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THE INSTRUCTOR, FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

EDITED BY ALEXANDER MUNRO,
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The Legislative Acts of New Brunswick—1860.

The sayings, doings, and Acts of the Legislature of this Province for the current year are now before us.

Daniel O'Connell used to say of the statutes of England, that a "coach and six" could be driven through them. We would be glad if the "Revised Statutes" of New Brunswick were even as perfect as those complained of by the champion of Ireland's freedom. All the coaches in the Province might be driven through these statutes; in them any law desired may be found, except the law of eclipses and common sense. These statutes are an embodiment of confusion confused, mystification mystified, and common sense violated. Each lawyer construes them, which is not difficult, to mean this, that, or the other thing, or anything else he pleases, or what suits his purposes best; and the judges don't know what they mean; still, the good people of New Brunswick have to take them as a man takes

his wife, "for better for worse," and have to be governed by them, or in other words, these are the *Revised Statutes*, so govern yourselves accordingly.

Historians informed us that the educational regulations of China, at one time provided that the laws of that Empire should be taught in its schools. We wonder what the school children of New Brunswick would understand about,—"*Anno vicesimo tertio Victoria regina*," and "*Anno vicesimo secundo Victoria Regina*," and "*Anno Regni Victoria Britanarum regina vicesimo tertio*," and "*intit de contumace capiendo*," and "*subpœna de testificandum*," and "*subpœna duces tecum*," which we find in the Acts of 1860. Pages of such expressions might be gathered from the *Revised Statutes*.

We remember once listening to two men holding a discussion about the

meaning of the words " ipso facto," when they ultimately concluded that they signified " hand-saw, whip-saw." Now we are not sure that this would not be a very inappropriate interpretation, if given to the whole revised statutes, Latin and all. *Punch* says there is nothing like having plenty of Latin and other foreign expressions mixed up with our literature, especially the laws; it gives them a force and efficacy not easily gainsayed. Our laws are sufficiently confused and conflicting without having them expressed in a language not understood by more than one of a thousand of the people.

Leaving the general theme and turning to the enactments of 1860, we find that fifty of them refer to local and private affairs. Of these one third relate to the City and County of St. John. Of the remainder, the most important are,—An Act to provide for the prompt payment of all demands upon the Provincial Treasury; an act to provide for the attendance and examination of witnesses before the Legislature; two acts in amendment of the Probate law, empowering the Judge of Probates to cause the conveyance of property by an infant heir or the guardian of such heir; the Judge of Probates is also empowered to order provision out of the income of the estates of infants for their maintenance and education. Chap. 17 provides that £26,942 shall be paid out of the resources of the Province, for defraying certain expenses of the civil Government. Acts were passed providing for the repair and improvement of roads and bridges regulation of the tariff; distilleries, and for the

protection of the revenue. In passing by several enactments of little importance, we arrive at Chap. 31, which provides that a written guarantee is not available because consideration not stated in writing;—Judge may order loss of a negotiable instrument, such as guarantees, bills of exchange, and promissory notes, not to be set up. The four following Chapters refer to amendments in the criminal law. One of the sections, under the head of summary convictions, is of much importance to Justices of the Peace; the latitude allowed, in instituting summary proceedings, is all that could be asked for, and may tend to prevent appeals in such cases on the ground of formality. Another section makes it a misdemeanour for any person to obtain the signature of any other person to any Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, or any valuable security, with intent to cheat or defraud.

Chapter 37 amends the law relating to Divorce and Matrimonial cases; this act provides for the establishment of a new court, entitled a *Court of Record*, and to come into operation on the first of July 1860. One of the Judges of the Supreme Court to be appointed Judge of this Court. An appeal may be had from this Court to the Supreme Court, whose decision shall be final. Chap. 41 amends the law respecting letters patent for useful inventions. Chapter 45 contains some amendments in reference to the law relating to highways; no private road shall be opened until the damages assessed shall be paid, unless consent is given, by the owner, in writing. Also,

the Commissioners of highways shall, under oath, file a copy of the list of the inhabitants liable to the performance of Statute labour, in the office of the Clerk of the Peace, within ten days after the publication thereof, and also shall lay a copy thereof before the annual town meeting.

Such papers, being laid before our town meetings, as at present constituted, will be of little use, except for paper for the Electors to light their pipes with. The duties of the Commissioners ought to be well done; if oaths are worth anything, first, they have to swear within six days after their election or appointment, under a fine of forty shillings, that they will perform the duties of their office; and in the second place, swear to their returns. Chap. 46 refers to the duties of the Provincial Board of Agriculture. Chap. 47 amends the law relating to the qualifications of Practitioners in Medicine and Surgery, and makes provision for the establishment of a Medical Council of Health in the Province of New Brunswick. The laws of this Province admit most any one who can administer Moffat's Pills, Phoenix Bitters, and other quack medicines, to be medical and surgical Practitioners. The law is no protection against quackery; the people must become a law unto ourselves, and only employ such men as we think understand their business.

