

PREFACE.

THE following pages owe their origin to local circumstances, having been prepared to meet the peculiar wants of our Provincial deaf-mutes, under instruction in the Halifax Institution. After being, for some years, used in manuscript—a system involving serious disadvantages—these exercises are now printed, in order to save time and labour hitherto unavoidably absorbed in the mechanical drudgery of providing written copies of them for a whole school. For this boon—which can be duly appreciated only by Teachers similarly circumstanced—we are indebted to the liberality of the Legislature of Nova Scotia. Last session in addition to the usual annual grant for the support of the Institution, the sum of \$200 was generously appropriated by the House of Assembly, towards defraying the cost of printing certain lesson-books urgently required for our pupils, and which could not be obtained in any other way. The present little volume is the first-fruits of this enlightened and considerate policy.*

The work is not intended to furnish a *complete system* of Arithmetic. It aims rather at supplementing the deficiencies of ordinary Arithmetics, so as to meet the requirements of the peculiar class for whom it is primarily designed. This branch of study presents extraordinary difficulties to Colonial deaf-mutes—difficulties unknown in the schools of the mother country—owing to the complicated and perplexing nature of the *Provincial Currencies*. A fuller as well as more elementary treatment, than the subject receives in our common school books, was therefore abso-

*It seems proper to state that the special grant referred to was made on the unanimous recommendation of the Committee on Humane Institutions, to whom the necessities of the case were earnestly represented on the occasion of their annual visit of inspection to the Institution, last spring. The Compiler also particularly desires to embrace this opportunity of expressing his grateful sense of the valuable services of HIRAM BLANCHARD, Esq., M.P.P. Chairman of the Committee, whose hearty and unwearied interest in the cause, have tended so materially to promote the interests of deaf-mute education in the Legislature.