

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

*To the President and Board of Managers of "The Halifax School for the Blind":*

GENTLEMEN,—The education of the blind is now recognized by all enlightened States as an important part of the Public Educational System; but too frequently, the provision that is made for it is so meagre that it frustrates the design in view, and renders the expenditure practically useless. Economy in the education of the blind is a false economy, and sooner or later this must become evident to those interested in the work of their education in different parts of the world. That school of the blind which cannot insure for its intelligent graduates an independent livelihood, is most assuredly not fulfilling its mission; and the fault must lie either in the mal-administration of its internal affairs, or in the lack of adequate pecuniary support. The cost of carrying on an institution of this character cannot be compared with that of any other educational establishment; its requirements differ essentially from those of ordinary schools, and the peculiar methods employed for imparting instruction bear no comparison in cost to those in vogue in public schools. The Halifax school has, in proportion to its means, done more for the blind youth of the Maritime Provinces than could reasonably be expected; but the work has been hindered in almost every department by the economical line with which it is circumscribed. This was pointed out by the Board of Managers in the Fourteenth Annual Report and an application was made to the legislature for an increase in the Provincial and Municipal grants. The Government expressed their willingness to give the matter their favourable consideration, but owing to the press of business it was allowed to lie over until the next meeting of the legislature. I trust that your Board will urge upon the Government the necessity that exists for making the increase for which you ask and that the Government and legislature will deal with the question in a manner becoming liberal statesmen.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Pupils registered Dec. 1st, 1884.....	17	11	28
Entered during the year.....	0	1	1
" adults, workmen .....	0	0	0
Re-entered .....	1	0	1
Graduated; or remained at home.....	5	1	6
Pupils registered Dec. 1st, 1885.....	13	11	24

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Piano tuning.