

proportions, leading to the destruction of property and even to the loss of life. This hostility is symbolized by the expression, "the Town and the Gown." There has not been much of this hostility in connection with the Horton institutions, but there have at times been indications of a latent spirit of antagonism, and possibly the authorities have reached the conclusion that there was not as much friendliness as desirable. If so, we can discern a meaning in these receptions—this new policy, as it may be denominated—but whether such conjectures are well founded or not, this much must be admitted: the occasions referred to were eminently calculated to multiply and deepen kindly sentiments; the influence exerted was in the direction of causing the community more than previously to regard the institutions as *theirs*, and on the other hand to lead the students and pupils of the schools to consider the inhabitants of the villages as *friends*. This would indicate on the part of the authorities a measure of wisdom and philosophy which is worthy of consideration and commendation, and might be offered as an example deserving of being followed, or at least tried, by similar institutions nearer or more remote.

CHRONICLER.

Wolfeville, Nov. 26, 1888.

For the REVIEW.]

An Acquaintance with Fröbel's System a Necessary Part of the Teacher's Training.

The adoption by the Boston School Board of Mrs. Shaw's Free Kindergartens is the educational event of the year. They amount in number to nearly thirty, are well equipped and in splendid working order. They represent the sum of not less than a quarter of a million of dollars, judiciously expended by their noble founders. Boston has been somewhat tardy in accepting this new charge, but, having done so, she is prepared to meet the new responsibility and to discharge its duties thoroughly and with a wise foresight. Henceforth the pupils of the Girls' Normal School will not only study the kindergarten theoretically, and as a part of pedagogic history, but practically, and in its special relations to the common school. The city board has provided for a series of lectures by Miss Laura C. Fisher, who is an accomplished and experienced kindergartner. Three lectures have already been delivered. The Rice Training School, numbering more than a thousand pupils and having over twenty departments, which are accommodated in the two buildings on Dartmouth and Appleton streets, will, in its fine kindergarten, afford full scope for observation and practice. Admission to the normal school depends upon a certificate of having passed the fourth year of the high school, or an examination

or its equivalent, and the applicant must have attained her eighteenth year. Thirteen years of life in the best schools of Boston lie behind some of these girls, who will thus have minds capable of understanding the philosophy of Fröbel's system. With the breadth and culture which comes of long training, they will apply his principles intelligently and not be mere smattering empirics, bringing discredit upon the truth. Dr. Dunton, the head master, is in full sympathy with advanced educational ideas. He is, moreover, fitted, by European travel and lengthened experience, to lead the new enterprise to a successful issue. He was much pleased to hear of our work in Truro, and thought the "short course for teachers" a very wise plan. We do hope that many of our teachers, especially those in the primary grades, will avail themselves of the privilege of observation in a kindergarten than which, in a somewhat extended tour, we do not remember to have seen a better.

C.

Halifax, N. S.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND TEACHER.

What number of ratepayers is necessary to transact the business of the annual school meeting? This is a question that is often asked, and indeed many notices of meeting have each year to be given needlessly, because this point is not understood. An idea has got abroad in some way that seven ratepayers constitute a quorum. As many ratepayers should be present as can do the business. And let us see how many that need be: There must be a chairman and secretary, and some one to move the resolutions. If the secretary is a ratepayer he can move or second resolutions. In that case only three are required, absolutely, though it is desirable that all the ratepayers in the district should be present. There is sure to be grumbling done concerning the action of the meeting, and in nine cases out of ten the complaint comes from some one who has not attended. Ratepayers who have children to send should always come to the annual meeting, as those who have none and have heavy taxes to pay are pretty sure to be present and either endeavor to vote as small a sum as possible, or nothing at all. It would be surprising to note, if the statistics were available, the number of districts in which the board of trustees is composed wholly of ratepayers who have no direct interest in the support of a school. It is owing to this state of affairs that so many schools are kept in operation during only a part of the year, and that low class and cheap teachers are more in demand than high class teachers. A request to force a school comes with very bad grace from a number of ratepayers who have not attended