

struction. Drawing, we find, receives but little attention; we regret this, inasmuch as instruction in the elementary branches of this very advantageous and pleasing art, is easily obtained; there being numbers of female teachers quite competent for such work, and generally glad to undertake it. Were such females employed, they would impart most efficiently, such fundamental knowledge as would be a step to a higher effort. We would repeat what has so often been pressed and urged upon the trustees of Academies and higher schools, to induce them to make some provision for the teaching this art. As far as we know, no adequate instruction in drawing is provided for in any of our Public Schools.

In the report for 1875 we invited particular notice to a necessity which we think exists for a Special Academy in C. B., and suggested that one be erected in the Town of Sydney. We give below the views of the Rev. Mr. Christie, the very excellent and successful principal of the Sydney Academy, and beg to say that we fully concur in the view expressed by Mr. Christie, and cannot but indulge the hope that the Commissioners of the county will take some initiatory step to secure a realization of the plan suggested. With well equipped and liberally sustained Academies at Yarmouth, Pictou and Sydney, and at some central point on the South Shore as Lunenburg or Liverpool, the provisions for Academic Education would be sufficient to meet the general wants of the Province for some years to come. Mr. Christie writes as follows:

"The demand for higher education seems to be largely on the increase all over this Island. To meet this the county academies, it seems to me, are totally inadequate, there being a large number of rural Sections, in fact, I may say nine-tenth of the whole, without teachers competent to give the training necessary to qualify the pupil for admission to the Academy. The consequence of this is, that although the county Academy is ostensibly for the benefit of the whole county, practically it is closed against nine-tenths of the pupils from country Sections. For this difficulty so severely felt, I can see no other remedy than that of erecting the county Academy into a Special Academy with preparatory departments, on the plan of Pictou and Yarmouth. We have applications from all parts of C. B. but unfortunately the applicants have to be rejected, and hence must seek elsewhere what we fail in providing. Let us have a special Academy in Sydney, then; with Yarmouth in the west, Pictou in the centre, and Sydney in the east, the chain will be complete. I have consulted the Hon. Mr. White, who favors the plan, and will give it his support. Petitions are also in course of signature from the Commissioners of Schools, the Grand Jury, and from the Court of Quarter Sessions, which we trust will secure for Cape Breton the boon so much needed and so earnestly sought for."

SPECIAL ACADEMIES.

The number of Special Academies drawing Provincial Aid has been reduced. Since May last the grants to the Horton Collegiate School and the Sackville Academies have, by an Act of the Legislature, been