

THE
PARISH SCHOOL ADVOCATE
And Family Instructor,
FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND.

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Libraries and Text Books.

The subject of District Libraries has been referred to in former numbers of our Periodical, and in consequence of their importance we now bring this important part of educational machinery more prominently before our readers. Libraries of useful knowledge forms a very important educational auxiliary of every country where knowledge is making salutary progress. In Great Britain this subject has recently engaged the attention of some of the principal statesmen and philanthropists of the nation; and also in the New England States, and Western Canada, the subject of District School Libraries forms a very important part of their educational movements. It is a settled point, that the mind will have food as well as the body, and if the means of obtaining useful knowledge is not generally provided, the masses of society will run into the extremes of vice, the social fabric will

soon become morally and intellectually paralyzed; people will have some place of resort; and if no library exists in the community, the tavern, the ball-room, the card-table, and such other places, will take the attention, and be the means of leading, as they too often do, a large portion of society into the channels of vice. It is a certain fact, that man is not made to act like the beasts that perish,—his mind requires cultivation,—he is destined for a more lofty state of existence, even on earth, than merely to sit down and eat, and rise up to play; or eat in order that he might work, and work in order that he might eat. We do not know of any means of more importance, in a secular point of view, towards the education of our race, than the establishment of libraries, where are treasured up a large supply of the records of all that are great and good of past ages, as well as that continually transpiring, along