

on 36 different days, and 1,561 reports were received as to the actual state and direction of the wind. As regards the force of the wind he was right in 882 instances, and wrong in 679—the wind, in these latter cases not exceeding a pressure of 8. In 456 instances he was wrong, and in 171, only, right with regard to the direction of the wind. We do not hear, however, that he was entirely at fault—that he ever prophesied a gale and there was no gale at any places on the coast. He appears always to have been correct within a certain area.—*London Correspondent of the Hamilton Spectator, 11th June.*

## 2. SIR ROWLAND HILL AND THE PENNY POSTAGE.

In proposing to the House of Commons that a grant of £20,000 be made to Sir Rowland Hill on his retirement, Lord Palmerston stated that in 1863, the period before which his plan came into operation, the number of letters transmitted through the post in the course of the year was 76,000,000, while in 1863 the number transmitted was 642,000,000. In 1838, the amount of money orders at the Post Office was £313,000. In 1863 it was £16,494,400. The gross receipts in 1838 were £2,346,000, while in 1863 they were £38,700,000. The net revenue of the Post Office, as stated by his lordship, was, for the year 1863, £1,793,000 after paying expenses.

## 3. LITERARY PEERS.

Macaulay was the first man elevated to the peerage in England, mainly in honor of his literary eminence; and he had been a member of Parliament, and had occupied administrative office. Besides his having no child had an influence in securing to him the honor. Recently Richard Monckton Milnes, M.P. for Pontefract, and principally known for his poems and his life of Keats, has been created Baron Houghton. The same rank was tendered to him twenty years ago by Lord Melbourne, and declined.—*Illinois Teacher.*

## 4. THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

The annual accounts of the British Museum have been laid before Parliament. The entire expenditure of last year was £95,000 (\$447,500). The total number of articles added to the library in the course of the year, including newspapers, broadsides, engravings, maps, and miscellaneous pieces, was 107,784. Of complete works, 45,020 were purchased, 10,072 acquired by copyright, and 1,129 presented. In the natural history departments above 100,000 specimens have been added in the course of the year, and Prof. Owen reports that the progress of the additions is such as fully to verify the outlay on which the requirements of space have been estimated. The additions include specimens from the African expeditions and the North American boundary expedition, and contributions of great scientific value from the Linnean and Entomological Societies. The department of zoology has been enriched by a donation from Mr. J. Bowring of above 80,000 specimens of coleopterous insects, the largest and most instructive accession to the entomological department ever presented by one individual. Very large additions have been made to the collection of fishes; among them may be mentioned a collection from the Lake of Galilee. The total number of visitors to the reading-room during the year was 107,821—of visitors to the other parts of the Museum, 440,801—in both cases a diminution from the numbers of previous years.

## 5. SPREAD OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

An English monthly, called the *Nevsky Magazine*, is now published at St. Petersburg; and the English language is much studied and used by the educated classes in Russia. The Czar is quite familiar both with the language and with its current literature, and also with British and American newspapers. A translation of Shakespeare into Bohemian will ere long appear. Probably few are aware that the English is the simplest of all European languages and the easiest to learn to read understandingly. Our spelling is most abominable, though hardly worse than the French; but our etymology and syntax are simple: hence it is easy to learn to read understandingly, but difficult to connect the pronunciation with the words.

## 6. RULES FOR READING.

Read much, but not many works. For what purpose, with what intent do we read? We read not for the sake of reading, but we read to the end that we may think. Reading is valuable only as it may supply the materials which the mind elaborates. As it is not the largest quantity of any kind of food taken into the stomach that conduces to health, but such a quantity of such a kind as can

be best digested; so it is not the greatest complement of any kind of information that improves the mind, but of such a quantity of such a kind as determines the intellect to most vigorous energy.

The only profitable kind of reading is that in which we are compelled to think, and think intensely; whereas that reading which serves only to dissipate and divert our thoughts is either positively hurtful, or useful only as an occasional relaxation from severe exertions. But the amount of vigorous thinking is usually in the inverse ratio of multifarious reading. Multifarious reading is agreeable, but as a habit it is, in its way, as destructive to the mental as dram-drinking to the bodily health.

## VI. Papers on Colonial Subjects.

### 1. JACQUES CARTIER.

BY THE HON. T. D. M'GEE.\*

In the sea-port of St. Malo, 'twas a smiling morn in May,  
When the Commodore Jacques Cartier to the westward sailed away;  
In the crowded old cathedral all the town were on their knees  
For the safe return of kinsmen from undiscovered seas;  
And every autumn blast that swept o'er pinnacle and pier  
Filled manly hearts with sorrow, and gentle hearts with fear.

A year passed o'er St. Malo—again came round the day  
When the Commodore Jacques Cartier to the westward sailed away;  
But no tidings from the absent had come the way they went,  
And tearful were the vigils that many a maiden spent;  
And manly hearts were filled with gloom, and gentle hearts with fear,  
When no tidings came from Cartier at the closing of the year.

But the earth is as the Future, it hath its hidden side,  
And the Captain of St. Malo was rejoicing in his pride  
In the forests of the North—while his townsmen mourned his loss,  
He was rearing on Mount-Royal the *fleur-de-lis* and cross;  
And when two months were over, and added to the year,  
St. Malo hailed him home again, cheer answering to cheer.

He told them of a region, hard, iron-bound, and cold,  
Nor seas of pearls abounded, nor mines of shining gold;  
Where the wind from Thule freezes the word upon the lip,  
And the ice in spring comes sailing athwart the early ship.  
He told them of the frozen scene until they thrill'd with fear,  
And piled fresh fuel on the hearth to make them better cheer.

But when he chang'd the strain—he told how soon is cast  
In early spring the fetters that hold the waters fast;  
How the winter causeway broken is drifted out to sea,  
And the rills and rivers sing with pride the anthem of the free;  
How the magic wand of summer clad the landscape to the eyes,  
Like the dry bones of the just, when they wake in Paradise.

He told them of the Algonquin braves—the hunters of the wild,  
Of how the Indian mother in the forest rocks her infant child;  
Of how, poor souls, they fancy in every living thing  
A spirit good or evil that claims their worshipping;  
Of how they brought their sick and maimed for him to breathe upon,  
And of the wonders wrought for them through the Gospel of St. John.

He told them of the river, whose mighty current gave  
Its freshness for a hundred leagues to ocean's briny wave.  
He told them of the glorious scene presented to his sight,  
What time he reared the cross and crown on Hochelaga's height,  
And of the fortress cliff that keeps of Canada the key,  
And they welcomed back Jacques Cartier from perils over sea.

### 2. CONFEDERATION OF THE PROVINCES.

The *Toronto Leader* is publishing a series of very excellent articles on the subject of the confederation of British North America. Our space forbids our reproducing them, which we would gladly do were it possible, but our readers will feel interested in the general tables which are given by our contemporary, and upon which his

\* LITERARY HONOURS TO THE HON. MR. M'GEE.—At a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, held on the 11th of April last, the Hon. Mr. McGee was unanimously elected a M.R.I.A. Next to the Royal Society, the Academy is one of the oldest and most distinguished literary and scientific bodies in the United Kingdom. The proposers of Mr. McGee were the Governor General of Canada, the Very Rev. the President of the Academy, the poets Ferguson and McCarthy, the Rev. Wm. Reeves, D.D., the distinguished hagiologist, and Messrs. Gilbert and Hardinge.