

public speakers, which Europeans of high literary standing had admired.

But, he would ask, what remained of all this eloquence? Snatches here and there in the journals, which gave but a faint idea of the brilliant and spontaneous sallies of the orators. And what was left of the eloquence of the Gracchi, of Phocion, of Hortensius, and of so many others whose orations have not reached us? An immortal place in the memory of man. Was not this an ample reward? If, owing to the condition of the people, the other branches of literature for a long time remained undeveloped, they had not been entirely neglected, as the essays which had appeared both in verse and in prose testified. It was only recently, that literary works of some extent had been published in Canada. Yet these productions had drawn from European critics merited praise. The literary movement imparted to the community, some years ago, had not passed away, but had gathered strength as it advanced, encouraged by such institutions as the one whose new hall they had met that night to inaugurate.

We give on Macaulay the details we promised in our last. —

— Thomas Babington Macaulay was born on the 25th October, 1800, at Rothley Temple, Leicestershire. He was of Scotch descent. His father, who was engaged in the African trade, and who had witnessed the monstrous effects of the traffic in human flesh, had naturally become a most ardent and sincere abolitionist. Young Macaulay early imbibed those principles which have given to his character and genius that liberal stamp, which also marked his political career.

Macaulay entered Trinity College, Cambridge, and soon obtained the most brilliant honors of the University. In the year 1826, having turned his attention to the bar, he entered Lincoln's Inn. His name, which appeared among those of the contributors to *Knight's Quarterly Magazine*, was soon brought into notice by the soundness of judgment and the uncommon merit evinced in his writings. The *Edinburgh Review* had commenced the publication of his celebrated Essays; that on Milton, which remains one of his most brilliant efforts, had already appeared (in 1825).

In 1830 Macaulay, who had already acquired a high literary reputation, was returned to Parliament for the borough of Calne. Having successively held official appointments, and having been, in 1834, re-elected by the city of Leeds, he went to India as a member of the Supreme Council, charged with the preparation of a special code, which, notwithstanding its excellent provisions, was never practically enforced. He returned to England in 1838, and was, the following year, chosen a representative for Edinburgh. He was soon after appointed secretary of war under the Peel Administration. The spirit of tolerance by which he was actuated, led him to declare himself in favor of the emancipation of Roman Catholics, but this liberality alienated the suffrages of his constituents, and in 1847, another representative was elected in his stead. Having withdrawn from public life, Macaulay now concentrated all his energy and talent on his *History of England*, upon which was to depend his greatest title to fame. The two first volumes appeared in 1848, and were followed by two additional volumes, printed in 1855. The extraordinary success which attended the publication of this work, and the marks of esteem and approbation with which the author was greeted, produced a great change in the opinions of his old constituents, who in 1852, again sent him to Parliament. In 1857 he was elevated to the peerage, a distinction earned by his talent and genius.

The eminent qualities which Macaulay possessed as an historian, also distinguished him as an orator. The excellence and perspicuity of his diction, and his profound reasoning, combined to render his discourse highly remarkable. Critics have not been wanting to discover imperfections in his *History of England*. Yet this great work, although unfinished, must ever be considered as one of the finest literary productions of the nineteenth century.

The personal appearance of Macaulay was not prepossessing. He was corpulent, perhaps a little under the average height in stature; features fleshy, eyes large and sparkling, and his hair of a light color. As he advanced in years, and the thoughtful lines of his countenance deepened, his appearance improved. Though Macaulay seemed reserved in his manner, his nature was very susceptible of all the tender emotions, and the sweetness of his disposition made him a pleasant companion and an affectionate friend. He spent annually not less than £1,500 in acts of charity and munificent generosity, out of an income of about £4,000.

Macaulay died at his residence, Holly-lodge, Kensington, and his remains were interred in the Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey. Thousands assembled to witness the sad ceremony, and universal respect was manifested for the illustrious dead. We subjoin from the *London Daily News* the following closing paragraph in that journal's description of the funeral:—

"As the chief mourners and pall-bearers slowly retired, the outer public rushed in, and—but still decorously and respectfully—crowded round the as yet unclosed grave. They could see the top of the coffin and shell. The lid is divided into three compartments; the upper one contains an engraved plate the arms of the deceased peer. The shield bears two arrows and two buckles, and has two pelicans as supporters. The crest is a boot with a spur, surmounted with the usual coronet. The motto of the coat of arms is "Dulce Periculum." The second compartment contains the following inscription:—"The Right Hon. Thomas Babington Macaulay, Baron Macaulay of Rothwell, born

25th October, 1800, died 28th December, 1859." At the lower part of the lid is a small shield with the initials of the deceased peer, "T. B. M." The coffin is ornamented with massive gilt handles, three upon each side, and one at each end, surmounted with coronets, and the surface is covered with black silk velvet, and decorated in the usual style of funeral ornamentation. In a few minutes more the earth was shovelled in, the flags were laid down, and the grave closed for ever over all that was mortal of the great and gifted Thomas Babington Lord Macaulay."

