

In the county of Pictou, mainly settled by Highlanders and their descendants, some of the local averages are very high, as will be seen below. It is also singular that the city of Halifax, with a population of 25,000, has 25 deaf-mutes, or 1 in 1,000, while St. John, N. B. has only 9 in a population of 27,000, being a difference of three to one. I am hardly prepared to account for this, but I may mention that *three* at least have emigrated to Halifax from the old country, and some have possibly come from the rural districts of the Province; and that most of the deaf-mutes I have met with in Halifax are among the Irish, who constitute nearly a *fifth* part of the population of the city.

In support of some of the above remarks, I subjoin a few of the most striking local averages in Nova Scotia.

TABLE VI.

Districts.	Population.	Deaf-mutes.	Proportion.
Chezetcook, Halifax County.....	1763	11	1 in 160
Petite Degrat, Richmond County...	1875	10	1 in 187
Merigomish, Pictou County.....	1544	6	1 in 257
Pope's Harbour, Halifax County ..	1141	4	1 in 285
Mount Thom, Pictou County.....	1242	4	1 in 310
W. side River John, Pictou County.	1815	3	1 in 438
New Glasgow, Pictou County.....	2288	4	1 in 572

In Pope's Harbour the four belong to one family consisting of 19 children! The proportion in Petite Degrat is the same as that of two of the cantons of Switzerland. In the Chezetcook family, already mentioned, consisting of 12 children, half of them are deaf and dumb.

Similar remarks will, I presume, apply to Newfoundland, and will account, with other local circumstances, for the extent to which this infirmity prevails among the scattered seaboard settlements of that Island.

DEAF-MUTE EDUCATION IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.

Looking at the *six hundred and fifty* deaf-mutes scattered over the Lower Provinces of B. N. America, who by their misfortune are shut out from the precious opportunities of instruction, and of moral and social improvement, enjoyed by others, two questions naturally arise, 1st. How many of these are susceptible of education? and 2nd. What has been done to ameliorate their condition?

In answer to the first of these queries, taking my experience in Nova Scotia as a fair standard, I am disposed to think it would not be overstepping the mark to suppose that 21 per cent. of the whole—about 130 or 140 individuals—ought at this moment to be at school, sharing the educational advantages to which they are surely entitled by every consideration of justice and humanity, and of which their more favored hearing and speaking fellow countrymen have so long enjoyed the monopoly.

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