

facts and dates taught in our schools as "universal history." Intimately connected from the earliest times with the history of his own country, the English student must ever regard France as a rich field for enquiry. "It is unnecessary," we are told in the preface, "to point out the importance of a knowledge of French history to every one who aspires to a liberal education; but it may not be amiss to remind the reader that the true meaning and effect of the drama of the Revolution, of which we have not yet seen the catastrophe, can be understood only by a far deeper study of the previous condition and history of France than most of our countrymen are disposed to undertake. With respect to the execution of the work, it has been the aim of the author to present a perspicuous view of the events of French history, from the very commencement of the nation down to the present time, avoiding as far as possible the dryness of an epitome, and presenting something more than a chronicle of mere facts and dates. An attempt has been made to draw the portraiture of every important historical character, and to include in a rapid and condensed narrative all the chief transactions, whether political, military, or ecclesiastical, which have marked the varying fortunes of the nation.... In conclusion it may be observed, that it has been the earnest endeavor of the author to avoid the capital error of writing the History of France from an English point of view, a course which can not fail to convey an unjust conception of the institutions, government, habits, and character of the people. What is needed is an impartial, genial, and even sympathetic account of French history."

The book is written with considerable ability, and bears evidence of much research. The language is clear, forcible and flowing; and the order of arrangement simple and perspicuous. With regard to the execution of the *physical* portion of the work, it is enough to say that the Messrs. Harpers are the publishers.

DANA'S MANUAL OF GEOLOGY.—In no part of the world has the science of geology been more successfully cultivated than in North America. But the results that have been arrived at, are scattered through a multitude of reports of the different surveys, and papers of greater or less length in the scientific journals. Up to the present time he who has endeavored to get a clear idea of the geology of the whole North American continent has found it necessary to devote more time and means to the object, than most students can well afford. In the important work, just issued by Professor Dana, this great difficulty is removed. We have now in one compact and beautifully illustrated book, not only a comprehensive and well-balanced account of the elementary principles of the science, but also the general results of what has been ascertained of the geology of this continent, down to the present moment. We have not, just now, leisure to give a full review of this excellent publication, and must therefore content ourselves with a mere glance at its contents. Prof. Dana has divided his subject into four parts, as follows:—

1. **PHYSIOGRAPHIC GEOLOGY.**—In this part of the work, are described the forms of the earth's surface, as exhibited in the distribution of the land and water; the directions of certain physiographic lines, in conformity with which the boundaries of the continents, the ranges of islands and chains of mountains are arranged; the system in the reliefs or surface-forms of the continental lands; the system of oceanic and atmospheric currents and the general laws of the distribution of forests, prairies and deserts. All these phenomena are within the domain of physical geography, but they can never be well understood unless investigated through geology, as their origin dates far back in time.

2. **LITHOLOGICAL GEOLOGY.**—Relating to the composition and different kinds of rocks.

3. **HISTORICAL GEOLOGY.**—Under this title is discussed the main portion of the subject; the description in their order, of all the formations from the most ancient up to the most recent. Here we have, for the first time, the science of geology elucidated by special reference to the series of American rocks; thus removing the great difficulty we have pointed out in the first lines of this notice. Full details of all the deposits, their lithological composition, their characteristic organic remains and geographical distribution are given. There appear to be about 700 figures of fossils, nearly all of which were drawn on wood by Mr F. B. Meek, an accomplished artist, and one of the best palæontologists of the continent. Most of the species figured are American, and several of them are from the Decades of the Canadian Survey, representing peculiar forms only possessed by the Provincial Collection of Canada. It is not uncommon to find works on general geology illustrated by figures, which, for all natural-history purposes, are perfectly worthless. This must happen when neither the artist nor the author is

a naturalist. In the book before us, the illustrations are first-class, for the reason that all the parties engaged in their production, perfectly understood how to prepare them.

4. **DYNAMICAL GEOLOGY.**—This division treats of the causes of events in the earth's geological progress. "These events include the formation of all rocks, stratified, with whatever they contain, from the earliest Azoic to the modern beds of gravel, sand, clays, and lavas; the oscillations of the earth's crust; the increase of dry land, elevation of mountains, and elimination of the surface features of the globe; the changes of climate; the changes of life."

The work concludes with an appendix and a copious index. Geology is a science of such vast extent, and so largely composed of all others that few men possess the almost universal knowledge required to produce a good manual of its elementary principles. The author of this work being a profound geologist, mineralogist, zoologist, and physicist, is one of the best qualified for the task. His book is a great one, and its publication will mark the commencement of a new era in the progress of the science. In conclusion we would strongly recommend it to the Canadian student. With the General Report on the Geology of Canada, soon to be published by Sir W. E. Logan, the Decades of the Survey, and Dana's Manual, he can enter the field unimpeded by the crowd of difficulties to which observers in this province, have heretofore found themselves opposed at the very outset.—*Canadian Nat. & Geologist.*

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—At the Annual Meeting of the Colleges constituting the Queen's University in Ireland, the Lord Chancellor, who is Vice-Chancellor of the University, stated that 116 members had passed their academic examinations during the year—a larger number than in any previous year—and that of the 745 students in attendance during the last session, 203 were members of the Established Church, 200 Roman Catholics, 247 Presbyterians, and 95 members of various other religious denominations. The number of annual entrances had increased from 196 in the session of 1858-59 to 312 in the last session—a number almost identical with those who had entered the ancient University of Trinity College.—*Educational Times*

—The Hon. Mr. Galt, late Inspector general and M. P. P. for the town of Sherbrooke, has made a donation of \$400 to St. Francis College, Richmond, towards the establishment of scholarships.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—The Hon. T. D. McGee lectured recently before the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec on *Champlain the Founder of Quebec*.

The remarks of the learned gentleman were listened to with deep attention, as the subject has been invested with more than usual interest by the discovery of a long lost manuscript that had belonged to the celebrated voyager. This document has been published by the Hackluyt Society of London and a copy is now added to the unbroken series of that society's publications in the possession of the Department of Education in Montreal. The lecture of Mr. McGee, from which we extract the following, will well repay perusal.

"The English Association to whom we are indebted for the publication of this MS, in their annual volume for 1859, is one particularly beneficial to students of early American discovery and adventure—established in 1846, it has repeatedly devoted its funds and the talents of its members, to the editing of those rare old tracts, or recently recovered MSS. which bear upon the Atlantic voyages and American explorations of the XVI. and XVII. centuries. It bears appropriately the name of that Richard Hackluyt, Pretendary of Bristol, in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I., who was the most enthusiastic and laborious, as he was the earliest collector of voyages and travels in the English language. It seems something more than a coincidence—the natural result of Commercial causes—that Hackluyt should have been officially connected with Bristol, which held in those days to other British ports, for enterprise and wealth, a corresponding place to that occupied by Liverpool in our times.

"The Hackluyt volume for 1859, is translated from the French original of Champlain, by Miss Alice Wilmer, who is also the writer of the exceedingly full and interesting biographical introduction. It is edited with great care by Dr. Norton Shaw, a member of the Council of the Society.

"Miss Wilmer in her introduction acknowledges the Society's obligations to Mr. Feret, Librarian of the Public Library of Dieppe, from whom the original MS. was obtained. The story of its recovery after so long an interval is thus told:—