

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Board of Managers of the Mackay Institution.

In presenting my annual report of the working of the Institution under your management, I have much pleasure in stating that its affairs have progressed most favourably during the year that is past. The number of pupils in attendance exceeded that of any previous year, there having been forty-three present at the close of the session in June, viz., 25 boys and 18 girls.

Immediately after the re-opening of school in September, 1883, the late Principal, Mr. Thomas Widd, was obliged to ask your Board for leave of absence for six months to recruit his health. He was subsequently compelled to resign his position for the same cause, when the Board of Managers did me the honor to appoint me as his successor. Realizing as I do the responsibility of my work I have endeavored to perform my duties to your satisfaction and to place the Mackay Institution on an equal footing with the first schools in the country. The health of the pupils has been remarkably good, the few childish ailments that did occur were treated successfully by our kind physician, Dr. Molson. The resignation of Mr. Widd rendered the appointment of another male teacher desirable; accordingly the services of Mr. John Ashcroft, Principal of the Valleyfield High School, were secured, and he assumed his duties just before the close of the session in June. Mr. Ashcroft's experience in teaching and his high Christian character render him well adapted to the work. The instruction of the blind has been attended to by Miss Terrill, who has also had charge of a class in the deaf and dumb department, and assisted by Miss Macfarlane, a semi-mute trained in the Institution, she supervises the girls out of school hours. Instruction in articulation and speech-reading continues to be a prominent feature in the education of our deaf and dumb pupils. A knowledge of spoken language is of