Chapter 48 relates to currency. By this act, which comes into operation on the first of November 1860, all monies, after that time, to be paid into the Government Departments, and to

be in dollars and cents. The United States Eagle to pass at ten dollars. The dollar to be equal to one hundred cents; twenty cents one shilling; and one-cent ten mills. Silver coins shall be a legal tender, at any one time, to any amount not exceeding ten dollars; and copper coin shall be legal tender to any amount not exceeding twenty cents.

Chapter 49, the last that we shall notice at present, provides for taking a census of New Brunswick, and comes into operation on the first of January, 1861. This act empowers the laymen in Council to divide each parish into as many districts as thought necessary, and appoint an enumerator to each district, who shall be allowed ten shillings per day for the time employed. Each enumerator has to make returns of the census of his district according to a prescribed form under oath; and every person refusing to answer the queries put by the enumerators, are liable to a fine, not exceeding five pounds.

The Crops of 1860.

The Grain Crops of the Lower Provinces for the current year may be set down as a full average crop, the wheat has escaped both insects and rust; it has filled well. Farmers reflect upon themselves, that they did not sow more; in many sections of the country there is more than double that of former years.

Oats, one of the great staple products of the country, is a good crop. Buckwheat, of which large quantities have been sown, is above an average

yield. Barley, which is not extensively sown, is an excellent yield.

Hay, in some places suffered through drouth; still, it is considered generally above an average crop. But through the unpropitious state of the weather in the beginning of harvest, much of the early hay is partially damaged, in those sections of the country where there are large tracts covered with broadleaf and other late grasses, which are far above an average yield, hay will be abundant.

Potatoes in some districts are almost a total failure. In the spring they suffered from drouth, in the summer from too much rain, and towards autumn from "the disease."

This disease, which seems to have spread over a large portion of the vegetable kingdom for the last fifteen years, is still committing serious ravages. Numerous investigations have been instituted, by some of the most eminent chemists of the age, in order to discover the cause and a remedy, but to little effect. It seems to be as fatal to the potatoe, as the cholera is to man; in both cases, the air becomes impregnated with the disease. By the cholera thousands of the human family have been cut off in a few hours; by the potatoe disease, whole districts of potatoes have been cut down in a few days.

With regard to the "Potatoe Disease," so generally called, we have observed:—

1. That it generally begins its ravages in this section of the country, about the middle of August, and at a certain stage of the vegetation; the

early potatoes first, and the others as they arrive at the same stage of perfection,—and continues until the nights become cool.

2. Potatoes that require a long season to come to perfection, as the Jenny Lind's, are not effected; they do not arrive at the same maturity to which others do, during the period that the disease is most prevalent,—consequently escape its ravages.

3. The disease descends to the tubers, through the earth, and not by way of the stalk, as is often supposed.

4. Potatoes raised on red sandstone soils, such as those of Prince Edward Island, Western Nova Scotia, and the soils of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick skirting the straits of Northumberland, are seldom effected by the disease.

The red sandstone districts of this section of America have been supplying the towns and other sections of the states and Provinces with excellent potatoes, when in other parts of the country, they were a failure. It may be possible that porous soils, like those of the red sand stone, absorbs the disease, or destroys its poisonous effects; while the compact character of the clayey soils conducts the disease to the potatoes.

We have observed, that the part of the potatoe first effected, is that laying nearest to the surface of the ground,—which seems to warrant the conclusion, that the disease passes through the earth. In further proof of this idea, we have mowed off the tops of potatoes before they were effected, in order to stay the ravages of

the disease, but with no beneficial effect; the disease would still penetrate to the tubers at the same time that the surrounding potatoes were effected, if our second observation is correct;—that the disease effects the potatoes at a certain stage of the vegetation.

Then it becomes a matter of importance, to ascertain what kinds of potatoes will escape the disease, and still arrive at sufficient maturity to be fit for use. Farmers should give this matter some attention.

Any means that can be adopted to enable the country to produce abundance of good potatoes should not be neglected. There is no one product, the want of which is so seriously felt throughout the country, as that of potatoes; with many they are the staff of life.

School Houses

Are generally throughout the country, classed, so far as appearance and comfort are concerned, among the gaols, black-smith shops, barns, &c. Some of them are really a disgrace to society; one would think, on looking at some of them, that Education, the comfort of youth, and youthful associations, are not much respected.

There is one of these edifices, to which we more immediately refer, standing in the centre of the town of Amherst, N. S., that is a standing disgrace to the town. When, or by whom it was built,—reader, “you nor I nor no body knows;” the “oldest inhabitants,” who is supposed to know most every thing, does not remember its origin. It is one of the most forbidding look-

ing buildings you ever saw; and one of the probabilities concerning it, is, “it grew so;” and another is,—the good people of Amherst intend to preserve it as a relic of antiquity.

