

THE Merchants tell us they were well pleased both with the general appearance of their advertisements, and the results obtained therefrom. We have added one more page of advertisements this year, and two more of literary matter. We have no doubt but the intelligent constituency to which we cater will appreciate our effort. Come along, we will find room for you next time. Even though we may be crowded, there is always space for enterprise.

THAT is what we think about our "ANNUAL" and that is the reason we are trying so hard to make it a success. We want it to be worth more than the price, and we mean to make it so. There is no place for another poor Journal, even in Halifax where they are few. But "there is room at the top," and we would like to find our corner in the cupola.

At the beginning of the present school year, the School Board added a Preparatory Department to our Academy. Now we didn't want a Preparatory Department. We were perfectly satisfied with the principal's rooms of the different public schools as our preparatory departments. We think that those who cannot pass our entrance exams. from them have no right to an Academic education. Besides, we are crowded in our present building without having Grade VIII. pupils thrust in upon us. None of our class-rooms have seats and desks for more than 56 students, and yet our enrolled attendance at present in three of the classes is over 70. We need every inch of our Assembly Hall for our own use; and having got the Art School out of the building, we had visions of turning the room across the hall-way from the Armory into a comfortably-fitted students' reading room, supplied with magazines and other literature. But no sooner did the Art School make its exit than the Preparatory Department made its entrance. And we were not consulted either. What a shame! Who would think that our benign School Board would treat us in this way! Yet that they did is a fact patent to everyone of us every day.

But—and we mean the *but* to be emphatic—since they *did* decide to mar the appearance and usefulness of our Assembly Hall; since they *did* resolve to rob us of our proposed reading-room; since they *did* deem it wise to crowd still further an already over-crowded building; since they *did* conclude to furnish us with a Preparatory Department while we were thoroughly satisfied with those already at our disposal, they could not have found anywhere a better teacher than Miss Hamilton, nor a more agreeable lot of youngsters than those we have.

WE cannot say that we found our conflict with the government examination papers last July a wholly satisfactory one. It is true that we captured 31 grade B certificates, 54 of grade C, and 106 of grade D, or 191 certificates in all;

and this is not a record to be laughed at, if we do say it ourselves. But yet it doesn't satisfy us. Why? Because it isn't equal to what we expected to do. How do we account for this? Well, in several ways:—

1. Our work was broken up considerably, and that, too, at a most critical time, by the generous part which we took in the celebration of the Jubilee of our Gracious Queen, God bless her; and by the fact that our building was made the headquarters for that organization and practice which resulted, in the drill-shed, in the most successfully-managed large gathering of children ever held in Canada.

2. An epidemic of gripe and colds thinned our attendance very much during the months of March and April.

3. A hot wave from somewhere struck Nova Scotia just as the exams. began. We were too much wilted, at times, to do what we might otherwise have done; and as we felt ourselves melting into pottage, more than one of us enquired what good, after all, would our birth-right do us!

4. Then, again, some of the questions,—but remember we don't complain, we are not that kind,—were just a little bit, of course a very little bit, *stiff*. There was hot weather, too, after the examinations, and—who knows—perhaps the idiosyncrasies of the examiners may have been affected adversely. Anyway, we did not get the returns from some of our work which our experience at examinations led us to expect.

5. And lastly, some of us—of course *very* few, perhaps two or three, and perhaps two or three dozen, we don't know, the editors can speak only for themselves,—were just a degree or two more careless in home study than is entirely consistent with a good healthful feeling of satisfaction after results are out. We were perhaps in a little danger of thinking, from the record of former years, that as we were students of Halifax Academy, our success was assured. It is at such times that we fully realize that firmness and vigilance on the part of our teachers is a fairly good thing.

But let framers of questions, and examiners of papers, and all others concerned, take notice that next July, from the Halifax County Academy, a solid phalanx, 220 strong——. But why should we write history before it is made? Let us forbear.

#### OUR LIBRARY.

The Academy Library consists of about 900 volumes in good condition, and we doubt if any library of its size in Canada can show a better collection of books so equitably divided among those that entertain, instruct and develop literary taste. Many of them were selected personally by Mr. Henry Waddell, N. C. James, and Prof. Howard Murray, former teachers of the Academy; while the later ones have been chosen by members of our present faculty.