

the benefits of instruction, than the Common School Bill. This petition was entrusted to some of the friends of the Mission, and it resulted in the passing of a resolution to the following effect: "That any Indian school numbering 15 scholars which may be opened in any part of the Province, will receive an annual grant of £25; and that for any Indian educated in one of the common schools, the sum of £1 will be allowed." Your Committee hope ere long to take advantage of this Act, by opening a school in connection with the Mission; and that it may lead to others in various parts of the Province. They have also reason to believe that the Roman Catholic Priests, though hitherto they have sought to discourage education among the Indians, and have represented it as useless, if not dangerous, will now be compelled to step forward and do something in this cause. It will be impossible for them longer to repress the desire for education which is now becoming general, and which has been awakened in a great measure through the instrumentality of your Society. Already several Indians in different parts of the Province can read and write. As a specimen of Indian literary attainments, we call attention to the following letter, recently received by Mr. Rand, from Ben Christmas, one of the assistants in the work of translation. The penmanship would do no discredit to a school-master, though Ben has scarcely yet mastered the grammar and the idioms of the English language:—

CAPE CANSO, NOVA SCOTIA, Sept. 19th, 1856.

MR. RAND,

Dear Friend,—I found my family all well, and they were very glad to see me get home. And my wife, and I, we are gree to go to Hantsport to stay, for our children may get the learning, and I, for I have lost a good deal, since I left you, I forget most all little grammar what I have learn. We would be very willing to go, if you would get house for us. But all the difficult would be about the travelling expense, but I know that would be no consequence of your Mission. And if you would want me to go there I hope your society would gree to pay for my way. You know my desire is to the learning. And I do not care for all the troubles on me; from some of my people or other people, for we see in the scripture says ye shall be troubled of the prosecutions for my name sake and ye shall be hated of all the people. Please sir send me the answer as soon as possible and directed to the North Sydney C. B. for I am going there first good wind.

Yours,

BENJAMIN CHRISTMAS.

It is a happy circumstance that the only books in their own tongue, to which the reading Indians can have access, are the primer—replete with religious instruction—and those portions of the Holy Scripture, which have been prepared with so much care by your Missionary. During the past year Mr. Rand has pursued with great diligence and success this important work.