

to his genius can exist than the remarkable development of this institution during the thirty-three years since he took charge of it at its start. Principal Hutton was born in Perth, Scotland. When quite young he entered the University for deaf mutes at Edinburgh. In 1857 he received the appointment at Halifax and remained in charge until his death, 25th February, except for three years, after 1878, when he went to Belfast in a similar capacity. In his department Mr. Hutton stood high in the estimation of educationists throughout the world. He was a man of sterling qualities in every relation as a citizen. His illness lasted for about two months.

THE teachers and pupils of the Victoria and Girls' High School, St. John, have contributed \$70 to the relief of the sufferers by the Springhill disaster.

PROFESSOR Archibald MacMechan, Ph. D., of Dalhousie College, in an able paper before the Nova Scotia Historical Society, December, completely exploded the universally current fiction that John Crowne, dramatist, (who lived in the latter half of the seventeenth century, and was spoken of as a rival of Dryden) was a Nova Scotian, and the son of an "independent" minister. He was the son of a Colonel Crowne who, with Temple and others, played leading parts in the history of Acadie during the middle of the said century. John Crowne when a lad was for a short time at Harvard and boarded in a minister's family; but there is no probability of his ever being on Nova Scotia soil.

DR. PATTERSON read a paper before the same society in two sections, one at the January meeting and the other at the February meeting on the early Portuguese voyages of discovery to North America. Very many new points were brought to light and many new views suggested by the paper.

THE principalship of the Protestant Academy in St. John's, Newfoundland, is vacant.

IN a letter to the Halifax *Herald*, dated Berlin, January 29th, Prof. Frank H. Eaton has the following in reference to high school and college work:

* * * "The greater part of the work covered in the Freshman year of each of our colleges is work that every respectable high school in America undertakes, and is qualified to do. When, in addition to this, the fact is remembered that, at no point in any of our college courses is an undergraduate qualified, without extra work, to meet the requirements of an academic license examination, the

waste of teaching power will be quite apparent. In addition to the economical gain which would follow upon the co-operation of the colleges, and the educational department, there are other advantages, direct and indirect: (1) The scholarship standards, on which academic licenses are based, would be materially improved. (2) The organization of the work of the academics would be simpler, more consistent and more efficient. (3) The college faculties, relieved of high school work which they are now doing, could widen the range of optional courses, and intensify the specialization of departmental teaching. (4) Students entering college under the application of higher admission standards would attain in a three years college residence, at least, as high a degree of scholarship as now they are able to reach in a four years' course. (5) A community of interest between the college faculties and the administrators of public education, such as does not now seem to exist, would be created."

THE death of Jeremiah Meagher, Principal of St. Dunstan's school, Fredericton, after only a week's illness, removes a well known and successful teacher.

"He has been teaching continuously, says the Fredericton *Globe*, since sixteen years of age, with a break of five or six years when he carried on a grocery and dry goods business on Queen street in this city. He has been longer in the teaching profession than any other teacher in this city, and probably longer than any in New Brunswick. He commenced his teaching in Fredericton and taught in various parts of the Province, including St. John and Charlotte counties. For fourteen years he has been the Principal of St. Dunstan's, and his connection with that school has been a marked success. He was 58 years of age."

IN February Professor MacMechan gave a very interesting lecture on "The influence of young men" before the Halifax Y. M. C. A. in Orpheus Hall. The young man was he whose life and death inspired Tennyson with the thoughts crystallized in his "In Memoriam" — the gospel of the nineteenth century.

IN the course of a lecture recently delivered before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on the "Geographical Distribution of Plants," by W. F. Ganong, A. M., instructor in botany at Harvard University, he said:

"Man's influence upon the plant kingdom has been far less than it appears at first sight, and it is nearly uniformly unfavorable. The carrying of plants from place to place includes, for the most part, forms cultivated for food or for ornament, and the majority of them, if left to themselves in their new homes, would soon be exterminated, and hence produce no lasting effect upon plant distribution. In fact the cases in which man has produced any considerable effect upon the vegetation or flora of a region are extremely few, and the effect is nearly always destructive. The stumps where once a forest stood speak most forcibly of man's power to destroy."