

2 kept by Mr. Brault shows some progress made, that of District No. 3 is very inferior.

St. Ambroise de Kildare.—The school of Mr. St. André is sufficiently well kept, the same may be said of the academy for girls, kept by the Nuns of Ste. Anne and also of the dissentient schools. The other schools are very ill conducted. They require black boards, geographical maps, &c. The salaries of the teachers are more meagre than in any other municipality in my district not even excepting the very poorest. The Commissioners are indolent beyond description and do not visit the schools. I exacted a promise from them to place a qualified teacher suitably remunerated in district No. 3.

Ste. Melanie.—This municipality is situated in a mountainous part of the country where the population is scattered over a vast extent. The schools necessarily make but little progress, the children are often in need of books, paper, and every thing necessary to them. Although the salaries of the teachers are very insufficient there are still long arrears due to them. The school of Mr. J. Robillard deserves honorable mention on account of the pains taken by the master, and the success of the pupils. This good teacher receives a salary of £49.

Ste. Elizabeth.—With the exception of the school at Cote St. Martin, the unprogressive state of which is in great measure due to the want of assiduity on the part of the pupils, the other schools in this District are making satisfactory progress. They are generally well furnished; though some of them still require visiting registers. Generally speaking the teachers are sufficiently well qualified. The affairs of the Commissioners are kept in good order by the Notary Mr. Lucasse. The dissentients have no schools in operation.

Rawdon, St. Patrick.—Two schools have been closed for part of the year for very frivolous reasons. The teachers are badly paid. No monthly collection is taken up, they affect to supply us in place by a voluntary subscription, partly payable in fire-wood. It suffices to say that several schools have remained closed for want of fire-wood to show how futile this resource is.

Rawdon, Ste. Julienne.—Notwithstanding that this parish is poor, the schools are good, clean and well furnished with benches, tables, maps, registers, &c. The affairs of the Commissioners are in the best order by their Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. de Caussin. The examinations of the schools in sections 1 and 2 have been satisfactory. That of No. 3 shows less progress. The dissentient school has been in operation a short time and seems to be well conducted by Mrs. McAdam.

St. Esprit.—The finances of the Commissioners in this municipality, and consequently their schools are in a most melancholy condition. In about a year and a half not less than five Secretary-Treasurers have applied themselves to the work. These frequent changes render the management of affairs almost impossible. The schools are destitute of the necessary furniture, maps, registers, &c. Several of the school-mistresses are not furnished with diplomas.

(To be continued.)

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—English literature has lost one of its brightest ornaments, and the United States one of her most distinguished writers. Washington Irving was born, at New York, on the 3rd April, 1783, year which ushered in the American Independence. His father was a Scotchman and gave his sons a fair education. One of them, Peter Irving, became an editor, Washington was trained to the bar, but the forum had few attractions for him and being little in harmony with his tastes and inclinations, he never practised. At the age of sixteen he contributed some papers over the signature of "Jonathan Oldstyle," to the *Morning Chronicle*, edited by Mr. P. Irving; the popularity they obtained induced him to start a satirical paper under the title of "Sa maguadi." At the age of twenty-one, his health gave way and he left the States on a tour through Italy, Switzerland, France, Holland and Great Britain. On his return. In 1808, he wrote "Knickerbocker's History of New York." Its title has become literally a household word, steamboats and

stages, banks and citizens have appropriated the name of Knickerbocker. Its success was immediate; a writer styles it the *magnum opus* of Irving. The profits, however, were not great and he would have made little by his triumph had it not been for the generous conduct of his brothers, who generously gave him an interest in their business on condition that he was to devote himself to letters and take no share in the management of the house beyond drawing his portion of the profits. The failure of his brothers' firm in 1819 compelled him to rely on his literary resources. During the war of 1812, Mr. Irving had made a brief trial of the military career. He rose to the rank of Colonel, but it does not appear that he was ever under fire. In 1813, he commenced the publication of the *Analectic Magazine*. In 1815, he returned to England, and while there published the *Sketch-Book*, his master-piece, for which he received \$2000 dollars. He spent some time with Walter Scott and visited Newstead Abbey; a close friendship existed between these great men, which is a pleasing page in the biography of literary celebrities. In 1820 he took up his residence in Paris, where he remained six years, occasionally visiting the South of France, Germany and England. During that period he wrote and published *Bracebridge Hall*, and the *Tales of a Traveller*. Irving enjoyed a copyright in England and in the United States, and with the profits of the sales in both countries was enabled to lead a life of agreeable bachelor leisure. He had the entrée of the best literary society, he was friend of Thomas Moore and of Campbell, and in terms of intimacy with such men as Lord John Russell and Lord Brougham. In 1826, he made a tour through Spain. This country furnished him materials for the *Life of Mahomet* and his immediate successors, the *Conquest of Granada*, the *Alhambra*, and the *Life and Voyages of Columbus* and his companions. Prescott has given him merited praise for the accuracy of these historical writings, and George IV. conferred on him one of the two golden medals which he had promised to the two best historians; the other was bestowed on Hallam, who also has died during the present year. On his return to New-York, in 1832, his countrymen welcomed him with a public ovation. To his travels in the western prairies we are indebted for a "Tour in the Prairies," *Captain Bonneville's Adventures*, and "Astoria." While preparing the first mentioned of these works, he visited Montreal and was the guest of the gentlemen of the Northwest Company. He gives some skilful sketches of the customs of the Canadian voyageurs, a class of men now nearly extinct, he has thus obtained a claim on our gratitude. He was the personal friend of John Jacob Astor, the great capitalist, two men of the most dissimilar habits and between whom there existed indeed a mutual love. Irving was named, in 1832, secretary of Legation to London. While in England he was created Doctor of Laws, by the University of Oxford. In 1842, he obtained, without solicitation, the appointment to Madrid of United States minister. It was then a sinecure, and left him ample time for literary occupations. He returned to his native country in 1848, where he passed the remainder of his life. His last years were spent peacefully and happily at his country place, Sunnyside, on the banks of the Hudson, and under the shadow of the Catskill Mountains. Here he passed the evening of his life, in the agreeable society of his nephews and nieces, towards them he showed that kindness which he had received from his noble brothers. Not to be idle he wrote a life of Washington, the first interesting work on that great man.

He was of a genial and social temperament, the delight of society as he will be of future ages. America may glory in such a man, and England place him by her Addison, whom he has equalled in elegance and purity of diction, and surpassed by genius and imagination.

He was buried at Christ Church, Tarrytown. He died on the 28th November, 1859. We publish in another part of this number an interesting extract from *Astoria*.

—The Germans in Constantinople intend to erect a monument to Alexander de Humboldt, and also to found a museum and library for the use of the countrymen of the illustrious savant residing in the Sultan's capital.

—Among the promotions recently made in the Legion d'Honneur, we observe the following: to the grade of Commander, Mr. de Sainte-Beuve; to the grade of Officer, Mr. Léon Gozlan and Mr. A. Rénée, director of the *Constitutionnel*; to the grade of Knight, Messrs. A. Second, writer, Louis Bouilhet, dramatist, M. Schiller, editor of *La Patrie*, and E. Texier, editor of *Le Siècle*.—*Revue Européenne*.

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