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1838. AUTUMN CIRCULAR. 1868.

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36-3m

# THE TRADE REVIEW

Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1868.

A reply from Mr. J. T. Kerby, to the article we published on "the New Express Company," will appear in our next issue, it not having been received in time for insertion in this number.

Statement of the Provincial Notes in circulation, Wednesday, 2nd December, 1868, and the specie held against them at Montreal, Toronto and Halifax, according to the Returns of the Commissioners under the Provincial Note Act:-

NOTES IN CILCULATION.

\$4,654,000

SPECIE RELD.

\$ 999,600

Debentures held by the Rec'r. Gen. under the Provincial Note Act....

\$3,000,000

Including \$152,000 marked St. John.

t The Nova Scotia dollar not being equal in value to that of the other Provinces, the Notes issued at Halifax, are worth their face value in Nova Scotia only. They are stamped "Payable at Halifax." and are numbered in black ink. None but 85 notes are yet in circulation.

## IMPORTANT CHANGES.

WE observe that the Legislature of Ontario is about to take an important step regarding the education of the people. For some weeks pa ta Committee of the House has been engaged in considering amendments to the Common and Grammar School Acts, which Dr. Ryerson, the General Superintendent, has strongly recommended. After a very thorough examination of the subject, a new Bill has been reported to the House, which proposes to make a very important changes. The chief alterations posed are three:-

1st\_That all the Schools shall be made Free Schools, the Rate-bill system being abolished.

2nd-That Education shall hercafter be compulsory, parents rendering themselves liable to legal process if they fail to send their children to school during certain years,

3rd-That hereafter there shall only be one County Local Superintendent, instead of one in each municipality as at present.

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General Agents for Canada

FRED. COLE, Secretary.

Inspector of Agencies—T. C. Livingston, P.L.S.
9-ly

These are very radical changes and must exercise an important influence upon Education for good or evil. Of two of them, there can be no doubt they will prove beneficial-we refer to the universal adoption of Free Schools, and of employing one capable man in each County to superintend the Schools. As regards compulsory education, there exists quite a diversity of opinion. Some strongly object to it on the ground that the State has no right to interfere so offensively with parental control; others do not care much for this objection, but fear that the system of compulsion will be found impracticable in working. There is some force, it must be admitted, in this last objection. That class of youths who have come to be known as "arabs" in our cities and towns, are the children generally of dissolute parents, who place no value on education or anything else that is good. These children are not clad as they ought to be to attend a public school, and too often they are left without food, unless they manage to secure it them-selves. How are they to attend school, unless clothed and fed?-and if they are forced to go by legal process how much will such scholars learn? Then again, it is just a question how the respectable portion of the community will like their children to meet daily at school these little unfortunates so badly trained, and in many cases addicted to bad habits. These are grave questions, which cleary indicate that compulsory educition has some serious difficulties in the way of its success. Nevertheless, there is great force in the a:gument of those whose property is assessed to keep up Free Schools; that if they are forced to pay for schools for all classes, all parents should be compelled to educate their children. It is immentable also, that so many of the youth of Ontario remain partially or wholly ineducated when the school door stands open "without money and without price." It is painful to think how many are growing up, particularly in cities and towns, in ignorance and vice, and the time is fully come when some effort should be made to eradicate an evil so glaring and constantly increasing. Dr. Byerson urges compulsory education as a remedy for the evil, and although not having implicit faith in its efficacy, we are glad it is likely to have a trial in On-tario. If it does not prove all that its supporters anticipate, it may at least serve to show in what way the poor boys and girls who are growing up in ignorance, and who ultimately make our dissolutes and criminals, can be reclaimed and made respectable members of society. Other countries having adopted computsory education, Ontario cannot be said to be making "a leap in the dark," and we hope the experiment will exceed the expectations of its advocates, and disappoint the fears of these opposed to it.