

HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

THE first annual Report of the Halifax Asylum for the Blind is now before the public. Of such an Institution Halifax may well be proud. It is a worthy sister Institution to the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb already doing a noble and benevolent work in the city. So that all our readers may know about the Halifax Asylum for the Blind, we extract the following from the statement contained in the Report:—

“For the founding of this Institution a debt of gratitude is due by the people of this Province to the late William Murdoch, Esq., who died in London, in 1867, having a few years previously taken up his residence there, after a long, useful and successful life as a merchant of this city. In his will he bequeathed, in addition to various other charities, the munificent sum of £5,000 N. S. Cy., towards the endowment of an Asylum for the Blind, on condition that a suitable building would be secured at a cost of not less than £3,000. An amount was raised by subscription shortly after his decease, sufficient for this purpose, and an eligible site having been procured gratuitously from the City on the South Common, arrangements were at once made, and a suitable brick building was erected, capable of accommodating about 40 pupils.

It is unnecessary to make further remarks than to express the hope that the blessing of God may attend this institution, and that it may do all the good that the benevolent founder had in view in his kindly endeavours to increase the happiness and usefulness of this hitherto neglected class of our fellow beings in this Province.”

William Murdoch Esq., was a member of St. Matthew's Church in Halifax, and a warm adherent of the Church of Scotland. And no better evidence could be desired of his broad and deep charity towards other persuasions of Christianity, than the noble gift left out of his abundance towards such a laudable object as the founding of such an Institution as that whose first Report is at present under consideration. The Report speaks for itself, and we give it to our readers, so that they may, if they feel inclined, forward donations towards the funds of so laudable an Institution. The Report reads as follows:—

“The building, which is in an open and airy situation, was contracted for in the

summer of 1868, and was completed in the fall of the following year, at a total cost of \$14,027.08. In the following year the fences enclosing the lot and outhouses were erected at an additional cost of \$1068, and \$356.75 were expended in improving the grounds, and it will require further outlay during the next year or two for the same purpose, and for the planting of trees.

The total amount of subscriptions towards the building fund, including a grant of \$2,000 from the Government, was \$15,557.38. The securities for the bequest of the late Wm. Murdoch, Esq., £5,000 N. S. Cy., were handed over by Charles Murdoch, Esq. in October last, together with the interest due on it, which will enable the Directors to make the total amount of investments \$24,000 N. S. Cy.

As soon as the building was ready for occupation, public notice was given in the newspapers, and a resolution was passed by the Managers that, as soon as the number of applicants amounted to 5, within the ages of 8 and 18, the Institution would be opened. The Corresponding Secretary was at the same time in communication with similar Institutions in the United States for suitable Teachers, and it was only last spring that he learned from Mr. Chapin, Superintendent of the Asylum at Philadelphia, that he could send a blind lady as Assistant Teacher who had been under his instruction for some years, and being thankfully accepted, she arrived here in July, bringing with her such books, &c., as were necessary for a commencement. The Managers are under great obligations to Mr. Chapin for the warm interest he has always evinced and the offer to aid as far as lies in his power.

They subsequently engaged the services of Miss Reynolds as Superintendent Teacher, who was at the time finishing her studies at the Normal School, Truro; also a Steward and Matron in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Dilworth, who were highly recommended, having previously superintended the Servant's Home in Lockman Street, and who have given satisfactory evidence that their duties are conducted with fidelity and economy.

The school was opened for instruction on the 1st of August, with two male and two female pupils, an additional male and female lately arrived makes the number of pupils six. They have all been attentive to their studies, have behaved well, and are making as much progress as could be expected from the short time they have been under instruction.

The expense of maintenance has so far not exceeded \$140 per month. The present income is the interest of \$24,000 N. S. Cy.,