

THE INSTRUCTOR, FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

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Books, Books, Books,

ARE now the order of the day ; to be without them, is neither more nor less than to be exiled from society's intellectual chart. If we compare ourselves in this respect, with what our race once was, not a long time ago ; when it cost forty pounds to procure a copy of the Scriptures, and even very recently it cost as many pounds as it now costs shillings, to secure the Old and New Testaments. In fact there are more books to be found in the peasant's humble cottage, of the day, than were to be found, less than one hundred years ago, in the stately mansions of many of the nobility of England and France. The family or community, in these days, without books, are blanks, so far as intelligence is concerned, in the community in which they live.

In addition to the necessity that exists for books, and the real advantages arising out of their use, they are not

unfrequently purchased merely for house furniture. Our parlor tables and shelves are, in modern nomenclature, *groaning* under the weight of books and periodical literature. In "olden times," the existence of a small library of a hundred volumes was a novelty, now the non-existence is the exception.

But, notwithstanding the millions of volumes of books in circulation, the thousands of public libraries in being, and the hundreds of thousands of private libraries scattered over the length and breadth of the land ; there are *exceptions* not a few. There are scores of families even in the Lower Provinces of British America, that neither have books, nor could they read them if they had, except—for we always like to make exceptions in this way when we can—some Yankee (quack) medical almanacs, and legislative journals, which sometimes accompany each