

A NEW SLATE-WIPER.—Among the articles furnished to Trustees of Public Schools, at half cost, will be noticed a Slate-wiper. Most teachers have been at their wits' ends to devise some simple and convenient mode by which the abominable practice of spitting upon the slate and wiping it with the handkerchief or sleeve might be banished from their school. Sponge and water obviate the filthiness of such a mode, but for some reason their general introduction into schools has been a very slow process. They do not, moreover, furnish just what is needed, as considerable annoyance attends their use. The Slate-wiper is by far the best article for the purpose that we know of, and will undoubtedly be immediately introduced into all our schools. It is small, neat, clean, and is used *without water*. Indeed, *water will spoil it*. Since it must be used dry, it exactly meets the requirements of the school-room. Every pupil should be required to wash his slate at home once a week. These Slate-wipers have been manufactured in Halifax, by direction of the Superintendent, expressly for our public schools. They are furnished to Trustees at 18 cents per dozen.

BALL-FRAME.—This piece of apparatus furnishes the Teacher with one of the most portable and convenient means of developing the idea of number through objects. Beans, pegs, stones, &c., can also be used with excellent result by the pupils themselves. Anything and everything that will contribute to the end in view, should be pressed into service. It has been found a difficult thing to obtain suitable ball-frames from abroad; and we are glad to announce to Trustees and Teachers that these articles are now manufactured in Halifax, for the Education Department, and are offered to Trustees at 70 cents apiece. Every Teacher who is required to teach elementary arithmetic, should be provided with a ball-frame.

BOOKS AND APPARATUS.—The number of Trustees' orders for books and apparatus received and filled during the first four and a half months (Nov. 1st, 1866, to March 15th, 1867) operation of the present arrangement, was as follows: Cumberland 46, Lunenburg 44, Pictou 87, Hants 51, Kings 79, Annapolis 52, Antigonish 16, Shelburne 19, Yarmouth 24, Guysboro' 19, Richmond 10, Digby 19, Cape Breton 8, Inverness 17, Queens 30, Victoria 9, Colchester 92, Halifax 108—Total 730. The prime cost of the articles included in the foregoing orders, was \$15,385.00. Of this sum, the trustees paid one-half. These facts sufficiently indicate the facility with which all parts of the Province can be supplied through a central agency, even in winter.

REGISTRATION.—To "Call the Roll."—Let each scholar receive, at the commencement of the term, his number. At the *opening* of each session, the teacher says "Numbers." Scholar number 1 says "1," number 2, "2," scholar number 3 is absent; the teacher says "3," noting the absence. Immediately scholar No. 4 says "4," and the other scholars follow in turn, until the number of an absent one is reached, which the teacher calls; and so on to the end.

Mr. R. J. Wilson requests us to state that there will be a meeting of the "Halifax Teachers' Association" at No. 183 Hollis street, on Tuesday evening, April 30th, at 7½ o'clock, for the purpose of re-organizing the Society. All teachers in Halifax, and vicinity, are invited to attend.

OPENING OF LUNENBURG COUNTY ACADEMY.

ON Monday, the 25th day of February last, the new Academy building in the Town of Lunenburg was opened with appropriate exercises. The bell rang at 9 A. M.; and the pupils, who had assembled, joined heartily in giving three cheers for the opening of the Academy and joyfully took their places in their respective rooms. After a short time had been allowed to inspect the decorations of the rooms, brief devotional exercises were conducted. At 10 o'clock, the hour fixed for the formal opening, the building was thrown open for the reception of visitors, who speedily filled all the available space.

The Members of the Legislature, the Commissioners of Schools, and the Ministers of religion present, took their places, by invitation, on the platform of the Academy room.

The Rev. H. L. OWEN presided. After the singing of an appropriate hymn by the pupils, the Chairman invoked the divine blessing on the labourers in the cause of education in the town and county, and especially on the Institution which was then being formally opened. He then asked the pupils to sing the National Anthem, which they did spiritedly and well.

The Head Master then offered a few observations on the vast importance of the teacher's work to individuals and communities, referring with high approval to a passage in a recent popular work, indicating the just value and place of education in a Christian society, and the duty of Christians to interest themselves in the cause. The writer says:—

"What the law did for the race, the schoolmaster does for the individual. He imposes rules, assigning a penalty for disobedience. Under this rule the pupil grows up, until order, punctuality, industry, justice and mercy to his school-fellows become the habits of his life. Then, when the time comes, the strict rule relaxes, the pupil is taken into the Master's confidence; his obedience becomes reasonable; his living morality."

If this estimate be just, why is it that in most countries the office of the educator is in so little consideration as to constrain such a man as the late Dr. Arnold of Rugby, to say, "No man was ever yet honoured for being a schoolmaster." But the late happy change in the laws of the Province will soon make the remark obsolete as regards Nova Scotia, and give the teacher of youth his just place in society.

Mr. G. then gave in substance the following Memoranda regarding the Academy, which they had met to consecrate to the cause of education:—

The Building is 91 feet long by 38 feet wide, with a wing in the rear 26 x 36. The Rooms are all situated on the ground-floor and are of the following dimensions:

	ft. in.	ft. in.
High School.....	28 3	by 26 0
Second Department.....	37 0	" 23 6
Third do.....	37 0	" 23 6
Fourth do.....	35 0	" 21 0
Library and Apparatus Room.....	15 0	" 8 0
Class Room.....	15 0	" 8 0

Height from floor to ceiling:—School Rooms 17 ft. 8 in. Library and Apparatus and Class Rooms 12 ft. The two parallel halls 7 ft., cross hall 4 ft., short hall to back room 6 ft.

The four principal rooms are seated just now for 240 pupils. The class-room and vacant space in the principal rooms, are capable of accommodating 40 or 50 more. But I find, from more than two years' experience in the actual working of the Institution, that the present seating will suffice except during three or four winter months. I am persuaded that the people of this town will not be satisfied, until the Initiatory Department is also well equipped with American (or equally good Nova Scotian) furniture.

It may interest the Ladies and Gentlemen present to know how much the building and furniture cost. Speaking roundly, the expenditure may be set down at £1500, or \$6000. This will give about £6 for the accommodation of every child; while in the Yarmouth Seminary each chair cost about £11 14 3.

The community will thus infer justly that the Trustees, (Hon. Mr. Creighton, Messrs Lockhart, Eisenhauer, Zwickery, and Finck) have discharged the important duties devolved on them with ability, zeal, and the strictest regard to economy. They have erected, and furnished, a building, to which every inhabitant of this beautiful and thriving county may point with pride and pleasure.

In this connection I may be pardoned for expressing my sense of gratitude for the uniform courtesy and attention with which these gentlemen have received my suggestions offered to them; and they will bear me testimony, I am sure, that I have always striven to give the best attention to any question affecting the adaptation of the building.

It was a happy and proud day when, on the 30th November, 1864, 206 pupils crowded the Temperance Hall to constitute the first Free School in the good town of Lunenburg. This number subsequently rose to 340. The joys of that school have been my joys; and its sorrows my sorrows. By the Academy I have stood, through good report

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