

cannot speak with certainty, that the Church of Rome in Quebec also affords some slight means for the instruction of the blind among members of that faith.

To the late John Sanfield McDonald, whose name is connected with a large number of important enterprises in his native Province, Ontario is indebted for the establishment of the Institution for the Blind. This establishment is situate at Brantford, and is under the superintendence of Dr. Wiggins, who, it may be stated, is a native of New Brunswick. The building was erected solely at the cost of the Province, and the chief part of the running expenses are paid out of the provincial revenues. From the first report of Dr. Wiggins, dated 1st October, 1872, we extract the following, which gives a fair account, not only of the number of pupils in attendance, but of the manner in which they are supported, and also of the difficulties with which he has had to contend:—"Out of the total number of *thirty-six* pupils, *seventeen* are supported by Councils" (*i. e.* Municipal Councils), "*seven* are orphans, *eleven* are paying pupils, and *one* is admitted free, there being two blind in the same family. But of the seventeen supported by Councils, *five* are orphans, making in all *twelve* orphans; and as regards the *eleven* paying pupils, the parents of six of them have paid only till they can make application to their Councils. *Four* only—one having died—can be reckoned as paying pupils, and these cannot long be continued in the institution, owing to the indigency of the parents.

"During the months of July and August, in accordance with instructions, I took a tour through the Province, in order to learn how many pupils might be expected to attend the ensuing season, and it is in point here to say that had I not seen the parents themselves, as well as many of the township councillors, not above one-half the number now present would have been in attendance. Many had never heard of the institution, while many of those who had heard of it entirely mistook its character, from its being dubbed an asylum, a name inapplicable to an educational institution. It was only by the most careful and persistent reasoning that the mother could be prevailed on to give up her helpless child, even when she knew it to be for its ultimate and certain good. In only two cases, however, were my arguments unavailing, and in both these the mothers consented and countermanded as often as the great Queen in signing the death warrant of Essex,