

AT the N. B. Provincial Institute, Mr. W. B. Jonah speaking of fault-finding in regard to text books, told the following story: A man working with an adze cut himself very badly and at once indulged in some very uncomplimentary remarks regarding the tool. When it was examined it was found to be one of the very best instruments of its kind, and that the fault was in no way due to it, but to the want of skill on the part of the user. Teachers can draw their own inference.

ST. MARTINS Baptist Seminary, under the principalship of Dr. deBlois, opens on the 15th September with a complete and accomplished staff of instructors, and with the largest class of matriculants that has ever entered its doors.

THE death of Geo. Wm. Curtis, editor and author, and John Greenleaf Whittier, the poet, are serious losses to American literature. The latter was in his 85th year; and certainly no poet in America was more national than he. Its early history, its struggles for the abolition of slavery, its natural scenery, its home life and what it should be, found expression through his pen.

SOME INEQUALITIES.

Considerable criticism is being indulged in at the present time regarding methods of examination, but it chiefly has a reference to pupils rather than teachers. Whatever may be said against our present system of examinations, it is by no means certain that any better one has been devised, but there are many inequalities existing at present, more especially as relates to teachers.

Take for example Grade 8 work in city schools. It is found that one teacher has Grade 8 and nothing else, another has Grades 7 and 8 and still another has Grades 6, 7 and 8. These teachers have the same time in which to do the same amount of work and their pupils have to undergo the same examination. The results are tabulated in the same columns and no remarks are made as to the difference of the conditions. As the teacher's reputation is to a large extent dependent upon the showing of his pupils made at these examinations, should there not be some distinction made? It is very apparent to any one at all acquainted with school work that the teacher with only one grade has a much better chance of working up his pupils, especially the backward ones, than the teacher with three grades. It may be true that the number of pupils may be about the same in each of the schools, but while numbers may increase individual work, multiplying classes increases the teacher's work much more, and what is worse gives him no time at all for individual work. Probably no fault

will be found with uniform examinations for the same grades in the same place. Whether the same quality of work should be exacted for promotion under different conditions is open to question. It is certain that the results should not be given without some comparison of the conditions under which they are obtained.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

Provision is made in Canada for the admission of books (not exceeding two copies of any one work) for public libraries, free of duty. Some of the collectors in New Brunswick have refused to recognize school libraries as public libraries, just on what grounds it does not appear. If any library is public it is certainly the school library because it reaches all the children and through them all the people of the district. The money to purchase the books, too, is raised largely from the same people who read them, which increases the public interest. It would certainly be a great boon to the promoters of school libraries to be able to purchase at will. It would not only cheapen the books, but insure a better selection. As it is now the buyer has often to be content not with what he desires, but with what the bookseller has in stock. It would be well for the Chief Superintendent to take cognizance of this matter at once and ascertain from the Minister of Customs whether or not school libraries are to be regarded as public libraries.

Prince of Wales College.

The Calendar of the Prince of Wales College and Normal School, at Charlottetown, P. E. I., is at hand. This excellent institution, which, under the able principalship of Dr. Anderson, has become so well known both at home and abroad, and whose graduates have won distinction wherever they have gone, is not only maintaining its well-earned position, but is improving its course by giving more prominence to such branches as agriculture, natural science, and others that will meet the requirements of the present age. At the same time, an inspection of its course abundantly proves that its framers are alive to the fact that man has other than material wants to satisfy. In the study of classic and English literature the students are brought in contact with some of the best thoughts and best thinkers in all ages.

It has been said that the buildings and apparatus of the Prince of Wales College are not by any means up to the requirements of the Island's leading educational institution. If this is the case, the people of Charlottetown and the Province generally should take pride in providing a building and appurtenances in proportion to the excellence of such an institution.