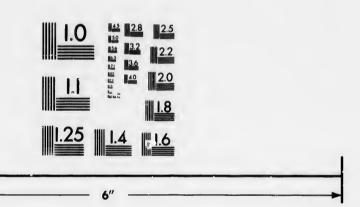
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REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL ACADIAN SCHOOL,

INSTITUTED IN 1813.

Incorporated in 1840,

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

President.
Hon. H. H. COGSWELL.

Vice President. Hon. HUGH BELL.

Treasurer.
EDWARD BINNEY, Esq.

Sccretary.

J. C. HUME, M. D.

so to a stability .

HALIFAX, N. S.
FRINTED BY JAMES BOWES AND SON,
1851.

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COMMITTEE.

Hon. ENOS COLLINS. J. W. JOHNSTON. M. B. ALMON. A. KEITH. 66 THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS. Hon. THE SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY. ROBERT HUME, M. D. Rev. JOHN MARTIN. " JOHN SCOTT. M. G. BLACK, Esq. J. S. MORRIS, Esq. EDWARD BINNEY, Esq. G. N. RUSSELL, Esq. J. W. NUTTING, Esq. H. PRYOR, Esq. J. C. HUMÉ, M.D. A. MACKINLAY, Esq. CHARLES TWINING, Esq. JOHN NAYLOP, Esq. ROBERT NOBLE, Esq. G. P. MITCHELL, Esq. JAMES THOMPSON, Esq. JOHN METZLER, Esq. GEO. E. MORTON, Esq. EDW. BILLING, Esq. WM. MURDOCH, Esq. S. SELDEN, Superintendent.

THE

ROYAL ACADIAN SCHOOL INSTITUTION.

THE Sub-Committee appointed at a General Meeting of Subscribers to this Institution to draw up a short statement of its early history—its present condition—and its future prospects—with the view of having the same printed and circulated for the information of its patron, His Excellency Sir John Harvey, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, &c. &c.—the subscribers to its Funds—and the friends of Education generally—most respectfully

REPORT.

That The Royal Acadian Institution was founded in the year 1813 by the zealous and praiseworthy efforts of Mr. Walter Bromley, for many years its able and efficient Superintendent, with the co-operation of about thirty philanthropic gentlemen of this city, (three of whom are yet living) for the purpose of affording a good English Education to children of all classes in the community, and of both sexes, on Scriptural principles, the Bible being read in the School daily, but free from peculiar denominational or sectarian character. The then Lieut. Governor, Sir John Cope Sherbrooke, became its first Patron, and the scheme adopted for its support, in addition

to school-fees where persons were able to pay for the education of their children, was that of voluntary contribution by the members of the Committee and other benevolent citizens.

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The funds accrning from these sources, and assistance from the Legislature, were held at the disposal of a Committee appointed to superintend the affairs of the Institution, the members of which were required to subscribe not less than one Pound annually, and to report once a year on its progress and position.

The Institution thus commenced preceded in point of time, every other public School for the gratuitous education of the poor, in Halifax, conducted on the Lancasteran System, was well sustained and met with much success under its originator, Mr. Bromley, and his successors in office, the same principles " its manageadopted at its formation having been the ment up to the present period. I mill n which the School is now conducted was every in per at a large expense, from funds raised by sub- at a made part by a Grant from the Legislature, and i 1540 ar A . . f Incorporation was obtained by which the property of the School Society was invested in Trustees. Appropriate By-Laws were framed and agreed to-and a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee appointed to superintend and conduct the affairs of the Institution, under whose management it still continues. This popular and useful institution has furnished for nearly forty years, and continues to furnish a graduated and systematic cours of instruction, adapted to the capacity of the youngest children, while facilities are also afforded for teaching to the fullest extent required, in Arithmetic, Geography, and other Branches, those more advanced in years.

The Revenue heretofore received for the support of this School has arisen from an Annual Legislative Grant,—from Subscriptions by members of the Committee, as already men-

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tioned, and such Tuition Fees as could be collected from parents whose children were not entered as free scholars—every Subscriber to the Funds of One Pound yearly having the privilege of sending two free scholars to the School, during the period he continues his subscription. At the late visitation of the Commissioners of Schools there were 170 boys and 39 girls on the books, of which number 85 boys and 26 girls were receiving their education free of charge to their parents—and whenever it is ascertained by the Committee that Parents or Guardians are unable to pay the tuition for their children, they have always been admitted free, and it appears by the foregoing statement that more than one half of the Scholars are at present enjoying that advantage.

