

ence made to the "State of School Houses" along our path, some of which are a disgrace to civilization.— We only saw one decent school house in one hundred miles of country, which is situate at NORTH RIVER, Westmorland. Here, the inhabitants, half a dozen families, are erecting, to their credit be it said, a neat and commodious school house with all the appurtenances attached, and on an improved plan.

But to find a contrast, it is only necessary to refer to the two school houses standing in the midst of the village at Sussex Vale.—in the midst of neat churches, dwelling houses and stores, and comfortable barns, and a wealthy country.

If these school houses were not quite so large, or if the Mechanics' Institute, St. John, was a little larger, we would suggest the propriety of placing them therein, as relics of very, very old times.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, NEW BRUNSWICK.**—Henry Fisher, Esq., Chief Superintendent of Schools for New Brunswick, has passed from among the living.

As an educationist Mr. Fisher was deficient in Scholastic attainments, but possessed a high degree of energy, industry and perseverance, qualities which went far to supply other deficiencies. In his demise the community has lost a useful member, christianity a friend, and his family its chief head.

His successor in the Educational Department is JOHN BENNET, Esq. It is said that Mr. Bennet was for years a teacher of a Superior School, and for the last two or three years has occupied the position of Inspector of Schools for the Northern Counties of this Province. His antecedents therefore, are favorable to his fulfilling the duties of his new office in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Bennet's report of the state of the Schools of his district for the year 1858 is an admirable one, it speaks

volumes in his favour; we published it in the Parish School Advocate of last year, to which our readers would do well to refer.

THOMAS W. WOOD, Esq., takes Mr. Bennet's place as Inspector of Schools for the Northern Counties. Mr. Wood is a good scholar and has spent the principle part of his life as an instructor of youth, and therefore, is well qualified for his new position.

THE CHARLOTTE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE will hold its next meeting at St. George, on the last Thursday in May next. Much good is expected to result to education from this Institute; it embraces a large number of well-informed teachers who are desirous of elevating the profession and making the teachers vocation more highly respected by the public.

AMHERST FEMALE SEMINARY.— We beg to direct public attention to this useful and efficient Institution, an extended notice of which has appeared on the last leaf of the cover of the Parish School Advocate for several months past; and to which we refer our readers for more full information respecting the Teachers, Subjects taught, Terms, and other useful information connected therewith.

MADAGASCAR.—This Island, lying off the south-eastern coast of Africa, is larger than the whole of England, Scotland and Ireland, and contains over three millions of inhabitants.

For the last twenty years, in consequence of some commercial difficulties arising out of an alleged encroachments by foreign traders, has been in a state of entire inhibition. However, the way is now opened up; missionaries have recently visited this country, acquired a knowledge of their strange and conflicting language, arranged its grammar, prepared elementary books, translated the Scriptures, and have taught about ten thousand of the natives to read, and some of them to write, and many of them have embraced christianity.