

church. And yet we find that one member of this deputation would darkly and most unfairly insinuate in print, that he would keep silent, lest he should have to relate incredible things of us. He should rather reflect that all he has said against our Church shall one day come to bright daylight; and he should have learned in Cape Breton, as elsewhere, that such revilings against us reflect terribly on the heads of those who indulge in such black sayings. And all churches, too, must know ere this time, that had he any tale which would tell worse against us than against himself, neither charity nor good taste would restrain him from making open breast of it. In Cape Breton, as elsewhere, our friends are so accustomed to dark insinuations and abusive declamation, that they can calmly and quietly listen to all, and, at the same time, pity those who indulge in these unwholesome strains; and we may well rejoice in the pleasant thought that while they had learned many salutary and saving lessons from the Parent Church, they received none of those abusive ones from her. But we may well suppose that those who indulge in these things scarcely mean what they say, since we find a sister Church which had so recently been denounced when seeking a footing on this fair Island, so very soon embraced, lauded, and defended. Nor need we wonder should we find, on some fine morning, that the sun has so brilliantly poured forth his purifying light upon them, that they shall be glad to own that they had fallen into serious mistakes with reference to us, and now generously bestow upon us due meed of praise. Since the daughters of the same indulgent parent have laid aside, to some extent, the unnatural feelings which they once cherished towards each other, and have come to recognize manifest traces of family likeness, may we not cherish the fond hope, that, although some are disposed to magnify the faults, and becloud the excellencies of their aged parent,—whose chief fault had, perhaps, been, in bearing too quietly with their foibles, and, in being too indulgent with their unnaturalness,—should they, by-and-bye, confess that it was all said in a fit of bad temper, and now admire the prudence and sagacity, and Christian forbearance of their parent, whose age and experience rendered her the more capable of displaying these admirable qualities to all. And, it may, moreover, be seen and conceded that, had the parent sufficiently restrained, and duly chastised her daughters, in their waywardness and peevishness, they might have grown less haughty, lived to better purpose, by exhibiting more of the spirit of charity, brought less disgrace on our grand principles and common Presbyterianism, and thus have proved a more magnificent and united tree of Scriptural Presbyterianism, which, in the true spirit of forbearance and Christian harmony, would have induced many

others to come and repose under her shade, be refreshed by her fruit, and be regaled by her luxuriant, wide-spreading branches.

(To be Continued.)

A. McK.

### Grammar School Education in Nova Scotia.

WHY is it that Americans always seem so particularly well-pleased with themselves, their powers, their actions, their belongings, even when they have but poor grounds for satisfaction? Yankees and Buenosos alike so often speak of themselves as if they thought that the world never had seen and never could see their equals, that strangers almost universally accuse them of shallowness and vanity. Such self-praise not only provokes the ridicule of well-informed persons, but is fatal to all real progress. For what hopes can we have of the improvement of people who are blind to their defects, and supremely conscious of their attainments and capabilities?

These remarks may be thought severe, but they are intended to be sober. What sensible man can help being ashamed when he compares the boasts about ourselves continually occurring in the Nova Scotia press, with our scandalous shortcomings in the vital matter of Education—Common School, Grammar School, and Collegiate Education? It is, indeed, a comfort to reflect that we now have, in Dalhousie College, an institution for the higher branches of learning on a broad sound basis, fairly equipped, and in vigorous working order. But surely no other civilized country is so far behind as we in the two preliminary stages of an Education scheme. Our Common Schools, as a rule, are badly supported, badly managed, and badly taught. A settlement "hires" a young man to teach for a few months, often boards him round among them, pays him irregularly, and, when he takes up his carpet-bag and departs, the school may be shut up for the next six or twelve months, during which time the children run wild and forget almost all they had learned. The root of the evil is in such treatment of teachers, for what class of men will such a mode naturally attract? No wonder that so few of our teachers have thought it worth their while to ground themselves thoroughly even in the very rudiments of Education,

"For what's the worth of any thing,  
But so much money as 'twill bring?"

The new law requires them to pass an examination in a dozen different subjects, when it is notorious that many of them spell badly, write badly, and are ignorant of the simplest elements of English Composition, and the most general facts of English History. Such radical defects spread deplorable consequences.