

"The general question of the Education of the People requires your most serious attention, and I have no doubt you will approach the subject with a full appreciation, both of its vital importance, and its acknowledged difficulty."

House of Commons — The Address was moved by Mr. H. Dyke. "Although on the subject of middle and low class education it might be difficult to deal with the enormous mass of evidence, he trusted they would be able to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the question. Looking to the returns of prisoners committed for trial, and the large proportion of persons who can neither read nor write, it seems a short-sighted policy not to have dealt with the subject sooner; for, regarding it in a mere pounds, shillings, and pence point of view, there can be little doubt of the saving to the county rates which may be effected by an efficient measure of legislation." Mr. Disraeli's observations upon educational legislation were short but impressive:—"I can only say, with reference to education, it has not been inserted in the Speech as a mere rhetorical flourish."

The Minister of Education, Lord R. Montague, has been exceedingly active during the recess in getting information upon the practical working of schools, to assist him in the preparation of a national Bill. Amongst the features of such a Bill it is probable that itinerant science lecturers and drill masters will be proposed for districts, assimilating the art masters now employed by the Science and Art Department. The importance of such a scheme admits of no second words.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

Germany.—Death of Francis Bopp.—Some months ago, Berlin lost the most distinguished Hellenist of the age, Boeckh, in his eighty-second year; and now the same university is deprived by death of the father of comparative philology, Francis Bopp. To write the life of Bopp would be to write the history of his science. The following are, however, the chief landmarks. Born on the 14th September 1791 at Mayence, he studied at Aschafenburg under Windischmann, whose instructions determined him to oriental studies. In prosecution of these, he went to Paris, where Sanscrit studies had already taken deep root, thanks to a rich collection of manuscripts, and to the lessons of Hamilton an Indian officer and prisoner of war. He remained in Paris till 1816, in which year he published his comparison of the Sanscrit conjugation with that of the Greek, Latin, Persian, and German languages. After several years spent in England, Bopp was at length, in 1821, appointed professor of Oriental languages in the young but illustrious University of Berlin. That university was the scene of his whole subsequent career; and he continued his prelections in it till quite recent years. He died in his seventy-sixth year, and therefore may be presumed to have had a less vigorous constitution than Boeckh, who reached the age of eighty-two, and continued teaching to the last day of his life. Besides Bopp's first publication mentioned above, the jubilee of which was celebrated last year at Berlin, there remain his *Comparative Grammar*; tracts on the Celtic, Malay-Polynesian, Georgian, Borussia, and Albanian languages; a critical Sanscrit Grammar; an abridged Sanscrit Grammar; and a Sanscrit Glossary, of which the third edition is now in course of publication.

—*Quebec Historical Society.* Yesterday evening, a distinguished audience assembled in the hall of the Historical Society, to listen to the inaugural address of the new President, the Hon. Mr. Chauveau.

Mr. Chauveau thanked the society, in very feeling and appropriate terms, for the honor it had conferred upon him. "What are my claims, said Mr. Chauveau, 'to the distinguished honor of being elected to preside over a society, in the main composed of the English element, after having been so long absent from Quebec?' None, except that of being, probably, the oldest member; for I was a member in 1838.

I had then for colleagues, Dr John Carleton Fisher; the venerable Dr Wilkie; the laborious Mr Faribault; the national historian, Mr. Garneau; men whose names and memories are revered by all friends of science and letters; not one of this illustrious group now survives. Mr Chauveau recapitulated the services rendered to history, by this the oldest society in Canada, services recognized abroad by such men as Bancroft, J. Sparks, Parkman, John Gilmary Shea, &c.

Dr. Anderson then read a charming essay on the life of the Duke of Kent, particularly dwelling on, and refuting the calumnies whereby some historians sought to tarnish the memory of the father of our sovereign.

In referring to the voluminous correspondence which took place between the Prince and the De Salaberry family, during twenty-eight years, we shall discover the true character of the Duke, and find him the constant friend of the French Canadians, of whom he loved to become the governor and protector.

In treating his subject, Mr Anderson took occasion to enumerate the numberless titles which the heroes of Chateaugay had to grateful recognition by their country men.