Still, a School is taught in it by one of the best teachers in Cumberland; attended by an average of upwards of fifty pupils. The teacher and his pupils must have all the peculiarities of mental character strongly developed, or else it would frighten them out of their propriety; it certainly is “one of the places we read of.”

Amherst, the shiretown of the county of Cumberland, is a wealthy and populous town, beautifully situated; its buildings, both public and private, except this School house, present all the appearance of neatness, taste, and comfort; the streets are well laid out; and it bids fair, ere long, to rise in importance, and surpass in material progress, some of the elder towns of the Lower Provinces; but, it will not rise higher until it builds a better School-house, so at least, we prophesy.

Give Your Children Books.

Books are the cheapest teachers, and often the best. He who would have his children become good scholars and grow up thoughtful and intelligent men should provide them with books; not mere school books, nor learned treatises on religion and government; but books such as children can understand, and as they grow older, larger works of history, biography, travels, science, and philosophy. Five dollars well spent for books will often advance a family of children more than a whole year's schooling. I well remember with what a wild joy I once, in boyhood, greeted my father's re-

turn from a visit to the city where at an auction he had purchased a bundle of new books. Among them were Sherwood's Stories, Robin's Journal, and two volumes entitled Scenes in Asia and Scenes in America. How through the long winter evenings I pored over these books! How the mind swelled with the new ideas it drank in! How I spelled away at the hard words, conquering in my zeal whole hosts of difficulties in the art of reading; and better than all, kindling a thirst for reading and knowledge that lured me on, till I had mastered a course at college!

I do not mean to deny the need of school instruction; but the training of the school-room will be robbed of half its difficulties, and multiplied greatly in its results, if children are provided with books which will interest and instruct them.

If you are too poor to buy books, set your children upon earning them for themselves. Give your boys some vacant corner of a field, where they can raise a few bushels of corn, or allow them wages for any extra labor they may perform. Their work will be lightened, and their souls enlarged by the efforts. So let the girls be permitted to earn a penny now and then, and when you go to town buy them good books. Better every way is such expenditure of the little sums your children will get than that of buying a sheep or a calf or any so-called prudent investment, which engages them thus early in the mad chase for riches which makes the world so hard and selfish. — *Mich. Jour. of Education.*

Prize-Fighting.

The mind recoils on bringing before its eye the brutality of the gladiatorial contests of old Rome; when at every gush of blood the arenas, erected for the purpose, resounded with the plaudits of a brutal and ignorant mob.

And we condemn in no measured terms, the bull-fighting and cock-fighting propensities of Spain and Portugal.

But what do we say now, when christian England, and christian America has engaged in a pre-concerted and pre-arranged human prize-fighting, an act illegal in both countries? We are told that it is "manly," we reply that it is beastly. God the moral governor of the universe, has erected this splendid edifice—the human body, to dwell in, and not to be prostituted to gambling and brutal purposes. The late prize-fight between Sayers and Hoenan, has certainly tended in the eyes of every well-wisher to society, to lower the character of these two countries.

Reading.

What branch of education is more neglected than reading? There is no literary treat so great as to listen to good reading of any kind. Not one in a hundred can read, so as to please the ear, and send the words home with gentle force to the heart and understanding. An indistinct utterance, whines, draws, nasal twangs, guttural notes, hesitations, want of proper spirit, emphasis and inflections and other vices are almost universal. Why it is so no one can say, unless it be a lack of instruction and training in our schools; a failure to give a correct impulse to the elocutionary powers of the pupil.—Many a lady can sing an Italian song with considerable execution, but cannot read English passably. Yet reading is by far the most valuable accomplishment. If an article is to be read in the drawing room, it is discovered that no one can read it properly.—One has weak lungs, another gets hoarse; another chokes, another has an abominable

singing, another dashes along, rumbling like a clumsy wagon on a pavement, another has a style which seems to proclaim that what he reads is of little consequence, and proclaims, also, his want of efficient training.

There are hundreds of teachers who are very indifferent readers, and hundreds more who can read well themselves, but do not understand how to teach reading properly and critically. They read too little for their pupils, and fail to point out to them their faults—to point out the difference between good and bad, or indifferent reading. As well might a person be expected to make a proficiency in vocal music, without hearing an instructor sing, or a child to learn to talk without hearing his parent speak, as to expect the pupils to learn with any ease and consistency without an example to listen to.—[Wisconsin Journal of Education.]

Purity of Character.

