

Peter the Great, William II, Alexander I. and Alexander II. In this review, we have historical material at once instructive and amusing, the description of the various secret societies, with their generosity, pedantry, wildness and utopian dreams, being especially interesting. Mr. Grant Duff's "Plea for a Rational Education" is addressed mainly to those who can give their boys all the chances, and is a strong indictment against what is called a classical education. Mr. Grant Duff, who is one of the most enlightened men living, is not content with a destructive criticism, but formulates a system of education, which strikes us as singularly rational and well adapted to our needs here in Canada. One of the things, amongst others, insisted on is a good knowledge of at least one modern language; also a general acquaintance with the laws of health; and, that which Englishmen so greatly lack, a knowledge of geography. This is a most suggestive essay, which we recommend to our Minister of Education and the heads of universities. "Sea or Mountain?" is a discussion of the relative advantages of sea air and mountain air as restoratives to health. Their points of similarity are dwelt on, and how numerous their use is surprising—and their differences. What patients should choose sea, and what mountain regions—at what ages we should elect one or the other air—the *rationale* of the recuperative process—all this is shewn in a clear, terse, popular style, abounding in illustration and reference. The next article, "Cavour," is a painting of the great statesman with the history of Modern Italy for background. The splendid balance and patriotic ambition of Cavour are accentuated, while his herculean labours after 1851, when he began to take every department in hand, are held up to wonder—the wonder being intensified by the fact, delicately brought out, that the whole time the laborious statesman held his own against the King—a notorious free liver. "The Indian Civil Service," will well repay perusal. But the most interesting paper in the whole number is "Three Books of the Eighteenth Century," by the Editor. The three books are by Holbach, and the writer has in addition much to say of Voltaire, Rousseau, D'Alembert, Frederick the Great, &c. Only one of the three books is treated of in the present paper. We are quite sure that many of our readers will not agree with all that Mr. Morley says, but he must be pretty "weak in the faith" who cannot read the article and derive instruction and profit from it.

"I have told the story of the great fire in St. John in my own way. I have tried to do justice to my theme. Like many others, I have passed through the flames, and received as it were my first 'baptism of fire.' My book has many imperfections. It was necessary that it should be hastily prepared. My publishers demanded this, and gave me a fortnight to write it in. I can, therefore, claim nothing in favour of the book from a literary point of view, but this I can claim—the history is reliable in every particular. Not a statement within its pages was committed to paper until it was thoroughly and reliably avouched for. I have verified every word which this volume contains; and while the haste in which it was prepared precluded my paying much attention to style, the book is a complete record of the fire as it was, and not as a lively imagination might like it to be." Thus writes Mr. Stewart to-