

## REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE  
INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

Gentlemen,—

In presenting to you a report for the past year, I am sadly reminded of the changed circumstances under which this duty falls to be discharged on the present occasion.

Shortly after my last annual report had been penned, and while it was passing through the press, we were called to mourn, for the first time in our history, a sudden and unexpected breach in the staff of instructors, a breach the sorrowful significance of which loses nothing by the lapse of time.

The oldest and most experienced of our number was taken from our side—called away in the midst of unimpaired usefulness, with his eye undimmed, and his “natural force” scarcely abated—after a life consecrated to the glory of God and the good of his fellowmen on earth, translated, we doubt not, to higher service and to nobler reward.

Of my own personal loss sustained in the lamented death of a revered father, whose ripe experience, judicious counsel, and invaluable professional aid, in connection with the work of this Institution, it had been my privilege to enjoy for the last ten years, this is not the place to speak.

On the more public relations, character, and life of the departed, it would be both easy and grateful to filial affection to dwell—to dilate on the qualities of mind and heart that stamped him as one of no common mould. I might refer to his early trials and difficulties in the prosecution of his benevolent plans, in the infancy of the art of Deaf mute instruction in the parent land, nearly half a century ago—his native originality and force carving out a path for himself in this comparatively new and untried sphere of educational effort—his persevering, successful, but modest and unselfish labors for the welfare of the Deaf and Dumb, both in Scotland and in Nova Scotia. I might describe his unwearied activity, his unflagging zeal, his abiding cheerfulness, courage, and faith in God—his life-long devotion to the cause of the Deaf and Dumb, at the sacrifice of his own worldly interests—especially, his eminent services to our own Institution, for the sake of which he relinquished in advanced life the ties and associations of his native land, laboring of his own accord for a time without any pecuniary compensation, falling at last in harness and at his post, and laying his honored dust far from the “sepulchre of his fathers.” I might enlarge