

vent their attendance at schools where white children are taught, offers even a stronger reason why they should be cared for in this respect, and not suffered to grow up without instruction.

While directing attention to the schools of the city, we wish to present just one additional observation. Evidently there must be in this city a large number of children who either do not go to school at all or if they do, their attendance is so irregular that the instruction received is of little worth. In the report of last year we suggested the desirableness of a truant law, and observed that the Superintendent of New York City reported favorably as to its results. During the year we have made additional inquiry, and have gathered information on the practicability of such a law for this city, and from the information gathered we have reasons for believing that were such a law adapted to the state of things in Halifax and wisely administered, it would bring many a boy, who now forms habits of vagrancy, and falls into crime, under a training which, in all probability would make him a useful citizen and a virtuous man. We trust one day to see the measure tried.

NORMAL SCHOOL.

This most valuable institution continues to claim from the supporters of our educational system an increasing appreciation of its well earned merits. The annual tables exhibit with each year a gradual and encouraging growth; the attendance steadily enlarges, and other indications of prosperity continually appear. The table for 1876 shows that the past year has been one of the most successful in the history of the institution.

It is encouraging to know that the long felt necessity for a more capacious and improved edifice has led to arrangements for a new building. The old house, which has done good service in years past, has been moved from its site to a vacancy in the rear, where it will be used till the new one is completed. The foundation of the new house was laid last autumn and a year from September next a house adapted to the requirements of the Province will be ready for occupation. The Council of Public Instruction cannot fail to see that the large attendance noticeable from year to year, if it continues, and no doubt it will, must demand not only the larger edifice, but more teachers, suitable apparatus, a larger library, and other appliances for higher and otherwise advanced work. The improved accommodation in connection with an enlarged edifice may be regarded but as a step towards making attendance at the institution essential to the possession of a first class license, except it may be to college graduates: and it will not be deemed unreasonable, after having erected expensive buildings, and spending annually large sums for their support, that a strong pressure be brought to bear to induce all who expect to take good positions as first class teachers, to attend the Normal School, and to hold its diploma as a certificate of fitness for their duties. At the present time the school is filled to its entire capacity, and the teachers have more work than should be expected from any three men, however active and efficient they may be. This suggestion as to