

that a voice direct from heaven assured you that God had "loved you with everlasting love," and that therefore, "with loving-kindness he had drawn you," to the cross and the moray-seat, could you hear this assurance without a glowing heart? Would not all your affections warm, and melt, and flow out to God? You feel at once that such knowledge of his love to you would scoure and inflame your love to him forever. Well, if you are sure that you are a believer, you have this assurance in your Bible; and therefore it is just as true as if a voice direct from the heaven of heavens were to inform you.—Why not believe it, then? This was the apostolic way of growing in love. "We love him because he first loved us." How did they know that God had loved them? They know that they had "believed through grace," and that God loved all such: and therefore they said, "We have known and believed the love wherewith God hath loved us.—*Philipp's Devotional Guides.*

Colonial Church Society.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

Sir,—In sending you the following sketch of the Meeting at which the Training and Practising Schools of the "Colonial Church and School Society" was opened, I beg to observe, that it must not be understood as a *verbatim* account, but rather as containing a faint outline of the substance of what was said on the occasion.

I would also take this opportunity of stating my own impression as to what the intentions of the Society really are in the effort they are now making.

To those who are at all conversant with the *modus operandi* by which Common School Education has been of late years improved in Great Britain, the kind of Institution now commenced in this City under the auspices of this Society will be quite familiar.

It has been essentially a *voluntary effort*, and has received only sufficient aid from Government funds to stimulate yet further the free-will offering of the public generally. Those alone who have read the Reports of the Privy Council on Education made yearly to the Imperial Parliament, can fully understand what an immense progress Education has made in the British Isles both in quantity and quality, since the institution of that body. And this has been brought about chiefly by means of Training Schools similar in character to the one now commenced in Halifax by the Society. It has been said that good Teachers will never be found until more liberal salaries are offered, and that this cannot be done without the aid of an educational law involving a rate on property for the purpose. But to this it may be replied, that whilst undoubtedly better stipends than those now given would enlist Teachers of a higher standard of Education, yet this is by no means the only qualification necessary for successful teaching. There are many well-educated people who would be glad to get liberal salaries as School Teachers who would never be successful in Schools. The art of teaching is a thing not easily acquired, and it may be fairly questioned if there be not a natural aptitude thereto in the candidates for schools, whether they may not have mistaken their vocation in seeking the profession. There must be a love for the work, engendering earnestness and zeal, perseverance and patience, of uncommon kind, and which no pecuniary reward can give or take away. I would not however be misunderstood in this matter—the laborer is worthy of his hire, and should voluntary effort in Nova Scotia succeed in sending forth a band of Teachers of higher qualifications and of more love for the work for its own sake, then how can the Legislature do better than increase the general grant for Education by which Schools can be multiplied and Teachers fairly paid for their labour? I have no hesitation in expressing my own firm conviction, after twenty years of experience in these matters acquired in the mother country and in various parts of North America, that this is the best way of improving education, whilst it is the cheapest and the most certain.

I do not myself consider Nova Scotia so far behind in an educational point of view as some seem to think it is, and I have always found both high and low, rich and poor, ready to do what they can to help it forward in the Province. I do believe that we have not any School Teachers here paid out of an Educational rate, and Government funds combined, who cannot read or write, but receive their money for teaching a catechism by rote, yet this is said to be the case in some parts of Canada at the present time.

What appears to be wanted is an increased interest in the question amongst all ranks and degrees, and a wise fostering on the part of the Government of any

symptoms of improvement. It may, Sir, I trust, without presumption be supposed, that this effort of the Colonial Church and School Society is a step in the right direction, well calculated by the blessing of God, to assist materially in this noble work. Should it be the means, as its promoters confidently anticipate, of giving an impetus in Nova Scotia to Education founded on the blessed Bible, then will it well deserve all the support that can be given to it.

It cannot be said that its principles are not of the most comprehensive nature, as pupils and students of all denominations are invited to enjoy its advantages without any other religious test than that of studying the Word of God.

In conclusion I would state, that a goodly number of pupils have already entered the Practising School, and numerous applications have been made by Students for training—but all of the female sex.

It would be pleasing to receive applications from some young men, but it must be borne in mind, that a village School conducted by a competent Mistress is much superior to one badly managed by an inefficient Master. It is to be wished that any who are sceptical on this point would visit some of the Schools now under the Society in this Province taught by females, and they would have good reason to wish that many more of the children of Nova Scotia were under such instruction.

I remain, Sir,

Your obdt. servt.

THOS. DUNN,
Secretary.

A Public Meeting of the Colonial Church and School Society was held on Monday evening last, at Saint Andrew's Hall, Gottingen Street, for the purpose of opening a Training School in connexion with the Society. The School Room, which is a spacious and a desirable one, has been fitted up expressly for this Institution, and on the present interesting occasion was crowded in every part with a respectable audience. The Chair was taken by Wm. PAXON, Junr. Esq., and after a hymn had been sung, the Rev. R. F. UNACKE offered up prayer for the success of the School and the Society generally.

