

also that delegates be sent to your Synod at St. John: also to the Synod of the other branch, which meets same time, same place. Recommendations unanimously adopted. This afternoon I will nominate delegates to the Synods of the Lower Provinces: also to your church in Canada; also recommend that delegates be sent to *the Church of Scotland at home*. I could, I suppose, visit you as a delegate next month, but will probably be nominated to Great Britain for next year.

In due time our Stated Clerk will notify your Stated Clerk of our action, but I thought a line in advance would gratify you.

You can give such items as are here given to your paper or the *Witness*.

Our Sessions are very harmonious.

Yours, in haste,

J. B. DUNN.

Articles Contributed.

Common School Education.

I don't know whether or not I am "sound" on the education question; but I have certain very positive opinions as to the duty of the State to educate all children in the State, and as to the necessity also of religious instruction being connected with the education of children in schools. And as the question is now going to be a great practical question in these Maritime Provinces, and as the chief difficulties will be found in the large towns where the population is mixed, it is the duty of all tax-payers, and still more of all intelligent Christian citizens, to have clear views as to what is best, and at the same time practicable, on the subject. For there is nothing so all-important as the education of the young. We may talk as we like about our institutions, our charities, our churches, our associations, but they all depend on the slips of boys and girls now playing on our streets. According to the training we give them, so will everything else be. The first and most important part of this training is in the nursery, say for the first six years of life, and is hidden from the public eye. But what comes second and second only

to the nursery and the home, is the school period, say from six to fifteen years of age, and with this the State and the Church have to do. If they neglect their duty, it is at their deadly peril.

As to the kind of education to be given in our schools, there are two opinions. The first is that the education should be wholly secular, that it should aim at the development of the intellect, that there should be no religious instruction, as it should be left wholly in the hands of parents and Sunday schools. The second is that in some way or other religious instruction should be a part of the course of Common School study. I may say at the outset that the second is my opinion, and that my wonder is that any Christian man should contend fiercely for the first, though there may be circumstances in which, for want of a better, he is compelled to adopt it. If all parents were what they should be, the religious instruction of their children might be left wholly in their hands. But if parents were what they should be, much more might secular education, which is a good paying investment, be left to them; and yet it is found that the State has to provide for even reading, writing and arithmetic, or half the children in the country would not be taught even these rudiments. Nothing can be more childish than to argue that because a thing ought to be, therefore it is. Sensible men should deal with facts. But then it is said, there is the Sunday School. Yes, there it is, and very thankful we are for it—but to conclude that it is enough is a very different thing. To give an hour a week for religious instruction by unpaid, voluntary, and often inefficient teachers, for here again we must deal with facts and not fancies,—why, we are all very thankful for such help and recognize its special value,—but to imagine that it is a sufficient provision for religious instruction, is an utter delusion.

But if all this be the case, what are we to think of the Common School "System" that we have had in Nova Scotia for the last seven or eight years? I have never met an intelligent man who does not think that it has been a great blessing to the country, Halifax perhaps excepted, and that in its main