

Free Schools in Nova Scotia

was opened in November, 1855, with an enrollment of about sixty students, under Dr. Alexander Forrester, who was Superintendent of Education as well as Principal of the Normal School.

In the early years of its history the Normal School held two sessions in the year, each session four and a half months, there being an interval of six weeks between the sessions. But this gave no holiday to Dr. Forrester—only a change of work. During one interval he journeyed through the Province, visiting the eastern counties including Cape Breton Island; then, in turn, his route lay in the western counties and around the south coast from Yarmouth to Halifax. This was no holiday for Dr. Forrester. Whether he went east or west one thing he did—he pleaded for *free schools* and *trained teachers*. In carrying out his mission he attended meetings of the School Commissioners and lectured in every town and hamlet in the province.

Dr. Forrester's work was supplemented by the students who came under his influence in the Normal School. Having gained higher ideals of their calling, greater