The Chairman said, that it afforded him great pleasure to meet so many friends as he saw then around him, as it showed that much interest was felt in the establishment of the Training School. It had long been the wish of those who had taken an active part in the Society in Nova Scotia, that it should enter upon this good and necessary work, and therefore they had not ceased to urge its importance upon the parent Committee. He thought they were now about to realize their wishes, and that the Institution would open under many favourable circumstances. They could not feel too thankful to the Society for its great liberality in voting the stipends to those immediately concerned in carrying on the School, and he thought it well deserved the liberal support of all who felt the importance of making known the Gospel of Christ and the necessity of a good Education based upon the Word of God. The Society had done much already in Nova Scotia, but its great want was pious and efficient Teachers, which he trusted this Institution now to be opened would supply.

The Rev. GEO. HILL said: The Colonial Church and School Society had long been favorably known in this Province as an Institution sincerely desirous of helping forward the work of the Gospel. It commended itself to all who felt the importance of Evangelical views combined with the strictest scrutiny as to the character of those agents it employed. The blessing of the Lord had evidently rested upon its labours both at home and abroad; but he was not there that evening to enter upon a review of its general work, and would therefore confine himself to the object they had more immediately before them. If he understood rightly the School now to be opened would consist of two branches—a Juvenile School for the reception of pupils of both sexes from the age of seven years and upwards, and an adult School for the purpose of educating and training Teachers for the Common Schools of the Province. The Juvenile department will be organized and conducted as a model and practising School, in which the Students in training will be introduced from time to time for the purpose of giving lessons under the eye of the Master, and of acquiring a knowledge of the art of teaching and conducting a School up to the most improved systems now prevalent in Europe. In looking at the prospectus of the subjects to be taught in the School, put forth by the Committee, it would be seen that the Education to be imparted of an extensive and most useful kind, and admirably adapted to meet the Educational wants of

Nova Scotia. The very first thing mentioned is regular and systematic instruction in the Bible—thus securing that without which all Education is of little value. There is no mention of the dead languages called the Classics, which are very necessary for the few; but the subjects to be taught in the School are those absolutely necessary for the many. It will then be essentially a Mathematical and Scientific Education imparted in this School, not only calculated to expand and strengthen the intellect, but to fit our people to carry on their every day avocations with greater ease and success. Now the importance of giving this bias to Education in our Schools generally is obvious when it is remembered that the wealth of this Province yet to be developed is not only agricultural but mineral. Educated and intelligent men will be required to conduct mining operations in Nova Scotia and to attend to all the details of railroad management. He for one rejoiced at the opening of this School, and believed it would obviate the necessity of establishing a Government Normal School. The amount to be expended in conducting the Institution is large, and it ought to be sufficient to meet the wants of the country. Should this Institution succeed in sending forth a body of improved Teachers throughout this Province, great will be the work accomplished. The undertaking had his most hearty prayers and good wishes that it might succeed in its important mission. The Rev. Gentleman gave a graphic description of the acquirements and character of some of the Teachers of Schools in the Province, and alluded to a deplorable case of ignorance in a lad from the country which had recently come under his own observation.

Mr. MARRIOTT, the Gentleman sent out by the Society, was then introduced to the Meeting, who said, that he had come out from England to enter upon the important work to which he had been appointed, with a full determination by the help of the Lord to succeed. He expected to encounter difficulties, and was prepared to meet them. He had been informed, and all he had heard since his arrival tended to confirm it, that the art of teaching had not assumed a very exalted position in the Province generally. He felt a laudable ambition to assist in raising the standard of attainments among School Teachers, and should not rest satisfied until he had used his best exertions for that purpose. With regard to the subjects to be taught in the School, he begged to assure the Meeting that the instruction given would be thoroughly entered upon and so adapted to the capacities of the pupils and students as to ensure their proficiency. He felt that the Institution at present needed their kind indulgence, but he hoped when they knew him better, and as time passed on they would have no reason to regret the confidence reposed in him. He would conclude by stating that the subject of Bible instruction would be paramount in the School, and that he would never consent to banish the Scriptures or to make them of secondary consideration in any School with which he had to do.

CHARLES ALLISON, Esq. then addressed the Meeting—and alluded to the progress the Society had made of late years in Nova Scotia, to its scriptural principles and its liberality, and to the generous response of some of the inhabitants of Halifax, by which £100 was raised in one day to defray a portion of the expenses of fitting up the School.

J. W. RITCHIE, Esq. moved a resolution to the following effect: "That the thanks of this Meeting be given and are hereby tendered to the Parent Society for this first instance of their Christian liberality in voting a sum of money sufficient to defray the stipends of those concerned in carrying on the Training School, and in selecting and sending out Mr. Marriott."

Mr. Ritchie said that the Society, he understood, had spent about £900 in the Province during the past year, and the salaries of the officers of this Institution will be an additional grant to that sum. The education and character of our common School Teachers must be raised, for they were at present with some honorable exceptions, at a low ebb. He hailed this noble effort as a step in the right direction, and thought the Institution would be fairly entitled, supposing it to do its work well, to some consideration from the Legislature.

The Rev. Mr. COCHRAN seconded the resolution, and spoke at some length on the necessity and importance of such a School as this now opened. He gave also some very interesting but painful details of the ignorance and destitution existing in settlements where he occasionally ministers, not 20 miles from Halifax.

The doxology was then sung by the audience, and the Benediction pronounced by the Rev. J. T. THURGOOD, D.D., and the meeting separated.