

Presented by, Dr. Helen Creighton,
Dalnouth, 26 Newcastle Street,
N.S. June 9th. 1967.

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1895

The Academy Annual.

HALIFAX, N. S., CHRISTMAS, 1895.

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As we pull the editorial chair up to the library table, adjust the mantle on our shoulders, and take up the editorial pen with a year's rust upon it, a few things occur to us to say, by way of preface, to Number Three of the ACADEMY ANNUAL, which we herewith submit to the consideration—we hope to the friendly consideration—of those who are interested in the doings of our school.

The idea of coming before the public with a small collection of poetry and prose, written by our students, was so successfully carried out last term and the term before last, that our annual appearance may now be looked upon as a regular custom. That we do not appear oftener is not owing to lack of subjects upon which to write, nor of promptings to write upon them, but is owing to lack of time and energy for anything outside of regular school work. Pretty severe training, we claim, is necessary for the student who is going to *run* successfully in our curriculum, and there is little room for originality to air itself. Let this fact, and our youth and inexperience also, be considered as some excuse for any deficiencies or crudities which may appear in the following pages.

Another term has been completed and the new term well entered upon since number 2 of the ANNUAL appeared. Forty-six students have left us with their leaving examination certificates in their possession. A few more have left us without this coveted bit of paper from the Education Office but with, we suppose, some benefits as a result of their attendance and study here. Over one hundred new students have entered, making our total number enrolled for the present term 337. On another page we say a few

personal words of cheer to speed the 'parting guests' who have finished their stay with us and gone out to study in college or to enter upon the active duties of life. The names of the 'coming guests' will also be seen, with whom we feel already that we are pretty well acquainted.

We must avail ourselves of the opportunity given by an editorial page to speak of a few changes which have taken place since last term. These changes are not very great. The motto of our good city of Halifax seems to be the wise old maxim of Caesar's '*Easten slowly*,' with, we should say, a little more emphasis on the adverb than would have suited the old Roman General's way of doing things.

The first of these changes, we must inform the readers of the ANNUAL, and especially last year's editors and contributors, is an addition to our Library shelves and the placing on them of 100 new and substantial volumes purchased by \$70 out of the \$130-balance on the right side of the account which the efforts of those who helped with the paper last year secured for the Library fund.

Then there is the completion of the Chemical Laboratory with Chemical apparatus furnished by the School Board.

Our thanks are also due to the School Board for the purchase and removal of the disreputable shanties which had mouldered for years in the shadow of our School building. The view in that direction being thereby improved two new windows were made on the north side and additional light admitted from that quarter. Complaints were made in previous numbers of our paper of the fettered and cramped feeling we experienced in our present quarters, and we are thankful even for small mercies in respect of more air and light.

One making a tour of the lower regions—the lower regions of the Academy, we mean—would discover a brand new big furnace which is driving the hot water through the cast-iron veins of the building at a much livelier rate than it went before. We had the good luck to get a holiday when the old furnace, which had been showing signs of general debility for some time, broke down completely. The School Board, putting emphasis for once on the *verb* of Caesar's