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P U S H .

"In Union is Strength."

Vol. 1.

PUBLIC SCHOOL, TRURO, N. S., March 2nd, 1894.

No. 6.

EDITORIAL STAFF.

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This paper is published weekly by the Truro Public School. Price 3 cents per week. On all business matters, address K. F. McKenzie, Secretary.

Letter from John Ambrose.

DEAR EDITORS.—

I am very much obliged to you for PUSH, which supplied just the impetus needed to start me into writing an article on my reminiscences of the old Truro Academy, which I promised some months ago when spending a few days in your town; and to my great delight becoming a boy again amongst the few boys and girls yet remaining, who with myself enjoyed the many advantages and pleasures of that Academy,—notably my old friends, Dr. A. C. Page, William McCully and Jas. K. Blair, Esqrs. It was a delight not unmingled with tender recollections of those of our number in that time, who have since "gone over to the majority." Recalling them to memory, we might well say with Thackeray:—

Evenings there were
Happy as this,
Faces we miss
Pleasant to see;
Tender and true,
Gentle and just:—
Peace to their dust
We sing round the tree.

Dr. Page, in his letter to you, brings a lively scene before my eyes.

It is Friday afternoon, the time of the weekly issue of my paper, the "Academy Critic,"—so named because, as Assistant Teacher in the Academy, it occurred to me that the faults, foibles and failings sometimes observable even in a Truro seminary of learning, might be diminished by a little magisterial criticism, tempered with a spice of drollery. It is human nature to fear "the world's dread laugh," and there is a good deal of human nature—or was then—in the boys and girls of Truro

Well, the Head Master having started for home, the pupils one and all are gathered around the Editor, who—mounted on a box—reads the paper, and afterwards disposes of the copies by auction, for the benefit of his amanuensis, George Flemming, at that time the best writer in the school. Dr. Page has already told you that at that early day there was no printing office in Truro, and the "Academy Critic" was the first newspaper in "Derry Village." As a sample of its mode of correcting failings, I may mention that one of the girls invariably failed to write a composition, which was required from every pupil once a week by the Head Master, Edward Blanchard. The delinquent is among the surrounding

crowd, and the Editor reads the following, from the first page:

I yawn and dream,
And rack my brain
To write a theme,
But all in vain

In vain I sigh,
And tug, and pant,
The more I try
The more I can't.

In order duly,
I remain,
Yours very truly,

SUSAN JANE.

Apropos of English Composition, the pupils of the old Academy in those days owed much to the pains taken by Edward Blanchard and his brother Jonathan in this very useful part of English grammar. Not satisfied with the mere analysis of sentences, as is too often the case in these days, every effort was made to eradicate a faulty vernacular by insisting on the thorough parsing and correction of written or spoken language. A knowledge of synonyms, and the derivations of words were also required.

The ground work having been thus carefully laid, it was to be expected that students in English grammar should "read, write and speak the English language with propriety."

From the age of thirteen years, when I first started out to make my own living by "accepting"—as the phrase is—"the situation" of "devil" in Joseph Howe's printing office, until this day, I have never severed my connection with the press, either as type setter, correspondent or editor, and my experience has taught me gratitude to the old Academy and its teachers, the Blanchard brothers. I therefore hail with much pleasure the introduction of PUSH, and the *debut* of its full editorial staff, and wish

them every success. It will be something to look back upon with pleasure in after years. *Forson et haec olim meminisse juvabit.*

JOHN AMBROSE.

Blanchard,

Bentley

& Co.

Compliment the students on their energy and industry in bringing out this little paper, and show their encouragement by occupying this space.

Wishing the students success

Blanchard, Bentley & Co.

LOCALS.

Principal Campbell visited some of the Prince Street schools the first of this week.

Commissioner L. J. Waker visited the schools of Truro on Tuesday of this week.

Councillor J. Smith paid a visit to Prince Street school on Monday afternoon.

A former pupil of Grade VIII, Frank Archibald, is now attending the Agricultural School on Bible Hill.

The attendance in Grade V for last month has been more encouraging. Miss Lottie McLean and Miss Jessie Stewart who had been absent since Christmas have returned.

Last Friday Grade V had an interesting spelling match. Miss Pearle Pugsley and Miss Beatrice Cummings being leaders. Miss Pugley's side were the winners.

The Grade VIII pupils who made an average of 10 last week in regularity, punctuality, lessons and conduct are: Miss Charlena Schaffner and Miss Hattie Cummings.

The pupils who have made the highest standing during the month of January in Grade V are Miss Josie Sommerville, Miss Carrie Morris, Bertie Pollock and Miss Addie McElhinney.

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J. A. WRIGHT.

164 Prince St.

Simple Shorthand has been introduced into the public schools of Moncton, N. B.

Many of the classes are looking forward to the study of the expulsion of the Acadians, when John F. Smitn will take the side that the English were justified in their action, Rutherford Cumming opposing him.

For several days the French flag was kept flying at Louisburg after the capture by the English in 1745. The question was asked in Mr. Porter's room, "Was this act dishonest on the part of the English?" Several of the class entered into an interesting discussion. The next day facts in support of opinions given were brought from Campbell's History, others from "Dymond on War," together with the principles found in Proverbs 26:18-19, as was also the story found in Joshua 9. Some of the more interested were J. F. Smith, Rutherford Cumming, K. F. McKenzie, Douglas Cummings.

The first electric light was the invention of Salte and Petre in 1846.

The iron blast furnace was the work of Detmold in 1842.

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