

aged to get through their school education without having acquired the power of expression in their own language, and were unable to write simple sentences in a proper manner. The schools should endeavor to alter this state of things, and to lay it down as a minimum that every pupil who leaves the common schools shall be able to write a correct sentence in their own language. The second point was, that this was a work of gradation. The pupils required to be advanced as they progressed and acquired power of arranging their thoughts. And one of the most important points in the philosophy of it was, that this power of arranging thoughts and facts on what to write and speak—the logical basis of the thing—must be present before the power of expression could be rightly exercised. If they attempted to drive things ahead of the thinking power of the scholars, they would be teaching them habits of loose speaking and loose writing. They must, therefore, begin the work in an easy manner, and push forward the children little by little.

The discussion then closed.

Mr. J. R. Miller of Toronto, read a paper on "Teachers' Institutes." A teachers' institute, the writer explained, was an assemblage of teachers convened for the purpose of receiving and imparting instruction in the art of teaching, being in fact a Normal School for the time being, although not conducted with so much system and preparation. These institutes, it appeared from the paper, have been in successful operation in many of the States of the neighboring Republic for many years past, and have done much to elevate the standard of education. In one year, New York State expended twelve thousand dollars on these institutions. Several benefits were derived from these associations; the greatest perhaps was that the different views expressed would lead to something definite being arranged as to the manner in which subjects should be presented to the minds of the pupils in the different classes throughout the district, thus giving uniformity to the work of the various schools that would lead, in the opinion of the writer, to the most beneficial results. There would be a tendency to introduce a system of training similar throughout the country, and thus save much valuable time, and consequently much money. It was hoped to obtain from the Ontario Government a grant to aid in the establishment of these institutes, and that they would be introduced in the Upper Province at an early day.

The President in a few words dwelt on the steps taken by him to establish these institutes in Nova Scotia, and the success which had attended his efforts, Nova Scotia standing at the present day ahead of every other Province in the Dominion in the number of children attending school compared with its population.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau mentioned the steps taken by the Education Department to provide the schools with good maps, and in other ways to promote the cause of education; and he invited all teachers to contribute to the *Journal of Education*, and to aid it as far as possible.

Votes of thanks were passed to Hon. Mr. Chauveau and others, and this closed the Convention.

During the morning Dr. Baker Edwards gave an object lesson, in chemistry in the chemical class room, which was largely attended. —*Gazette*.

## The Protestant Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Montreal.

### ANNUAL MEETING—INTERESTING PROCEEDINGS.

Yesterday afternoon (18th October) the second annual general meeting of the Protestant Institution for the Deaf and Dumb was held at the Normal School. Mr. Charles Alexander presided. In addition to the meeting, an interesting examination of the institution was held. On the platform were Principal Dawson, the Rev. Gavin Lang, Mr. F. Mackenzie, the Rev. Professor Murray, the Rev. Canon Bancroft, the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, Principal Hicks, the Rev. Mr. Botterill, the Rev. Mr. Thornelaw, the Rev. John Potts, Dr. Scott, the Rev. W. B. Curran, and the Rev. Dr. Taylor.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings of the meeting, said it was with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction that they met the supporters and friends of the institution on that, their second annual meeting, and to lay before them the statement of its work. The marked progress of the pupils had been very striking, both in their appearance and the progress of their mental development. To that statement those who had carefully watched over its interests in the past would fully testify. It was due to the exertions of the principal, Mr. Widd, who had been most faithful in the discharge of his duties, combining in his character both kindness of heart and firmness of disci-

pline. He, together with his wife, both of whom were deaf mutes, had conducted the institution with much satisfaction to the managers. Miss Bulmer, who had a diploma from the McGill Normal School, was the assistant teacher, and continued to give much satisfaction to the committee of management. To those present who might not know, he might state the institution was a little beyond the St. Antoine Toll-gate, and the property was in a very eligible locality, but on account of their growing work they already found it too small. The present number of pupils was 22, but there were others who would willingly come under its roof, but they must shut their doors in the meantime till they had friends to erect additional buildings. They trusted that those of our wealthy citizens who had not helped them hitherto, might be inclined, from the statement of the Secretary-Treasurer to sympathize with a class of the population, who, from no fault of their own, could not speak for themselves. They were obliged to state that their treasury was empty, and in carrying on the work they threw themselves on the Christian liberality of the people of Montreal and the Province of Quebec, many of whom outside of the city have done nobly by subscribing liberally to the funds. That was true, especially of the city of Quebec. They urged as an additional reason for that substantial aid, that the board of management by the advice and under the strong recommendation of the principal had thought it very important to teach their pupils some useful trade by which when they left the institution they might provide for themselves an honest and independent livelihood. Thus far they had commenced two branches, the printing and carpentry; with regard to the first of these branches their principal himself was a practical printer and a first-rate one, and the hand bills had been printed under his care. As to the second branch, the carpentry, it was taught by one of the pupils, who had already saved a considerable sum to the institution by the various articles made for its use, and they hoped soon to have some return to the funds of the institution from both these branches. The managers gave thanks to the giver of all good for His care over the institution during the year, when during a terrible disease which carried off hundreds only one had been affected, and that in a light form. He did trust that the work in which they were engaged would commend itself to the warmest sympathies and largest generosity of the meeting, and of those to whom the statement might come, so that no fear might be entertained of their being crippled in their work (applause).

Mr. McKenzie, the Secretary-Treasurer, then read the report which was as follows:

### *Report of the Board of Managers of the Protestant Institution for Deaf Mutes for the year ending 30th June, 1872.*

At the outset of their report of the second year of the existence of this Institution, the managers desire to record their thanks to God for the ever-increasing success of their school.

The number of pupils at the end of June last was 22, or 7 more than at the end of the preceding school-year. Two-thirds of them were free pupils.

Within the next two months there will be a total of 30 pupils in the Institution, or twice as many as last year, and the utmost number that there is room for in the Institution.

The progress made by the pupils in their studies has been very satisfactory. This is due mainly to the devoted, energetic and able services of the Principal, Mr. Widd. The Matron, Mrs. Widd, (a deaf mute,) and the Assistant Teacher, Miss C. Bulmer, (who was taught the sign language, and who acts as a medium of communication between the managers and the other teachers and inmates of the institution) have discharged their respective duties in a very praiseworthy manner.

The general good health enjoyed by the pupils is due in no small measure to the medical services given so faithfully and cheerfully by Dr. Scott, the Honorary Physician of the Institution.

The Managers have been enabled by the liberality of some of the citizens of Quebec to purchase the necessary materials for printing reports, cards, notices, etc., and thus teach the pupils the very important handicraft of printing. Carpentering is still taught to the older scholars by Mr. R. Porter who was till lately the senior pupil of the school.

Interesting details connected with all departments of the Institution will be found in the Principal's report annexed to this.