

class ability and consummate tact. In all the branches peculiar to it, this department ranked fully as high as the advanced.

The school-house at Eastern Harbour is one of the finest country buildings of the kind in the Province. All the surrounding sections contributed *fifty* dollars each to aid the trustees of this thriving little village, in the erection of a structure of which the whole settlement is justly proud.

Mr. Daniel Collins had charge of the English department during the Summer term. Mr. Collins, in addition to considerable college training, has had several years experience in teaching. He performed his duties to my entire satisfaction.

Mr. Evariste LeBanc, an alumnus of Memramcook College, taught, and still teaches, in the junior departments. In this department French is the vernacular of the children, and instruction is given almost entirely in that language.

As the knowledge of French is rapidly becoming an element essential to a liberal education, I can, with confidence, recommend the Eastern Harbour school to parents desirous to initiate their boys and girls into a colloquial, and to a certain extent, literary knowledge of the language of Fenelon and Voltaire.

A number of other schools of a high order could be enumerated, notably, those of Port Hastings, (two depts.,) B. Cove Marsh, (two depts.,) Margaree Forks, and many others with good buildings and superior teachers.

With all the imperfections of many of our public schools, and their name is legion, as to general results, I can honestly report progress.

That there are poor teachers and poor schools, I admit, and I am prepared also to admit that there will be such, and until the final consummation of all things; some teachers, I am led to understand, while their articles of agreement are literally legal, at the same time have a private understanding with the trustees, that they will be satisfied with their allotments from the Provincial and County Funds. As a natural result of such agreement, I am quite satisfied, that many teachers fail to attest to their Returns, although the names of Justices of the Peace are invariably subscribed to these documents. In my last Report, to remedy this evil, I suggested that teachers should be compelled to attest to their Returns before, or in presence of, a School Commissioner—an opinion which I still hold; difficult as it may be to devise measures incapable of circumvention,—a vigorous effort should be made to remedy an evil which is universally admitted to exist, to some extent, at least.

PROSPECTS.

When an annual appropriation of nineteen thousand dollars from the Provincial and County Funds alone, is made for County Educational purposes,—it is quite natural that the public should expect some material return for such a large expenditure. I am happy therefore, to report a wide-spread, awakened interest upon this subject. The day is not far distant when an enlightened public sentiment will discriminate in the choice of trustees; when trustees will choose teachers from higher motives than selfish nepotism. When teachers will be required to have, not the education requisite to run the gauntlet of the prescribed syllabus, solely, but also general intelligence and tact to excite the mental powers to healthy activity.

I am delighted to find that at the recent Session of the Provincial Teachers' Association, special prominence was given to the desirability of establishing Teachers' Institutes. As the Teachers of this County have, for the most part, received no special training for the business of teaching, I know of no means so easily attainable and which would be productive of such general beneficial results, as the establishment of local Institutes, organized and conducted as nearly as practicable upon the plan of good common schools.