

COUNTY OF MEGANTIC.

10. *Leeds*.—Though no assessment is levied the schools are liberally supported, and the teachers regularly and well paid. Seven schools under the commissioners and one independent school were in operation—the progress made being satisfactory. There are more pupils learning the advanced branches in Leeds than in any other municipality in this district. A Model school was opened last year under an able teacher with a diploma, from the McGill Normal school.

11. *Interiness*.—Much credit is due the commissioners for their energy in carrying out the school law during the last year and levying the assessment. A new division of the school districts of the township will afford additional facilities. Seven school-houses are in course of erection for which special assessment was made; and upwards of \$600 already paid in. Ten schools, controlled by the commissioners, were in operation, and satisfactory progress generally made. Male teachers for the winter half-year and female teachers for the summer are employed; and though this system has many advantages, it causes a too frequent change of teachers. There are also two dissentient schools, one of which is attended by French Canadian pupils whose parents are preparing to build a school-house.

12. *Nelson*.—An English and a French school are established here; and in a third district a new school-house has been built, to which the pupils will be admitted so soon as a teacher can be found. Five schools would be required to supply the wants of this municipality.

13. *St. Calixte de Somerset*.—In no other municipality have greater efforts been made to promote education. The building intended for a convent has been completed and the classes opened. There were 71 pupils in attendance at the time of my visit, and I was much pleased with the method of instruction followed in this institution. There is a Model school for boys and five elementary schools, at all of which very satisfactory progress has been made. The teacher of the model school is conversant with both languages, well qualified and a pupil of the Laval Normal school. The commissioners could not avoid incurring a considerable debt, but, I believe, it will be all paid without pressing too heavily upon the rate-payers.

14. *St. Julie de Somerset*.—Two new school-houses have been built; and there are now five elementary schools in operation, and a model school whose teacher is from the Laval Normal school. Considerable progress had been made.

15. *St. Sophie d'Halifax*.—Eight schools are kept here; satisfactory progress has been made in all except two; and the school law is well carried out. This is gratifying, as a few years ago this municipality was one of those most opposed to the school system. This reformation is due, in a great measure, to the exertions of Mr. Hébert, the chairman of the commissioners.

16. *St. Ferdinand d'Halifax*.—The only drawback to the prosperity of this municipality, as regards its school affairs, is the large amount of debts remaining unpaid, viz. \$500. There are ten schools under the commissioners, two of which employ teachers from the Laval Normal school. Satisfactory progress has been made. Three new schools were built and others repaired. There are also two dissentient schools, conducted with success and very well attended. A new schoolhouse has also been built by the dissentients.

17. *Ireland*.—This municipality affords another proof of the advantage of assessment over the voluntary contribution, as no difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the schools since the latter system was abandoned. Seven schools are in operation, and considerable advance has been made.

18. *Broughton*.—Only one school is in operation, as the limits of this municipality have lately been altered, and the time has been too short to permit the organization of others.

Notices of Books and Publications.

BÉNARD: DICTIONNAIRE CLASSIQUE UNIVERSEL, suivi d'un dictionnaire de la prononciation de tous les mots difficiles; by M. Th. Bénard, *Chef de Bureau* in the Department of Public Instruction, France. Published by Eugène Belin, Paris; 1862.—12mo. 736 pp. 5th Edition.

The author might certainly have adopted *Multum in parvo* as

his device. In this compact little volume, printed in very legible characters, we find a vocabulary of the French tongue, ancient and modern history, geography, biography, mythology, sketches of living characters, &c.,—among the latter we notice that several Canadian celebrities have found a place.

LA LITTÉRATURE CANADIENNE, de 1850 à 1860. Desbarats and Derbyshire, Publishers, Quebec; 1863.—1st vol., 8vo., pp. 400.

This fine volume is the first of a series to be presented to the subscribers of the *Payer Canadien*. Among the contents of this book, we notice extracts from the account of Mr. Garneau's voyage to Europe—a work seldom met with now. We do not see how the proprietors can afford to present their subscribers with a gift that in the cost of materials and printing alone appears to equal in value the amount of subscription charged.

LES SOIRÉES CANADIENNES: The 12th number of the 2nd volume of this interesting publication contains the reprint of a rare old pamphlet, *Le Procès de McLane* (J. Neilson, Quebec, 1797). McLane, it will be remembered, was tried and executed for treason, and this account of his trial presents legal, historical and philological features of great interest to the student. The price of subscription to the *Soirées* is, as heretofore, \$1 per annum, payable in advance.

SADLIER: OLD AND NEW, or *Taste versus Fashion*, By Mrs. J. Sadlier. D. & J. Sadlier, Publishers, New York; 1862.—16mo., pp. 846.

This is one of the works recently produced by our ci-dérant townswoman, who still continues to exercise her happy talent as a writer of fiction. Few need be told that while enlisting the sympathy of the reader in behalf of the characters that act and live in her story, this gifted writer ever employs her pen in inculcating moral lessons. In the present instance her purpose has been to expose the bad taste and folly of a certain class forming a characteristic element of society in the United States. In a careful review of the work by Brownson, many very plausible reasons are offered touching the origin of the evils depicted by Mrs. Sadlier, and which, in common with the reviewer, she so heartily deplores; the following extract will in part show the views of the American critic on the social relations of the people among whom he acts a conspicuous part.

"The evils Mrs. Sadlier so clearly sees, so vividly portrays, and so justly deplores, are only the natural offspring of the false spirit of the country, of that almost universal contempt for experience and the wisdom of other nations of past ages. The whole spirit and tone of our people is wrong; and nearly all our peculiar notions of society, of politics, of what is the end of society and the means of securing them, are as erroneous and foolish as are those of Mr. Tom just home from college, or Miss Fanny just from the boarding-school, concerning domestic government and the ends and objects for which rational existences have been created. As neither Mr. Tom nor Miss Fanny will be corrected by any parental admonition or advice, or by anything but the adversity which their folly is sure to bring, so we as a people can be corrected only by deep national sufferings, and the downfall of our false and hollow prosperity. This is wherefore we hope so much from the present troubles of our country, and regret so little the present civil war. All we fear is, that it will end too soon, and leave us uncorrected. Our present national life is a sham; we want it supplanted by real life, and our showy but false prosperity substituted by real prosperity, which, having its basis in the truth of things, may have some prospect of being permanent."

This declaration of Mr. Brownson's carries additional weight from the fact that he has always shown himself attached to the political institutions of his country and a devoted friend of the Union. We refer the reader to Mrs. Sadlier's book for an account of the prevailing extravagance, bad taste, and unsatiable thirst for gold, of homage rendered to wealth and fortune, while talent, intellect, art and even morals not unfrequently meet with neglect, adding that it is matter of regret that these traits of character are but too often recognizable nearer home.

THE STUDENT'S FRANCE: a History of France from the earliest times to the establishment of the Second Empire in 1852. With notes. Illustrated by engravings on wood. Harper & Bros., New York; 1862.—12mo 730 pp. Cloth \$1.

Our teachers, we fear, do not bestow upon the history of France all the attention which it deserves. The annals of a country whose civilization assisted so much in moulding the thoughts and habits of the nations of Europe ought certainly to be deemed of sufficient importance to warrant their extrication from the confused mass of