

—**MIDDLESEX SEMINARY.**—The opening of the Middlesex Seminary took place on the 8th instant. A large crowd of people assembled in the spacious building erected and fitted for the Seminary. Jno. Moffatt, Esq. was called to the chair, and explained the plan and object of the institution. Thereafter the audience listened most attentively to excellent addresses delivered by the following gentlemen, viz:—The Rev'ds. Mr. Mr. McArthur, J. Straith, J. Skinner, W. Fletcher, and Dr. Hanson. The refreshments were abundant and suitable for the occasion. Intervals were most agreeably filled up with vocal and instrumental music, by the promising Choir of Komoka. The Seminary is likely to prove a valuable educational institution. Situated at Komoka, a very healthy locality; it is easy of access by railway, and is removed from the evil influences and temptations too common in cities and towns, so that parents can send thither their sons and daughters without fear that they will return with their morals corrupted. The pupils will also be under the care of the principal and teachers in the boarding department. By the sagacity and indomitable perseverance of Mr. Geo. Moffat, the Principal, the Company was formed, twenty acres of land purchased, and two large brick buildings erected thereon. Two wings are yet to be added to the Seminary buildings, which, when completed, will accommodate about one hundred pupils. There is a staff of efficient teachers for both male and female departments. Miss McMillan the lady already mentioned, will guide the studies of the young ladies at the piano. A goodly number of scholars had already arrived, and the trains were constantly bringing in more. As there will be but a limited number admitted this winter, students should make an early application. To those who purchase a Scholarship the whole expense of keeping a student one year is less than one hundred dollars! This includes board and washing. We hope families will avail themselves of this very promising institution.—*Com. to Toronto Evening Journal.*

—**PRINCE EDWARD TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.**—The Teachers' Association for the County of Prince Edward, met on the 18th day of January. The President—F. F. McNab—in the chair. The Committee appointed at a previous meeting, to revise the constitution and prepare By-Laws for the Association, presented their report, which was adopted. The following gentlemen were then appointed officers for the ensuing year: J. Terill, Esq., President; G. Cork, 1st Vice, and G. C. Vandusen, 2nd Vice Presidents; D. C. Morden, Recording Secretary; W. J. Byam, Corresponding Secretary; L. Platt, Treasurer; J. Benson, G. Cork and Robert Carey, Executive Committee: H. McMullen, on behalf of the Association, and W. E. Price by the President, were appointed Auditors for the ensuing year. Geo. E. Vandusen, Esq., was appointed to read an essay next meeting. The Meeting of the Association was all that could be expected; not only was the Association largely attended by teachers from various parts of the County as also by other influential individuals interested in the educational interests of the County; but the best feeling prevailed throughout the proceedings of the day. Everything passed off harmoniously, and to the entire satisfaction of all present. The Association will meet again at Picton on the 20th of April.—*North American.*

—**INSTITUTION, FOR THE DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND.**—It is impossible for any one to be a witness of the examination which took place in the Mechanic's Hall, without having all their feelings of sympathy, and of pity warmly elicited. The hall was crowded to overflowing with a most respectable audience, who watched the proceedings with very great interest and delight. The chair was taken by Mr. Cummings, who in a few brief words introduced Mr. McGann, the Principal of the institution, who gave a brief *resume* of the history of establishments of this kind in Canada. Mr. McGann spoke hopefully of the future, and said that he regarded the rapid progress which the school had made hitherto and the support it had received from the government, County Councils, and private sources, augured well for its success for the time to come. He then proceeded to read the report, by which it appears that the institution which has been in existence for six years, has made a very rapid advancement in prosperity and usefulness during the past year. The number of scholars at the close of the year 1863, was 14; the largest number in attendance since the opening in 1858, was 24; but the number has now become augmented to 53, viz, 47 deaf mutes and 6 blind pupils. Another very satisfactory indication is the fact that the Institution is free from debt. At the conclusion of the reading of the report, some extracts from English history were read by a blind boy. Some very interesting exhibitions of the proficiency acquired by the deaf mutes, in reading, writing, geography and grammar were then

