

called the Valley of the White Horse. Alfred was twenty-two years old when he became king, and was crowned at Winchester in 868. In less than a month afterwards he was obliged to take the field against the Danes, and for several years was almost continually fighting with them. In one year he fought seven battles, was wounded, but recovered, and again attacked the Danes. At one time he was compelled to hide himself, in disguise, in the Isle of Aldersey, in Somersetshire, and was, it is said, struck by the wife of a herdsman, in whose cottage he had taken refuge, for allowing some cakes to burn. Another time, in the dress of a harper, he entered the Danish camp, and, being very skilful in music, they were so pleased with him that he contrived to obtain a great deal of information about their strength; and then, collecting his friends, he attacked and defeated them. Altogether, he is said to have fought fifty-six battles with the Danes, by sea and land. He was a very wise and good king; encouraged learning; founded, as is said, the University of Oxford, so that those of his people who wished might be well educated; made many good laws; rebuilt London, which had been nearly destroyed by the Danes; established regular government in many parts of the kingdom where the people had been ill-treated; made the division into counties; and was such an excellent ruler that when he died everybody agreed that he ought to be styled, as he still is, Alfred the Great.

**A Geographer's View of 1869.**

Judge Daly, the President of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, in his last address to the society, enumerates the following events as making 1869 a memorable year: 1. The connecting of the North Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean by rail. 2. The completion of the canal across the Isthmus of Suez. 3. The exploration and discoveries in South-eastern and Equatorial Africa. 4. The additional evidence now brought to light of a climate in the ice-bound regions of the Arctic, at a past and remote period of time, resembling that of the countries lying near the equator. The marvellous results of the deep-sea dredging of Professors Thompson and Carpenter, revealing the existence of animal life at enormous depths of the ocean, where we should have supposed the existence of life to have been impossible. 6. The very general disturbances throughout the year of the earth's surface by earthquake, distinguishable not so much for its effects in particular localities as for the distribution of the phenomena over the globe, and its appearance in parts of the world where such disturbances have never been previously witnessed within the memory of man. 7. The attractive power of mountains discovered in the pendulum experiments made during the past year at the observing stations upon the Himalayas in India. 8. The discovery through the spectroscope of a method of determining the proper motion of the stars, and the fact that the physical and chemical construction of the whole stellar universe is identical. 9. The invention and successful practical use of a self-registering compass, by which every motion of a vessel can be recorded and preserved from the beginning to the end of her voyage. 10. The discovery of trees of enormous height and magnitude in Australia, one of which was found to be sixty-nine feet in circumference. 11. The discovery of great deposits of coal throughout the whole of New Zealand, and the finding of coal upon the borders of the Caspian Sea, verifying in this last particular a prediction of Humboldt's, both of which discoveries are of the highest importance to commerce. 12. The anthropological researches in Europe, Asia, and Africa, revealing the structure and mode of life and customs of the earliest inhabitants of the earth. 13. The passage and escape of the American ship Congress, last August, through a cyclone of extraordinary intensity and power, in the Atlantic, under circumstances which afford a great deal of information and movement in this terrible phenomenon of the ocean.

**Age.**

As the follies and vices of youth are chiefly derived from inexperience and presumption, so almost all the errors of age may be traced up to the feebleness and distresses peculiar to that time of life. Though, in every part of life, vexations occur, yet, in early years, either business or pleasure served to obliterate their impression, by supplying occupation to the mind. Old age begins its advances, with disqualifying men for relishing the one, and for taking an active part in the other. While it withdraws their accustomed supports, it imposes, at the same time, the additional burden of growing infirmities. In the former stages of their journey, hope continued to flatter them with many a fair and enticing prospect. But in proportion as old age increases, those pleasing illusions vanish. Life is contracted within a narrow and barren circle. Year after year steals somewhat away from their store of comfort, deprives them of some of their

ancient friends, blunts some of their powers of sensation, or incapacitates them for some function of life.

Though, in the plan of Providence, it is wisely ordered, that, before we are called away from the world, our attachment to it should be gradually loosened; though it be fit in itself, that, as in the day of human life there is a morning and a noon, so there should be an evening also, when the lengthening shadows shall admonish us of approaching night; yet we have no reason to be surprised, if they, who are arrived at this dejecting season, feel and lament the change which they suffer. The complaints, therefore, of the aged, should meet with tenderness, rather than censure. The burden under which they labour ought to be viewed with sympathy, by those who must bear it in their turn, and who, perhaps, hereafter may complain of it as bitterly. At the same time, the old should consider, that all the seasons of life have their several trials allotted to them; and that to bear the infirmities of age with becoming patience, is as much their duty, as is that of the young to resist the temptations of youthful pleasure. By calmly enduring, for the short time that remains, what Providence is pleased to inflict, they both express a resignation most acceptable to God, and recommend themselves to the esteem and assistance of all who are around them

Old age never appears with greater dignity, than when, tempered with mildness and enlivened with good humour, it acts as the guide and the patron of youth. Religion, displayed in such a character strikes the beholders as at once amiable and venerable. They revere its power, when they see it adding so much grace to the decays of nature, and shedding so pleasing a lustre over the evening of life. The young wish to tread in the same steps, and to arrive at the close of their days with equal honour. They listen with attention to counsels which are mingled with tenderness, and rendered respectable by gray hairs. For, notwithstanding all its presumption, youth naturally bends before superior knowledge and years. Aged wisdom, when joined with acknowledged virtue, exerts an authority over the human mind, greater even than that which arises from power and station. It can check the most forward, abash the most profligate, and strike with awe the most giddy and unthinking.

In order to make the two extremes of life unite in amicable society, it is greatly to be wished that the young would look forward, and consider that they shall one day be old; and that the old would look back, and, remembering that they once were young, make proper allowances for the temper and the manners of youth.—Blair.

**OFFICIAL NOTICES.**



**Ministry of Public Instruction.**

**APPOINTMENTS.**

**SCHOOL INSPECTOR.**

By an Order in Council dated the 15th June last, the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to appoint Joseph A. McLoughlin, Esquire, School Inspector for the District of Bedford, in place of Dr. Rotus Parmelee, resigned. M. McLoughlin is to have charge of the Protestant Schools of the Counties of Shefford, Brome and Missisquoi.

**M'GILL NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOLS, MONTREAL.**

The Lieutenant-Governor, by an Order in Council dated the 12th ult., was pleased to accept the resignation of Sampson Paul Robbins, Esq., M.A. Ordinary Professor in the McGill Normal School, and at the same time to make the following appointments, namely;—Sampson Paul Robbins, Esq., M. A., to be Associate Professor of Agriculture and Natural History in the McGill Normal School; James McGregor, Esq., M. A., to be Ordinary Professor in the McGill Normal School in the room and stead of Professor Robbins, resigned; Francis Hicks, Esq., M. A., to be Director of the Boys' Model School, in connection with the McGill Normal School, in the room and stead of James McGregor, Esq., M. A., resigned.]

**JACQUES CARTIER NORMAL SCHOOL, MONTREAL.**

The Lieutenant-Governor by an Order in Council dated 31st ult., was pleased to appoint M. Joseph Godin, Associate Professor in the Jacques Cartier Normal School, in the room and stead of Mr. Arthur Duval, resigned.