

its claims upon the Government and upon a benevolent public. The pupils at the school are from almost all the Maritime Provinces, and this fact induces the hope that, when the efforts necessary to such an issue are put forth, the Institution will become the accepted one of its kind to all the Provinces, for their silent children of affliction, and will be sustained by a generous grant from each. It must, I think, be obvious that one such Institution, in some central location, will, in every respect, be sustained more efficiently and economically than several could be in different localities.

I beg leave to make a reference to the Blind Asylum. Although not named in the list of Special Academies, as is the Institution of the Deaf and Dumb, it nevertheless is one of the Provincial Institutions which strongly claims our sympathy and support. At the present time there are in that Institution fifteen pupils—ten males and five females,—receiving instruction from two well-qualified teachers. The expenses for 1873 were \$285.67. The income has met this, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$678.77. The facilities afforded in this Institution for educating the Blind, are not provided in any other of the Maritime Provinces. I beg leave to call special attention to the Annual Report for 1873.

COUNTY ACADEMIES.

I must refer to the Reports of the County Inspectors, and also to table XVII in the Appendix, in order that the working of the County Academies may be understood. At the inception of our present School System, these Institutions were designed to provide advanced education in the several counties where located; but the intention, however good, has, I regret to say, been but partially realized. The reason of this failure is thus stated by the Inspector for Annapolis:—

County Academy.—No Academic Teacher was employed during the Winter Term, although efforts were made to obtain one. During the Summer Term the Institution has been under the charge of Mr. A. H. McKay, a Graduate of the Dalhousie College, and has been conducted in a very satisfactory manner. The standard of admission has been somewhat lowered, in consequence of which a large number of pupils have been in attendance. Very few now residents of the Section in which the Academy is situated, avail themselves of its advantages. The supply of apparatus is very limited for such an institution, and in fact the benefits to be derived are not such as to attract pupils from other sections in the county. Those wishing to pursue an Academy course of study,