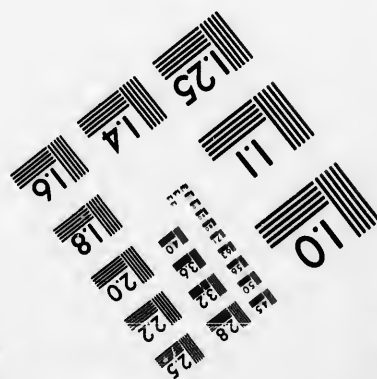
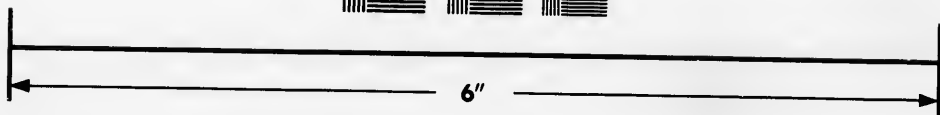
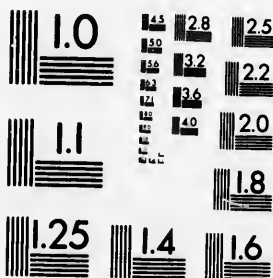


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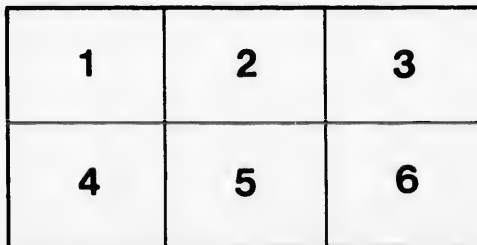
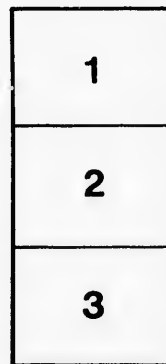
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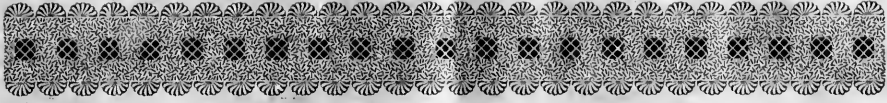
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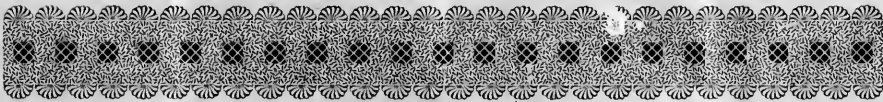


THE BLIND

OF THE

Maritime Provinces.

THEIR WORK AND NEEDS.



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The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

Believing, as I do, that you take a personal interest in the welfare and well-being of those who are deprived of light ; and feeling confident that every effort made to extend the blessings of education to the Blind of the Maritime Provinces will receive your hearty endorsement and encouragement, I would most earnestly request your perusal of the following pages, as well as your hearty co-operation in carrying through to a successful issue the undertaking which we now have on hand. I believe that with your practical help, your endorsement, your encouragement, and your cordial co-operation, the work of educating the blind can be extended, so that the Board of Managers of the School for the Blind at Halifax will be enabled to provide accommodation for every schoolable blind child in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Surely this is an end which is worth working for, and which is worthy of the support of broad minded and benevolent men and women.

**BLIND-
NESS.** Blindness is naturally regarded by most people as one of the greatest of physical misfortunes. To persons blessed with sight, the prospect of having to live without vision is a dread one indeed, and hence arises the almost universal feeling of pity with which the Blind are regarded. This estimate of blindness as a great affliction, and the strong human sympathy it awakens, is the natural outcome of the long centuries of neglect, during which no effort was made to give to those who were deprived of sight such an education and training as would in a great measure compensate for their deprivation.

I can imagine no more pitiable conscious condition than that of a young blind man who has arrived at years of maturity without receiving any training whatever. The youth then realizes that his condition of absolute helpless dependence will remain unalterable throughout his life, and that, so far as this world is concerned, his only occupation will be, to, in some way vary the monotony of idleness, and to patiently wait for the day when, in a happier state of existence, his eyes shall be opened and his energies directed to some good purpose.

