

### The Provincial Normal School of N. S.

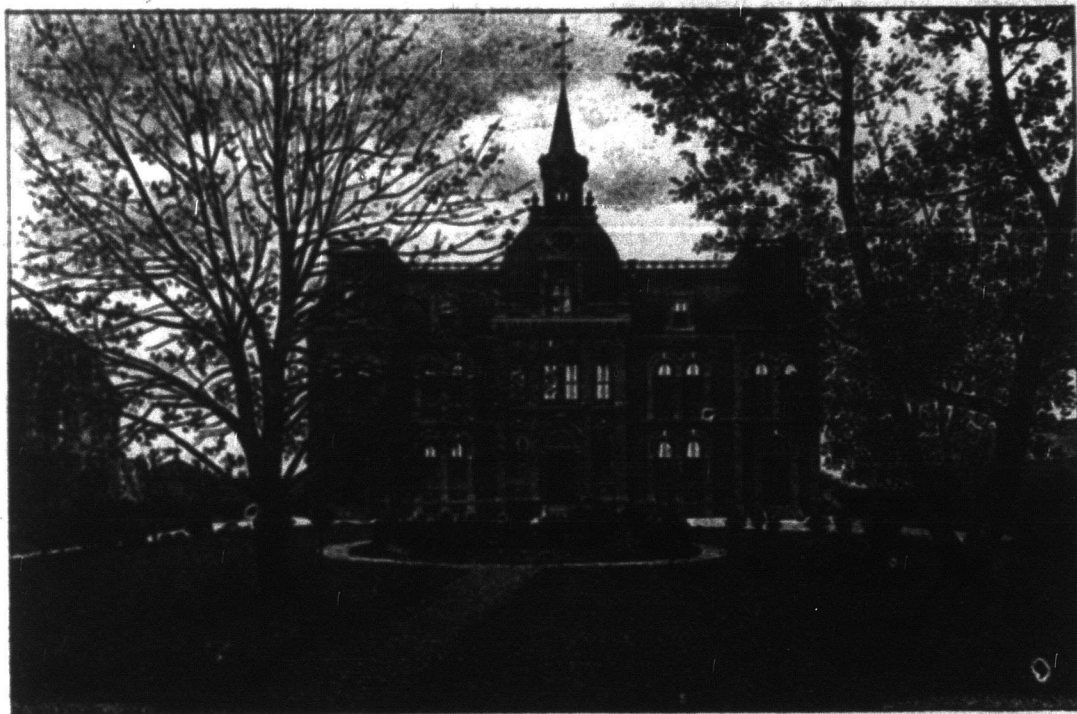
Many of our Nova Scotia teachers will look with pleasure, almost with affection, on the accompanying picture of their *alma mater*. They will see much more in it than the ordinary reader. It will awaken pleasant recollections of many happy hours spent in the first enthusiasm of their professional training.

Forty-two years ago a normal school was opened in Toronto. Influenced by this example, educational meetings throughout the province made the necessity for professional training a prominent topic of discussion. Resolutions asking for a normal school were sent to the government from all parts of the province. Mr. J. W. Dawson, Superintendent of Education, (now Sir Wm. Dawson) formulated this general

in the art that the schools need no longer be taught by raw and inexperienced bunglers."

The school was well filled with many of the most promising teachers—those who had been inspired by the clear expositions of Superintendent Dawson and the eloquence of Dr. Forrester, and who had long been looking forward anxiously for pedagogical light. After some years many over-sanguine educationists, failing to realize their bright expectations, became dissatisfied. Still the annual attendance kept increasing until it outgrew the accommodations, and it was thought desirable in 1877 to replace the \$4,000 wooden building by a \$40,000 structure, built of pressed brick and trimmed with freestone.

Architecturally it is regarded as perhaps the finest educational building in the province. It extends



N. S. PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL.

desire and assisted in framing a bill which Mr. G. R. Young introduced, but which was rejected by the House of Assembly in 1851. In 1853 Mr. Samuel Creelman was more successful, and in November, 1855, the normal school at Truro was opened with appropriate ceremonies in a one-story building—containing accommodation for about seventy pupil teachers.

The Rev. Dr. Forrester, as Principal and Superintendent of Education, and Messrs. C. D. Randall and Mulholland, as assistants, formed the first teaching staff.

Progressive educationists throughout the province were elated at this step in advance. They were told by Dr. Dawson that "a normal school would furnish one hundred well-trained and efficient teachers annually, so furnished with the latest improvements

ninety-eight feet in front, and, with the tower, is one hundred feet in height. It is well supplied with class-rooms and laboratories, containing every facility for educational work. On the third floor there is a very fine hall used for general exercises and as a classroom by the principal. As but two rooms are occupied by the model school, the rest of the building is capable of accommodating two hundred pupil teachers.

A word about the location. It was recommended by Dr. Dawson that it be at Truro, where board would be cheap, temptation to vice uncommon and agricultural facilities abundant. If the first reason is a good one, it still continues in force, for there is no town in the province where students can get such good board at a very moderate rate.

Dr. Forrester remained principal until his death in 1869. He was the author of an important educa-