

It has been decided that, for indicating the proficiency of the pupils in the several branches, the following scale will be more serviceable, and more easily applied, than the system of marking formerly used: very good, good, middling, poor, very poor. To indicate these degrees, use the figures 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, respectively.

Under READING, space is given for three books—the numbers being left blank. It is undesirable that more than three should be simultaneously in use in the one school.

Inspectors are requested to pay particular attention to the encouragement of Singing and Drawing, in the schools. Singing should be one of the first exercises at the inspection of a school, especially of an elementary one.

#### REMARKS.

Under REMARKS, note any very special features in the LIFE of the school. The interest taken by the people and trustees, &c. State, also:—

I. Whether defects pointed out at previous inspection, have been remedied by trustees and teacher.

II. Whether the agreement between trustees and teacher is according to law. Report faithfully every case of illegal stipulation in regard to the county fund.

III. Whether the provisions of the law respecting accommodation have been carried out.

These notes are to be forwarded to this office at the close of the term. Number the pages in order, and fill out an index of the whole.

T. H. RAND, *Superintendent of Education.*

*Education Office, January, 1867.*

—*Nova Scotia Journal of Education.*

### 3. PROGRESS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Who can predict what the future of British America will be? Our progress has been rapid. In less than half a century the face of nature has been changed. The Indian wigwam is now seen only as the relic of a by-gone day. A more active and a more vigorous race has supplanted the red man. The bustle and hum of civilization everywhere greet the ear. Its blessings are widely diffused. Comfortable farm-houses, thriving villages, towns and cities, seats of learning and temples of the Most High everywhere adorn the land.

The manner in which many of our Provincialists have acquitted themselves in the world's broad field of action, ay, and on the field of mortal strife, amid the din of battle and clang of arms, proves that we are not unworthy descendants of the men who fixed our language and modelled our constitution, or of those who victoriously fought at Agincourt, Louisburg, Quebec and Waterloo. The inherent energy of the population of these Provinces will rapidly develop our resources. Our ancestors who made their homes in the forests of this western world, were men of strong arms and brave hearts. With difficulties they had to struggle to which their providence and toil have made us strangers. We are descendants of a race whose strength of will ever made it formidable in the face of obstacles of every kind; a race that drove off the invading foemen more than once, that forced the Magna Charta from an obstinate king, that has ever guarded with jealous care its country's interest of every nature; a race that has expanded into a nation whose colonies are planted in every corner of the globe, whose treasure-laden argosies plough every sea, whose sons explore every land, whose iron walls with their latent thunders guard the deep, and and whose "flag for a thousand years, has braved the battle and the breeze."

Our country is capable of supporting a population of 50,000,000. Let emigration be encouraged. Let British subjects come to live and labour among us. Let all that liberal and wise legislation can do, be done in making our country an attractive and remunerative field for enterprise, ambition, and talent. And let us teach the rising generation to love our flag, to love our time-honoured institutions, to love the homes of their fathers. As the tide of progress advances, the fertile plains of the far west will be settled; and who will dare to say that in half a century the Amherst merchant will not receive his teas and other products of the distant East by railway direct from British Columbia, and that Nova Scotia in wealth and importance will not be the England of this continent?

#### EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Early in the history of our Province, while our fathers cleared the forests and caught fish, while they traded and bartered, while they formed the nuclei of villages and towns, although interest in educational matters was at a low ebb, it was not altogether wanting. Scattered over our land were clergymen who had come from the fatherland to break the bread of life to the scattered children. While these honored men toiled and suffered all the privations incident to travelling through our country at this early period, while they erected altars to God amid the forest homes, they sedulously labored to educate the people, and to found educational institutions. And their labor was not fruitless. Seats of learning soon sprang

into existence. King's College, Windsor, the oldest in British America, was founded by Royal charter in 1789, in the eventful reign of George III. Pictou Academy was founded in 1814; Acadia College in 1838. The Male Branch of the Mount Allison Institution, founded by the late C. F. Allison, Esq., was opened in 1843, the Female Branch in 1854, and the College in 1862. Dalhousie College, under present arrangements, was opened three years since. St. Xavier's College now confers degrees. The University of New Brunswick, and the different higher seats of learning in Canada were established at an early day. Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, was opened six years ago, and St. Dunstons many years previously.

Not a few of the thousand sons of these various institutions have made themselves illustrious in letters, in science, in politics, in jurisprudence and in arms. While with pride we claim as our countrymen the heroes Williams and Inglis, whose names will long remain household words, not only in Nova Scotia, but throughout the British empire, with pride, too, we point to their Alma Mater, King's College, Windsor.

More than two centuries ago the pious pilgrim fathers conceived the magnificent idea of placing education within the reach of all the people, and established the basis of that system of Free Schools which has done so much for the New England States. The Free School System in Canada, under the able superintendence of Dr. Ryerson, has worked wonders. In 1852, through the praiseworthy exertions of the Hon. George Coles, then leader of the Government of P. E. Island, the Legislature of that Colony passed a Free Education Act, which has proved itself an invaluable blessing. And the unprecedented activity, interest and zeal manifested at present in educational matters by the people of our own Province of Nova Scotia, the fact that hundreds of spacious and elegant school-houses have been erected within the past two or three years or are in course of erection, the fact that talent of the highest order has been enlisted in the work of instruction, and that our schools, now free, are attended by so many thousands of pupils, clearly indicate that the system which is now being initiated in our country is already doing a noble, a philanthropic work. From address by J. T. Mellish, Esq., Head Master, Amherst Academy, N. B.

## VII. Biographical Sketches.

### No. 17.—MR. JOSEPH DENNIS.

Mr. Joseph Dennis was one of the earliest settlers in Upper Canada, having come here in 1792, when he was three years of age. His father, the late Mr. John Dennis, in common with many others of that sterling band known as the "United Empire Loyalists," suffered much in consequence of persecution at the hands of the Americans after the war of the revolution. His estates, now of immense value, were confiscated, and himself and family obliged to leave the country. He first settled on the Humber, and while there the seat of Government was moved over from Niagara to York—the latter place being then represented by an old fort and some two or three trading houses. Having been a ship-builder he was employed to superintend the building of some vessels for the government. Among others he built at the Humber, one christened The Toronto, a yacht of some 60 or 70 tons, for Governor Simcoe. There are those now living who well remember this vessel, with her raking masts and beautiful model—no expense having been spared either in building or fitting her out—as she lay during the intervals of her cruises, anchored at her usual ground then opposite the village, now about abreast of where Crawford's spice factory stands. In those days the supplies had to be brought from Niagara, and it used to be hinted that the best time ever made by the beautiful vessel with her crew of eight men and two officers, was when sent across to Niagara for a few pounds of fresh butter for the Governor's table. Mr. Joseph Dennis served during the war of 1812, and was a prisoner in the States for some months till exchanged. After the war he turned his attention to trade on Lake Ontario, then ship-building, and finally retired from active business altogether, settled down upon the family property on the Humber about the year 1830, where he died at the ripe old age of 78. Mr. Dennis, whether as a magistrate or in his private relations, was of unblemished integrity and uprightness of character, and was respected accordingly. He was father of Brigade-Major Dennis, of this city.

### No. 18.—SIR ARCHIBALD ALLISON.

The cable despatches mention the death of Sir Archibald Allison, the eminent historian, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He was born in England of Scottish parents, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh where he had the advantage of studying under DUGALD STUART and other professors who then made that seat of learning so celebrated. He was called to the Scottish Bar in 1814,