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PRIN

THE
TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT
OF THE STATE OF THE
MADRAS SCHOOL,
INCORPORATED BY THE NAME OF
THE GOVERNOR AND TRUSTEES
OF THE
MADRAS SCHOOL
IN
NEW-BRUNSWICK.

MADE AGREEABLY TO THE DIRECTIONS OF THE
CHARTER.

SAINT JOHN :
PRINTED BY HENRY CHUBB & CO., COURIER OFFICE, MARKET SQUARE.

1843.

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REPORT.

THE interests of no Public Institutions can be sustained with equal success, at every part of their history. Let the regulations by which they are governed be as excellent as they may, so much must still depend upon the instruments through whom these are to be carried into effect, that it is impossible, by any care or vigilance that can be exercised, in the controul of them, to ensure, at all times, the maximum of their utility. This observation applies with peculiar force to the case of Institutions formed for the purposes of Education. However benevolent the ends they contemplate, or admirable the system they adopt, their prosperity must, after all, be greatly dependent upon the character and qualifications, the energy and diligence of the Agents whose office it is to carry out their designs.

The Committee entrusted with the charge of preparing, for the information of the public, a General Report of the Madras Schools in the Province, have the satisfaction of feeling, that a faithful account of their present condition will present them, in the majority of cases, in an improving aspect, and, as entitled, beyond the experience of former periods, to the support they have hitherto enjoyed.

This is no doubt the case in regard to the Central school at Saint John, which has evinced, during the present year, a very decided improvement, under the able superintendence of Mr. Nisbett, who was appointed to it a twelve-month since.—During the latter part of the previous year, the order and discipline of this department of the Central School, which, up to that period, had been well sustained by the late Master, rapidly declined, and when the care of it was transferred to his successor, in November last, it was found in a bad condition. To restore the discipline and elevate the character of the school, it was thought necessary, in a measure, to remodel it, by re-arranging the classes, changing the Teachers, and by the Master's giving his personal attendance to the details of teaching.

To the discharge of these duties Mr. Nisbett appears to have applied himself with unremitting assiduity. The several branches of instruction comprised under the Madras system, have been minutely attended to. The Holy Scriptures are statedly read; the History of England, also, with questions upon it. In class No. 1, the tables of Arithmetic have been carefully learned. Instruction has been given to it, individually and collectively, in Reduction, the Rule of Three, Prac-

tice, and, where the scholars were sufficiently advanced, in Fractions and Book-keeping. English Grammar, also, and Geography have been studied, and the class appears to have acquired a respectable acquaintance with both these branches. In the other departments of the School, by the appointment of efficient Teachers, and a close attention to the several Classes, a beneficial change has been effected. The general amelioration of the School was apparent to the Trustees at the Midsummer Examination. The parents of the children also appear to be sensible of their improvement; and a very considerable accession has, in consequence, been made to the numbers in daily attendance. By referring to the Report of 1842, it is found that the average attendance in the Male School during the Spring of that year was 161; that on the day of Examination, 163 were present, but in October, when the School was relinquished by the late Master, it was reduced to 116. During the Fall of the present year, although the population of the City is less than formerly, the average attendance has been 180, and when weather and other circumstances have been favourable there have been 190, or even 200, present. The School has been attended in the course of the year by above 300 boys, and there remain at present on the Register, 230.—Five persons have also received instruction in Dr. Bell's system, with a view to their becoming Teachers. Mr. and Mrs. Middlemore, the persons last instructed, are now conducting the Madras School in the adjoining Parish of Portland.

In the Female Department of the Central School, no very material change has taken place. By reference to the Registers, it appears that the number on the Books in the month of June was 200, being 15 more than at that time twelvemonth. At the Examination in 1842, a very considerable improvement, both in the order and progress of the children was apparent, and the same appeared at the Examination in the present year.

It is only necessary to add, that in the two departments of the Central School, there are at present 385 scholars; and that during the year, more than 500 children, of both sexes, have been instructed in them, a large proportion of whom would inevitably have been left to wander in ignorance and vice, but for the important advantage afforded them by this benevolent Institution.

From the School at Fredericton, a Report has been received, which states that the School is arranged in five classes; that the first class contains 11 scholars, who are reading the Sacred Scriptures in order, receiving instruction in the various Rules of Arithmetic, from Reduction to Vulgar Fractions, and occasionally in the outline of Grammar and Geography; that the second Class, which has 23 scholars, are reading Ostervald's Abridgement of the Bible, and, in Arithmetic, are studying Long Division and Compound Addition; and the other three Classes, containing respectively, 17, 22, and 16 scholars, are

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occupied with the other Elementary parts of the National System. The Master observes, that—"the attendance through the Winter has been generally good, and the average attendance since the commencement of Spring, has been about 53, some of the larger boys having discontinued during the planting season." The total number belonging to this School is 89.

