

expectation of making a fortune in the New World, like others of his compatriots, Mr. Gray was lured, by stress of circumstances, at Halifax in the month of August, 1855, and after working for some time at his trade of tailoring, being thrown out of employment, he conceived or had suggested to him by a brother mute and fellow-countryman who happened to be also residing in Halifax the idea of opening a school for the deaf and dumb as a means of subsistence.

His advertisement attracted the attention of Rev. James C. Cochran, D. D., the venerable and devoted secretary of the Institution, who immediately sought him out, and found him in a mean lodging in a poor street, engaged in teaching one or two mutes, the place being destitute of the common comforts and even necessities of life. Mr. Cochran's interest in the deaf and dumb had been first awakened, many years before, by meeting, on board an American steamboat, with the celebrated Laurent Clerc, and accordingly he now set himself to enlist the sympathies of other benevolent persons in Halifax on behalf of the neglected deaf-mutes of his native Province, an object in which he was providentially successful. Along with Andrew Mackinlay, Esq., custos of the county, and for many years afterwards the esteemed chairman of the board of directors, he succeeded in obtaining for the infant cause the notice and support of the legislature and the community, organized a board of management, and took other steps for the proper establishment and equipment of the school.

The first legislative aid was a grant of \$1,200 in the spring of 1857, the grant, in subsequent years, being enlarged to \$1,650 and \$2,000, as the value and claims of the object became better understood. This, with the voluntary contributions readily obtained, enabled the promoters of the infant Institution to provide more suitable accommodation for the school, and to engage Mr. J. Scott Hutton, then and for ten years previously an instructor in the Edinburgh Institution, as principal, Mr. Gray being retained as assistant teacher.

Bringing from Scotland the needful books and apparatus for the work kindly donated by kindred institutions in the mother country—to the value of about \$200—Mr. Hutton entered on his duties in Halifax on the 4th of August, 1857, with four pupils. The year following, the attendance having increased to twenty-seven, additional accommodation was procured, a matron engaged, and the general management then, for the first time, placed in the hands of the principal and matron, who henceforward resided in the same building with the pupils, the school previously being only a day-school, with three or four of the boys boarding in the house of the assistant teacher, and others with friends in the city.

At the close of the first regular session of the school, as an organized institution, in July, 1858, a public meeting on its behalf was held in the Mechanics' Institute, presided over by A. Mackinlay, Esq., president of the board, and attended by the Bishop of Nova Scotia and other prominent citizens, when, for the first time before a Halifax audience, an exhibition of the method and results of deaf-mute instruction was given in the examination of the pupils, which brought the condition and claims of the deaf and dumb more impressively before the community, and gave a valuable impulse to the new cause.

During the summer vacation immediately following, the principal,