Mr. Chauveau, resuming his discourse, said a few words on the essay of Dr Anderson, and recounted to the assembly some interesting souvenirs collected during his visit to Château de Salaberry, near

Blois, in France. In traversing the family portrait gallery, one was struck with the great family likeness between the French and Canadian branches of this noble house.

To sum up, the séance of yesterday evening was very instructive, and augured well for the series of conferences which the society intend giving during the course of the winter. Under its new direction it will, no doubt, regain the ancient vigor and eclat of by gone days. —*Journal de Québec*, January 16th, 1868.

This Society is publishing a memoir of the campaign of 1759. It was compiled by an English officer of Wolfe's army, and first appeared in the *New York Mercury* of the 31st December 1759.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

—*Risk to Human Life on Railways.*—Accurate statistics have developed some interesting facts, in England and on the continent of Europe respecting the risks incurred by passengers and employees on railway trains. Few persons in the respectable walks of life trouble themselves about the probability of their being hanged. Yet an Englishman's risk of dying by strangulation is six times as great as that of being killed on a railroad, whether by his own carelessness or by accident. If his own carelessness be excluded from the estimate, his risk of death by hanging is one hundred and thirty times as great. Ninety-times as many people die of cancer in England as are killed on railways. Excluding the element of carelessness, two thousand one hundred and sixty-five persons will die of cancer to one killed on a railroad.

The statistics of railroads in all countries of Europe prove them to be attended with less danger than any other modes of travelling. More persons are killed in Paris in a single year by carriage accidents than in all France, by railroads in ten years.

The statistics of European railways bring out some very droll results —if such an epithet is admissible in treating a subject that pertains to human life. They show that the absolute risk of a person's losing his life in a rail car is less than of his being struck by lightning or being hanged; that a passenger shooting along by steam power at a rate of seventy-two miles per hour, is more secure from bodily injury than the pedestrian in a crowded city, or a gentleman driving his private carriage on a country road; and that the oil begrimed and sooty pair who ride on the engine, on whom we look with pity, as predestined for destruction, have an average immunity from danger, and enjoy a better state of health than we, whose persons may be more presentable, but whose pity is entirely gratuitous. A person debilitated by dyspepsia or pulmonary disease would question the sanity of his physician, if recommended to take the position of fireman on a locomotive; yet statistics show that the employment tends to counteract these diseases, and to strengthen all the vital functions of the system.

The satisfaction we feel in reviewing these results is qualified by the regret that no statistics of any of our American railroads, equally favorable, are accessible —*Philadelphia Daily News*.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

A quiet Life —For my part, seeing the victims to fast life daily falling around me, I have willingly abandoned the apparent advantages of such a life, and preferred less popularity, less gains, the enjoyment of a sound mind in a sound body, the blessings of a quiet, domestic life, and a more restricted, but not less enjoyable circle of society. I am now approaching my seventy-fifth year. I cannot, indeed say, vigorous as I am, that I have reached this age without the assistance of doctors, for I have had the constant attendance of those four famous ones: Temperance, exercise, good air, and good hours.—Wm. Howitt.

Men are born with two eyes but with one tongue, in order that they should see twice as much as they say.

Effect of Darkness and Silence —Dr Kane and other arctic voyagers have all testified that in those regions where eternal silence reigns supreme, "the effect upon the brain and ear from the absence of sonorous impulses in the atmosphere is exceedingly annoying and absolutely injurious to the auditory nerves. As the organs of hearing are destroyed by loud and continued noise, and an intense light will weaken and ultimately destroy the power of sight, so it would appear that the auditory, or optic, nerves become impaired by the partial or total deprivation of their natural stimulus, sound or light.

Dr. H. Ralls Smith, of Chicago, wishing experimentally to investigate this subject, recently spent a considerable length of time in the Kentucky Mammoth Cave, where silence and impenetrable darkness reigned supreme. The effect was very distressing and almost insurmountable, resulting in temporary deafness of hearing and aberration of mind. From his own experience this gentleman is firmly convinced that the blindness of the finny denizens of this cave has been brought about gradually through successive generations, and from his observations he is confident that the sense of hearing is also wanting in these beings, although originally existing in the species when first immersed in their living tomb.