

For the REVIEW.]

New Brunswick Schools of the Olden Time.

By W. O. RAYMOND, M. A.

(Continued.)

THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

In the course of these articles on the progress of our educational institutions in the early days of New Brunswick, it has been shown that so early as the 13th December, 1785, a memorial had been presented by Dr. William Paine and others to the Governor in Council, praying that a charter of incorporation be granted for the institution of a Provincial Academy of Arts and Sciences; and that by successive steps the academy established at Fredericton was eventually incorporated by provincial charter in the year 1800 as the College of New Brunswick. The academy at Fredericton filled the place of a grammar school for the County of York until the days of Sir Howard Douglas, when the institution enlarged and extended in its scope was incorporated by Royal Charter as Kings College, and removed from its humble surroundings in the old building on King street to the new stone edifice erected for its accommodation on College Hill, at the rear of the town—the same building which (enlarged and improved) is now occupied by the University of New Brunswick. After the extension of the work carried on by the college at Fredericton, in consequence of the erection of the new building and the increased grant made towards its support under the Royal Charter, the present Collegiate School was established at Fredericton to supply the place of a grammar school for the County of York and to serve as a feeder of the college.

Col. John Coffin, on the 16th February, 1803, brought in a bill (as we learn from the Journals of the House of Assembly) for establishing a public grammar school in the city of St. John. The bill did not become law until two years after, when it passed with the rather ambitious title, "An Act for Encouraging and Extending Literature in this Province."

In the year 1816 (March 11th) the Legislature passed an act for the establishment of a grammar school at St. Andrews, in the County of Charlotte, and at the same session an act was passed to establish grammar schools in the remaining five counties, namely, Sunbury, Queens, Kings, Westmorland and Northumberland. The general provisions of this act have appeared in a previous number of the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW and need not now be recapitulated. Grammar schools were shortly established in the Counties above referred to, and some facts connected with them will be given when we come to consider, under the head of the respective counties, the schools taught in the province

down to the year 1825. (It is the intention of the writer to make a list for each county of the parish schools in existence during that period, with the names of teachers, as far as they can be determined from old records in his possession).

It may be of interest here, however, to compare the dates at which the means of promoting secondary education first became available in the several counties.

The first master of the academy at Fredericton appears to have been appointed in the year 1786. At St. John there existed about the same period some private schools in which the classics and higher mathematics were taught, but not until the founding of the grammar school in 1805 was there any public institution for promoting secondary education.

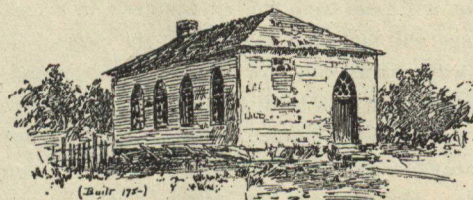
The St. Andrews grammar school was opened June 1st, 1819, the Rev. John Cassel, master. The course of instruction, terms, etc., are given in the St. John "City Gazette" of July 7th, 1819.

The Westmorland County grammar school was opened September 6th, 1820, the Rev. C. Milner, master.

The Northumberland County grammar school was opened about the year 1822; Archibald McQueen, master.

The Sunbury and Kings County grammar schools were opened in the year 1823, the former at Sheffield and the latter at Kingston. The Queens County grammar school was opened at Gagetown the following year.

The grammar school-houses were built by individual subscriptions, supplemented usually by a government grant of £100. In almost all cases they were low, homely looking buildings, with no pretensions to architectural beauty. That at Gagetown is still standing; for the use of the cut here given we are indebted to the kindness of the publishers of the "New England Magazine."



The Old Grammar School-house at Gagetown.

It was in this old building that Sir Leonard Tilley, late Minister of Finance for the dominion and ex-lieutenant governor of New Brunswick received his early education.

The first master of the St. Andrews grammar school, Rev. Mr. Cassel, appears to have been a Presbyterian minister. Several of the masters of the other grammar schools were clergymen of the Church of England. The