

not be forgotten that the proper education of all the children of this city, is of more value, a hundred-fold, than all the money it will cost. It is pertinent to ask, Will delay *lessen* the expense? What is it you would propose to do, if not to deal squarely with the result of past neglect? Delay will but increase the difficulty. Every year adds largely to your population. Had a proper system of public education been in operation many years in your midst, or, in other words, had your citizens each and all been yearly called upon to contribute toward the maintenance of public schools, and had there been public officers entrusted with full control in this matter, the Board would not now be called upon to deplore the almost utter destitution of proper school structures and furniture. But the present condition of the city in this respect is certainly not to be continued by the deliberate decision of this Board, when it is clothed with full authority to make this "wilder-ness blossom as the rose." This whole subject must be grappled with, and the sooner the better; unless, indeed, we are to content ourselves with deploring the sad condition of matters, and let the future, as the past, take care of itself,—a conclusion from which every man and woman and child in this city must revolt. The county of Halifax, exclusive of the city, has, within the past fifteen months, appropriated nearly \$30,000 towards school accommodation alone. Is it too much to expect that the city, according to its means, and the importance of its position, show an equal appreciation of the value of public education? It is manifestly wrong that the metropolis of the Province should continue to allow hundreds, perhaps thousands, to be growing up in its midst in ignorance, or worse than ignorance, because to have it otherwise would cost something. When, think you, shall we be able to impress adequately the people of this Province with the vast importance, nay necessity even, of educating those about them, if in Halifax—where reside as shrewd merchants, as well-read political economists, as intelligent citizens, and as large-hearted Christian philanthropists, as the land can boast—men ignore such claims, and by neglect proclaim to the whole Province that, notwithstanding they consider themselves as representing the most advanced public spirit and sentiment of Nova Scotians, by them the education of the people is not held of equal value with gold, or if so, not with *much* gold? The absence of a generous educational spirit and zeal pervading all classes in this city has not only given you hundreds of criminals, and lost you thousands of good citizens; but, what is equally to be deplored, it has for long years been a clog upon educational progress and reform throughout the Province.

My honored predecessors felt the educational condition of this city to be a millstone about their necks. My humble efforts have also been subjected to the blighting influence which has resulted from the former inertia of Halifax. "Have any of the Pharisees believed on Him?" was anxiously asked concerning a weightier matter in the olden time. "What are they doing in