



Notices of Books.

THE GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY OF BRITISH AMERICA and of the other colonies of the Empire to which is added a sketch of the various Indian tribes of Canada, and brief biographical notices of eminent persons connected with the history of Canada, by J. George Hodgins, Toronto, 1857, 128 pages, small 4ov., size two columns.

This is a very complete and interesting little work which the Superintendent of Education for Lower-Canada has placed on his list of prize works for schools. It abounds in topographical information, statistics of population, trade and education, and is illustrated with great taste and effect. It gives in a very narrow compass and in a very pleasant form, a correct and impressive idea of the Empire over which the sun never sets. The biographical sketches will prove peculiarly interesting to those of our readers who happen to know little of the early history of Canada. They are divided into two classes; those of the living and those of the dead. The latter are Christopher Columbus, Americus Vesputius, John Cabot, Sebastian Cabot, Cortereal, Verrazani, Jacques Cartier, Roberval, Champlain, Mgr. Laval, Nicholas Perrot, Frontenac, Father Marquette, Father Hennepin, the first European who saw the Falls of Niagara, La-Salle, Montcalm, Wolfe, the three Indian Chiefs Pontiac, Brant and Tecumseh, Sir William Johnson, Governor Simcoe.

the Bishops McDonell and Mountain and General Brock. The great men living are Bishop Strachan, Mr. Papineau, Sir Allan McNab, Lord Elgin, Chief Justices LaFontaine and Robinson, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Hucks, Mr. Bidwell, Dr. Ryerson, Sir William Logan and Mr. Merritt.

By the kind permission of the author we publish, together with this notice, one of the wood cuts which are to be found in the book, representing the falls of Montmorency. There are altogether in the book 74 illustrations representing interesting landscapes, public buildings, and monuments, portraits of eminent men, and small sectional maps. It is to be regretted however that the work is not accompanied with a map of British North America and that the author should have adopted a division of Lower-Canada into topographical districts which differs from all those recognized at present and might lead to some confusion in the minds of children and of strangers. This we mention in view of its being remedied by a new edition, which we are sure the usefulness, cheapness and beauty of this little work will soon of itself render necessary. Price, 50 cents a piece; \$5 per dozen.

THE CHILD'S BOOK OF NATURE—by Worthington Hooker, M. D., New-York—Harper and brothers. This neat, elegant and highly instructive book of 350 pages, is divided into three parts, containing plants, animals, air, water, heat, light, &c. It is invaluable for teachers or parents who desire to impart to their children object lessons on natural history or natural philosophy. It is written in a truthful, simple but elegant and even poetical style, and the numerous illustrations which are added to it make it a cyclopaedia of nature for children and even for grown up people, many of whom would be in no wise, the worse for perusing it. Each part can be had separately, from the publishers, if desired. The volume elegantly bound is sold one dollar.

THE STRANGERS GUIDE THROUGH THE CITY OF MONTREAL, price 12½ cents—Salter and Ross.

Few American cities can boast of such handsome and substantial buildings as Montreal—Indeed our fine grey limestone could be called a marble without we believe any mineralogical heresy being thereby perpetrated. The style of our private houses and of our public buildings is every day improving and when to the splendid court house which really deserves the french name of *Palais de Justice*, to the churches of Notre-Dame, of St. Patrick, of St. Jacques in St. Denis street, of St. Pierre in the Quebec suburb; to the Bonsecours Market, and to all our other public buildings we add the two cathedrals catholic and anglican in course of erection, Montreal will deserve the name of the monumental city of America. In the mean time each religious congregation is doing its best to out rival the others in church architecture and while the Unitarians have pulled down their old temple at Beaver hall, and are building in its place a handsome edifice in the Byzantine style the first of the kind in Lower-Canada, the Presbyterians, close by are adding to the very elegant

church of St. Andrew a beautiful spire which will be one of the finest ornaments of our city.

We owe to the politeness of the publishers of the new guide the wood cut representing this church as it will be when completed.



MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—At the annual examination of the pupils of Trinity College Glenalmond, Perthshire, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone delivered a most remarkable speech which has been however the object of severe criticism in the *English Journal of Education*. The question is now in England and elsewhere, which is the best, classical or commercial education? It might properly be said that the best education is that which suits the objects the parents have in sending their children to school. But then it may be answered: are the parents to judge of the aptitude of their children, and is education to be given fitting a child exclusively for one thing or for the other? If that is done what a sad thing to find that a mistake has been made, and when a child has grown up a man to discover that he is entering his career by the wrong door? Then there are different plans for combining, all that is necessary for a good education and the question is then as to the relative preponderance which the several elements are to obtain. In France, the exclusive system has been adopted by the late minister of public instruction, Mr. Fortoul: at the age of fourteen and when they have reached a certain point in their studies the boys have to make an option between the classics and mathematical and physical sciences. Since the death of Mr. Fortoul there has been a reaction against that system called *bifurcation*. Mr. Gladstone's opinion seems to be that a classical education is needed by any man