

that good rope ladders, with proper arrangements for attachment to a building, are the cheapest and most effective of simple fire escapes, for they can be kept under cover until needed for use, they can be quickly dropped, their lower ends can be steadied from the ground or drawn from the wall of a building, as no fixed iron ladder can; being movable they can also be shifted from window to window as the exigencies of the occupants may demand. They also can be saturated with certain chemicals to resist any flame through which a human being could pass.

#### "Walking in the Dark."

The eleventh annual report of the Board of Managers of the Halifax (N. S.) Institution for the Blind has been received. We might mention for the information of those who may not have previously heard of this institution that it was founded by the late William Murdoch, Esq., who died in London in 1863, having a few years previously taken up his residence there, after a long, useful and successful life as a merchant in Halifax. In his will he bequeathed, in addition to the various other charities, the munificent sum of £5,000 N. S. currency, toward the endowment of an Asylum for the Blind, on condition that a suitable building would be secured at a cost of not less than £3,000. An amount was raised by subscription shortly after his decease, sufficient for this purpose, and an eligible site having been procured gratuitously from the city of Halifax, arrangements were made, and a suitable brick building was erected, capable of accommodating about forty pupils. There are at present in the institution twenty-two inmates—nine girls and thirteen boys. Of the girls, five belong to Nova Scotia, three to New Brunswick, and one to Prince Edward Island. Of the boys, nine belong to Nova Scotia, two to New Brunswick, one to Prince Edward Island and one to Cape Breton. The cost of each pupil is put down at \$160 per annum. The province of Nova Scotia grants \$1000 yearly to the institution, this province pays \$120 yearly for each of its pupils, while Prince Edward Island contributes nothing at all. The treasurer's report shows the income from all sources to have been \$4,660 and the expenditure \$4,740.44. The payment of \$5 yearly constitutes a member, while the donation of \$50 at one time constitutes a life member. A circular

accompanies the report asking for the names, ages and post office addresses of blind persons under twenty-one years of age in the Maritime Provinces.

It is almost impossible for one blessed with good eyesight to realize at all fully the startling disproportion between the number of books printed for the seeing and for the blind; the greater dependence of the blind than the seeing upon books for education and entertainment; the vastly greater bulk and cost of a book printed to be read with the fingers over one printed to be read with the eyes. But when one reflects on the number of resources for earning a livelihood which blindness cuts off, and that many of these resources are rescued and restored by the knowledge which comes only through books, one feels as if no other word need be spoken to awaken benevolence in this direction and to stimulate it to munificence.

#### Paper Statistics.

Of the 1,300,000,000 human beings inhabiting the globe, 360,000,000 have no paper nor writing material of any kind; 500,000,000 of the Mongolian race use a paper made from the stalks and leaves of plants; 10,000,000 use for graphic purposes tablets of wood; 130,000,000—the Persians, the Hindoos, Armenians and Syrians—have paper made from cotton, while the remaining 300,000,000 use the ordinary staple. The annual consumption by this latter number is estimated at 1,800,000,000 pounds, an average of six pounds to the person, which has increased from two and a half pounds during the last fifty years. To produce this amount of paper, 200,000,000 pounds of woolen rags, besides great quantities of linen rags, straw, wood, and other materials, are yearly consumed. The paper is manufactured in 3,960 paper mills, employing 90,000 male and 180,000 female laborers. The amounts, proportionately, of the different kinds of paper are stated to be: Of writing paper, 300,000,000 pounds; of printing paper, 900,000,000 pounds; of wall paper, 400,000,000, and 200,000,000 pounds of cartoons, blotting-paper, etc.

WANTED—Back numbers of the *Miscellany*, as follows:

Volume I, No. 2.

" II, Nos. 6 and 7.

" IV, Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12.

We are willing to give two current numbers for every one of the above sent to this office.