

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the President and Board of Managers of the HALIFAX INSTITUTION
FOR THE BLIND.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration, my second Annual Report.

In this Report I have particularized some of the methods employed in educating the blind, with which your frequent visits to the Institution have given you an opportunity of becoming familiar. I have done this with a view to making these methods more generally understood.

The first Institution for the education of the blind in North America, was established at New York, 1832. In the following year similar Institutions were established in Boston and Philadelphia. There are now in the United States 30 Institutions for the Blind, which have in all 3,000 pupils; and three in Canada, which have in all 150 pupils. Much has been done within the last 40 years in adapting and inventing suitable school apparatus for the blind, no doubt much will yet be done, but enough has already been accomplished to enable the blind to obtain a sound English education. Blind children should be sent to school at an early age, so that the senses of touch and hearing may be developed to their fullest extent; in fact the success of blind persons in active life depends largely upon these senses having been properly trained in childhood. In these senses when cultivated they find the only true compensation for the loss of sight. Pupils are admitted into this Institution between the ages of eight and eighteen; but it is for the interest of parents and guardians of blind youth to secure their admission as soon as they reach the prescribed age.

READING.

Our pupils are taught to read from books of embossed or raised print. The idea of raised print for the blind was first conceived by a Frenchman named Valentine Hauey, in 1784. He used the ordinary Roman capitals. Since that time books have been printed in lower case letters, the shapes of which have been somewhat

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