How different from the foregoing is the condition of a young blind man who has received the advantages of an education and training such as is now placed within reach of the youth of the

Maritime Provinces. Mentally, physically and morally well developed, he graduates from the School for the Blind, and goes forth into the world prepared to fight the battle of life strongly, hopefully and manfully, and by his own exertions to win a fair share of the fruits of honest, conscientious labour. To him, blindness is not an affliction, is not a misfortune,—it is simply a difficulty to be overcome, an obstacle to be surmounted. He shares with others the ordinary burdens of life, and works away cheerfully and happily, regarding his loss of sight simply as a disadvantage which must be counteracted by greater effort upon his part. It is the enforced idleness, not the blindness, that make the loss of sight an affliction, and when, by means of education and training, a blind youth is actively and profitably employed, his loss of sight ceases to be as serious a consideration. The School for the Blind at Halifax can point with pride to a large number of its graduates now settled in various parts of the Maritime Provinces, who are living happy, useful lives, and who are occupying responsible positions in the communities in which they reside.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL.

In 1867, Mr. Wm. Murdoch, a retired Halifax merchant, died in London, and by his will bequeathed the munificent sum of £5,000 Nova Scotia currency (\$19,466.67) towards the endowment of an Institution for the Blind in Halifax.

The late Hon. M. B. Almon and a number of prominent gentlemen then formed an Association for the purpose of promoting the education of the blind. This Association was incorporated May 7th, 1867. Steps were at once taken to obtain subscriptions towards a building fund, and \$15,000 was almost immediately secured, and a suitable building erected.

The School was opened in August, 1871, with four pupils, two boys and two girls. In 1874 applications were received and accepted for admission of pupils from the Provinces of New Brunswick and P. E. Island. In 1882 the Legislature of Nova Scotia passed an Act making education free to the blind of Nova Scotia, and agreeing to pay the Board of Managers \$150.00 annually, for each pupil in attendance from the Province. In 1887 two pupils from the Province of Newfoundland entered the School. In 1890 the increased number of applications for the admission of pupils caused the Board of Managers to make a strong effort to secure additional accommodation, which resulted in the erection of a fine wing to the main building, at a cost of \$15,954. The Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia liberally appropriated

The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

\$4,000.00 toward paying for the building, and this sum was supplemented by the bequests of the late J. P. Mott, Esq., and the late S. A. White, Esq., and was further augmented by the handsome subscriptions of the friends of the blind throughout the Maritime Provinces. In 1892 the Provincial Legislature of New Brunswick adopted an Act making the education in this Institution free to the blind of that Province.

During the past five years the number of pupils has increased from thirty one to seventy, and new applications for admission are constantly being received.

INCOME. The current revenue of the School is derived from three sources as follows:—

First.—A per capita grant of \$150 for each pupil in attendance. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick one half of this amount is paid by the government of the Province and the remaining half by the municipality in which the pupil has a legal settlement. In Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland the grants are paid annually from the Provincial Treasuries.

Second.—The interest upon investments.—The invested funds of the School have been derived from the bequests of benevolent and public-spirited men and women, such as the late Wm. Murdoch, Esq., Sir Wm. Young, John P. Mott, S. A. White, John Gibson, A. K. Doull, N. L. and W. P. West, and other benefactors. The interest upon these funds forms a considerable portion of the revenue of the School.

Third.—Subscriptions and Donations.—The subscriptions of the members of the Corporation and the donations of other friends and organizations have been and are of great assistance in carrying forward the work, and had it not been for these contributions the pupils would have been deprived of many of the advantages which they have enjoyed.

MANAGEMENT. By the Act of Incorporation the School is placed under the control of a Board of Managers, consisting of twelve members, who are elected annually by the members of the Corporation. The officers of the Board of Managers and the officials of the School are appointed by the Board. The Premiers of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are ex-officio members of the Board of Managers.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. The annual payment of \$5.00 or upwards to the funds of the Institution constitutes the contributor a Member of the Association.

The payment of \$25.00 to the funds of the Institution constitutes the contributor a Life-member of the Association.

