

T H E

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

WE direct the attention of Teachers, Trustees, and Inspectors, to "Official Notices." The amended regulations in reference to Superior Schools will doubtless prove highly beneficial. They take effect in May next. The Spring examination will be held during the latter part of March. This will enable every candidate to know the judgment of the Examiners before the first of May. The roads will probably be in a better condition, also, than in April. It will be seen that under HOLIDAYS "any day proclaimed as a public holiday throughout the Province," has been added. This will include proclaimed Thanksgiving Day, and is to apply to the present as well as to any future term.

EXHIBITION OF 1868.

OUR readers are already aware that there is to be a Great Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of the Province in October next. The prize list is very extensive. The following will be of special interest to teachers:—

- School desks, best styles and workmanship. \$10.00
- Best model cabinet of minerals for illustration of lessons on mineralogy in public schools. 20.00
- “ model collection of dissected plants, for illustration of lessons on botany, in public schools. 20.00
- “ specimen of penmanship, business hand, without flourishes. 4.00
- 2nd do. 2.00
- Best assortment of school apparatus for a graded school. 20.00
- “ specimen of prescribed writing books, (Staples) Nos. 8 and 9, executed by a pupil of the public schools. 20.00
- “ specimen of prescribed writing books, (Staples) Nos. 2 and 5, executed by a pupil of the public schools. 20.00

We are disposed to think that the Committee will have a good many copy-books to examine. Here is an opportunity for the good writers.

MENTAL OUTFIT OF THE NEW DOMINION.

BY HON. D'ARCY M'GEE, M.P.L.A.

ALL political observers are, I believe, now agreed, that all the forces of a nation may be classed under three heads, of moral, mental, and physical force. It needs no argument to prove, that in this reading and writing age, "the age of the press" as it has been called, power must be wherever true religion is, and where most intelligence, most power. If England conquers India by intellect and bravery, she can retain it only at the price of re-educating India; if a Czar Peter and Czarina Catherine add vast realms to the Russian Empire, they too, must send out the schoolmasters to put up the fences, and break in the wild cattle they have caught; if a United States reaches the rank of first power, it must, at the same time, send its best writers as Ambassadors of its interior civilization. To this end Benjamin Franklin, Irving, Everett, Pauldin, Baneroff, Motley and Marsh have been selected with the true instinct of mental independence, to represent the new country at the old courts of Christendom; while Howard, Payne, Hawthorne, Mitchell, and other literary men, have filled important consular offices, by the dictation of the same sentiment of intellectual self-assertion.

MENTAL SELF RELIANCE ESSENTIAL TO THE NEW DOMINION.

Regarding the New Dominion as an incipient new nation, it seems to me, that our mental self-reliance is an essential condition of our political independence; I do not mean a state of public mind, puffed up on small things; an exaggerated opinion of ourselves and a barbarian depreciation of foreigners; a controversial state of mind; or a merely imitative apish civilization. I mean a mental condition, thoughtful and true; national in its preferences, but catholic in its sympathies; gravitating inward—not outward,—ready to learn from every other people on one sole condition, that the lesson, when learned, has been worth acquiring. In short, I would desire to see, gentlemen, our new national character distinguished by a manly modesty as much as by mental independence, by the conscientious exercise of the critical faculties, as well as by the zeal of the inquirer.

MENTAL PABULUM OF THE NEW DOMINION.

Our next census—in 1870—will find us over 1,000,000; educationally, as far as rudimental learning goes, as well advanced as "the most favored nations" in that respect.

I am indebted to Mr. Griffin, Deputy Postmaster-General, for valuable evidence, not only of the quantity of reading and writing matter distributed by post in Ontario and Quebec during the present year, but also during the last four years. Mr. Griffin sends me these figures as to the letters and newspapers circulated through the former Upper and Lower Canada offices from 1863 to 1867, inclusive:—

	Letters.	Newspapers.
1863.....	11,000,000	12,500,000
1864.....	11,500,000	12,500,000
1865.....	12,200,000	11,800,000
1866.....	13,000,000	12,800,000
1867.....	14,200,000	14,000,000

As to 1865-66, "I think it probable," says Mr. Griffin, "that the postmasters were not as accurate as they should have been." The same gentleman adds that "of the fourteen millions of papers circulating this year, about eight millions are Canadian, going direct to subscribers from the offices of publication, and the other six millions are made up of United States and European papers coming into the country. Of the letters there were above ten millions domestic and four millions foreign." (The close proximity of the two sets of figures is very remarkable.) We are by this showing, or ought to be, a reading people; and if a reading, why not also a reflective people? Do we master what we read? Or does our reading master us? Questions surely, not untimely to be asked, and so far as possible by one man to be answered.

Our reading supplies are, as you know, drawn chiefly from two sources, first—books which are imported from the United States, England and France,—a foreign supply likely long to continue foreign. The second source is our newspaper literature, chiefly supplied, as we have seen, from among ourselves, but largely supplemented by American and English journals.

THE PRESS AS A MENTAL POWER.

I shall not be accused of flattering any one when I say that I consider our press tolerably free from the license, which too often degrades and enfeebles the authority of the free press of the United States. Ours is chiefly to blame for the provincial narrowness of its views; for its localism and egotism; for the absence of a large and generous catholicity of spirit, both in the selection of its subjects and their treatment; for a rather servile dependence for its opinions of foreign affairs, on the leading papers of New York and London. Moreover there is sometimes an exaggerated pretentiousness of shop superiority, with which the public are troubled more than enough, for it is a truth, however able editors may overlook it, that the much-enduring reader does not, in nine cases out of ten, care one jack straw for what this editor thinks about that one, or whether our contemporary round the corner has or has not resorted to this, or other sharp practice in order to obtain a paragraph of exclusive intelligence. The reading public cordially wish all able editors better subjects than each others faults or foibles; and the fewer professional personalities one finds in his paper, the better he likes it, in the long run.

This newspaper literature forms by much the largest part of our general reading. There are in the four United Provinces about one hundred and thirty journals, of which thirty, at least, are published daily. Of the total number of habitual readers it is not possible to form a close estimate, but they are probably represented by one-half of the male adults of the population—say 400,000 souls. However ephemeral the form of this literature, the effect must be lasting; and men of one newspaper especially, are pretty much what their favorite editors make them. The responsibility of the editor is, therefore, in the precise proportion to the number and confidence of his readers. If they are 500, or 5000, or 50,000, so is the moral responsibility multiplied upon him. He stands to hundreds of thousands in a relation as intimate as that of the physician to his patient, or the lawyer to his client; and only in a degree less sacred, than that of the pastor to his people. He is their harbinger of light, their counsellor, their director; it is not for him to build up the gaps in their educational training; to cut away the prejudices, to enlarge the sympathies; to make of his readers, men honest and brave, holders of truth and lovers of justice. Modern society does not afford educated men any position, short of the pulpit and the altar, more honorable, more powerful for good or evil, and more heavily responsible to society. The editorial character as we know it, is not above a century old, that length of time ago, correspondents addressed the publisher or printer, but not the