

[For the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

### Educational Advantages for Girls in the Maritime Provinces.

In view of the great progress that has been made during the last few years in the matter of education for women, it is important to inquire what position is taken in this regard by the educational institutions of the Maritime Provinces.

The question of the higher education of women is no longer a disputed one, and the last half century has witnessed a great awakening both on the part of women themselves, and the foremost educators of our time, as regards the capabilities and needs of women in the matter of education.

In the United States more than half the colleges admit women equally with men, and the number is constantly increasing; while in Europe co-education is receiving more and more attention every year.

London University with its two thousand students, one third of whom are women, confers degrees upon the latter the same as upon the male students.

In Paris, the Faculty of Science and Letters has conferred degrees upon one hundred and thirteen women.

In 1876 the King of Italy opened all the universities of that country to women, and they are now to be found as students in the colleges at Turin, Padua, Bologna, Rome, and elsewhere. So it is in Switzerland, Germany, Scandinavia, and Denmark, which opened the University of Copenhagen to women in 1883. Indeed the women of these northern latitudes are rapidly progressing in the matter of education, and it is said that the "women of Scandinavia are among the best educated in the world." The degree of Doctor of Philosophy was taken a few years ago by a lady at the University of Upsala in Sweden.

Victor Hugo has said that the "nineteenth century is woman's century," and, since education is the essential basis of all true progress, there is every reason to be assured that this prophecy is being fulfilled.

Upon inquiry into the attitude of the various institutions of learning in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, with regard to this question, it is gratifying to find that these Provinces are no whit behind the leading nations of the world in recognizing the claim of women to full educational advantages, and in almost all the colleges and universities of these Provinces there exists no distinction on account of sex.

Dalhousie College, in Halifax, has for five years admitted ladies on exactly the same footing as male students, and of the five ladies who have been graduated there every one came off with honors, three winning the degree of B. A., one that of B. Sc., and one that of B. L. But beside these there have been about

one hundred ladies who have taken special courses not leading to degrees. And in examinations in mathematics, philosophy, logic, political economy, history, English literature, and modern languages, the ladies have been first, and many of them are now to be found holding fellowships in the halls of learning in the neighboring Republic, while others are leaders in the didactic profession in these Provinces and in missionary lands. Beside those winning degrees, Miss Ritchie won distinction in philosophy, and Miss Stewart in mathematics.

There will be still further opportunities for collegiate training for young women afforded by the Ladies' College, of Halifax, which will be opened in September by the Presbyterian denomination. Connected with this college there will also be a preparatory department for students not far enough advanced to enter upon the collegiate course.

Pictou Academy is also co-educational, and furnishes an excellent curriculum extending over a four years' course.

Numbers of young ladies have been graduated from Acadia College, at Wolfville, which furnishes a fine preparatory department in the Acadia Seminary.

New Brunswick also offers the best advantages to women, both at Sackville and at the University of New Brunswick. Superior opportunities of education have always been afforded by Sackville College, which from its foundation has been open to ladies, and there have been numerous instances in which they have been graduated with honors. The first lady graduate in the Maritime Provinces was Miss Stewart, who claims Sackville as her *alma mater*; and Miss Narraway, of the same college, who graduated a few years ago, came off with high honors, being first in the graduating class. Miss Narraway also took the Grammar School License, and received the Lansdowne Medal, and, though still quite young, is filling the position of Chief Preceptress in the Wesleyan College, at St. John's, Newfoundland.

In the case of the University of New Brunswick it is, of course, too soon to pronounce judgment, as it has been so recently opened to women. The young lady who matriculated last year entered third in the class and is making good progress. In Fredericton there is a collegiate school, preparatory to the University, but in St. John such a school is not necessary, since the Young Ladies' High School offers sufficient training for entering the University. The fact was demonstrated a year ago when nine young ladies, who had been instructed in the St. John High School, passed successfully the matriculation examination, though without any direct intention of entering the University.