

executive placed at its head. At the present moment there are no fewer than four distinct measures, dissimilar, and in some respects rival, in their character, under the consideration of Parliament. 1. There is the Bill of Lord John Russell, permissive in its character, allowing towns and parishes the liberty—if they think fit—to tax themselves in an amount not exceeding sixpence in the pound, or say twelve cents, for every five dollars annual value of their properties or incomes, and conferring certain privileges of support from the national funds, on complying with certain formularies, the principle of which is government inspection. It is generally feared that this measure is so tolerant in its nature as to please nobody. 2. The next is the Bill of Sir John Packington, nearly as liberal, but the conditions somewhat modified. Sir John proposes to divest his measure of the exclusive control of the Church. The Bible is to be read in the schools, certain hours to be devoted to religious instruction, but attendance during these hours not compulsory—the schools to be supported by public rates, to be under government inspection, and open to all denominations. 3. There is, thirdly, a bill in favor of the exclusive secular system, introduced by Mr. Milner Gibson. 4. The fourth bill relates exclusively to Scotland. It is proposed the control of the schools shall no longer exclusively be in the hands of the Established Church. It is to be shared by the Free Church, and other leading Christian denominations, the Bible and catechism to be used, the schools to be under government inspection, and the emoluments of the schoolmasters to be increased with retiring allowances when incapacitated by age. There is every probability of this measure, with trivial alterations, becoming a law; and there are well-grounded hopes that compromises will at last be listened to, and either the bill of Lord John Russell or Sir John Packington, or perhaps something like an amalgamation of the two, will be carried for England. The need for such measures is urgent in the extreme, for the amount of gross ignorance, the multitudes of people in this country arrived at man's and woman's estate, destitute of even the simplest elementary instruction, is absolutely appalling. No wonder at the extent and prevalence of intemperance among us.—*Correspondent of a New York paper.*

#### SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.

The bill to provide for the education of the people in Scotland, prepared and brought in by the Lord Advocate, Lord Palmerston, and Sir George Grey, contains 47 clauses. It provides for the establishment of a Board of Education for Scotland. To consist of a person to be appointed by the Queen as permanent chairman of the Board, the Lord Advocate and Solicitor General for Scotland, four persons to be elected by the Scotch Universities, and five more persons to be appointed by the Queen, the President of the Educational Institute of Scotland, and the Lords Provost of the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, and Aberdeen. The chairman is to receive a salary of £600, and to be, together with the other five persons, removable by Her Majesty. The Board is to meet at Edinburgh, and will exercise a general superintendence over all the parochial and public schools of Scotland, and make regulations for carrying out the act. Ten inspectors of schools are to be appointed by Her Majesty on the recommendation of the Committee of Council. As soon after the passing of the act as convenient, Scotland is to be apportioned by the board into a certain number of educational districts, to be placed under the charge of the inspectors. These officials are to be subject to the control and direction of the Board of Education, their duties, being, of course, to visit and inspect the parish and public schools, to examine all candidates for the office of schoolmaster, and to make an annual report to the Board, which in its turn, will make a report to the Committee of Council. The salary of parochial schoolmasters is to be at least £50 per annum, whereof £16 will be paid out of the funds to be voted by Parliament for educational purposes in Scotland. The salary of the master of side-schools to be from £20 to £34 per annum. A retiring allowance of £25 is provided for retiring or infirm masters. The minister and heritors of parishes are to form the committees of parish schools as heretofore. Parochial schoolmasters, on being elected by the committees, must not be inducted till examined by the inspector and approved by the Board of Education. Tests are abolished. Parish Schools may be converted into public schools at the instance of the heritors, and the ratepayers may assess themselves for the purpose of maintaining them. The Board is also empowered, on the report of their inspector, to direct the sheriff to call a meeting of the ratepayers for the purpose of providing a public school where the parochial one is inadequate. The committee of public schools to consist of a certain number of the heritors and ratepayers. Public schools may also be founded in burghs, the town council to be the committee. The cost of public school buildings is to be defrayed, in the first instance, by the