The payment of \$500.00 to the funds of the Institution constitutes the contributor a Benefactor of the Association.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING. The School for the Blind is thoroughly equipped with suitable appliances, has an excellent teaching staff, and is fully prepared to give to those who are deprived of sight, a broad and liberal education. In addition to the ordinary branches such as are taught in first-class Grammar Schools, some of the pupils receive special instruction in languages and music, while others are taught pianoforte-tuning, cane-seating, basket-making or light electrical work. The main object in view is to train the pupil so that when he graduates from the School he may be able to earn his own livelihood. The percentage of the successful graduates from this Institution is fully up to that of the leading Schools for the Blind throughout the world.

RESULTS. The following table will give a clear idea as to the results of our work; and, taken in connection with the letters from graduates hereto appended, is the best testimonial that the School can have as to the thoroughness and efficiency of the education given to the pupils.

- 28 per cent. of the graduates are engaged in teaching music.
- 12 per cent. in conducting or taking part in concert companies.
- 8 per cent. in pianoforte tuning.
- 8 per cent. in business.
- 4 per cent. in manufacturing.
- 12 per cent. giving instruction in or working at trades.
- 2 per cent. as agents.
- 2 per cent. in farm work.
- 2 per cent. in literary callings.
- 22 per cent. residing at home.

Of these latter a large proportion help in the household and partially maintain themselves by the work of their hands.

25 per cent. of the graduates are married and residing in comfortable homes.

The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

NEEDS. Our present buildings are adapted for the accommodation of sixty pupils. Seventy pupils are in attendance, and the School is overcrowded. Other blind children are seeking admission, and the question has forced itself upon the Board of Managers how to provide accommodation for all who apply. To this question there can be but one answer, namely, to extend the present buildings. This involves an expenditure of \$20,000.00, and it can only be satisfactorily carried through by the cordial co-operation of a sympathetic and appreciative public.

I believe that the people of the Maritime Provinces are in full sympathy with our work. I believe they thoroughly appreciate the gratifying and encouraging results. I believe that they take an honest pride in the position which this Institution occupies in the world, and I believe to the best of their ability they will come forward with their dollars and cents, and generously contribute towards the fund for the erection of a second wing to the School.

Reader, I deem it a privilege to ask you individually for your assistance. Your contribution, large or small, will be most gratefully received, and I am confident that under God's good Providence the result of this appeal will be to enable the Board of Managers to erect and equip the additional building. I certainly have good reason to know that the friends of the blind are ever ready to make up to them as far as possible for the loss of sight, and I am certain that any movement that will better secure the welfare and well being of those who are deprived of vision will receive your sympathy and support.

C. F. FRASER,
Superintendent School for the Blind,
Halifax, N. S.

Halifax, Feb. 25th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

With all my heart I bid you "God Speed" in your efforts to provide additional accommodation at the School, thus rescuing from a state of ignorance and idleness an increased number of the dear blind boys and girls of these Maritime Provinces, and sending them in due time back to their homes, or out into the world, educated, self-reliant and self-supporting men and women.

Yours truly,
W. C. SILVER,

President of the Board of Managers School for the Blind.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Halifax, Feb. 4th, 1896.

To Professor C. F. Fraser, Superintendent
Halifax School for the Blind.

Dear Prof. Fraser :

I understand that you are about to make an effort to obtain funds for the erection of a new building in connection with the Halifax School for the Blind, over which you so efficiently preside. I am personally aware of the necessity for such increased accommodation, in order that the truly noble work which you have been carrying on may be successfully continued in the future.

The management of this Institution has been such as to secure the entire confidence and approbation of the public, and I have frequently had occasion to publicly express appreciation of the great benefits it has conferred upon the afflicted class to whose education it is devoted.

I feel assured that a generous and hearty response will be made to your appeal, and I wish you all the success you desire and so well deserve in your present movement.

I remain, yours faithfully,

M. B. DALY,
Lieutenant Governor.

LETTERS FROM REPRESENTATIVE CLERGYMEN OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
Halifax, Feb. 5, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

I am pleased to learn that you are about to take active steps to meet the need of increased accommodation in the Halifax School for the Blind. This Institution, the only one of its kind in the Maritime Provinces, has already done a noble work in enabling so many who are deprived of sight to earn a comfortable living, and to fill responsible positions in life, but it is only at the beginning of its career of usefulness. With enlarged premises, and more abundant pecuniary resources, its capacity for good will be largely augmented.