— From M. S. Rhee's manual of the public libraries, institutions and societies in the United States, we learn that the whole number of libraries is 40,890, containing 12,720,686 volumes. Of the public libraries, there are 1,297, containing 4,280,866 volumes. Of these, New York has 750,421 volumes, and Massachusetts 632,800. Pennsylvania ranks next, with 467,716 volumes. A comparison of the number of volumes in public libraries in the larger cities shows New York has 346,185; Philadelphia, 271,081; Boston, 258,979. The Astor library, New York city, is also the largest public library in the country, containing eighty thousand volumes, six thousand more than the next in size, that of Harvard University. One fact worthy of remark is, that of 4,008,081 volumes in the public libraries of all the States, (omitting the District of Columbia, which contains 272,835), there are 3,103,085 in those of the Free States, and 904,946 in those of the slave States.

The State Library of Michigan contains less than 10,000 volumes; but many of them are works of much value.—*Mich. Journal of Edu.*

— The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers of the Canadian Institute of Toronto, for 1860: President—Professor D. Wilson, LL. D. 1st Vice-President—Rev. Professor Hincks, F. L. S. 2nd Vice-President—Professor H. Croft, D. C. L. 3rd Vice-President—J. Bovell, Esq., M. D. Treasurer—D. Crawford, Esq. Corresponding Secretary—Professor J. B. Cherriman, M. A. Recording Secretary—Patrick Freeland, Esq. Librarian—Professor H. Y. Hind, M. A. Curator—J. F. Smith, Jun., Esq. Council—Hon. J. W. Allan, M. L. C.; W. Hay, Esq., Architect; Professor E. J. Chapman, George R. R. Cockburn, M. A.; S. Fleming, Esq.; Thos. Henning, Esq.—*U. C. Journal of Education.*

— A curious instance of the patience and perseverance of the Germans is afforded by a new encyclopedia, which, commenced at Berlin in 1773, is just completed in two hundred and forty-two volumes. Six editors have been employed upon it, and notwithstanding the commotions which have shaken the country to its centre, the work has gone steadily forward, scarcely delayed by the events which furnished so much material for its pages.—*ib.*

— Father Lacordaire of the order of Dominicans has just been elected a member of the French Academy. Under the existing circumstances the election had more than usual interest. The new academician was born at Reccy-sur-Ource, on the 18th of May 1802. He is consequently very near 58 years of age. A member of the bar and a man of the world, he suddenly entered the Seminary of St. Sulpice, in Paris, in 1824. Subsequently, in 1830, with Lamennais and Montalembert, he published the *Avenir*, a paper in which the doctrines of pure democracy and various politico-religious opinions of a most startling nature were proclaimed and defended. The *Avenir* was condemned by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in France; the three editors, who all of them were destined to such high fame in the literary world, went to Rome to appeal from the censure of the Archbishop of Paris, but Gregory XVI, in a famous encyclical letter, stamped the new politico-religious school with reprobation. Lamennais went into open rebellion and published his *Affaires de Rome* and his *Paroles d'un Croquant*; Montalembert and Lacordaire took a different course. The latter began to preach in Notre Dame, in Paris, where he attained the highest reputation and used to draw to his *Conférences* crowds of people and the elite of the scientific, political and literary world. In 1841, he became a Dominican, and appeared in the pulpit with the costume of that order. He published at that time a *Life of St. Dominique*. In 1848, he was elected a member of the *Assemblée constituante*, and took his seat, but resigned shortly after. He is now at the head of the college of Sorrèze.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

— A circumnavigation of the globe under the auspices of the Austrian Government has lately been completed. Dr. Scherzer was the head of the corps of savans. In Northern Africa, Henry Duvoyrier last spring started from Algiers to cross and explore the Sahara by a new route: he is a young and enthusiastic Frenchman, and has spent nearly three years in studying Arabic and making preparation for his journey. Dr. Kotschy, an Austrian Orientalist and traveler, has recently explored the ancient Cilicia, or modern Adana, seeking both historical and geographical knowledge. An expedition was to start in November, from Bombay to explore the lake region at the head of the Nile, where Captains S. Eke and Burton discovered Lake Nyanza: Dr. Silvester is the leader. Martin de Moussy, a Frenchman of great scientific knowledge, has just finished a thorough survey of the Argentine Republic, from the Andes to the Atlantic. He crossed the Pampas in every direction, visited the passes and mines of the Cordilleras for three hundred leagues, making barometrical and meteorological observations throughout the entire period. He is to publish the account of his surveys at Paris, at the expense of the Argentine Government. President Urquiza, at whose wish all this work