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No. 1.

The appearance of this little sheet may perhaps surprise some of those to whom it may be sent, and its insignificant dimensions may disconcert others, who may think the educational interests of Nova Scotia rather poorly represented by a sheet so paltry.

The reasons for its present publication are, the difficulty of reaching the teachers of remote districts through the ordinary advertising media, and the importance of some regular means of communication between the Superintendent and the commissioners and Teachers.

The design of issuing an Educational Journal, has long been entertained by the Superintendent, but the migratory nature of his occupation has hitherto prevented its execution. Now, however, it is hoped that it will be possible to issue a number, either in Halifax or Pictou, at intervals of about two months, during the present year, and that the officers who may be at the head of the Educational interests of the Province under the new law, may be so situated as to be able to continue its issue regularly; and by obtaining subscribers, to make it self-supporting.

The Journal of Education, therefore, will for the present year be sent gratis to Commissioners and Teachers, and will be issued as regularly as circumstances will permit. It is hoped that in the next No. its dimensions may be enlarged. It should be stated that for a large portion of the extracts in the present No. we are indebted to the Journal of Education for Upper Canada.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND INSTITUTES.

The work of holding public educational meetings, lecturing and visiting schools, has been prosecuted vigorously during the past three months, in the Western Counties. Resolutions, favorable to a measure for general Assessment, were passed at respectable meetings in Bridgetown, Kentville, Digby, Yarmouth, Barrington, Lunenburg, and Eastern Hants. —The project for establishing a Normal School, is, as last year, everywhere favorably received. Though there are still in many districts too much apathy and carelessness, there are also some cheering signs of improvement. Better methods of teaching, Registers of errors and merits, Blackboards and other apparatus, have been introduced into many schools, and in several, new and improved desks and seats have been put up, after the model given last year in the pamphlet on School Architecture. It is to be hoped that such changes will now go on with increasing rapidity.

In the present No., meetings are advertised for the Counties of Sydney,

Sydney, Richmond, Cape Breton and Inverness; and we trust that the Commissioners and friends of Education in these Counties, will bear in mind that an expression of opinion on Assessment, and other important improvements, is expected, in view of the enactment of a new Educational Law in the next session of the Legislature.

An Institute of the duration of one week, and attended by 40 teachers, was held in Horton Academy in April, and three others of the duration of one day each, have since been held in Yarmouth, Shelburne and Lunenburg. Two others are now advertised for Sydney C. B., and Port Hood, and it is hoped that the Teachers of Cape Breton will avail themselves of these opportunities of improvement; more especially as provision will be made, in the case of the first of these Institutes, for the payment of their board while attending.

The meetings and School visitations for the Counties of Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland, will take place in October and November, and will be duly advertised.

THE NORMAL SCHOOL BILL.

The present Superintendent of Education, has from the first, regarded his office as in its nature temporary and preparatory; as intended by the framers of our educational law, to pave the way for an improved and more efficient system of popular instruction.

Visitation of schools, diffusion of information regarding Teaching, School houses, &c., Public meetings, Institutes and Associations, all tend in this direction, by elevating the character of public instruction, and the popular estimation of its value. There are however two great general improvements, to which, influenced by the experience of the best educated countries, the manifest wants of this Province, and the nearly unanimous opinion of the friends of popular education, he has given the greatest prominence. These are the *Establishment of a Normal or Training School*, for the better instruction and preparation of Teachers, and the support of Schools by a *General, Compulsory and Equitable Assessment*.

The former is intended to elevate the character and public estimation of the Teacher, to give to teaching the rank of a profession, indirectly to raise its remuneration, and to give to the people a satisfactory guarantee for the qualifications of the persons employed to instruct their children. The second is intended to make the Schools free to all, to enable the poorer and middling classes of society to educate their children at a lower rate than at present, to equalize the burden of supporting the schools, and to make the sa-

laries of the teachers approach more nearly to the true value of the services they are expected to render. Both of these improvements tend to cause the real importance of sound popular instruction to be more fully realized, and to make it be more extensively and practically recognized as one of the most valuable branches of the public service.

Of these two projects the Normal School should be first in the order of time, for the following reasons:—1st, In order to induce the people to acquiesce in assessment, we ought to be prepared to assure them that the means of training teachers possessed by other countries in which assessment prevails, are within their reach;—2dly, the Normal School can scarcely be in efficient operation till the lapse of nearly a year after it shall have been established by the Legislature; and trained pupils cannot be obtained from it, or in other words its practical benefits cannot be experienced, till nearly two years after the passage of a Bill for its erection.—3dly, The new law to be passed in 1852 should establish a permanent system of Education, and therefore should embrace, if possible, provision both for a Normal School and Assessment. In order however that these two great improvements might be introduced simultaneously, it was absolutely necessary that a law authorising the former should be passed in the late session of the Legislature.

Influenced by these considerations, and after having consulted a large number of the ablest educationists of the Province, and carefully examined the systems in use in other countries, a scheme was prepared, suited to the circumstances of a poor and small Province, and sanctioned in all its details by experience abroad, to provide at once for superintendence, district inspection and the training of from 50 to 100 teachers annually, at a cost, including interest of cost of buildings, &c., not exceeding £550. This plan was favorably received by the Committee on Education, or at least by those members who could find time to attend its meetings. It was explained to members of the Legislature, not only in the printed report, but in an address delivered to the committee in presence of the public, and in the appendix to the Report of the Committee. A Bill was prepared, embodying those parts of the plan on which action was required before the next meeting of the Legislature. There seemed few indications of opposition, and it was hoped that power would have been given to the Government to erect in the present year, the necessary buildings, choose the men fitted for carrying on the work of Superintendence and Normal Instruction, and give them time to prepare for their duties, so that the present