

given in the last census to be correct, it will be observed, that the attendance of pupils outside the City was, according to population, as large as in the City; whereas we ought to expect the proportion in the City to be much larger than in the rural districts. The inference likely to be drawn from this comparison, is, that either on the part of the Commissioners or parents, there is a lack of that interest and vigor so necessary in all such cases, to secure a punctual attendance at schools.

The most of the difficulties and obstacles in the way of an enlarged success in the City Schools, may be resolved into the two following:—

First, the practice of taking children especially boys, from school at too early an age. In a City like Halifax, the temptations to do this are very strong, and are almost continuously presenting themselves. Boys are required in offices, stores and shops, or as apprentices. In many of these positions a salary is given which, although small, is an important consideration, as it supplements the parent's income, and thus aids in the support of the family. Parents are therefore strongly and sorely tempted to have their children earning something. Hence, just at the time when a pupil has mastered the mere rudiments of an education, he is taken from school, and, with the little he has, thrust into the responsible duties of business life; to the great sacrifice of his own future interests; and it may be that of his country also.

The second may be designated *Class Influence*. I need but state, what every observing person sees and knows, that the wealthy classes are exceedingly unwilling to have their children mingle with those of the poor, with that freedom which cannot well be avoided in a public school. From this state of things, several most unfavorable results follow: the public schools are deprived of that interest which would otherwise be felt in them were the children of the wealthy in attendance; and the wealthy, who send their children to private schools, or to other countries in too many instances, are quite satisfied that the public schools, for which they are taxed, should be sustained as cheaply as possible.

I am pleased to learn that a plan for a High School in the City is now being matured, the influence of which, if wisely conducted, will to a considerable extent, remedy the evil complained of; and eventually, it is hoped, infuse a more healthful spirit, and give a higher tone to the entire school system of the City.

In the City of Halifax, there is a large number of boys of a very poor class who, there is reason to think, do not attend school