

advertises "classes in geography and use of the globes for ladies on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and for gentlemen, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; hours 5 to 6 p. m. Terms for the course, a guinea and a half. He also announces a class in the rudiments of the Latin language."

It will be noticed that it is chiefly the higher grade of work that is referred to in the advertisements; there were, however, many elementary private schools of all grades of excellence.

Another old advertisement is the following:

EDUCATION.—J. M. Smith begs leave to inform the inhabitants of St. John and its vicinity that on Monday, the 6th inst., he intends opening a Seminary for the reception of young gentlemen at the house belonging to Mr. Henigar, nearly opposite Trinity Church, where he purposes teaching the first rudiments of the Latin and French Languages, Geography, and the lower branches of the Mathematics.
N. B.—The utmost attention will be paid to the Morals of those children committed to his charge.
St. John, 1st August, 1804.

Notwithstanding his protestations of regard for the morals of his pupils, it was only two years afterwards that Smith, as already mentioned, was placed in the pillory at the foot of King Street for abominable misconduct. The trial at which he was convicted was one of the most sensational of early times, and the evidence, covering many pages, is yet extant.

One of the old advertisements of the St. John Grammar School, taught by Rev. Roger Viets, about 1807, is of interest as showing the hours of session in olden times. It reads thus:

SCHOOL HOURS.—During the months of May, June, July and August, the hours of attendance will be from 6 to 8, from 10 to 1, and from 3 to 5 of the clock; March, April and September, 9 to 12, and 2 to 5 of the clock; and during the winter months of November, December, January and February, from 9.30 to 1, and from 2 to 4 of the clock, Saturdays excepted, on which day the school will be dismissed at 12 of the clock.

The status of the school teacher is to-day so vastly different from that which once prevailed that it is difficult to appreciate the great advance attained. There was in early times no reliable or uniform test of a teacher's competency. Each one proclaimed his or her own merits and appeals were not infrequently made to the sympathies of the public. Witness the following:

FRENCH LANGUAGE.—The Subscriber, having been compelled to leave his native country, Sweden, upon the expulsion of the King from the throne, and his patrimony having been taken from him by the Russian invaders, took refuge in England, but unable to support himself there, emigrated to this country, where he proposes teaching the French language should a sufficient number of subscribers offer to afford him a subsistence. He is ready to be examined as to his knowledge in the above language, and if encouraged every exertion will be made to instruct the pupils entrusted to his care.

Price of Tuition per Quarter,.....£1 10 0
Entrance Fee.....10 0
Private Lessons, each.....5 0

Gentlemen desirous of subscribing will be good enough to leave their names at the counting house of Messrs. John Black & Co.
St. John, September 12th. 1811.

JOHN HESSE.

We have already seen that one of the earliest boarding schools or academies was established in Sussex as early as 1793 by the efforts of the Rev. Oliver Arnold. This gentleman took a great deal of interest in educational matters for those days, and the academy at Sussex Vale came to be in the course of time a well known institution. The school referred to in the advertise-

ment that follows may be regarded as the direct successor of that established in 1793.

ACADEMY AND BOARDING SCHOOL.—Mr. and Mrs. Legett respectfully inform their friends and the public in general that they have opened their Academy and Boarding School at the College in Sussex Vale for Drawing, Painting on Paper or Silk, Composition, Poetry, Mathematics; the English, French and Latin languages grammatically; all kinds of Plain and Ornamental Needlework, Tambouring, Embroidering with Silk or Gold, Embroidery of Flowers, Figures or Pictures, Filago Work, etc.

The strictest attention will be paid to the morals and manners of the pupils.

Sussex Vale, Kings County, 1st June, 1819.

Before closing these references to the facts gleaned from old newspapers about the early schools, it may be noted that on the 22nd October, 1796, Stephen Humbert opened a school for instruction in sacred vocal music "at Mr. Harper's large upper room in King street," in the city of St. John. Also, that under date May 20, 1805, Mr. P. Phillips, whose advertisement of a night school has already been referred to, announces his intention of opening, on June 1st following, "a DRAWING SCHOOL for the instruction of young ladies and gentlemen in the accomplished and pleasing art of Landscape and Flower Painting." It would be interesting to learn just what measure of success attended this first effort to promote the study of art in St. John, but here unfortunately the records are silent.

The establishment of the first Sunday School, so far as we are aware, in this province (more than twenty years after their organization at Halifax and Digby), is referred to in the following old advertisement in the St. John "Times or True Briton:"

AS THE profanation of the Sabbath has of late years become truly alarming, so as to threaten the utter subversion of religion and subordination: in order if possible to stop so growing an evil, SUNDAY SCHOOLS have been established in many places, particularly in England, the happy effects of which have exceeded the utmost expectations. A similar institution is now begun in this city, but as a considerable expense in books, fuel, etc., will be necessary to support it (though the teachers gratuitously attend them), the well known liberality of the public is therefore thus appealed to, and subscriptions will be received by John Garrison, Esq., and Mr. John Ferguson.
Dated St. John, 23rd October, 1809.

Private schools continued to be quite generally advertised in the newspapers for many years, and sometimes in a very quaint and original fashion.

For the REVIEW.]

Notes on English.

Out of a lot of questions on hand, I begin with a couple that relate to the "Merchant of Venice."

The first is from New Glasgow:

"When Antonio sealed Shylock's 'merry bond,' did not Bassanio consider the terms ironical? And did not Shylock purposely mislead them into thinking them ironical?"

In proposing the pound of flesh condition, Shylock says it is only "a merry sport," and all that he says and does throughout the scene shows that he is trying to make Antonio believe that he is willing and even eager to do him a kindness in order "to buy his favour." That he purposely tries to lead—or mislead—them into