Over the beauty of the plum and the apricot, there grows a bloom and beauty more exquisite than the fruit itself—a soft, delicate flesh that over-spreads its blushing cheek. Now if you strike your hand over that, and it is once gone, it is gone forever, for it never grows but once. The flower that hangs in the morning, imperaled with dew—arrayed as no queenly woman ever was arrayed with jewels—once shake it, so that the beads roll off, and you may sprinkle water over it as you please, yet it never can be made again what it was when the dew fell silently upon it from heaven! On a frosty morning you may see the panes of glass covered with landscapes—mountains, lakes; and trees blending in a beautiful, fantastic picture. Now lay your hand upon the glass, and by the scratch of your finger, or the warmth of the palm, all the delicate tracery will be obliterated. So there is in youth a beauty and purity of character, which, when

once touched and defiled, can never be restored; a fringe more delicate than frostwork, and which when torn and broken, can never be re-embroidered. A man who has spotted and soiled his garments in youth, though he may seek to make them white again, can never wholly do it, even were he to wash them with his tears. When a young man leaves his father's house, with the blessing of his early purity of character, it is a loss which he can never make whole again. Such is the consequence of crime. Its effects cannot be eradicated; it can only be forgiven.

H. W. BEECHER.

Punctuality.

Punctuality has been aptly termed the "hinge of business." It is a virtue that almost every person will regard with reverence as far as relates to the theory, and persons are always found ready to praise of its excellencies and advantages, but it is not every one who reduces it to practice in the business relations of daily life. We admire a punctual man, for we know he will regard our convenience, while he thinks enough of himself to honor his own word; and we detest an unpunctual man, because he often discommodes us by interfering with our matured plans, consumes our time, and leaves us to draw out the tacit inference that he does not hold us in sufficient estimation to render his engagements obligatory upon him. As it is usually possessed in connection with other good traits, its absence denotes the want of other qualities essential to success in life. Individuals oftentimes through miscalculation, and imprudence in attaching obligations to themselves when they are aware of the probabilities of their inability to perform, occasion frequent disappointments to the persons in anxious expectation. The lives of great men show, in numerous instances, that pecuniary considerations have been sacrificed by them for the purpose of fulfilling an engagement. Blackstone;

the eminent authority in legal jurisprudence, was scrupulously punctual, in his business affairs, and detested any one deficient in this particular. Lord Brougham, if we trace his history, affords a striking example of punctuality. Whether engaged in Parliamentary affairs, or in his connections with literary associations, his engagements were always promptly met. He placed the highest estimate upon his word, and regarded the voluntary forfeiture of that as a violation of honor irreparable. Barnum in his rules and observations for success in life, enjoins upon business men a strict adherence to their engagements, and remarks that when the character of a man for truthfulness is gone, when he can no longer be depended upon, his career is defined for a short duration.—*Exchange.*

Make Home Happy.

It is impossible for you, or man, woman, or child, to live and enjoy a good measure of health and happiness without amusement—without something that shall entirely relax the mind and body. To walk or ride alone is better than sit still, but it is far from being sufficient to create or keep up a healthy tone of intellect or feeling. It is not exercise alone that is needed. A woman that sees well to her household has sufficient exercise in the common acceptation of the term; but the harder she works the more necessary it is that she should have amusement. The men who toil incessantly, or mechanics, do not need anything to give play to their muscles, or set the blood in motion, but the more active their labors, the more do they need the recreation which some exhilarating amusement would afford.

The great desideratum in training children is to make home pleasant.

This should be the parent's first study; and this cannot be done unless parents retain their juvenile tastes and feelings. It is their duty to never grow old! If they become morose and mor-

bid, and frown upon hilarity and mirth they banish children from their presence, inspire them with a morbid awe and drive back all their youthful impulses, to corrode, and very likely to corrupt their hearts. Oh! how many families do I know where parents, fond parents, too, are scarcely less a terror to their children than a "roaring lion." To go forth from home is the only talisman which unlocks to them a single hour's enjoyment. To return home is to return to a gloomy prison, where they endure a worse than solitary confinement.

Many a mother do I know who confines herself so exclusively to wearing toil that she has no time or inclination for recreation in any form; and indeed there are many who think it almost a sin to pass an hour in anything but productive labor; who think time is wasted that is not spent in coining money in some form; and there is no exception to the rule that parents who thus value time, reap the bitter fruits of their theory in seeing grow rank in the hearts of their children, distrust and fierce, dark passions, that destroy all their better natures, that make them gloomy or else reckless, and not only make them wretched during all the time they remain under the parental roof, but so fill their minds with sad associations, that the bitter is infused into every cup they drink through life. Diversion is not less necessary for the old than for the young. Indeed, I am not sure that they do not need it more. The heart should never be permitted to grow old. It should be always young in its sympathies. Parents should not only counteract by their presence the innocent pleasure of the young, but participate in them.—*The Elevator.*

A recent earthquake in Japan, destroyed a town of 8,000 or 10,000 inhabitants.

The Corn crop of the Southern States is almost a total failure.

THE RIGHT WAY TO READ.—When the late Jeremiah Everts was in the fifth year of his age, he came to his father and asked him for a new book. His father asked him if the last book he had given him was worn out. "O no, sir," said Jeremiah, "but I have read all the words out of it." He meant to say he had read it thoroughly, and had made himself master of all the ideas it contained."

