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Provincial Wesleyan.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1874.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

This spring season has been tardy. Sackville has only now begun to throw out a few umbrageous colours. To show these fine structures which crown Mount Allison to perfection, a full back ground of verdure is essential.

There is but one opinion as to the educational year. It has been prosperous in no ordinary degree. Every available space in the three buildings—Male Academy, Female Academy, and College—has been occupied by boarders. They have enjoyed almost total immunity from disease.

Principal Inch, with all his portly manhood, cannot conceal the effects of the combined responsibilities connected with government and teaching. To carry through successfully an entire year's burden such as is known to have resulted from an unusual attendance—over seventy female boarders, if we do not mistake—must have taxed both body and brain, yet we are glad to find him and his excellent lady in moderately good health.

Professor Mellich resigns his responsible offices of teacher and Vice Principal of the Male Academy. The prosperity of his department has told quite perceptibly upon his constitution. Standing among scores of light-hearted, romping lads, he has kept them in restraint by the main force of firmness tempered with kindness.

During last winter a dissatisfaction with our schools and school administration that had long felt, found expression in a petition addressed to the Mayor, asking him to convene a meeting at which your opinions on the subject might be elicited. That meeting was held, and it passed resolutions to the effect that Halifax should be entrusted with the management of its own school affairs, that an association should be formed to promote the interests of education in the City, and that a High School should be established without unnecessary delay.

There is a conviction gaining upon us, which may as well find expression here as elsewhere. The professional staff is not by any means sufficient for this growing and important interest of our Church. Good men must not be sacrificed. It is comparatively easy to go on a step too far, and then, when looking down upon the grave of some victim to craft exaction, make wise plans for the future. Life is too precious, cultivated minds too rare—to be thus hurried out of the way. Let others provide a remedy; we express the truth.

the gospel. A prayer and experience meeting of students and friends closed well this day of blessing.

On Monday came the examination of Academy classes. These fully sustained in the estimation of all good judges, the very high opinion formed from the commencement, of the honest, faithful discipline which students have been subjected.

Tuesday's proceedings were, as usual, of great interest. The essays by ladies and orations by graduating gentlemen, led to the most favourable impression. Patriotic feeling was awakened by the address on "Joseph Howe"; while Mr. Bond's chaste and fervid apostrophe to Scotland carried the audience with enthusiasm.

HONORARY DEGREES.—The College Board and Trustees of Mount Allison have accorded honours to two gentlemen, whose names are familiar in the Province with which they have sustained a distinguished connection.

A STATEMENT
ADDRESSED TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS BY THE HALIFAX SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.
During last winter a dissatisfaction with our schools and school administration that had long felt, found expression in a petition addressed to the Mayor, asking him to convene a meeting at which your opinions on the subject might be elicited.

THE SUPERNUMERARY FUND AGAIN.
MR. EDITOR.—We should always be thankful to those who impart information to us, especially information relating to "Church Affairs." I accordingly tender my thanks to the "writer of correction column" for the information given in your issue of the 18th inst.

LETTER FROM MONTREAL.
DEAR MR. EDITOR.—As the time approaches when the Societies of the Conference of E. B. A., will become closely related to the Methodists of Western Canada, the following brief notices of the Annual Meeting of the Montreal District may not be uninteresting to many of your readers.

3. When vacancies occur in the teaching staff, instead of advertisements being inserted in the newspapers to attract teachers from all quarters, the appointments are made by private patronage, although it is well known that no great desire to come to the city that every vacancy could be filled up from the best teachers in the Province.

4. The expense is increasing year by year out of all proportion to the increased number of pupils, or the efficiency of the schools.

5. Some of the schools are in a disgraceful condition even as regards order and discipline; the others "grading is ignored" and the standard in most of the schools is extremely low, notwithstanding the reports of the supervisor that the average attendance is very much higher than in the country, the great and acknowledged drawback to efficiency thus not existing in the city.

6. In schools with even 12 or 13 departments, the Principal is completely unable to exercise any intelligent supervision over the whole school, because his time is confined to his own department. He is thus only a nominal Principal, and the present supervision is in a mere sham.

7. The ratepayers of Halifax, though heavily taxed, are at great disadvantage, as compared with other sections of the Province, such as Pictou and Yarmouth, in having no high school. There is therefore no link between our common schools and colleges, and this chief objection, having been thoroughly examined, was recommended to be received on probation.

8. While the law provides that the Commissioners in the city of Halifax are to discharge all the duties of Trustees, and the provisions of the general School Law require Trustees to provide free of charge high schools in the city, the Board has made no such provision and has pleaded that there is no law empowering it to do so.

9. That denomination which in its recent Pastoral has declared its settled policy to be to address to the principle of Roman Catholic schools, is, nevertheless, the only religious body having clerical representation upon our School Board.

10. Several schools supported by the city enjoy special religious privileges, and are exempt from the usual regulations of the Roman Catholic Church, and, as if that were not enough, at the same time the Chairman of the Committee for appointing Teachers to the only schools available for Protestant pupils, is the Roman Catholic Vicar General.

11. The appointment of Teachers to one class of schools is, it is well understood, absolutely in the hands of the authority of the Roman Catholic Church, and, as if that were not enough, at the same time the Chairman of the Committee for appointing Teachers to the only schools available for Protestant pupils, is the Roman Catholic Vicar General.

12. Three-fifths in number of the First-class male teachers in Halifax at present receiving salaries of \$500 and upwards each, and which, under the resolutions of the Board are to be increased by forty dollars annually until they reach seven hundred dollars, are found in the schools especially designed for Roman Catholic pupils, although one third more pupils are registered as in attendance at the other schools.

13. In some of the schools thus liberally provided for from the public funds, in furtherance of the views of a favored denomination, books other than those prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction for the schools of this Province are used, and the children are sedulously sought to be confirmed in attachment to the Roman Catholic Church, whilst, at the same time, no provision is made in the other schools for distinctly religious instruction, and even the reading of the Holy Scriptures is not required.

14. While no Protestants can be introduced as teachers into some of our public schools, Roman Catholics are eligible to teach in the schools, and are actually appointed.

15. The Association does not believe that such a state of matters and such manipulation of the public schools can be acceptable to the people of Halifax, and it therefore earnestly desires your assistance in seeking to obtain such changes as will increase the efficiency of the schools, which popular interest in Education, bring the administration more directly under your own control, and bring to an end the systematic and increasing violation or evasion of the law in its interests.

16. The Association believes that the educational interests of the whole Province are suffering from the evils and indefensible anomalies specified, and that the time has come for taking united action on the subject.

17. The meeting was closed early in the afternoon of the 21st. Seldom is so much business done so quietly, and so satisfactorily, in so short a time. To this the broad schedules that are used largely conduce. To this may be added the ability of the Chairman. His official utterances were brief, but clear, and were rendered no less agreeable than conclusive by the music of his excellent voice. It was pleasant to observe the gentleness of the ministers in their department towards each other, and their promptitude in furnishing answers to the questions of the meeting.

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