

in the education of the city, and of sympathy with this inaugural movement in behalf of free schools.

Notwithstanding the commendable activity of the Board in providing school accommodation, it is well known by you all that it is inadequate to the present demands, and entirely unfit as a permanent arrangement. New buildings must be erected; and I greatly desire that the Board shall, before a single building goes up, have a clear apprehension of a *system* of schools adapted to the city, so that every step taken shall contribute directly to secure such arrangements as that system may require.

One of the peculiarities of modern systems of public education is the application, wherever population will permit, of the principle of the division of labor. This leads to what is termed the grading of all the schools—*i. e.*, the classification of the pupils in an ascending series, according to their ages and attainments, and assigning a curriculum of study for each grade, so that step by step all the scholars of the section, or city, shall be led steadily forward to the completion of their course of common school work. Our school law wisely requires those entrusted with the management of schools to provide school accommodation in accordance with this principle of classification; and that your Board may not be in any doubt concerning the application of the same, I shall outline such a series of schools for this city as the law contemplates.

Leaving out of view, for the time being, the existing school accommodation, I will suppose that provision should be made at once for something over 5000 pupils, and this number, in a population of nearly 30,000, is not excessive. The law groups the schools in villages and towns into three grand divisions—Elementary, Preparatory, and High Schools, and requires such sub-divisions of each group as may be necessary to effect a complete grading of all the schools.

Applying these principles to Halifax, the following would, I judge, be found the most efficient as well as the most convenient arrangement:—

1. Elementary Division, 4 grades, 1 year each = 4 years.
2. Preparatory Division, 4 grades, 1 year each = 4 years.
3. High School Division, 3 grades, 1 year each = 3 years.

The number of pupils in charge of one Teacher should not, in my opinion, exceed fifty-six. It will be found that this number, however perfect the classification may be, will give the Teacher as much to do as is compatible with an efficient discharge of school duties. If, then, we take fifty-six pupils as the number for each school-room, and if two-story buildings be provided (and on no account should the Board provide buildings exceeding three stories, unless the fourth be a hall for occasional use,) the number of buildings required would be as follows:—