

quite too close to the sun to be easily visible ; we must wait now till the fall of the year to see the planet as a brilliant evening star. Saturn is still passing south, but the angular diameter of the disc is slowly increasing, while the system is broadly in view. The elevation of the Earth above the plane of the ring is 26 degs. Jupiter is also increasing in apparent diameter and rising at a more convenient hour. Towards the end of the month the planet rises at 11 o'clock. The phenomena of the satellites, which are calculated generally to minutes only, are given with great exactness in the cases of eclipses. For example, on January 25th at 11h. 17m. 11s., Washington time, the fourth satellite reappears from eclipse, starts into view out of the planet's shadow suddenly, like a new star. The computers of the ephemeris are pretty sure of their ground when they name seconds. The calculations for the satellites are made by Prof. H. D. Todd, of Washington. The observer need only have his watch carefully corrected and his telescope in order, to prove the marvellous accuracy of these predictions. The disappearance into the shadow on that evening occurs before the system is above the horizon for observers here.

During the discussions on the new Education Bill of Quebec, it was pointed out by the Premier that free tuition was not a matter to be considered until the finances of the province were in a more prosperous condition. It is very pleasant, however, to learn from the Chairman of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of the City of Montreal that there are hundreds of children belonging to the schools under the supervision of that Board from whom fees are not required. The following is his statement in full : " Rev. Principal MacVicar, Chairman of the Protestant

Board of School Commissioners at their monthly meeting this morning, referred in an informal manner to the remarks recently made in the press in reference to some cases of children of poor parents being compelled to go without any educational training on account of the inability of their parents to provide the necessary funds. He remarked that the situation seemed to be greatly misunderstood in some quarters. There were, he said, a large number of children educated by the Protestant Board free of charge, and regular blanks were procurable, which, upon being filled in by a clergyman or any responsible citizen, attesting to the indigency of the case, secured to such children all the educational privileges of other pupils. The records were then looked up in connection with the informal discussion, and it was found that of the 8,000 children attending Protestant schools, over one-sixteenth of that number are educated free on account of the poverty of their parents." In this connection Mayor Wilson Smith remarked that no poor children are debarred from the Protestant Schools. He thought that the subject was very much misunderstood, judging by the remarks which had been made in reference to some cases which have recently come to light.

The annual report of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners has been issued, and contains many items of interest to the general public. It gives the number of schools under the control of the Board as fifteen; with an actual attendance of 7,706 pupils, or, including the McGill Model School and the Baron de Hirsch Institute, 8,472 pupils. The receipts on income account for the year ending June 30th, 1897, amounted to \$218,429, and the disbursements, \$205,373. Of the receipts, \$153,786 were derived from the city school tax,