

He concluded by stating that the safety of a water supply depended on its recent filtration rather than on its source.

All the specimens that once formed our Geological Museum are now in Ottawa. All the officers of the Survey will follow shortly. There will then be left to our city only the building that formerly covered the specimens. We were led to expect that duplicate specimens would be left in this city, but we learn that everything has been sent to Ottawa. The Government has positively stated, however, that duplicates shall be returned to Montreal.

The United States Cremation Company, with a capital of \$50,000, has issued its prospectus. Its object is stated to be "to cremate the human dead in the quickest, best and most economical manner." This company has a powerful auxiliary in the New York Cremation Society which is an organization designed to spread information concerning cremation and to induce people to adopt this mode of disposing of their dead.

J. T. D.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

Since our last number many matters of interest have transpired in the literary world. The subject that is naturally attracting the greatest amount of attention is still Carlyle. His "Reminiscences" have caused a good deal of indignation, which the slighting manner, in which he notices almost all of the great men with whom he came in contact, has done much to justify. So much has been written about this celebrated work elsewhere, that it will be unnecessary to go over the ground again. We must notice, however, the contemptuous manner in which he speaks of the Teaching profession, with which the RECORD is especially interested. "He could never burst the shell of expert schoolmastering and gerund grinding," he writes of his friend Donaldson of Aberdeen. It is clear that his conception of the calling was a very narrow one, and that at any rate his personal peculiarities, like those of Dr. Johnson, unfitted him for it. His will, that has appeared subsequently, attests the interest that he took in the cause of education generally. It is proposed to do honor to his memory in two ways, by erecting his statue on the Thames embankment, opposite his house in Cheyne Row, and by placing a bust of him in Westminster Abbey.

While Great Britain is thus preparing to do honour to her departed dead, Paris has once again celebrated the birthday of her greatest literary man. Sunday, Feb. 26th., was the seventy-ninth birthday of Victor Hugo, and the veteran was honoured by a great popular demonstration. His admirers assert him to be the chief literary figure in Europe since Goethe's death, and those who demur to this estimate cannot deny that he has attained a high proficiency in the three branches of literature—in poetry, drama and prose—that has only been rivalled by Milton, Voltaire and Goethe. The accounts of the