In reference to the School at Carleton, the Rev. F. Coster, Rector of that Parish, observes—"In making my Annual Report to the Madras Board, of the state of the Carleton School, I have much pleasure in stating that the numbers in regular attendance are as follows, viz: Boys, 63, Girls, 76—total, 139. I beg leave to add, that I have lately inspected the Schools, and carefully examined the different Classes in both of them; and was very glad to find them in a satisfactory condition. In Mrs. Hammer's School, the reading was excellent, as it always has been. In Mr. Card's, I found the boys more than commonly ready in English Grammar, and the higher rules of Arithmetic."

From *Saint Andrews*, the Rev. Dr. Alley writes as follows:—"For the information of the Governor and Trustees of the Madras School of New-Brunswick, I have the pleasure of reporting the continued satisfactory state of the School in this Town. The numbers, it is true, have decreased, owing to the establishment of a Roman-Catholic School, and the number of others, both male and female. Ours, however, can reckon a fair proportion of numbers:—40 male, 20 female. The Books used in our School, are the English Grammar and Reader, with English History, in addition to the elementary books of the National School, as far as we have them."

The Rev. Mr. Bacon, Rector of Chatham, has forwarded a Report of the School in his Parish; from which it appears that the number in daily attendance is:—of boys, 46; of girls, 25—total, 71. In adverting to the state of this School, in which no material alteration has taken place since last year, Mr. Bacon remarks:—"The fact that the present School House is much too small to admit of the Madras system being conducted with the same advantage, as it certainly would under a more spacious roof, and moreover of receiving as many children, especially among the poorer classes, who are constantly applying for admission—is a circumstance deeply to be deplored, and it is ardently to be wished that this evil should be remedied, either by the enlargement of the present building, or, what would be still more desirable, an exchange of the present property, for another more suitable establishment. In reference to the Teacher, Mr. Smith, I have, in all my former reports, spoken so highly of his zeal and ability, as a Teacher, that it would be quite superfluous to say more than that he continues to take the same lively interest in the prosperity of the School he has ever done, and is equally zealous in his exertions to instruct those children under his care and superintendence."

From the Rev. Mr. Harrison, Rector of Portland, the Board have received a communication, informing them that the Standing Committee "have engaged Mr. and Mrs. Middlemore to teach the Madras School in that Parish; they having produced the most satisfactory testimonials of their knowledge of Dr. Bell's system of instruction, and also of religious and moral character."

This School, in consequence of the removal of the former Master, Mr. John Mills, in April last, remained some months without a Teacher; but since the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Middlemore, on the 25th September, has been in "a prosperous state," and "there is reason to hope that the present Teachers will give every satisfaction." The total number that have entered this School since its commencement is 224, and the numbers at present in attendance, are 73 Boys, and 74 Girls—in all, 147.

The Rev. Dr. Jarvis, Rector of Shediak has forwarded a Report of the School in his Parish. He writes as follows:—"In pursuance of the regulations of the Board, I transmit the following Report of the Madras School of this place, for the past year. The examination was held by myself and one of the Church-Wardens, on Monday last, and the proficiency of the pupils was highly satisfactory. As the School did not come into operation so soon as was expected, a second female School was opened in the village, and as this is still in existence, the attendance at the National School is small to what it otherwise would be. It is, however, by far, the best attended School in the village. The School was established June 3d, 1842. 41 children have entered the school in the last twelve months. Daily average attendance through the whole year only 23½; of which 17 were Boys. This was owing to the severity of the winter, and in summer, to the frequent interruptions occasioned by the boys being frequently withdrawn to attend to agricultural labours."

From the above statements it appears, that the number of Children at present receiving instruction in the Madras system, in the different Schools throughout the Province, is as follows: Central School, 385; Fredericton, 89; Carleton, 139; Saint Andrews, 60; Chatham, 71; Portland, 147; Shediak, 23—in all, 914. There is also, at present, a School at Gagetown, which has so lately been brought into operation that no report has been rendered; but there is every reason to anticipate that it will prove a highly flourishing and useful one. Thus it is apparent that nearly 1000 Children, in different parts of the Province, are deriving, through the influence of this Institution, the benefits of education, in those essential branches which are necessary for their personal comfort and general usefulness in society—an education founded upon the soundest principles, promotive in an eminent degree of their social, moral, and religious welfare, and, by the very mode of its conveyance, admirably adapted to the formation of habits of order and

