

ultimately deciding to keep their children at home. Both these are fast falling into idiocy." Dr. Wiggins recently informed us that for many reasons the prescribed system of maintaining pupils by Councils was found disadvantageous, and even in some cases inoperative. In order to remove this difficulty, he therefore persuaded the Lieutenant Governor and his Ministers to bring the members of the Local House to the Institution for the purpose of listening to a grand concert of the pupils. They came accordingly, and, while their sympathies were at *maximum*, Dr. Wiggins pressed upon the auditors that the Institution should be rendered free to all those who were unable to pay. The result was that an Act to this effect was passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature. From the Institution at Brantford we pass to that established at Halifax a few years before the former, but, as we shall show, as a private enterprise instead of a Government work. In 1867, Mr. Matthew H. Richey, who was at that time Mayor of Halifax, received in his official capacity a communication from the executors of the late William Murdoch, a gentleman who, after amassing a very considerable fortune in business at Halifax, had returned to the "old country" to spend his last days, stating that, by his will, he had bequeathed the sum of £5000 N. S. currency to an Asylum for the Blind in the City of Halifax, with a proviso that, if no such institution should be in existence at the time of his decease or erected at a cost of not less than £3000 within three years from his decease, the sum bequeathed should revert to his estate for distribution. When this communication was laid before the City Council, a very general disposition was evinced to aid the object and willingness expressed to present a site for the building. Thereupon an Act was procured from the Legislature, authorizing the Council to convey for the purpose any land held by them, and providing for the incorporation of the subscribers to the fund for erecting the building. The late Hon. Mather B. Almon took a very lively interest in the project, headed the list with a subscription of \$2000, induced the Legislature to give a similar sum, and largely aided Mr. Richey in realizing the total amount required. A piece of land was subsequently conveyed by the Council, on which a building is now erected, which is well adapted for the accommodation of from forty to fifty pupils. In May last there were in the Institution *eleven* pupils—*eight* male and *three* female—at ages ranging from *twelve* to *eighteen*. The