

branches in which instruction is afforded are reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history and music. Some who have been in the Institution from the commencement now read pretty well, while in all the studies the progress has been satisfactory, but especially so in arithmetic, four of the pupils being now in decimal fractions and one in interest. The boys work at seating chairs, and the girls at bead and wool work. The Institution is intended to be strictly non-sectarian in every respect, and upon the Board are members of different Protestant denominations and of the Church of Rome, while clergymen are quite at liberty to see the pupils professing attachment to their particular denominations, at any time. We may observe in this connection that the non-sectarian principle is also adopted at the Brantford Institute, as appears by the division of pupils under religious heads. According to this statement, of the thirty-six pupils to which we have referred, sixteen are classed as Episcopalians, one as a member of the Society of Friends, ten as Methodists, one as a Bible Christian, four as Presbyterians, one as a Roman Catholic, one as a Lutheran, and two as Davidites. In regard to the support of the pupils at the Halifax establishment, it appears that it is mainly derived from the interest upon the legacy of the late Mr. Murdoch, and an annual grant of \$1000 from the Nova Scotia Legislature. The terms for pupils are \$120 per annum, but the Board have power to take the children of those unable to pay so much at a reduced rate, and, in fact, most of the pupils hitherto received are children of poor parents.

Having now considered the existing means provided for the requirements of the blind in certain sections of the Dominion, we are naturally led to consider how many blind persons could be found to avail themselves of opportunities such, as in our opinion, should be offered. In order to demonstrate this in a few words, we submit an estimate placed in our hands by Dr. Wiggins, who, as will appear hereafter, is keenly alive to the interests of the blind in New Brunswick, and we think we may add in the other Maritime Provinces. The Doctor says: "New Brunswick has a population of two hundred and ninety thousand, and, on an average, one blind person in every two thousand four hundred inhabitants, and therefore has one hundred and thirty blind persons of all ages. It may be fairly estimated that one-fifth of these are under thirty years of age (persons of this age not