

|                                       | Boys. | Girls. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Pupils registered Dec. 1st. 1883..... | 18    | 9      | 27     |
| Entered during the year .....         | 1     | 2      | 3      |
| “ Adults, Workmen .....               | 1     | 0      | 1      |
| Graduated, or remained at home.....   | 3     | 0      | 3      |
| Pupils registered Dec. 1st. 1884..... | 17    | 11     | 28     |

## LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

We have experienced, in common with all similar schools, the difficulties which arise from the necessity of employing several distinct styles of print, each of which possesses particular merits of its own. The pupils in the public schools use the same primers and text-books, and are taught to read from the same series of readers; those who are near-sighted, and those possessing quick vision, using a common print. With the blind it is different. Some can be taught to read only from large characters, while others can learn from letters of much smaller dimensions. Again, some are obliged to use the books printed in the larger type as a stepping-stone to those printed in smaller letters; but the child has a double difficulty with which to contend, since the larger and smaller letters form distinct alphabets, having no more relation to each other, than the old and new styles in ordinary print.

This difficulty could readily be obviated by abandoning the ordinary lined characters, and substituting point print; but it will probably be many years before the inventors and advocates of the respective systems now in use, will realize that the present lack of uniformity places unnecessary obstacles in the way of the student, and renders the work of the teacher doubly hard.

For many years I have kept a register of the names of the young blind persons, throughout the Maritime Provinces, under the age at which they could be admitted to the school. By means of this register I have been enabled, in a measure, to direct the home-training of these children before they entered the institution; and in several instances have obtained for them admission to the public schools; thus giving them a preparation for their regular school life, the advantages of which cannot well be overestimated. My thanks are due to the teachers, who have without exception, willingly seconded my efforts to have these children trained; and I feel confident that when the time arrives for calling upon their co-laborers, in other parts of the country, I will ever find hands willing and ready to hold up the candle of knowledge before these little ones, so that its heat if not its light may be enjoyed by them.

The clergy and physicians throughout the Maritime Provinces would greatly aid in the good work if they would kindly forward me the names and Post-Office addresses of any blind children they may happen to know.

The regular work in our school department has been steadily and systematically carried on, and the results are, in the main, satisfactory and encouraging.