Under your energetic and sympathetic superintendence the School has given great satisfaction, not only as regards the physical and mental training of the pupils, but also as regards the facilities afforded them of living up to their conscientious convictions.

I feel sure that when the claims of the Institution shall have been fully placed before the

The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

public, you will receive generous contributions toward your building fund, thus enabling the Managers of the School to widen its sphere of usefulness.

With best wishes I remain,
dear Mr. Fraser,
Yours very truly,

C. O'BRIEN,
Archbishop of Halifax.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 4th, 1896.

My dear Mr. Fraser :

I understand that you are shortly to make an appeal to the benevolent people of the Maritime Provinces for the wherewithal to pay for the addition to your present building, which is necessitated by the increase in the number of the pupils. Most heartily do I wish you success, and that many may be glad of this opportunity to contribute the cost of few or many stones and bricks, according to their ability. It is of the utmost importance that no time should be lost in the work of educating those who are deprived of the blessing of sight, and that none of them should be turned away for lack of accommodation; and—a thing which the majority of people do not know—it is most necessary for the health of those who cannot see, that the place in which they work should have plenty of light as well as of pure air. I am glad to notice that the latent energy of our people is being called forth by various new schemes which are put before them, and I hope they will expend some of it upon the work that is under your charge, giving you ample means for new buildings and all other equipments, each donor being able to say with Job: "I was eyes to the Blind."

Yours sincerely,

F. NOVA SCOTIA.

PINE HILL,
Halifax, 12th Feb., 1896.

My Dear Mr. Fraser :

It is very gratifying to learn that you purpose erecting another addition to the School for the Blind to meet the increasing demand upon your accommodations. Nothing could prove more clearly than this increasing demand the very great service that is being rendered by the School, and the growing confidence with which it is being regarded by the people of the Maritime Provinces, especially by those who have children or other relations that are blind.

From my own personal knowledge of the School, of the family life which you maintain

among the pupils, of the rapid and often remarkable progress made by them, and of the marked efficiency of the teachers who assist you, I feel that I cannot speak too highly in its favour, and it would give me great pleasure if any words of mine could aid in calling forth assistance for you in your effort to make the School available for a still greater number. I would like at the same time to say that parents who have blind children, and who naturally feel a strong reluctance to entrust their children to the care of others just because of their helplessness, need feel no hesitancy in committing them to your charge, for I know of no Institution where they would be more tenderly and affectionately cared for or more efficiently trained.

We in Halifax who have the opportunity of regularly visiting the School, of enjoying your concerts, of observing your methods, of marking from time to time the progress of the pupils, have some idea of the good work you are doing.

I wish that this opportunity were within the reach of all the people in the Maritime Provinces, for, if it were, I am sure you would have little difficulty in raising the money for the additional accommodation you desire.

I trust that your appeal will meet with a very cordial response, and that the public will assist you with the liberal support which you and your cause deserve.

With every good wish,
Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

DANIEL M. GORDON.

Dartmouth, N. S., Feb. 21st, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

I congratulate you on the great success which has attended your work as Superintendent of the Halifax School for the Blind, inasmuch that, considering the crowded state of the School and the number of applications for admission, there is a pressing need of funds for the enlargement of the building. All patriotic, philanthropic and Christian efforts to improve the condition of the Blind should meet with a prompt and generous response.

We may all feel proud of our benevolent institutions, foremost among which is the School for the Blind. Trusting that the result of your appeal for the enlargement of your building may be such as you deserve, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

JOHN LATHERN.

The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 26th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

It is gratifying to know that the appreciation of the School for the Blind is steadily growing in the Maritime Provinces, and that its advantages are being enjoyed by such a large number of pupils. The twenty-five years of useful work performed by your Institution entitles it to the confidence and support of the public, and I feel certain that your effort to still further extend the usefulness of the School will meet with the approval and encouragement it deserves.

Believing that God's blessing will rest upon your undertaking, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

E. M. SAUNDERS.

LETTERS FROM FORMER PUPILS AND GRADUATES OF THE SCHOOL.