Mr. Selden has had the Superintendance of both departments of the School since 1844, and has not only added to the number of Scholars, but greatly increased the efficiency of the School, raised the standard of Education, and given much satisfaction to the Committee. The Girls' School has been for several years under the immediate charge of Miss Beamish, but in consequence of the separation of the boys' and girls' Schools a change is contemplated, to be made at the end of the current quarter, and when a suitable successor is appointed due notice thereof will be given by the Committee.

The tuition fee is one dollar per quarter, payable in advance, a charge which is considered sufficiently small to meet the ability of all, except the very poorest persons, who are desirous of bestowing education upon their children.

The Course of Instruction includes Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic (Mental and by the use of the Slate), English Grammar and Composition, Geography, Drawing of Objects and Maps, Vocal Music and Practical Exercises in teaching and interrogation, as carried on daily in the Classes. Familiar Lectures are given daily on Scripture and General History, Astronomy, Topc graphy, Natural History, &c., and

one

twice in each week the Scholars are required to write abstracts of the Lectures thus given—it being intended that vith the exercise of the memory the understanding and moral perceptions should also be cultivated and improved. Geography is taught by large Maps with Chambers' Text Book.

The Girls in addition to the foregoing Course, are instructed by their Mistress in all the essential branches of needle-work.

The Reading Books are the Holy Bible, (but no catechism of religious belief is taught or required to be learned by the pupils—this being in accordance with the original Constitution of the School)—the Series of Books published by the British and Foreign School Society, Selden's Instructor, &c. &c.

The School hours are from 10 till 3 o'clock every week day except Saturday. Punctual and regular attendance is demanded, and the Parents are expected to pay particular attention to the cleanliness, dress and health of their children. The Quarter days are 21st of January, April, July, and October.

A member of the Committee is appointed by monthly rotation, whose duty it is to visit the School at least once a week, and in consultation with the Secretary and Teachers, decide upon all matters affecting the Interest or efficiency of the School—and a Committee of Ladies adopt the same course in superintending the Girls' School, now separated from that of the Boys.

Encouraged by the success which has hitherto attended their efforts and by the amount of support which has been vouch-safed to them by the Legislature and the public, the Committee have every inducement to press forward in their endeavours to sustain this Institution, believing that it is not inferior in efficiency and usefulness to any other seminary similarly conducted, among the middling and poorer classes of children in this community. From various causes but chiefly that of the limited means at their command, and their anxious desire to

extend as far as possible the blessings of education, the Committee have become embarrassed in their operations, and sundry claims remain unliquidated—to meet which, as well as to complete several repairs indispensably necessary to the Buildings, and provide new School apparatus, all of which have been recommended so as to ensure the continuance of the Grant from the Province in aid of the Salaries of the Teachers,-Your Committee recommend that an appeal be forthwith made to the friends of Education and the general public, for such support as will enable them to maintain in all its integrity, this Institution-believing it at the same time to be a duty incumbent upon every well-wisher of the rising generation to assist them in the acquisition of knowledge, secular and sacred, thereby elevating the mind and causing it to rise superior to mere sensual indulgence—nor do they entertain any doubt that this appeal will be met in that spirit of benevolence and philanthropy for which this community has heretofore been characterized

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT NOBLE, Chairman. G. P. MITCHELL, JOHN METZLER, G. E. MORTON, EDWARD BILLING, WILLIAM MURDOCII.

Halifax, 15th Novr. 1850.

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The Committee on taking the Report of the Acting Sub-Committee into their serious consideration, unanimously agreed that the claims of the Institution should be submitted without delay to a benevolent public, and that assistance should be collected from the friends of Education and the youth of the city, to enable them to carry on in conformity with the principles of the Constitution, the different branches of Education taught in the Acadian School.

HENRY H. COGSWELL, President. JAMES C. HUME, Secretary.

January 1, 1851.

