

TOUR THROUGH THE WESTERN COUNTIES OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW  
BRUNSWICK.

Accompanied by Miss McKenzie, Miss Haliburton, and a number of the graduates and pupils of the Institution, I visited, during the summer vacation, twenty-six of the principal cities and towns in the Western parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in each of which we gave a concert, and school exhibition. The success of the Institution must depend in a great measure upon the continued interest of the public in its welfare, and it is therefore thought advisable to visit, from time to time, the chief centres of population, in order that the Institution, its objects and requirements, may be familiar to the people. In each place visited we were most cordially received; indeed the limit of our space precludes us from acknowledging the very many courtesies of which we were the happy recipients. We cannot refrain, however, from referring to the kindness of a gentleman in Woodstock, who, at the close of our concert in that place, went to the Hotel and quietly settled the bill for our entire party, without leaving me any clue as to the name of our public-spirited friend. Our special thanks are due to the gentlemen who kindly made arrangements for our concerts; indeed our success is, in a great measure, due to their untiring efforts to have our entertainments well patronized. We would also acknowledge with thanks, the liberality of the several managers of the Steamship and Railway lines, among which may be mentioned Mrs. Fishwick, of the Fishwick Express Line, Hon. L. E. Baker, W. C. Railway; Mr. Clements, Nova Scotia S. S. Company, and Hon. Isaac Burpee, New Brunswick Railway.

THE LOAN FUND.

The desirability of establishing a fund from which small advances might be made to deserving graduates was fully discussed in a previous report, but as a minimum amount at which the fund is to be put in operation, has not yet been reached, it may be well to again direct the attention of the benevolent public to the undoubted claim of this scheme to their support, and to explain the objects sought to be secured by its formation. We proposed to raise \$1,000 or upwards, to be known as "The Loan Fund," from which we intend to advance to each graduate who may require assistance, a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase an outfit of tools, models, materials, etc. The cost of such an outfit for a willow-basket maker would be \$75; a brush maker, \$50; and for a piano-forte tuner, \$25. It may appear to some persons that for us to extend such assistance to our graduates, is going somewhat beyond the objects for which the Institution was founded. This is doubtless true in so far as the main object of the school is concerned, and it is for this very