

the latter. Of the total number of 936 persons thus being educated in connection with the University, 203 are not resident in Montreal, but are students from various other parts of British America or from the United States. These statistics, in connection with the high standard of study in all departments of the University, afford most satisfactory evidence of its success as an educational institution, and should encourage its friends and stimulate them to still greater exertions on its behalf. Great though the present number of students is, there is room for a large increase, more especially in the Faculty of Arts, and there is nothing except the want of additional endowments and of a more extended desire for liberal education, to prevent an advance in the future as great as that which has characterized its history in the past. — *Montreal Gazette*.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

— In the year 1862, a few gentlemen of this city formed a Numismatic Society, and have by their transactions given an impetus to the study of that important science, the knowledge of which is indispensable to Archaeology, and to a thorough acquaintance with the Fine Arts. At the January meeting of the Society the name was changed to "The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal," its object now being the promotion of numismatic science and antiquarian research, by bringing together gentlemen who take an interest in these studies, and by forming a library and museum. At the February meeting the president, Stanley C. Bagg, Esq., F. N. S., London, read a paper on Tadoussac. It was at Tadoussac that Jacques Cartier, the discoverer of the St. Lawrence and Saguenay rivers, is said to have first landed on Canadian soil; there the French erected the first dwelling built of stone and mortar in Canada, the remains of which are still to be seen; and there the old church of the Holy Cross, itself a relic of antiquity, occupies the place where stood the first sacred edifice erected in Canada. The Jesuits' Garden and the Hudson Bay House, also contribute to the interest of the place, and stillness full of the past reigns around. Mr. Bagg referred to his visits to this primitive settlement. He named a cavern in the vicinity, "The Hunter's Cave," and an elevated plateau "Jacques Cartier Terrace." He spoke of the excellent hotel, pure air, good bathing, fishing, and boating, ancient buildings and interesting ruins, and recommended those present to visit this, the cradle of Canadian civilization during the ensuing summer. Mr. Bagg received a vote of thanks for his interesting paper. Mr. Bronsdon, F. N. S., presented to the Society a war-club from the Sandwich Islands, and an Indian stone chisel from Plantagenet. Mr. McLaughlin presented a coin of George III. Other donations were received. Several gentlemen were elected ordinary members, and Mr. A. N. Rennie was elected an honorary member. — *Montreal Transcript*.

— At the Royal Geographical Society, Mr. Du Chaillu read an account of his unsuccessful attempt to penetrate into the interior of Equatorial Africa. The paper described a journey nearly due east from the coast line, in 1° south latitude, to about 300 miles in the interior, across numerous parallel ranges of mountains. The author described his progress as being impeded by the occurrence of small-pox amongst the native tribes, and stated that he encountered a race of pigmies, four feet four inches to four feet five inches in height, and that they were of a particularly hairy appearance. His further advance was checked, according to his own account, by the accidental discharge of a gun by one of his party. This caused the death of two persons, when his followers were seized with a panic, threw down their arms, and fled. They subsequently, however, maintained a fight from nine a. m. till five p. m., but with what arms did not appear—and eventually regained the coast. After the conclusion of the paper, a discussion followed, in which Mr. Crawford stated that he did not believe in the existence of an unknown race of pigmies near the coast. Mr. Du Chaillu made a short reply, and ten days subsequently wrote a letter to the *Times*, stating that the men did exist, and were characterized by remarkably short hair. The statements of the writer do not seem likely to attract much attention amongst the scientific public beyond the limits of the Royal Geographical Society. — *Intellectual Observer*.

— In Dr. Livingstone's *Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambesi*, he speaks of a caution given by the natives against a plant which excites fever, and he adds, "Dr. Kirk discovered it to be the *Pudrina fanda*, which, when smelt, actually does give headache and fever. It has a nasty fetor, as its name indicates." The quantity of matter thus producing disease must be wonderfully small. — *Ibid*.

— M. Delaunay has in *Comptes Rendus*, No 24, 1865, an elaborate paper on the newly recognised force disturbing the moon. His conclusion is that the "perturbing forces to which are due the periodical oscillations" of the surface of the sea (the tides) in "exerting a heaping-up effect in the water, determine a progressive retardation in terrestrial rotation, and produce also an apparent sensible acceleration in the mean movement of the moon." — *Ibid*.

— M. Felix Plateau has made fresh experiments on the muscular force exerted by insects. By attaching a wire to the legs of insects he ascertains the weight they draw on a given surface, and finds that a beetle, *Donacia nymphaea*, can pull 42.7 of its own weight. If a horse were equally powerful he would be able to draw 25,000 kilogrammes, or more than double that number of pounds. — *Ibid*.

NECROLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE.

— The brief announcement in our last number of the death of Sir William Hooker will have been perused with feelings of regret by all our readers, and by a very large circle with the deepest personal sorrow. During his long career he had succeeded in attaching to himself the affectionate regard of a long series of friends, pupils and correspondents, and there is no corner of the earth where his loss will not be mourned with heartfelt grief, by some one to whom his uniform kindness lent a helping hand. For more than fifty years he has occupied a distinguished place as a man of science; and throughout that long period, first as a successful teacher, and later as the head of our great national establishment, with the rise and progress of which he is identified, he has been conspicuous for his singleness of purpose, his forgetfulness of self, his zeal in the discharge of his duties, his sagacity in forming plans, and the success with which he carried them out. The death of such a man is no common loss to the world, and we have therefore spared no pains in getting together authentic particulars of his life.

Sir W. J. Hooker was born in 1785; his father, who was in business at Norwich, being a man who devoted all his leisure to reading, especially travels and German literature, and to the cultivation of curious plants, by which, doubtless, was laid the foundation of that love of Natural History for which his son was so distinguished. Sir William's education was received at the High School of Norwich. Having at an early age inherited an ample competency from his godfather, William Jackson, Esq., he formed the design of devoting his life to travelling and natural history. Ornithology and entomology first attracted his attention; but, being happily the discoverer of a rare moss, which he took to Sir J. E. Smith, he received from that eminent botanist the bias which determined his future career. Henceforth, botany was his sole aim; and with the view of collecting plants, he made expeditions to Scotland and its islands, France, Switzerland and Iceland, and made extensive preparations for a prolonged exploration of Ceylon, which plan was, however, frustrated by the disturbances which broke out in that island.

During this period, 1806—14, he formed the acquaintance of all the principal scientific men in England and on the Continent, and commenced that intercourse and correspondence which never ceased till the day of his death. In 1815 he married the daughter of Dawson Turner, of Yarmouth, himself well known as a good botanist, and settled at Halesworth, in Suffolk. Here was laid the foundation of his now magnificent herbarium, and here commenced a long series of valuable botanical works, which followed each other at short intervals up to the present time. An increasing family and a decreasing income induced him, in 1820, to accept the Regius Professorship of Botany in Glasgow, at which place the next twenty years of his life were passed, and where his popularity as a lecturer, his admirable method of training his students, and his genial and attractive manners, soon made his house a rendezvous for all scientific men who visited Scotland—we might almost say England. Gradually his correspondence and his herbarium alike increased, the latter receiving large contributions from his numerous pupils, who, in foreign countries, remembered with gratitude the teacher who had placed science before them in so attractive a form.

In 1836 he received the honor of knighthood from William the Fourth, in acknowledgment of his distinguished botanical career, and the services he had rendered to science, and in 1841 his connexion with Scotland terminated, and a new era of his life began with his appointment to Kew. To be Director of Kew Gardens had long been the ambition of Sir William Hooker's mind; and throughout his long residence in Glasgow he never abandoned the possibility of eventually being placed in that position. He was encouraged in these views by a nobleman well known for his distinguished patronage of literature and science, and himself a keen horticulturist and no mean botanist. We allude to the late John, Duke of Bedford, who, through the influence of his son, Lord John Russell, a statesman then rapidly rising into power, exerted a silent but most powerful influence with the Government and officers of the Queen's Household, in effecting the transference of the Gardens to the public. Sir William's appointment was indeed drawn up by Earl Russell; it gave him a salary of £300 a year, with £200 to hire dwelling-house for himself, which should be large enough to contain his library and herbarium, the latter requiring no fewer than twelve ordinary sized rooms for their accommodation. This was afterwards increased to £500 a year, with an official house in the Gardens, and accommodation for his herbarium in the residence of the late King of Hanover, where it forms the principal part of the great Herbarium of Kew. The noble Earl is fond of stating that on taking Sir William's appointment for signature to a brother Lord of the Treasury, the latter remarked, "Well, we have done a job at last!"

The history of his career as Director of the Royal Gardens is so well and so widely known, that it need not detain us long. From a garden of eleven acres, without herbarium, library, or museum, and characterized by the stinginess of its administration, under his sole management it has risen to an establishment comprising 270 acres, laid out with wonderful skill and judgment,—including an arboretum of all such trees and shrubs as will stand the open air in this country, magnificent ranges of hot-houses and conservatories, such as no three establishments on the Continent put together can rival;—three museums, each an original conception of itself,