

EDUCATION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

We have been favoured by the Rev. Dr Forrester, Head Master of the Training and Model Schools of this Province, situate at Truro, a central part of Nova Scotia, with the Educational Report for 1857.

In the April number of the *Parish School Advocate* we presented our readers with a brief comprehensive statement of the schools of the province; we now draw more fully from the report itself, giving some of the views of the learned Principal on the subject of education, especially as applicable to this province.

FIRST.

The numerous defects arising out of the manner in which the province is divided into school districts are shown, and suggestions made setting forth that "a careful and formal revision and readjustment of the school sections in each county ought to be effected, under the auspices and direction of some special local commission, and provision made for a repetition of the same every ten years." It is further recommended that any community in order to be entitled to a school, should be able to send fifty or sixty children to school; that the minimum extent of a school district should be three miles square; with many other recommendations having in view the improvement of the district schools.

We cannot see how it is possible in new and sparsely populated countries like Nova Scotia or New Brunswick to establish any regular system of allocation of school edifices; for, if a limited extent of country, a certain amount of population, and a limited number of pounds, are to be taken as the standard upon which school houses are to be established, a large portion of the youth of the country must remain without education. Officers having charge of the division of the country into school districts, should be men of experience, judging each application for a public school upon its own merits, and affording the facilities of education to every neighbourhood, if possible, where a few families are gathered together.

SECOND.

Reference is made to the "monies expended in payment of the salaries of

the teachers of the common and grammar schools; and reflecting on the manner in which teachers are employed throughout the province; that about a third of the teachers do not "follow teaching as a profession, but as a mere matter of convenience," which "presses thereby upon the legislature the indispensable necessity of instituting a thorough investigation into the literary and professional qualifications of our teachers, and, founded thereon, a new and formal classification of the same."

The following enlightened and well-arranged views of the means by which sound education can be best advanced, are well worthy of perusal. The report says:—"And here the question presents itself—what is the best method of providing for the support of education, so that the end to be aimed at in all systems of popular education may be most extensively secured and perpetuated, viz.: that every child in the state or province shall receive a sound, wholesome education? We unhesitatingly reply—*direct assessment*; the practical recognition of the principle that the property of the state should educate the children of the state, and the right of the majority to levy a direct tax for the whole population; so that every child shall be provided with the means of education, the poor having the same right as the rich."

The number of schools:—winter, 879; summer, 1065; total support from people, £32,055; total support from government, £13,379. The people pay £2 5s. 23-4d. for every pound paid by the province. Total average cost of each pupil, 12s. 10 3-4d.; average salary of each teacher, £45.

THIRD.

We extract the following statistics from the tables:—Total number of pupils in winter, 32,626; summer, 37,087; male, in winter, 19,519; summer, 19,265; female, in winter, 12,852; in summer, 18,256 pupils.

The report stated that an increase of school attendance; including private Schools, Academies, Colleges and Grammar Schools have brought the proportion to 1 in 7 attending school." In the New England States, where the free system, as it is called, has been in operation for upwards of 200 years, the