

Monthly Messenger.

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THE WANTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

In writing a series of short articles on the wants of our colony, I cannot pass over the subject of education, though in the present condition of that business I would prefer remaining silent. I wish, however, to say that I do not find fault with those who have charge of this department of our public affairs, nor do I hold them responsible for the retrograde step that has been recently taken by the adoption of the denominational system. I may add that, bad as a sectarian school system is, I honestly admit that it may be more efficient than the one that we have just abandoned. It was neither national or denominational, neither secular nor religious. No one appeared to be responsible for the conduct of the work, and no one seemed to care. And we search in vain for any individual or any number of individuals on whom to roll the blame.

But things were bad—could scarcely be worse; a change was imperative. It was a splendid opportunity to take a step forward, and to place the education of his ancient colony on a par with other countries. That opportunity has been lost, and it may be long before another such is within reach.

I must emphatically exonerate the laity of all denominations from participation in the guilt that has been committed. With one consent, almost unanimously, they were opposed to sectarian education, or to a subdivision of the education grant.

It has been done, and how and by whom, and with what motives, Heaven knows.

These things it surely will effect—it will divide the sects still further, and foster a spirit of bigotry, already intense enough in Newfoundland. It will place power in the hands of the clergy, and they have always understood how to use it, to abridge personal liberty, elevate themselves, and promote creeds and catechisms, to advance *The Church* and not *The Christ*.

The denominational system has been a conspicuous failure whenever it has been tried. It is not likely that in Newfoundland it will fare better. Every other enlightened country is going in an opposite direction. National and compulsory education is now the order of the day, but in Newfoundland we have got back in this matter about as far as we can go. A very liberal amount appropriated by our Legislature to defray the expenses

of a good elementary system, conducted in a proper way. But when that amount is divided among the many denominations, when several training establishments are maintained, and two or three, or four or five, denominational schools in places where one would be ample, but a very small salary can be offered to teachers, and therefore good teachers cannot be obtained, and after going to the expense of training them, they cannot be long retained. It is waste, and reckless expenditure of the public moneys, and after all we cannot have a good system. All this to satisfy the ambition of the clergy. We are willing, while we thus write, to do our utmost to make the best of a bad arrangement. We will withhold no help that we can give to advance the education of the rising generation. Without the smallest regard to denominational interests, we will promote by every means in our power the education of all. At the same time we will hope, and wait with patience, for the dawn of a better day, and we do not altogether despair of seeing national and compulsory education even in Newfoundland.

HOME MISSION NEWS.

We paid a visit last month to the mission field under the care of the Rev. G. Harrington. We examined his two schools, and conducted services in his chapel-school on the Lord's-day and on a week evening. Though we were there in the busiest season of the year, the attendance at the day-schools was large, and the progress made by the children is very remarkable. I think those schools will compare favourably with most outpost schools of the same grade. Our esteemed friend has done a good work. From year to year we witness a steady improvement in the homes and habits of the people. Indeed there are few outports in the island where improvement is so marked.

Mr. Harrington's schools are supported by private subscriptions, and are open to all.

OBITUARY.

Miss Julia Langmead, aged eighteen years.—On June 7, this young disciple was called from the sorrows and sufferings of earth into the pure and everlasting joys of glory. For six years she was in fellowship with the Church. She was one of the first of the young people