

voluntary contributions as may be raised by our occasional visits to the provinces for the purpose.

A candid and careful consideration of these facts should lead, we think, to a more generous and *just* estimate of their responsibility and duty in this matter. The parsimonious policy of the governments of the sister provinces hitherto, contrasts unfavourably with the enlightened and liberal spirit in which the Legislature of Nova-Scotia has uniformly dealt with the claims of her deaf mutes, during the last thirteen years.

### THE SCHOOL.

The work of instruction has been carried on during the year as efficiently as possible, considering the peculiar and unprecedented difficulties under which the school has labored, owing to the death of one Teacher, the most experienced and efficient of our number, and the dismissal about the same time, for intemperance, of another, who had been connected with the Institution from its first commencement. To prevent, in these circumstances, the work from standing still, we were glad to avail ourselves of the temporary services of Mr. John Tupper and Alexander Ross, two of our former pupils, until suitable permanent assistance could be obtained—the latter giving his aid in the school for a couple of months in the summer, till the vacation in July, and the former still continuing his useful and faithful labors. Since the school resumed in September Mrs. Hutton has voluntarily taken charge of a class, pending the appointment of a regular teacher. Much difficulty has been experienced in obtaining any one fitted by training and otherwise for the situation, partly owing to the great scarcity of qualified teachers of the deaf and dumb, and partly to our inability to offer a salary sufficient to induce a competent person to accept the position of assistant-teacher in this secluded field of labor, shut out from prospects of professional advancement. After nearly a year spent in unsuccessful efforts by personal enquiry, as well as correspondence, in almost all available quarters, both in the States and the Mother Country, I am thankful to be able to report that we have at last the near hope of realizing our object. Through the kind offices of Dr. Buxton, principal of the Liverpool School for the Deaf and Dumb, an engagement has been made with a young man in that Institution, who possesses the recommendation of a practical acquaintance with the Deaf and Dumb as a class,—having, although not himself a deaf mute, been born and reared among them,—besides some years experience in actual teaching and the routine of Institution life. He may be expected from England in the course of a few weeks, to enter on his duties here, and I trust that the appointment will prove a satisfactory one to all parties.

The school is divided at present into *three* classes, embracing *five* divisions, under three teachers. The average standing of the pupils is only 2½ years, so that no high standard of attainment can reasonably

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