

enlargement of staff will come up in due time for consideration, and it is well to foreshadow what assuredly will very soon become a pressing necessity.

I am happy to state that the pupils from the institution continue, with but few exceptions, to take the first rank among our teachers. They are sought after by intelligent trustees and parents, in general receive higher salaries, and on the whole are exerting upon our common schools influences most valuable. A very large percentage of the Normal School pupils are females. It may be desirable that we should have more male teachers, yet we are not to expect that Nova Scotia will be an exception to a condition of things observable in almost every country where common school instruction are freely brought to the people. Both in England and America females are doing a large part of common school teaching, and from every manifestation of their ability it must be confessed that they are doing it well.

The gold and silver medals from His Excellency the Governor General were awarded in July last, the former to Miss Helen Bailly of Lunenburg, the latter to Miss Maggie Newcomb of Cornwallis. It is understood that His Lordship will continue to offer these medals each year to the successful candidate in a competitive examination. The interest of His Lordship is gratefully appreciated, as it will do much to stimulate an ambition to excel, and thereby do good beyond the limits of the institution. The model school is in successful operation, and affords most valuable facilities in the professional training of pupil teachers.

COUNTY ACADEMIES.

The yearly reports from the County Academies present, with rare exceptions, very little change. It is increasingly evident that the original intention of having an Academy in each County, though very good in theory, was certainly not for the best interest of education, as up to the present time many of them have been, and are yet, but inferior High Schools, for the sections where located. Very strong objections would no doubt be raised against closing any of them, and thus leaving the sections, having even their limited benefit to seek advanced education in other localities. The objection referred to would be local, as in almost all the Academies the attendance from the county is exceedingly small, parents preferring to send their sons to some one of the special Institutions as Pictou or Yarmouth where the expense is no greater while the advantage to the pupil is incomparably superior. The present year however does exhibit, at some points, a little more ambition, and educational life on the part of the rate-payers, as is seen in Table xviii. From this table we learn that the total attendance in all departments was 2812, being an increase of 557 over the number for 1875. Of the attendance for the year it will be noticeable that the percentage of male pupils was considerably in advance of former years. In the study of the higher branches we find also a little more ambition, as 131 were instructed in Latin, 41 in Greek, and 104 studied French. In the department of the Natural Sciences, 141 are reported as receiving in-