Halifax, Feb. 17, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

In writing this letter, which will be short, I wish to say that I am delighted to hear of the continuous success of your efforts on behalf of the blind. I am sure there is not a graduate of your School who does not wish you God speed in all your undertakings, and as I don't know that I have ever expressed my opinion to you in regard to the School or in regard to the benefits which I received through it, I might here say that it has been *everything* to me. I feel sure that what I am socially, intellectually, and financially, I owe, under Providence, to the training I received at the Halifax School for the Blind. For eighteen years I have followed the business of piano-tuning, and have succeeded in not only meeting all calls made upon me, but have also secured a comfortable home for myself and family and still have a considerable sum to my credit at the bank.

I make this statement in the hope it may to some extent encourage you in the efforts that you are about to make to secure an additional wing to the present building.

Hoping that you may be long spared to carry on this good work,

I remain yours truly,

D. M. REID.

Truro, N. S., Feb. 13th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

As a graduate of the School for the Blind I am convinced that no institution in the Maritime Provinces deserves the co-operation of the public and assistance of the Government more than the Halifax School for the Blind. This Institution has sent out scores of graduates as well fitted for earning success-

ful and independent livelihoods as the graduates of any of our colleges. I can testify to the practical education received at the Halifax School for the Blind, and since graduating have taught music successfully to scores of people with sight, many of whom are now teaching music on their own account.

Your work deserves support, and I have no doubt will receive it. I trust that your efforts to secure a building fund may be crowned with success.

With best wishes, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

FRANK R. MACLEAN.

Bridgewater, Feb. 24, 1896.

Mr. Fraser. Dear Sir :

Having heard that you are desirous of enlarging the Institution for the Blind, in order to meet the growing demand for the admission of pupils, I would voice my deep interest in your effort to help people thus handicapped to secure an education, knowing well the benefits to be derived from the same. As one of its former pupils, I can say that but for the knowledge gained then, I would have been dependent on my friends, whereas I am now able to earn my own living.

Hoping you may be placed in a position to carry out your plans,

I remain, yours respectfully,

R. S. WHITMAN.

Middle Musquodoboit, N. S.,

Feb. 27th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

It affords me great pleasure in writing these few lines to you, to express my gratitude for the great benefits and advantages I enjoy through the education which I received at the School for the Blind at Halifax. This education has enabled me to get a foothold with the rest of humanity and press along in the march of the battle of life courageously and with no surrender. So far I have had enough and to spare, and am trusting the Hand which has guided me from my youth up. I have no reason to complain of my lot in life, having a comfortable home and a happy family. My years go by as pleasantly as the heart could wish.

Wishing you every success in the erection of the new wing to the School, I am,

Faithfully yours,

H. H. TAYLOR.

St. John, N. B., Feb. 24th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

I hear that you intend enlarging your building to accommodate those who are applying for admission. I am glad that the people of the Maritime Provinces are so alive to the necessity and practicability of having their children who have lost their sight educated.

The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

My being a graduate of the tuning department of the School enables me to speak from experience of the great good I received in the Institution. I am practising my profession in this city with good success.

I have been asked if the pupils are well cared for in the School, and if they would like it when they got there, and my reply was—"Send them for one term, and I guarantee you will not be able to keep them home after that." I have also been asked if it was a Sectarian School, and I answered, "no," for Priests and Ministers and all religious teachers are welcome to go there and look after the instruction of any who may be there belonging to their particular church.

Hoping that the public will heartily respond to your requests for help in paying for the building,
I am, your true friend and pupil,

W. M. SMITH.

Maitland, Hants Co, Feb. 14th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

It gives me great pleasure to learn that you purpose enlarging your School building, and so be able to accommodate a larger number of those who, without the advantage of the splendid training given in the Institution, would be left to a miserable existence of hopeless dependence.

Notwithstanding the overdone condition of the musical profession in the Province, I have been able ever since my graduation to be entirely self-supporting and have won many friends for the School.

I can never say too much for the thoroughness of the training I received in the Institution. I have been enabled because of it to lead a happy and I hope a useful life.

With best wishes for the success of the School,
I remain yours sincerely,

JENETTE C. MACNEIL.

Upper Water St., Halifax, N. S.,

Feb. 24th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

Since graduating from the School eleven years ago, I have been carrying on business as a grocer and manufacturer of temperance drinks. I have a wife and three children, and have found no trouble in maintaining them comfortably. I fully appreciate what the School did for me and is doing for others, and I hope that your proposed new wing will be put up this summer.

