

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the President and Board of Managers of "The Halifax School for the Blind":—

There are probably few men who fully realize to what extent the work in which they are engaged, may ultimately expand. Little did the philosopher of Stageira imagine that the principles laid down by him, in the fourth century before Christ, would form the basis of the best works upon Logic, published two thousand years later. Little did the inventor of the steam-engine suppose that his discovery of an unknown power was destined to revolutionize the world, and so greatly advance its material progress.

Could the founder of the first school for the blind have foreseen the wonderful changes, which would be wrought in the methods of educating those deprived of sight, his benevolent heart would have been filled with gratitude to God; and he would have felt thankful that his labors would eventually be crowned with that success for which he so assiduously toiled. In the year 1784, Valentine Haiiy, the great French Philanthropist, having been moved to pity by what he saw of the blind in the streets of Paris, conceived the idea of opening in that city a school for their instruction, and notwithstanding the difficulties with which their education was beset, he persevered in his self-imposed task; and in time was permitted to gather the first fruits of his labors. As a director of an institution, Haiiy did not prove a success, but to his inventive genius, and untiring interest in the education of his pupils, the blind are indebted for the introduction of books printed in raised characters readily sensible to the touch. The work which was commenced by this apostle of the blind, is now being carried forward by thousands of willing workers in all parts of the civilized world, who, while looking back with satisfaction at what has already been accomplished in the past, have faith to believe that the future has in store for them a still greater measure of success.

This being the Centennial year of the establishment of the first school for the blind, I have thought it advisable to thus briefly note the fact by using it as a preface to my customary annual report, which is herewith submitted:—