

youths who ever get more than the merest smattering of education is extremely small. An academy with a staff of half a dozen teachers or less, publishes a syllabus of subjects taught that would eclipse a university with its staff of thirty professors.

7. The public schools instead of being seminaries of patriotic and liberal sentiment, become sectarian centres, the children of one sect being taught from infancy to look with jealous and unfriendly eye upon those of another sect. The seeds of bigotry and narrowness of view are implanted at an early age, which the teachers of religion and patriotism find their efforts vain to uproot.

8. The utter failure of the old, cumbrous, expensive system, in this age when the schoolmaster is supposed to be abroad, is evidenced by the fact brought out by the recent census, that in a population of less than 200,000 over 50,000 above ten years of age were to be found who could neither read nor write.

Newfoundland has many attractions as a place in which to live. It has a very moderate and temperate climate, is comparatively free from fogs on land, being much maligned in this respect. It has a population second to none in natural ability, the sturdy descendants of good English, Irish and Scotch stock. Its mercantile classes are solid and substantial; men of public spirit and with the good of their adopted home at heart; and though much fettered by a wretched supply system that has been inherited from the past, they are foremost in public affairs, one of them, Sir Robert Thorburn, being at present Premier and recently knighted by the Queen. Its fishing population, the "bone and sinew" of the country, hardy, enterprising and worthy of a better fate. But with all the many advantages and resources of the country—piscatorial, mineral, agricultural and human—the place is, for want of education, at least fifty years behind the age. What Newfoundland wants most is a system of education such as we have in New Brunswick, where the sons and daughters of the poorest can get without money and without price as good a common school education as the children of the millionaire. The government that shall have the courage to abolish two of the superintendencies, amalgamate all the colleges into one university and training school, and pass a free unsectarian school act for the colony will deserve well of all future generations of Newfoundlanders.

L. G. M.

St. John, N. B.

CHILDREN should be early taught to see correctly, think clearly, speak accurately, to give close attention and render prompt and willing obedience. Bad habits are easily formed, but are with difficulty corrected.

For the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

Let us have a convention of teachers of the Maritime Provinces. Why should we not? In these days of rapid and cheap travel neither the distance from all parts of these Provinces to a suitable central point, nor the expense attending such a trip, is a serious objection. The teachers of the United States meet annually in convention at places as widely distant as Maine and Colorado. This year hundreds of them from the eastern, middle and southern States will meet their western brethren at Chicago.

Why should we have such a convention? Because we want to know our fellow-laborers in Nova Scotia and in the "Gem of the Gulf;" because we may learn much from each other; because our conditions of secondary and primary education and our provisions for the training of teachers are essentially similar; because we feel that we have held aloof from each other too long and we want to break down any unnatural barriers, if such exist, which have hitherto separated us from our co-workers in the adjoining Provinces, and because the spirit of the times in which we live leads those who may be doing the same work to associate in representative gatherings for mutual helpfulness.

The opinion of the Educational Institute of New Brunswick will be taken at its next meeting as to the desirability and practicability of holding a conference of the teachers of the Maritime Provinces in 1888, and a committee could be appointed, if desired, to co-operate with similar committees of the Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island bodies, to arrange the details of time, place and programme. Will our brethren in the sister provinces take the same or similar action at the approaching meetings of their associations or institutes?

E. M.

Fredericton, N. B.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

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