

algebra. Every three months each class in the school is subjected to a strict examination, so that I may be perfectly familiar with the standing of each pupil. These examinations have usually been private, but as we court inspection, I would respectfully suggest that your Board renew the invitation to the Superintendent of Education and the Supervisor of the city schools, to visit and inspect the Institution. The same invitation might also be extended to the County Inspectors of the Province.

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

It has been well said by John Stuart Mill, "that success depends more upon the qualities of the human agents than on the circumstances in which these agents are placed, and that it is *difficulties*, not *facilities*, that nourish bodily and mental energy." This truth is specially applicable in the case of those who are blind, for it is undoubtedly a fact that greater obstacles to success in any calling lie in the pathway of those deprived of sight, than of those who possess perfect vision; take for example the study of music, this art is supposed by some people to be simple and easy to be acquired, but to those familiar with the course of instruction requisite to acquire the skill and knowledge of a thorough musician, the task would be regarded in its proper light. Those who *have* sight find the study of music a most difficult one, but the blind have additional difficulties with which to contend. The notes of the music, which in the case of those who can see are easily read from the printed page before them, must be committed to memory by those who are blind, and when it is considered that many compositions contains upwards of 3,000 distinct notes, the difficulty of memorizing them will be fully appreciated. The manipulation of the keys of such instruments as the piano and organ, require on the part of those deprived of sight, long and careful practice in order to obtain rapid execution; such difficulties as these, however, calling forth as they do the best energies of the individual, insure ultimate success. In former reports I have directed your attention to the fact, that our graduates were eminently successful as teachers of vocal and instrumental music, and as pianoforte tuners. I herewith subjoin a few short extracts from letters received by me from a number of these graduates:

"My class of pupils has been steadily increasing for the past three years; I have all the work I can attend to, and am saving money. I hope in the course of a year or eighteen months to go to Germany, in order to continue my musical studies.

"*Halifax, Nov. 25th, 1882.*"

"A. M. CHISHOLM.

"In answer to your inquiry as to my success, I have much pleasure in stating that, thanks to the careful training I received in the Institution, I have been enabled to maintain myself comfortably for the past four years. I have no difficulty in procuring pupils, and the people have every confidence in my ability as a teacher.

"*Shubenacadie, Nov. 23rd, 1882.*"

"JEANETTE C. McNEIL.