

consequence of which the children nearly forget what they had previously acquired.

"The migratory character of the schools, or the shifting of them from place to place, has, in my opinion, another injurious effect upon the progress of education. From this cause it happens that after the children have made considerable proficiency their career is stopped all at once by the removal of the school to another part of the district, where the population has recently become more dense, and then the former locality is completely deserted, the settlers immediately around it being unable, without the co-operation of their more distant neighbors, to secure the continuance of the school.

"I must also mention another practice which is too prevalent in the country, and which I conceive to be exceedingly injurious to the respectability of the teacher in the eyes of the pupil, and consequently hurtful to his usefulness—that is, receiving his board by going from house to house; in which case he is regarded, both by parents and children, as little better than a common menial; and from the familiarity which must necessarily subsist between himself and the family he cannot exercise that authority over his pupils which is indispensably necessary for a teacher to maintain.

"At East Point (Kings County) is a school taught by a competent teacher, John Slattery, in which I met with the only Latin scholars taught in any school on the Island."

At this period the schools were supported by voluntary contributions, aided by partial assessments and Legislative grants.

In 1833 there was 74 schools and 2,176 scholars. In 1841 the schools numbered 121 and the scholars 4,356. By the report of 1851 the number of schools had increased to 135 with a total enrolment of 5,366. At this time there were three school inspectors, one

for each county, viz.: John McNeill for Queen's County, John Arbuckle for Prince County, and John Ross for Kings County.

In October, 1853, John M. Starke was appointed visitor of schools for the whole Island. He was a graduate of Stowe's Normal School, Glasgow, Scotland. In 1856 there were in operation 268 schools, attended by 11,000 scholars. So the number of both schools and scholars had almost doubled during the six years, 1850-1856.

Governor Bonnerman, in opening the session of 1852, stated that he had much pleasure in visiting many parts of the Island, but that he observed with regret the educational deficiency which still existed.

An Act for the encouragement of education and to raise funds for that purpose, by imposing an additional assessment on land, was passed. This Act was called the Free Education Act and formed the basis of the present educational system of the province, which has conferred such a great blessing on the country.

On October 1st, 1856, a Normal School for the training of candidates for the teaching profession was opened at Charlottetown by Governor Daby in presence of a large assemblage. Several interesting addresses were delivered. Inspector Starke's remarks in reference to moral instruction in schools gave rise to a great agitation on the propriety of Biblical instruction in the schools, and resulted in his early resignation of the office of Inspector of Schools. The Bible question was brought before the Legislature during the sessions of 1857 and 1858 by numerous signed petitions asking that the use of the Bible in all the Public Schools be authorized by law. The prayer of the petitioners was rejected by the House of Assembly on both occasions.

During the session of 1860 several