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SUMMARY.—**EDUCATION:** School days of Eminent Men in Great Britain, by John Timbs, F. R. S. A. (continued).—Directions how to teach children to read, by John Bruce, Esquire, Inspector of Schools.—What shall be done with the boys—The study of Natural History in Common Schools, speech by Prof. Agassiz.—Suggestive Hints towards Improved Secular Instruction, by the Reverend Richard Dawes, A. M. First Lessons.—**SCIENCE:** Some observations on Donati's Comet of 1838, by Charles Smallwood, M. D. LL. D.—**OFFICIAL NOTICES:** Separation and annexation of School Municipalities.—Situation as teacher wanted.—Notice to Directors of institutions claiming aid on the grant for Superior Education.—**EDITORIAL:** The School Law amendment Act of 1859.—Normal Schools.—Report of the Chief Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada for 1857.—**MONTHLY SUMMARY:** Educational intelligence.—Scientific intelligence.—Literary intelligence.—**OFFICIAL DOCUMENT:** Act to amend the School Laws of Lower Canada.—**WOOD CUT:** Diagram of Donati's Comet.

of the pedantic taste of his day; he adopted, he tells us, the counsel of an ancient writer, "to speak as the common people do, to think as wise men do." One of Ascham's tracts, (on the Affairs of Germany,) is described by Dr. Johnson as written "in a style which to the ears of that age was undoubtedly mellifluous, and which is now a very valuable specimen of genuine English."

L.

LADY JANE GREY AND HER SCHOOLMASTER.

Foremost among the learned women of this time was the beautiful Lady Jane Grey, who was born at Bradgate, on the border of Charnwood Forest, four miles from Leicester, and educated by Aylmer, her father's chaplain. The story of her "almost infancy" would be incredible were it not well authenticated. Burton calls her "that most noble and admired Princess Lady Jane Grey; who being but young, at the age of seventeen years, as John Bale writeth, attained to such excellent learning, in the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin tongues, and also in the study of divinity, by the instruction of Mr. Aylmer, as appeareth by her many writings, letters, &c., that, as Mr. Fox saith of her, had her fortune been answerable to her bringing up, undoubtedly she might have been compared to the house of Vespasian, Sempronius, and Cornelia, mother of the Gracchi in Rome, and, in these days, the chiefest men of the universities." At Bradgate Roger Ascham paid the Lady Jane a visit, which he describes in his *Schoolmaster*.

On the morning of her execution, the Lady Jane wrote a letter in Greek to her sister on the blank leaf of a Testament in the same language, and in her note-book three sentences in Greek, Latin, and English, of which the last is as follows:—"If my faults deserved punishment, my youth, at least, and my imprudence, were worthy of excuse. God and posterity will show me favour."

Fuller says of Jane: "She had the innocence of childhood, the beauty of youth, the solidity of middle, the gravitie of old age, and all at eighteen: the bust of a princesse, the learning of a clerk, the life of a saint, yet the death of a malefactor, for her parents' offences."

LI.

THE POETS WYATT AND SURREY.

Sir Thomas Wyatt, the poet, was born at Allington Castle, near Maidstone, in 1503. All that is known of his youth is, that at 12 years old he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, and that he took out his degrees of Bachelor and Master in 1518 and 1520. About 1524, Wyatt was introduced at court, where he was received into the King's household; in 1533, he officiated as ewerer for his father at the coronation of Anne Boleyn, upon which occasion his friend Surrey, then about 16 years of age, carried the fourth sword with the scabbard before the King. Wyatt travelled much on the Continent; he possessed great conversational powers, and is said

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By JOHN TIMBS, F. S. A.

(Continued from our last.)

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ROGER ASCHAM—HIS "SCHOOLMASTER."

One of the most remarkable men of this period was Roger Ascham, who attained such proficiency in Greek, that, when a boy, he read lectures in it to other boys who were desirous of instruction; he also learned to play on musical instruments, and was one of the few who then excelled in the mechanical art of writing. He took the degree of M. A. at St. John's College, Cambridge; he commenced tutor when 20 years of age, and was one of those who restored the pronunciation of Greek to our own modern mode of utterance. His favourite amusement was archery, upon which he wrote a treatise, entitled *Toxophilus*, in 1544, which he dedicated to King Henry VIII., who rewarded him with a pension of 10*l.* a-year. He taught the Lady Elizabeth to write a fair hand, and for two years he instructed her in the learned languages: he informs us that Elizabeth understood Greek better than the clergy of Windsor. He was next appointed Latin Secretary to King Edward: upon one occasion, he is stated to have composed and transcribed, with his usual elegance, in three days, 47 letters to princes and personages, of whom cardinals were the lowest. On the accession of Queen Elizabeth he was re-appointed her Latin secretary and tutor, and read some hours with the Queen every day. In 1563, upon the invitation of Sir Richard Sackville, he began to write *The Schoolmaster*, a treatise on Education, considered by Dr. Johnson to contain the best advice that was given ever for the study of languages. Ascham died in 1568, lamented as a scholar and a man; when Queen Elizabeth heard of his death, she exclaimed, "she would rather have thrown ten thousand pounds into the sea, than have lost her Ascham." His great benefit to literature was his introduction of an easy and natural style into English writing, instead