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application, as well as to call into vigorous exercise the several powers of the human mind. Were this the entire amount of usefulness contemplated by this Institution, its claims upon public favour and support would be great; but as the main object it pursues is the extension from year to year of these blessings, to other places, by the formation of new Schools, wherever they can be formed with advantage, it would be difficult to estimate its claims too highly, or to form any adequate idea of the advantages it must confer, if duly upheld, upon succeeding generations. Let it be remembered, also, that it confers these blessings especially upon that class of persons who cannot from any other source command them; that it extends the benefits of education, free from expense, to those who must otherwise grow up in ignorance, and through this grand deficiency, prove impediments instead of auxiliaries to the happiness and prosperity of society. Let these things be fairly weighed, and it must be admitted that this Institution has every claim to be vigorously and permanently sustained.

The following scale of Salaries for the year ending 30th June, 1844, has been submitted and approved by the Board:—

SAINT JOHN.....	Master of the Central School,	£100
	Mistress of ditto,	70
FREDERICTON.....	Master,	70
CARLETON.....	Master,	50
	Mistress,	15
ST. ANDREWS.....	Master and Mistress,	65
CHATHAM.....	Master,	30
PORTLAND.....	Master and Mistress,	75
SHEDIAC.....	Master,	35

I. W. D. GRAY, }
 J. V. THURGAR, } Committee.
 S. HALLETT, }

The Governor and Trustees of the Madras School in New-Brunswick in Account with their Treasurer, 5th July, 1843.

—DR.—

Cash paid—

SAINT JOHN.—CENTRAL SCHOOL.		
William McDougall, to 4th Nov.		£60 0 0
Rev. W. Nisbett, to 16th May,		50 0 0
Mrs. Starkie, to 11th June,		87 10 0
<i>Incidentals, Repairs, Prizes, &c.:</i>		
Johnston Sullivan, Carpenter,	£1 19 10	
W. McDougall, 23s. Rev. W. Nisbett, 12s. 6d.	1 15 6	
Mrs. Starkie, 22s. 6d. A. Fraser & Co. Pens, £6 15 7—7 18 1		
Sawing Wood,	1 4 0	
Samuel Hallett, Esq.	28 9 10½	
		41 7 3½

Carried forward, 233 17 3½

Brought forward, £238 17 3½

CARLETON.		
Rev. W. Nisbett, to November,	15 0 0	
Henry Card, June 30,	30 0 0	
Mrs. Hammer, March 31,	11 5 0	
Special Grant for repairs of School-house,	5 0 0	
	<hr/>	61 5 0
PORTLAND.		
John Mills, to 3d May, Master and Mistress,		75 0 0
FREDERICTON.		
J. R. Roberts, to 10th April,	70 0 0	
Mrs. G. Smith, 31st Dec.	22 10 0	
	<hr/>	92 10 0
CHATHAM.		
John Smith, to 31st Dec.		25 0 0
SAINT ANDREWS.		
Special Grant,		10 5 0
SHEDIAC.		
A. B. Tayte, 3d January,	17 10 0	
Special Grant towards fitting up School-house,	16 0 0	
	<hr/>	33 10 0
GENERAL ACCOUNT.		
Thomas Hutchings, books,	2 0 0	
John Duan, Tin Case for Clerk,	1 8 0	
Clerk for Special Sessions,	25 0 0	
Clerk, to 20th June,	10 0 0	35 0 0
Treasurer to May,		10 0 0
Postages,		3 4½
	<hr/>	48 11 4½
Balance in hand—Land Account to Shediac,	55 10 0	
Ditto Hampton,	20 0 0	
General Account,	82 7 10	
	<hr/>	160 17 10
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		£745 16 6

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Cash received—

Balance in hand by last Account— }	58 10 0	
Land Account, Shediac, }		
Do. Hampton,	20 0 0	
Do. Balance of Interest, Shediac,	18 13 10	
	<hr/>	97 3 10
General Account,	54 6 4	
	<hr/>	151 10 2

LAND ACCOUNT.

Robert F. Hazen, one year's interest on Loan, to 23d July, 1842,	24 16 4
Legislative Grant, 1842,	500 0 0

RENTS.

Mrs. Starkie, House, St. John,	32 10 0
R. Robinson, two year's Lancaster Lot,	20 0 0
John Cook, one do. Carleton,	11 0 0
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	63 10 0
Hon. Chief Justice Chipman's Donation for Prizes,	6 0 0
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	£745 16 6

Balance in hand per other side, £160 17 10

E. E.

ROBERT F. HAZEN, TREASURER.

4th July, 1843.

Sworn to at the Madras Board, the fourth day of }
July, A. D. 1843, before me, }

WARD CHIPMAN, C. J.

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