

opportunity of inspecting the work departments. During the past year these public exercises have attracted a large number of visitors from all parts of the Lower Provinces, as well as from other parts of the Dominion. The crowded state of the school-room on these occasions, and our inability to supply proper accommodation for those who attend our weekly concerts, make the want of a suitable hall more and more apparent.

ATTENDANCE.

As will be seen by the school record hereto appended, *two* new pupils have been admitted during the year, none having been discharged, so that there are at present upon our roll twenty-four pupils, seventeen of whom are from the Province of Nova Scotia, five from New Brunswick, and two from the island of Prince Edward.

The following statistics, gathered from the census returns of 1881, are of interest :—

No. of blind persons in Canada.....	3,098
“ “ Province Nova Scotia	377
“ “ New Brunswick.....	246
“ “ P. E. Island	83
No. under 21 years of age in Nova Scotia.....	56
“ “ New Brunswick.....	48
“ “ P. E. Island.....	12

From these statistics we learn that there are in the Province one hundred and sixteen blind persons under twenty-one years of age, at least one-third of whom should now be receiving instruction, so that instead of having as at present twenty-four pupils, our number should not be less than forty. The names, ages, and localities in which these children reside are, with a few exceptions, unknown to me, and this, too, despite my every effort to obtain the same. In February last I sent a printed circular to the clergy of every denomination in the Lower Provinces, requesting the name, age, and post office address of every blind child in the church or churches over which they presided. From this circular, I regret to say, but two answers were received. The information sought is absolutely essential to the success of the Institution, for, as is well known to your Board, such information is but the first step towards a blind child entering the Institution, seeing that in a majority of cases it is necessary to visit the parents and convince them of the advantages to be derived by attending the school. In view of these facts I would respectfully suggest that a circular letter be addressed to the Warden and Council of each municipality, requesting them to have the assessors make the inquiry in each household, and ascertain the name, age, and post office address of every blind person under twenty-one years of age, and to report the same to the Clerk of the Council, whose duty it shall be to forward the information to the Superintendent of the Institution for the Blind.

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