Yours faithfully,

WM. MALONE.

Antigonish, N. S., Feb. 20, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

It is with the fondest recollections I look back to the happy days I spent in the School for the Blind. Every moment was both pleasant and profitable.

While there, as you know, I attained thorough knowledge of the cabinet organ. It, however, has not been necessary for me to earn my living, and I have since resided at my home. My training in Halifax has been the means of opening up to me new life.

I am very sorry to know that the building is now over-crowded, and that you are not able to receive new applicants into the School. Many lonely blind ones are from this reason kept the prisoners of darkness longer than is necessary.

I earnestly trust that an appeal to the public, placing the situation before them, will speedily remedy the present state of affairs.

Yours very sincerely,

JANE GILLIS.

Marinette, Wis., U.S.A., Feb. 18th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

I am very pleased to hear of the rapid increase in the number of pupils of the School, as it shows that the dear old Institution is being more and more appreciated.

I follow my profession as a teacher of music, and, despite the foreign population, I hold my ground well. I have classes of music pupils in both Marinette and Menomonie, and my time is fully taken up.

I am glad to hear that an additional building is about to be erected, and knowing how necessary it is, I trust that you will succeed in raising all the money required to pay for it.

Yours sincerely,

J. CLIFFORD WILLISTON.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 21st, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

As the first graduate of the School from P. E. Island, I would like to say that I owe all I am to the training that I received in the Institution. Ever since I graduated in June, 1890, I have been employed as piano forte tuner by the W. H. Johnson Co., Ltd., and the head of the Company has frequently expressed by word and deed his appreciation of my work. I am supporting myself, wife and family, and managing to do so fairly well. I hope the dear old School will be the means of placing many of the blind persons upon the same happy, independent footing as it has placed me, and I wish you good luck in your present undertaking.

Yours faithfully,

MONTAGUE WARREN.

Scott's Bay, King's Co., N. S., Feb. 27, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

I feel that the School has done more for me than I can ever possibly repay. My work with the adult blind in their homes delights my heart, and I feel

The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

thankful that you selected and fitted me for this work. I have visited the homes of over twenty blind men and women in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, have taught them to read and write, and given them courage to take a fresh start in the world. I am so glad to be able to live such a happy, useful life, and I thank God for the advantages of an education in the School for the Blind, and trust that every blind boy and girl in the Provinces may enjoy the same advantages.

With best wishes,
I remain, yours sincerely,

UNA LEGGIE.

Milton, Queen's Co, Feb. 19, 1896.

C. F. Fraser. Dear Sir:

In answer to yours of the 12th, I can state that had it not been for the training which I received from the School of which you are the Principal, my present position would probably be extremely deplorable, as my parents were only in ordinary circumstances, and could not have given me a chance to obtain an education such as I received at your school. For these opportunities I have to thank God in his Providence for creating the sentiment in the hearts of such noble men as Wm. Murdoch, Bishop Binney, J. S. MacLean, and a number of others, to mercifully look upon the condition of such as myself and others.

I am at present making an independent livelihood in my profession of music-teaching.

I trust you will meet with the success your object deserves, so as to further benefit those who are deprived of sight.

Yours very sincerely,
S. D. MERRILY.

Musquodoboit, Halifax, N. S.,
Feb. 15, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

It gives me much pleasure to testify to the good I received while at the School for the Blind. My condition on entering the School was somewhat pitiable, being in many respects helpless, especially to do anything to earn a dollar. Is it any wonder that I about concluded that the rest of my life must remain a blank. But thanks be to kind Providence and the School, the scene changed. Through the Christian and educative influence of the School, I, like many others, was soon taught that it is not necessary to have sight in order to be happy and useful.

Although my stay at the School was short, I can truthfully say that it fitted me for my present business, general merchant, in which I have been successful for nearly ten years.

Wishing this Institution, which is one of the best in the world, every success,

I am, yours truly,
ANSLEY B. SHAW.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 21st, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

My experience since leaving the Institution has been quite varied. I have been engaged in teaching music; in buying, selling and tuning pianos; in light electrical work, and in fact in any way that I could turn a dollar honestly. My last undertaking was the building of a double house in the suburbs of the city, which I expect will be a good paying investment. I am still young, and I hope by hard work and untiring industry to win a good living for myself, and to do credit to the School, of which I am proud to be a graduate. I sincerely hope that you will obtain many liberal subscriptions towards your building fund, so that other blind persons may enjoy the privileges of an education.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN J. HARRIVEL.

