

THE HALIFAX INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

THE best possible history that can be given of this Institution is that which appears in the Twentieth Report, written by the late principal, J. Scott Hutton, M. A., who may be said to have laid the foundation-stone and added piece by piece to the structure, amid difficulties and discouragements such as are met with in a new and comparatively poor country, with that indefatigable energy and zeal for which he was so well known throughout the profession. He watched over its infancy with all the care and tenderness of a parent; he rejoiced in its increasing strength, and labored unceasingly until he brought it to that state of efficiency in which it is found to-day—fully capable of supplying the educational wants of the class in whose interest it was established.

The following extract from the Report above referred to gives in detail the progress and history of the Institution up to the year 1877 :

Thirty-six years ago there was no provision within the Maritime Provinces of this country for the education of the hundreds of mutes who, with scarcely an exception, were utterly destitute of instruction, passing through life in a condition of the saddest mental and moral darkness, ignorant alike of their nature, their duty, and their destiny. In a few instances legislative aid had enabled parents to send their mute children to the States for the instruction unattainable at home, but how little was accomplished in this way may be seen from the fact that, during the long period of fifty years, the whole number of mutes received into the Hartford Asylum from the British Provinces was only twenty-five, and of these not more than six were supported by the Provincial legislatures. Of the twenty-five, 11 were from Nova Scotia, 5 from Canada East, 5 from Canada West, and 4 from New Brunswick. Some Provincial deaf-mutes may have been educated during that period at other institutions in the States besides Hartford, and a few certainly—two at least from Nova Scotia—in the schools of the mother country, but, in all probability, the entire number of British-American mutes who had enjoyed the blessing of education since the commencement of the century would not exceed thirty or forty.

It is worthy of note that of the whole number of mutes from the British Provinces mentioned as receiving instruction in the Hartford School, previous to the opening of institutions for their benefit nearer home and on their own soil, nearly one-half were from one of the smaller, less populous, and least known, though by no means the least important