

ing in Paris, had visited the French Institutions; with him was associated the eminent historian Prescott, who was himself partially blind, and other public spirited gentlemen. The result of their efforts was the formation of the world-renowned Perkins Institution. Almost contemporaneously the States of New York and Pennsylvania became interested in the subject and founded similar institutions, and the success of all three awakened an interest throughout the whole of the United States which was largely increased by the exhibition of a portion of the pupils of the Perkins Institution before the Legislatures of seventeen different States. It is now a part of the policy of the Great Republic to provide for the blind a full share of the benefit of instruction, and the Legislatures of thirty-one States make special provisions either for the maintenance of schools at home or for the support of their beneficiaries in the institutions of other States. There are now in the United States twenty-six institutions for the blind which have received in all six thousand four hundred and seventy-six pupils, the number at a recent date actually in attendance being about two thousand and eighteen. The noble example set by our neighbouring cousins has attracted the attention of at least a portion of Canada, and it is to be hoped, that in a very short period, the whole Dominion will appreciate the necessity of adopting a policy affecting a portion of our population, which is far larger than is generally imagined. It may be interesting to say that the number of blind persons now on the face of the globe is quite incredible to those who are not conversant with the subject. The late Principal of the Institution for the Blind at Berlin prepared a table, in which it is estimated that Prussia has one blind person in every one thousand four hundred inhabitants; Belgium and France one in every one thousand three hundred; Norway one in every six hundred; Sweden one in every one thousand; Switzerland one in every one thousand six hundred; Great Britain one in every two thousand; Egypt one in every one hundred. The number of blind in France is about thirty-three thousand; Great Britain and Ireland twenty-five thousand; Prussia fifty-two thousand; Germany forty thousand; United States twenty thousand. As yet the proportion of the blind in Canada has not been determined but may be estimated as about one to every two thousand three hundred. There are at the present time two institutes for the blind in the Dominion, one in Ontario and the other in Nova Scotia: we believe, though we