Curryville, Albert Co., N. B.,
Feb. 19th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

I was admitted to the School in 1889, and for four years enjoyed the excellent educational advantages so kindly provided for those who are deprived of sight. I can find no language to express the benefits that I received while in the Institution. It is a source of unending pleasure to me that my mind has been trained to think upon and enjoy such matters as are of general public interest. I am prevented by home duties from engaging in active teaching, but I find time to copy many books for the circulating library for the Blind, and am living a happy, useful life.

Yours sincerely,
KATE McLAUGHLIN.

Belleville, Yarmouth Co., N. S.,
Feb. 27, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser:

For several years I have been deprived of sight. I was unable to do any work and was entirely discouraged, when I was advised by friends to attend the School for the Blind at Halifax. I attended school three years and graduated as a willow basket-maker in June, 1895. I am now as able to earn my living as any young man in our village.

People buy my work, not because I am blind, but because I do my work well. I therefore advise every parent who has blind children to send them to your school.

I cannot recommend the School too highly, as it not only gives a blind man a trade, but also a thorough education.

Yours sincerely,
SYLVAIN LEFAVE.

The Blind of the Maritime Provinces.

Truro, N. S., Feb. 25th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

As a former pupil of the school and a graduate of the tuning department, I am delighted to have this opportunity of expressing my heartfelt gratitude for the education which I received in the School for the Blind.

When I resided in Advocate Harbor, I had no hope of ever being able to do anything to earn my living, but after I entered the Institution I awakened to the fact that I might, by industry, win a home for myself. Graduating as a piano tuner in 1892, I settled in Truro, and have managed to twist a very good living out of the world ever since, and each year my circumstances are improving.

I know well the need of additional room, and hope that it will be secured without delay.

With kind regards, believe me,
Yours sincerely,

JOHN R. DUNN.

Halifax, Feb. 27th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

Thanks to the training which I received in the School for the Blind I can spell bread and butter, and also make it for myself. For the past few years I have been acting as assistant to my father, who has charge of the North End Mission of this city. The work is most congenial to me, and as I can make myself useful in taking part in or conducting meetings, and in overseeing the labor in the sheds, I find my time very fully occupied, and have no reason to regard my loss of sight as a great misfortune. If any word of mine could convince the public that the Institution is doing a noble work for those who are deprived of sight I will gladly write it, but I feel that the reputation of the School is so wide-spread, and the successful character of its work so obvious, that a special appeal on my part is quite unnecessary.

It should be a pleasure to those who have the means to help you in extending the Institution, and I have no doubt that many persons will be found both willing and ready to help forward the work of educating the blind.

Nothing succeeds like success, and the success of the School is of many years standing.

With best wishes, believe me,
Sincerely yours,

GEORGE WESLEY THEAKSTON.

Ship Harbour Lake, Halifax Co., N. S.

Feb. 19th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

I am pleased that there are so many applications for the admission of pupils coming in, and I hope that you will succeed in raising enough money to pay for the new extension. I appreciate the training I received at the School, and I have with God's blessing turned it to good advantage. I teach music and make fancy work, and get along very comfortably.

Yours sincerely,

MAGGIE NEWCOMBE.

Sussex, N. B., Feb. 24th, 1896.

Dear Mr. Fraser :

In answer to your letter, I beg to say that had it not been for the education I received in the School for the Blind I would be quite unable to make a living for myself; but now I feel that I can make my way in the world, and not have to be dependent upon my friends. I find that my work as a pianoforte tuner gives entire satisfaction to those who employ me, and I feel confident of continued success. Trusting that your new building will be paid for during the coming year, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

FRED. CAMPBELL.

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND,

HALIFAX, N. S.

INCORPORATED 1867.

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Pupils are admitted into the School between the ages of six and twenty-one years. Clergymen, Physicians, Teachers and all interested in the education of the blind, are requested to send to the Superintendent the names and ages of all blind children in their respective townships and localities.

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