Committee of Council. The salary of public schoolmasters is to be £50; one-half to be paid by the Committee of Council, and the other half by the ratepayers. These school-masters will be examined by the inspectors.—Religious instruction will be given in parochial and public schools; but no children will be bound to attend if their parents object. Parents may visit the schools. Public schoolmasters will be removable by the board, and the election of the master and all matters pertaining to the general management of the school will be vested in the school committee. The Board of Education may aid industrial and reformatory schools out of the funds to be raised by general assessment. Not more than one half-penny in the pound per annum is to be levied upon ratepayers for industrial and reformatory schools; questions as to the constitution of school committees, &c., are to be settled by the Board, or by the Committee of Council, without appeal.—*Times.*

## UNITED STATES.

### MONTHLY SUMMARY.

The public schools of Boston are attended by about 20,000 pupils, at an annual expense of \$208,825 55. The private schools report 1,549 pupils, whose instruction was set down to \$97,000. The total population of Boston is 136,881, of which 24,204 are between the ages of five and fifteen, and the average daily attendance is nearly 19,000. The whole number of public schools is 218, for which there are 405 teachers. The male teachers receive on an average \$1,284 per annum. The female teachers \$324. . . . The Massachusetts Legislature recently appropriated the sum of \$50,000 towards the support of a nautical school. The institution will be on board a ship, and will be sent to sea. . . . In the town of Ashfield, Massachusetts, two ladies, Miss Lydia Hall and Miss Marietta Patrick, have been elected school trustees. . . . The whole amount paid by N. Y. City in 1854-5 for educational purposes was \$776,978 38; of which sum \$232,359 12 was for school-house accommodations. The number of public schools is 292; and the whole number of children registered last year was 146,450; though the average attendance was but little more than one-third of this number, viz.: 51,567. The schools are absolutely free to all except colored children; even books being furnished gratuitously. The system of public instruction embraces primary schools, in which children are taught the alphabet, and upward in the elements of education, until they are qualified to enter the grammar schools, where they are exercised in the elementary knowledge already acquired, and are also taught grammar, the natural sciences, history, book-keeping, composition, &c. From these schools pupils can go, if able to pass a close examination, to the free academy, which is the head of the public school system, where a more thorough and valuable education may be obtained than is secured by attendance on many of the colleges and universities of the country. And here too, everything is gratuitous, even to books, stationery, drawing materials, and mathematical instruments. . . . According to Dr. Grimshaw, of 372 convicts in the Auburn State prison, 517 were never instructed in any trade or calling whereby to earn a subsistence. Of 649 males at the Sing Sing prison, 487 have never been taught a trade; 60 could not read, and 149 could read but very indifferently. The number of convicts tried in the Courts of Record in New York State, from 1840 to 1848 inclusive, amounted to 27,949; and of this aggregate 26,225 had received no education whatsoever. Of 276 convicts in the Ohio Penitentiary, nearly all were below mediocrity, and scarcely able to transact the ordinary business of life. . . . The Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, of Virginia, has adopted the Martha Washington Female College, at Abingdon, and will take measures to insure its completion. It is contemplated to make such arrangements as will insure to the indigent daughters of every deceased Odd Fellow the benefit of a good education.

## Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

### THE NIAGARA FALLS IN WINTER.

We have before spoken of the peculiarly grand and imposing aspect of this great wonder of nature in mid-winter. The Lockport Courier has the following article, which we especially commend to all lovers of the picturesque:—The sight that awaits the visitors to the great cataract at this time is indescribably grand and imposing. Nature seldom takes such queer fantastic freaks as she has done this season, and those who have witnessed her singular and unique doings will never forget the sublime spectacle. The long protracted cold weather has solidified every particle of Niagara River,