given, some of the pupils exhibiting a quickness of understanding which was truly marvellous. Their great imitative powers were amusingly displayed by two little fellows, who went through the various motions of walking, running, fighting and *talking*, in a very natural manner. Two blind boys enlivened the exhibition by performing a selection on the Violin and Concertina. Nor must we forget and commend the singing of a little blind girl, who, in a very simple artless manner, sang that old song (filled as it is with a natural description of those natural beauties she can never behold) "When the rosy morn appearing." The exhibition ended by the whole assemblage of deaf mutes repeating the Lord's Prayer in their dumb language. We are but giving expression to the feeling of all our fellow citizens when we say that we hope every success may attend an Institution so productive of good results.—*Hamilton Spectator.*

—**SEPARATE SCHOOLS.**—The Roman Catholics of Upper Canada held a meeting in Toronto recently, and unanimously passed a resolution setting forth, that as it is proposed to guarantee the educational privileges of the Protestant minority in Lower Canada under the Confederation, the same rights and privileges be accorded to the Catholics of Upper Canada. Another resolution, asserting that "the Protestants of Lower Canada enjoy many and important privileges which the Catholics of Upper Canada are disallowed, viz., a university, normal school, numerous endowed academies and grammar schools, nearly four times the amount of money which is granted by the Legislature for the purpose of Catholic education in Upper Canada," was also carried, and a committee appointed to memorialize the Legislature on the subject, with a view of obtaining similar privileges.—*Montreal Gazette.*

—**A SCHOOL MASTER IN TROUBLE.**—On the 23rd inst., Mr. Neil McKinnon, teacher of a school in the 2nd concession of Markham, was tried at Richmond Hill before a Magistrate's court on a charge of unlawfully and with excessive violence correcting a boy attending school named Fred. Montgomery, by striking him with a stick, and was fined \$5 and costs for the offence. The amount he had to pay altogether was \$10.55.

—**NOVA SCOTIAN EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF EDUCATION.**—A short time ago an educational institution, bearing the name of "the Yarmouth Seminary," was inaugurated with appropriate exercises. Property of the value of twenty-thousand dollars, the gift of private individuals, has been set apart for educational purposes, free from all sectarian control, and in its subordinate departments, which are designed to furnish a thorough English Education, free to all the children of the district in which it is located. It is, if your correspondent is correctly informed, the first public free school in Nova Scotia. It has two higher departments, one of them being a female seminary designed to rank with such institutions as Mount Holyoke. These higher departments are open to all who are qualified to enter them, upon payment of certain prescribed fees. The constitution of the seminary carefully guards its morality. The building is admirably adapted to the purposes for which it was erected, and is furnished with all the modern improvements. It has accommodation for five hundred pupils, and could easily be made to accommodate half as many more. It is only justice to one gentleman, N. K. Clements, Esq., to say that to him, more than to any other, the credit of this movement is due. He originated it, awakened the public interest, secured the co-operation of others, and personally undertook the financial responsibility. He holds no claim against the property, being determined that the institution shall not be burdened, as too many are, by debt, which always retards their usefulness, and sometimes destroys them altogether. Your correspondent hopes that the foregoing will not be uninteresting to Canadians, in view of the present aspect of political movements. Canada has a reputation abroad second to none on the continent, for its educational position, and progress on our part must gratify her people, and all the more if we are to become more closely united.—*Witness.*

—**VANCOUVER ISLAND.**—The education question had been engaging the attention of the Vancouver's Island Legislature. The Committee on Education had presented a report, of which the two essential clauses were the following: "That there should be established in this colony a system of free schools, conducted by thoroughly competent trained teachers, where in the intellectual, physical, and moral training, would be such as to make the schools attractive to all classes of people." "That in a community such as this, where religious opinions are so diversified, and where the benefits of a well devised educational system should be extended to all, the reading of the Bible or the inculcation of religious dogmas in free schools