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

A distinguished University of the United States has conferred the well-earned title, *Divinitatis Doctor*, on the Rev. Alex. Clark—Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The London Post-Office, which is a model department, is about to send letters through London, by atmospheric pressure.

When the vessels now, in course of construction for the British Navy shall be finished, they will number 735 vessels, with 17,099 guns, and a steam power of 132,786 horses. In guns, the French navy is only about half as strong as the English.

The cattle disease has carried off, in Germany, 28,000,000 head; and in the whole of Europe, (including Russia, but exclusive of Siberia and Turkey,) upwards of 200,000,000 head of cattle. The ravages this disease makes in a country may well be dreaded.

There are 7,500,000 Germans in the United States.

In consequence of the unpropitious state of the weather, over a large portion of Europe, the London *Times* prophesies a famine.

A papyrus brought from Thebus to Liverpool, England, was found to contain the nineteenth chapter of St. Matthew, written in the Greek, unical character, which gives a new version of the long misunderstood part of the 24th verse, relative to the passage of a camel through the eye of a needle.

There is a man living in France, a soldier under the first Napoleon, who has a false leg, a false arm, a glass eye, a complete set of false teeth, a silver nose, and a silver plate replacing a part of his skull. Such a man requires no medals.

The old bed of the Frazier's River has been discovered; it is situated some distance from the present river, and many feet above it. The gold-hunters are said to obtain gold to the value of from fourteen to sixteen dollars per day each man.

The University of Moscow, Russia, established in 1755, has 61 professors and lecturers, and 1553 students, 120 of the students are supported by the state, 115 by other institutions, 20 free, the remainder pay 50 silver roubles yearly.

There was a general decrease of forty per. cent. in the number of criminal convictions in England, Scotland, and Ireland, since 1841. This speaks much for the British Islands.

The seven line of Battle-ship Hero, which brought the Prince of Wales to America, has a complement of 880 seamen and marines—600 horse power and mounts 91 guns.

The massacre of Christians in Syria are said to reach from 7,500 to 8,000 persons; and 151 villages have been destroyed, and about 80,000 rendered homeless. The barbarities inflicted on all ages and sexes are really sickening. England and France have sent out about 15,000 soldiers to protect their subjects in the east.

The population of the Turkish Empire is 37,000,000, of which 17,000,000 are nominal christians; of these 12,000,000 belong to the Greek church; the remaining 5,000,000 belong to the Armenian (most numerous,) Nestorian, Syrian, Coptic, Abyssinian, and Roman Catholic Churches.

Extreme heat will cause the glass which covers the needle of the compass to become electrified, and therefore depart from its true position. This defection can be remedied by damping the glass with water, the moisture removing the electricity.

Mr. JOHN LIVINGSTON, one of the Editors of the Colonial Presbyterian has disconnected himself with the management of that paper; consequently the whole responsibility devolves upon the Rev. Wm. Elder—St. Stephen.

The population of Cuba is 1,168,000, of which nearly 550,000 are white inhabitants, 180,000 free colored, 400,000 slaves, and 38,000 Asiatics and Judians. This Island is fast increasing in population, and other sources of wealth.

A coating of lime and oil will prevent steel and iron from rusting when exposed to water.

During the first week in August last 496 deaths occurred in New York; principally caused, by eating unripe fruit. This city is both morally and physically unhealthy.

A horse was recently sold in New York for twenty-five thousand dollars.

Printing as now used, is said to exist in Japan for 300 years, and an inferior description of printing has been known for 600 years.

Chatham, Northumberland, New Brunswick, is created a Bishop's see of the Roman Catholic Church.

Nineteen thousand persons visited the Great Eastern while in New York, in one day; and seven thousand was aboard of her at one time.

A New York paper, entitled the World, established within the last six months, announces a circulation of 30,000 already.

The crops in Canada, notwithstanding many drawbacks, are set down as an average throughout the province.

The most simple process of softening hard water is, —but in two or three feet of gravel of the size of beans and upwards.

The address of the Archbishop and clergy of Nova Scotia to the Prince of Wales, expresses a "fixed determination to maintain it," (British rule) "at every cost, in preference to any other in the world;" and to uphold even at the sacrifice of life itself, the supreme authority of the Sovereign of these realms."

It is needless to say that all the other addresses were equally stereotyped with loyalty.

At a late meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the exhibition of agricultural machinery exceeded that of any former meeting.

The steam plough worked well; one and three eighths of an acre was ploughed in five minutes less than two hours—that is, at the rate of nearly seven acres per day; the cost was six shillings per acre, while the cost of ploughing by horses is eighteen shillings an acre. One of the threshing machines threshed in half an hour, eleven hundred weight, three quarters and fourteen pounds of grain.

