

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION,

Upper



Canada.

Vol. IX.

TORONTO: SEPTEMBER, 1856.

No. 9.

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PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND—PHILADELPHIA.

This Institution was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania in the year 1833. During the same year, and a few months preceding in time, the New England and New York Institutions were founded. These were the first of the kind in America.

The progress of the Institution at Philadelphia has been rapid and encouraging. It now contains one hundred and thirty-three pupils, and other blind persons employed as teachers, or in the mechanic departments.

It is supported chiefly by the State of Pennsylvania; but the States of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland also contribute for the education of their indigent blind in this Institution. Each State pays two hundred dollars annually for every pupil, for a period not exceeding eight years. Pennsylvania appropriates annually eighteen thousand dollars. The

Institution has an additional income of its own, of about seven thousand dollars annually, arising from a bequest of one of its former Vice-Presidents—the late William Y. Birch, Esq.,—an English gentleman, who left nearly all of his ample fortune to this noble charity.

The provision, therefore, is ample for the education of every indigent blind person in the Commonwealth. No applicant of proper eligibility has ever been denied.

The system of instruction



PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, PHILADELPHIA.

The library of the blind (printed in relief, to be read by the touch of the finger,) is very limited—embracing the entire Scriptures, and, perhaps, some forty or fifty other works. By means, however, of the oral plan of instruction, aided by tangible apparatus, no real difficulty is experienced in imparting a good degree of instruction—and, in many cases, the blind scholars make a remarkable proficiency.

embraces what may be called the literary or school branches, music and handicraft. In the school all subjects are taught which are usually pursued in our grammar and high schools—as, for example, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, Constitution of the United States, history, moral and natural philosophy, physiology, astronomy, rhetoric, algebra, geometry, &c.; biography, criticism, general literature, &c., not in the raised print, are read to the blind pupils daily.

Music forms an important and interesting branch of instruction for the blind, and great attention is paid to it in the Pennsylvania Institution. The orchestra is composed of thirty-four performers—all pupils—on the following instruments, viz: twelve violins, two violas, two violincellos, two contra basses, three flutes, two clarionets, two horns, three trumpets, one bass trombone, one orphicleide, one great drum,