

**NOVA SCOTIA SUMMER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.**

Our advertising columns contain an announcement of the Nova Scotia Summer School of Science. The object of this institution is, we understand, the training of our teachers in the natural history of our country, and the science of common things, the better to enable them to carry out the spirit and intention of the provincial course of study in its entirety. The date of the introduction of this course of study, defective as it necessarily must be, will in the future be referred to as an important epoch in our educational history. Under the old system, the teacher might be a hermit, acquainted with only his books and the configurations of his paper lined cell. His pupils might be brought up under the anchorite rule corrupted by the freedom of modern civilization. His writing, his spelling, his arithmetic, his Euclid and his Latin might be most accomplished. But while these all would give him a knowledge useful in the world, it gives only a part. In the struggle for existence, an observant and intelligent understanding of every phase of nature which may present itself gives the individual a tremendous advantage. Our teachers are *now* required to train the child to observe accurately, to read the meaning in some of the least obtrusive hieroglyphics of nature, to understand the orderly action of the forces which environ him, and in the midst of which and subject to which he must earn his daily bread. The teacher must know what he has to teach. As the text book cannot effectively acquaint him with the mysteries of his environment, he seeks the assistance of those who know a little more than himself. Hence the summer school, with its elementary but practical science teaching. The work which such an institution can do is yet to be demonstrated. In the Pictou Academy, science clubs have been in operation with varying success for several years. In Halifax last winter, a very successful school of science under the presidency of the Supervisor was formed. Geology was taken up, and with the splendid collections in the Provincial Museum, it goes without saying that the work was thoroughly done.

The inception of this Provincial School of Science is due to the Alumni Association of the Provincial Normal School, the energetic secretary of which did not rest until the scheme outlined by it was submitted to the Educational Association of the Province, by which it was approved.

The site of the school is in one of the most pleasant and most interesting parts of Nova Scotia. The governors of Acadia College have with great public spirit placed their fine buildings and apparatus at

its disposal. From this point as a centre excursions to interesting localities of continental fame are arranged for. On the whole it appears to us that the study of science under such conditions will be as exhilarating and recreating as a fortnight of picnics, while at the same time there are the best opportunities given for scientific work. And last, though not least, Wolfville, no doubt due to the literary and scientific influence of Acadia College, is one of the most cultured communities in the Province, not excepting the metropolis. Its appreciation and support of the higher education are monumental. We trust the summer science school may draw much inspiration from such propitious surroundings.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT ALLISON.**

The closing exercises in connection with the educational institutions at Sackville took place a few days ago. The public exhibition of the Male Academy was held in Lingley Hall on Monday, the 30th ult.; the public closing of the Ladies' College in the same place on the following day; and the Convocation of the University on Wednesday, the 1st inst. These exercises always draw large audiences, and this year the capacity of the Hall was too limited to hold all seeking admittance. The public school system has had some effect on the attendance at the Male Academy, but the present indications, we are informed, point to a large increase the ensuing year. Mr. T. T. Davis, B. A., will continue in charge as Principal of the Male Academy, and will have around him a staff of good and energetic teachers. Great success has been attained at the Ladies' College. The Rev. B. C. Borden, M. A., is Principal. While no efforts have been spared to keep a high standard in sound and solid education, a very great advance has been made in fine arts, music, and modern languages. Prof. Mack, Prof. Chisholm, and their assistants, have succeeded in working up the musical department to a high state of efficiency. Miss Mack—a pupil of Patti—has proved herself an accomplished instructor in vocal culture. The attendance at the Ladies' College last year more than taxed the capacity of the building—additional dormitory accommodation had to be provided. During the year 140 were in attendance. The largest attendance at any one time was 84 resident students and 40 from outside.

The University, under the management of its able and distinguished President, Dr. Inch, has had a very successful year. From the President's report it appears there were 95 in attendance. Of these 7 were seniors, 7 juniors, 15 sophomores, and 21 freshmen