A Joint Stock company has been formed in Paris, France, with a capital of £250,000 for agricultural operations on a large scale.

A new kind of gunpowder has been made in England which produces very little smoke and that of a less injurious kind.

The University of New Brunswick is now in full organization under its new character.

After all the noise made by aspirants to Legislative honors, and who only meant to make a noise; this Institution still stands where it did; the same Professors are in it—the same extensive library, and philosophical apparatus are there; and it still receives the same ample pecuniary endowments.

“Destroy it,” said one; “re-model it,” said another;—It has been re-modeled; but how? A president, Dr. Hea, has been appointed, who, contrary to the usages of other similar institutions, is not to occupy a *Chair*. Why pay Dr. Hea a large salary to attend to mere matters of routine, we cannot divine; is he not competent to act the part of a professor, or is he

going to become a student under the present professor in order to become qualified for a professorship. A senate has also been appointed, composed of laymen. It is well known that clergymen are the most competent to discharge the duties of such an institution; therefore, one half of the senate, at least, should be composed of clergymen.

It is the opinion of many, that this institution should be given to the Episcopalians, and let all other denominations have their denominational institutions of Education, equally endowed by the Province. We did hope that King's College, once remodelled, would stand forth as a Provincial University, satisfactory to all; and upon a basis that would discard from the public mind, all ideas of endowing more sectarian institutions; but from the complexion of the materials composing the officials of this institution, we do not expect public satisfaction.

The Natural History of the Lower Provinces.

Has the New Brunswick Government received a copy of the following Circular, if so, will it be allowed to come to light?

We copy the following from the Colonial Presbyterian who says:

It would seem that circulars were issued by the Colonial Secretary, so long ago as the month of June last, to the Governors of the British North American Provinces, containing important queries on this subject. We never heard a syllable about the matter, until we met with a copy of the Circular in the Halifax Morning Journal, of the 24th inst. It is as follows:—

DOWNING STREET, }
23th June 1860. }

Sir—With the view of ascertaining what materials may have been collected, or what works published, descriptive of the Natural History of the British Colonies, and relative also to some other scientific subjects, I shall feel obliged to you to furnish me with such answers as you may possess the means of giving, within your government, to the questions contained in the enclosed paper.

In any of the Colonies where Scientific Societies are constituted, it will be advisable to make use of any aid which they may be so good as to contribute towards answering the enquiries.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obt. servant;

NEWCASTLE.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Mulgrave, Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia.

1. Have any works been published on the Botany of the Colony; and if so, state the title of each work, the name of the author; and the year of publication; adding, if requisite, any remark on the esteem in which it is held.

2. The same question as to Zoology.

3. The same question as to any work or published reports on Geology.

4. Does any Botanical Garden exist in the Colony; and if so, briefly state the authority under which it is superintended, and funds by which supported?

5. Is there any Zoological Museum, or any collection of living animals in a Zoological Garden, or any accredited set of correct drawings of the chief animals of the Colony?

6. Is there any Geological Museum, or any well known private collection of Geological specimens, or unpublished records of Geological surveys by competent observers?

7. What are the best known records,

if any, of the Meteorology of the colony, and are they published or easily procurable?

8. Are there any well known records of the phenomena of the Tides, and if so, by what observers, and at what date?

9. The same question as to Magnetical phenomena.

10. Have the Latitude and Longitude of the principal places on the coast been determined by careful celestial observations, and if so, by what observers, and what periods?

11. The same question as to the Latitude and Longitude of principal places inland.

N. B.—It is requested that the answers may be sent on a separate sheet, prefixing to each the number of the question in this paper.

The Journal, in a note says:

We saw, a few years ago, two volumes of a set of three, on "Mushrooms found near Halifax, Nova Scotia." It was a very old work, and illustrated with numerous colored plates, published in London, if we mistake not. It was purchased in Boston at an antiquarian book store, by Dr. Peabody, of Massachusetts, who we believe still has it in his possession.

Doubtless a duplicate of this circular has been issued in regard to New Brunswick and P. E. Island, and the people of these Provinces owe to themselves to see that such queries are properly answered. In Nova Scotia, the Literary Societies have been appealed to on the subject.

THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE FOR NOVA SCOTIA, &c.

failed to procure sufficient support to warrant its continuance. This monthly was commenced two years ago by Dr. Forrester, principle of the Normal and training school of this Province, who devoted a week gratuitously every month to its preparation, and delivered a

course of lectures in the different towns and villages throughout the Province on the importance of education and agriculture, and the best means of advancing these important departments; still it appears he could not interest the people so as to secure sufficient support to cover the cost of even the mechanical part of his paper.

