a degree equal to 14 for each Winter Term, and 1.21 for each Summer Term. The organization of Schools in the most populous Districts has been successfully completed, and, with a result 25.51 per cent, of all the Schools of the Province have been classified into graded departments during the five years, embracing nearly 45 per cent of the pupils returning to this Office. Fixed Courses of Instruction have received much local attention, and marked interest has been awakened in the teaching of the Normal School management. The Normal School has been strengthened and conducted with all the energy practicable within its straitened accommodation; and a new common building of brick and stone has been provided, at a cost of \$50,000, in order to secure a permanent supply of trained Teachers. An impartial and uniform system of Licensing candidates for the office of Teacher has been established, and holders of Licenses issued under its operation are accredited Teachers in every District in the Province, during good behavior. The remuneration of Teachers has been made certain, and has been raised to an amount tolerably commensurate with the duties of their office; and an extended period has been allowed for the Department for the regular communication of official and other scholastic information to all officers and Teachers connected with the administration of the School System."

Referring to the local struggles and conflicts which had to be met and overcome in achieving the splendid results enumerated, he pays a deserved compliment to Inspectors, Trustees, Teachers and others, who have laboriously striven to render the system a blessing to New Brunswick, and says: "The author of the Free Schools Act, and the Legislature which passed it, and has sustained it in unimpairing operation, as well as the Board of Education upon whom has been largely devolved the determination of questions of administration, have before them as marked and beneficial educational results as were ever developed in any country within an equal period of time. It only remains that a similar devotion and singleness of purpose shall characterize the future administration of the System, and that provision be made at once for its complete development in those particulars, which are either contemplated by existing enactments or are elements essential to the continued vigor and virtues of its operation, to place the School System of New Brunswick permanently on a basis of increasing requirements of our people as 'honest sons of honest industry,' citizens of a free State, and members of that Commonwealth of general intelligence and culture whose sovereignty embraces the world."

EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The sad calamity of Friday morning last, has cast a gloom over the city. The striking anti-slavery has the sympathy of the whole city. Mr. E. D. Waite was a brother of the editor of the Woodstock Sentinel, and to them and the other members of this family we extend deepest sympathy in this time of sudden and sore trouble.

To every one who and like events emphasize the teachings of our Lord, "Be ye also ready."

—War is not that so many are found to give good characters to rumblers! In the Quigley trial, if the newspaper reporter is correct, the prosecuting officer made it his business to repeat the statements made at the time of the murder, about the proprietor of the rumshop where the deed was committed, being a "respectable man," &c., &c., and all the lawyers engaged in the case had something to say about rum as a crime producer. What object can they have in enjoining men who

engage in a traffic that is evil and evil only? Who can tell my rumblers how so many apologists among men who know better than they say?

"Uncle Tom's Cabin."—Almost everybody has read "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Perhaps they do not know that the real "Uncle Tom" is yet alive. He is a minister, and his name is Rev. Josiah Henson. His age is eighty-eight. He has been visiting England to raise money in behalf of some religious institutions of which he is the head. He has met with a very cordial reception in the amount he has asked for, and will return with some \$3,000 for his own personal use. At a farewell meeting in London, the admission was limited to ticket-holders, and the building—Mr. Spurgeon's church—was crowded. The Earl of Shaftesbury, who has been a particular friend of Mr. Henson for a quarter of a century, presided. "Uncle Tom" described his slave-life of forty-two years in a telling story, and closed with singing the "Slave Parting Hymn." The Earl of Shaftesbury said "it had afforded him the sincerest pleasure to preside on that occasion, for the purpose of expressing his respect and affection for, and of bidding farewell to, that grand old man who afforded a signal proof of what might be done for that down-trodden race to which he belonged, and how it might be lifted up from the mire, and set on a level with the princes of the earth. Slavery was fully and completely abolished, and the slave was as well as the slave, and led to a state of equality, proficiency, and sin, which tended to the degradation of the human race, while the conduct of the emancipated negro had falsified the declarations that they were unfit for freedom, that they did not know right from wrong, and they were adapted to act as beasts of burden. By the opening of God, the West had been released, and it was for us to do the same, and to combine his efforts and energies as we have, to help him to speak, hearts to feel, and wrongs to redress."

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publicly presented this poem at the first meeting. A man named McDonald told a most moving story. He had been married to an attorney at sixteen. His first drink was of wine, given him by a Christian man. He contracted the habit of drinking so frequently that within fifteen months of the time when he should have been entered at the bar he was turned out of the attorney's office in disgrace. This shame broke his mother's heart. For thirty years, with intervals, he has been a drunkard. For the past seven years he had taken sixteen dollars of the twenty-one he had earned every week, and he had given it to his wife. He had signed pledge after pledge; had been a member of the Sons of Temperance and of the Good Templars; but in vain. When the Tabernacle meetings opened, he took an early opportunity to attend. "I wished to compare Mr. Moody," he said, "with Mr. Spurgeon, whom I had heard in London. That noon Mr. Sankey sang the hymn, 'Watching and Waiting.' It went to my heart. I thought of my mother. Was she watching and waiting for me? In the evening Mr. Moody preached on the text 'The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.' I went to the Berkeley street church, to the men's meeting under conviction. I asked prayers. I found Christ. I went home, shut myself into my room, and prayed. My wife and children thought I was mad when I told my story. They said I had 'Moody fever' on. But it was a real change. And now my wife is changed. She prays, too. And God has done it all. He will change you, too, if you'll only let him."

A young, fine-looking man followed Mr. McDonald. Strange to tell, he, too, on a different evening, had been awakened by the same hymn: "Watching and Waiting." In a plain, modest, manly way, he told of his conversion. His story was like that of all the rest. His appetite was gone.

Mr. Sankey was deeply moved by these testimonies. He said Mr. Moody. In a broken voice he said: "I wish to thank Mr. Sankey for his hymn, and to thank Mr. Moody for his story. The hymn was sung, while hundreds wept and prayed. And Mr. Sankey followed it with a heart-breaking prayer for the poor 'prodigals.'"

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and appears to be an earnest enquirer after salvation. Kept in doors by the rain this a. m., we hold a prayer meeting with our native brethren, which he attended, and at its close remained sometime for conversation. He came again to read a Scripture lesson with the brethren this p. m. His enquiries indicate thought and an awakened mind. "Why was Jesus Christ crucified?" he asked with much earnestness, and seemed a good deal impressed, when I turned to the 33rd of Isaiah, and read, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." O mercy! Lord, open his heart to receive the truth and the love of God.

O that the Church of Christ were all alive and in earnest for the conversion of this people. Surely now is a favored time for preaching the