THE

PARISH SCHOOL ADVOCATE

And Family Instructor,

FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

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Progress of Improvement.

Nearly every age of the world has been noted for certain characteristics. The peculiarity of the present century, as most every one knows, is progress,—progress in the development of mind, and improvement in the physical sciences and useful arts.

Europe, one hundred years ago, was populous it is true, but little was known of the march of improvement peculiar to the present day. At this period North America, with a few solitary places excepted, comparatively considered, was a dense forest, when the red man of the forest might almost be said to be monarch of all he surveyed. Nova Scotia, New Brunsswick, and Prince Edward Island, integrals of the American Continent,

one hundred years ago, were hardly delineated on the maps of the world, in fact, were hardly named, except in connex ion with the inclement and barren ice-bound north—regions unfit for the habitation of man; and the prejudices then established are only now beginning to be dispelled.

Vague history tells us they were, with the exception of less than half a score of isolated spots, a howling wilderness, inhabited by wild beasts, and the no less ferocious Indians. One hundred years ago the French people were expelled and driven from their homes as exiles in other sections of this continent. Settlements were few and far between, without roads, schools, means of transit, means of in-