How often have we heard some of the leading statesmen of Nova Scotia boast of the progress made in all that pertains to greatness; meaning we suppose the systematizing of politics and abase which they have done to perfection. If they had paid as much attention to the advancement of the moral, intellectual, and material progress of the people as they have done to the party politics,—a Journal of Education and Agriculture might be in circulation, disseminating useful knowledge. The most successful journals in Nova Scotia, are those that deal out the largest amount of slander and abuse. A score of such papers can live and flourish; while a periodical of education cannot exist.

We feel ashamed to record the fact that in a colony containing over 300,000 souls, over 100,000 of whom are agriculturists, eleven hundred schools, school masters, besides a large number of professional and otherwise intelligent persons, a monthly Journal of Education and Agriculture cannot live, except at a loss, of over one hundred pounds, in the short space of two years to the proprietor.

Dr. Forrester knows that party politics has done a part to produce this result. Even the training and model

schools, have been discountenanced by many in consequence of this pressure; and his public lectures in some localities on the same principal,—in fact, political animosity runs through all the ramifications of society, to the detriment of real progress, both parties equally to blame; and all for the loaves and fishes—who shall pocket the fees of office.

If the public men of this fine colony would devote a portion of their time to the enlightenment of the minds of the people and less to abuse of each other, education and agriculture might stand on a different footing from what it does at present.

Extreme party politics are a curse to a country. Waste of precious time waste of the people's money, abuse of character, and a hindrance to general improvement are the result.

The Halifax and Quebec Railway.

We are informed by a gentleman, who is in correspondence with some of those in high position in the Mother Country, that the public mind of the British people is so far in favour of this railway, that the government feel warranted in providing the means for its construction; and that a Bill will shortly be submitted to Parliament to this effect.

The following remarks, touching this and other subjects of importance to these Provinces, we extract from the "Christian Visitor," who says:

"We believe that our Country is on the eve of great political changes. The Prince's visit has more significance than a mere act of courtesy or curiosity. The leading Canadian papers—the Editors of which have been approach-

ed by our distinguished visitors, more nearly and with more confidence than many holders of executive positions—are discussing a union of the Colonies, cemented to each other and the mother country by a Vice Regal Court, with the Prince of Wales, at its head, and a Grand Trunk Railway from Halifax to Quebec, to be extended in due time to the Pacific Ocean, thus making our own Province not only a member of a vast and mighty Empire, but the half-way house on the great highway of the World!

Presentation of Munro's History of the Lower Provinces of B. America, to the Prince of Wales.

A copy of the above Work, bound in a superior style, was sent to His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, for presentation.

The following Address, surrounded by a neat border, was placed in the beginning of the work:

PRESENTED TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

The Prince of Wales;

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS

Visit to New Brunswick;

BY THE AUTHOR.

Mr. Munro, received the following reply:

“His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, informs Mr. Munro, “That His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was pleased to accept the copy of the work on the Lower Provinces, prepared by you for presentation, and to express his thanks for it.”

In presenting the Prince of Wales with a copy of this excellent work, containing two Maps,—one Geographical, the other showing the great Roads, Railroads, in operation and in contemplation, and the variety and position of

our minerals, with a general description of the Province's early history, its Geography, Latitudes, Longitude, Religious, Civil, Political, and Judicial Institutions, Climate, Agricultural productions, Indigenous Strubs, and Herbaceous Plants, Fisheries, Natural History, Geology, Education, Literature, &c., &c.,—the Author has, we think, contributed far more extensively to His Royal Highness' knowledge of the resources, developed and undeveloped, of these important appendages of the British Crown—which are a terra incognita to Englishmen generally—than the presentation of stereotyped addresses, and similar exhibitions could possibly do.

We copy the above from our worthy cotemporary, the *Borderer*, and merely add:—That if, by presenting this work to His Royal Highness, we shall have contributed a mite to his knowledge of the resources of these Provinces, over which he may one day be called to sway the sceptre, we shall be highly satisfied.—**ED. OF INSTRUCTOR.**

For the Instructor.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir:—Please allow me through the medium of the “Instructor” to give publicity to some acts of the Board of Education of New Brunswick, with regard to the Licensing of Teachers.

One of the arguments used by the late Superintendent of Schools was:—that the inefficiency of those who officiated as Teachers, impeded the progress of Education, as well as the intellectual faculties of the pupils. To remedy this evil, it was ordered that no more third class licences would be issued; with this proviso:—That if the attendant at Training School failed in getting admitted as a first or second class teacher, his case could be brought under the consideration of the Board; such were the statements made by our late and much lamented Superinten-

dent at a public meeting held at Portland, St. John.

But this rule was not strictly adhered to: for, not long since, a young man in this County received a License through a report submitted to the Board, after an examination by one of the Inspectors. Unless an alteration has taken place of which we are not apprized, this is dealing out justice with a vengeance. Previous to the time above referred to, some two or three persons from an adjacent parish made application to be admitted in the same way, but were refused, on the ground that the Inspector was not authorized to certify as to the qualifications of teachers for licence.

