

REPORT.

THE Directors of the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Halifax have the pleasure of submitting, to the public of Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces, some account of the rise and progress, and present condition of the establishment under their care. It is now a little more than two years since the first commencement was made in Nova Scotia, of a school for the instruction of deaf mutes, of whom the last census gives no less a number than three hundred in this Province alone. The school began in a small room in the back yard of a house in Argyle-street, with only *two* pupils, taught by Mr. W. Gray, and was quite unprovided with the needful appliances of a school.

Attention was, however, quickly drawn to the infant institution, and by means of charitable contributions from citizens of Halifax, these wants were supplied, and the school was removed,—first to a room fronting on the same street, and then, in a couple of months, to the half of a house, north end of Argyle-street, where, in the course of the winter of 1856-7, the pupils increased to the number of *twelve*.

At this period application was made to the Legislature for aid, which, after an inspection of the school by a committee appointed for the purpose, and their report thereon, was generously granted to the extent of £300. On the 1st of May, 1857, it became necessary to remove, and the Directors ventured on a further step in advance, by hiring part of the house in Gottingen-street, where the Institution now is.

The Legislative grant and the prospect of an enlarged number of pupils, encouraged the Directors to place the Institution upon an improved basis, and, after careful correspondence with the Directors of the Edinburgh Institution, James Scott Hutton, Esq., at that time second teacher therein, was appointed Principal of ours in Halifax. He arrived in July, 1857, bringing with him the highest testimonials as to character, ability and attainments, from a variety