

through the fields or up the wooded slopes, or as we stand upon the mountain top, and feast, without an effort, on the thousand pleasing incidents of vision, what a blessed thing it is to see; but were we told that to-morrow we should tread the same soft turf and springing moss and burnished rocks, without the power of sight, the very thought would send a shudder through our frames. And yet within our midst, within our circle of acquaintance, perhaps among our very kindred, there are those whose eyes have never looked upon the world, to whom art and nature, as made known to the brain by vision, are dark and void and meaningless. To them the greater portion of the world is dead, and while their eager fingers learn the forms and features of loving mothers and faithful friends, tender glances and pleasant smiles to them are lost. But this is not the worst, for not only do our poor blind friends feel the absence of the pleasures, which those who see enjoy, but they also know that while others work they are powerless, and the fearful burthen of self-dependency, which every thinking man experiences at least at times, crushes upon their souls with double force in the lonely hours of introspection, when they hear the ticking of the clock, and call to mind that time is passing, that death is nearing, and that their short life will end with scarcely a single project carried out or even properly defined.

Fortunately, however, if it is not within the limits of human skill to remove or alleviate the physical defect, it is possible to enlighten that mental darkness which renders the life of the blind so peculiarly sad, it is within the province of modern educators to teach the eager learner various means of manual usefulness, and guide his genius into many intellectual channels. The same Deity which deprives the sufferer of sight seems indeed to develop his other faculties to a great degree of perfection, and while the sense of touch is, with the blind, delicate to an extent which we can hardly credit, experience seems to teach us that their sense of hearing is unusually accurate and acute. It is our purpose in this article to lay before the public the position and claims of the blind in the Maritime Provinces, not merely to attract attention to a most important topic, but to awaken a lively interest in a scheme which has been suggested for the formation of a common institute to be supported by the public funds and private contributions.

In order to enable the reader to form some idea of the requisites