If some are to be licenced through the recommendation of the District Inspector, and not others, who are equally as well qualified for teachers, it is unjust; if licence can be obtained without the applicant having to go through the training ordeal, let it be so—let the public know it; but if a system of favouritism is to be pursued with regard to the licencing of teachers, it is high time that the whole system, like the Augean stables of mythic times, should be purified.

ONE OF THE CALLING.

Rotford, Sept. 1860.

WHO ARE YOUR COMPANIONS.—"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." It is said to be a property of the frog that it acquires the color of whatever it adheres to for a short time. Thus, when found on growing corn it is commonly of a dark green. If found on the white oak it has the colour peculiar to the tree. Just so it is with men. Tell me whom you choose and prefer as companions, and I certainly can tell you who you are: Do you love the society of the vulgar? Then you are already debased in your sentiments. Do you seek to be with the profane? In your hearts you are like them. Are jest-

ers and buffoons your choice friends? He who loves to laugh at folly, is himself a fool. Do you love and seek the society of the wise and good? Is this your habit? Would you rather take the lowest seat among such than the highest among others? Then you have already learned to be wise and good. You may not have made much progress, but even a good beginning is not to be despised. Hold on your way, and seek to be a companion of all that fear God. So shall you be wise for yourself, and wise for eternity.

THE EFFECTS OF TOBACCO.—The Dublin Medical Press asserts that the pupils of the Polytechnic School in Paris have recently furnished some curious statistics bearing on tobacco. Dividing the young gentlemen of that college into two groups—the smokers and nonsmokers—it shows that the smokers have proved themselves in the various competitive examinations far inferior to the others. Not only in the examinations on entering the school are the smoker in a lower rank, but in the various ordeals that they have to pass through in a year the average rank of the smokers had constantly fallen; and not inconsiderably, while the men who did not smoke enjoyed a cerebral atmosphere of the clearest kind.

TEACHERS' CHARACTERISTIC.—An interesting paper recently read before the English United Association of Teachers, contains the following important generalizations:—

Teachers of limited capacity, or whose command of language is limited, invariably teach best with text-books, or by the individual system of instruction.

Men of fervid imagination, having great command of language and enthusiasm of character, almost invariably become superior teachers.

Decision of character almost invariably forms an element in the qualifications of a superior teacher.

Men who are deficient in general

knowledge and enthusiasm of character, are generally bad teachers, even though they may possess great technical acquirements.

Presence of mind, and that self-confidence which is based on self-knowledge, are essential elements in a good teacher's character.

Success in teaching is more dependent upon the capabilities of the master for teaching than upon his technical acquirements. Teaching power is not always associated with superior talents or acquaintance.

TRUE ELOQUENCE.—Eloquence is the child of knowledge. When a mind is full, like a whole river, it is also clear. Confusion and obscurity are much oftener the results of ignorance than of inefficiency. Few are the men who cannot express their meaning, when the occasion demands the energy; as the lowest will defend their lives, with acuteness, and sometimes even with eloquence. They are masters of their subjects. Knowledge must be gained by ourselves. Mankind may supply us with facts: but the results, even if they agree with previous ones, must be the work of our own mind. To make others feel we must feel ourselves; and to feel ourselves, we must be natural.—*D'Israeli.*

Nature and Art.

Compare the point of the finest needle to the sting of the busy bee. Compare the finest piece of mechanism to the little spider's web. Compare the most complicated arrangements with the works of the tiniest insect. Man at best is but a copyist.—The beaver will teach him masonry. The industrious bee economy of construction.—The carolling bird, music. We build, so do birds their nests. We navigate so do fish, changing their localities with the greatest regularity. We spin, so does the silkworm its golden cocoon. Go to the ant, consider her ways which having no guide, overseer or ru-

ler, provideth her meat in the summer and gathereth her food in the harvest? The Conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks. The Locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them in bands. The spider taketh hold with her fingers and is in kings palaces. Consider the lillies of the field they toil not neither do they spin, and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. "Hast thou," enquired the Creator of Job, "entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail? Where wast thou when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Had I the eloquence of Demostheness, the descriptive powers of a Milton and the tongue of a Byron, I should need them all to picture even faintly the exquisite beauties of nature.—[Lectures on the Geometry of Nature and the Arts.

Heating Schools.

Of all the blessings that can be enjoyed by man, health is the greatest; and as it is the luxury of old age, it should be the birthright of childhood. Yet our present system of heating public schools with immense stoves, the flues of which are often hot enough to scorch the floors on which they stand, is prejudicial in the extreme; and, as every teacher knows, is productive of headaches, bleeding at the nose, and incapacity for study; it also lays the foundation of sickness, and deprives the little ones of the ruddy face, and physical strength to enjoy out-door romps. Cannot some better system be introduced—hot water or steam? The School Commissioners should look to it if they hope to make men and women worthy the name from the pupils of the schools.