

(From the Presbyterian Witness, July 16, 1870.)

THE Annual Public examination of this Institution took place on Monday afternoon in Temperance Hall in the presence of a large and deeply interested audience. We should like to see a greater number of our leading citizens at such important benevolent gatherings, but we suppose that the presence of women and children is a good proof of public interest. Rev. Canon Cochran the unwearied friend of the Deaf and Dumb, introduced the proceedings, stated that the Chief Justice, Sir W. Young, was reluctantly absent on account of ill health, and the Administrator of the Government on account of business. Hon Dr. Parker, Rev. Dr. King, Dr. Clay and other influential public men were present. The Principal, J. Scott Hutton, Esq., stated that the Institution had met with peculiar and unprecedented difficulties during the past year. He referred very touchingly to the removal by death of Mr. Hutton, Senr., whose services for the past ten years were of incalculable value, and who last winter was called to a higher service.—The loss thus sustained made him feel more deeply than ever the need of the sympathy and the prayers of the christian people of this community.—The number of pupils during the year was 50—being above the average of former years. Ten former pupils, in Halifax, attended the sabbath exercises. Thus 60 in all were under instruction. The health of the pupils had been very good. A younger class attended than ever before. Several of the pupils are about nine or ten years of age, and one lovely little boy from Charlottetown took part in the proceedings, who is about seven.—The first class of last year have all gone away.

Mr. Hutton subjected the first class to examination in the names of common objects, in short phrases, and the construction of very simple sentences. This class had attended the Institution for about a year. They could write on the blackboard with great rapidity, and it was evident that they understood perfectly what they were doing.—The second class had attended the Institution from two to three years. They could express a limited range of ideas and describe actions with great readiness and wonderful grammatical accuracy. Some pupils of this class were able to articulate sentences in a way that could be easily understood by the audience. The most advanced class could answer a great variety of questions in Geography and Scripture History, and showed remarkable attainments in Arithmetic. The concluding exercises indicated the power of the language of signs.

The pupils described very vividly certain emotions and actions, and trades;—such as love, anger, jealousy—the murder of Abel,—fishing, shoemaking, &c. They rendered in the language of signs such Scripture stories as David and Goliath; Christ curing the Deaf and Dumb; Christ stilling the storm, &c. They concluded by repeating together by signs the Lord's Prayer. The scene was solemn and affecting. Who could feel otherwise than thankful that the children of silence are thus taught to know and adore the Heavenly Father? The examination on the whole was exceedingly satisfactory. The pupils are evidently taught to think and feel as well as to write and read. They are under faithful and tender christian training. It was peculiarly gratifying to see the affectionate trustfulness with which all, from the youngest to the oldest looked up to their teacher. We trust the christian public will continue to feel and to manifest an increasing regard for this truly Christian Institution.