

—By the kind permission of the proprietors of the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, we have procured, for this number, the use of the wood cuts illustrating an article in the Natural History of the Mountain of Montreal, which we copy from that interesting periodical. The *Naturalist* of Montreal and the *Canadian Journal of Science* of Toronto are valuable publications, which the learned portion of our community, and those who aspire to belong to it, ought to encourage by every means in their power.

—Alfred de Musset, one of the greatest poets of modern France, and one of the forty members of the French Academy, died at Paris at the age of 45. Mr. Victor de Laprade, another poet, Mr. de Marcellus, an eminent writer and Mr. Sandeau, a novelist, are spoken of as candidates to succeed him.

—There is established in France, independently of the two great Associations, the one for the Propagation of the Faith, at Lyons, (conducted on the same principle as the British Association for the Propagation of the Gospel,) and the other, the *Œuvre de la Sainte Enfance*,—a Society for the support of schools in the East. "The Marianites," is the name of an order of female teachers recently founded on Mount Lebanon, by the exertions of this Society. They have already seven schools, and about five hundred scholars.

—Dr. Reichenbach, of Vienna, and Dr. Newman, of Berlin, have made numerous experiments on a new agent, of the same nature as electricity and magnetism, which they call *od*.—It illuminates the objects on the surface of which it is developed when placed in the *Camera obscura*. It alters the taste of liquids, and is developed in a positive manner by the rays of the moon, and in a negative manner by the rays of the sun. The *Ami des Sciences*, at Paris, says, that this new agent, although accompanying occasionally electrical or magnetical phenomena, is perfectly distinct from both, and will be of great service in medical diagnostics, from the fact that patients, in what the discoverers call an *odic* state, will send from the diseased organs, light of various colours and shades, according to the nature and phasis of the disease.

—It appears that several serious cases of poisoning from the effects of the cyanid of potassium, have occurred lately to photographers, by whom it is sometimes used, and which might, however, be advantageously superseded by the hyposulphite of the same metal. Dr. Athistone, at the Cape of Good Hope, was nearly killed from the effects of this terrible poison, which had come in contact with an abrasion on his finger—a circumstance frequently occurring to photographers in the process of preparing the glass-plates used by them. Artists, and especially amateurs, would do well to submit the bottles containing the several preparations they purchase, to the inspection of a chemist, before using them. Although the hyposulphite is now more generally used, the *Cyanid* is also frequently found in those preparations. There is no reason why this should be the case, as the hyposulphite is generally more successfully employed in an artistical point of view.

—Since announcing the publication of the second French daily paper ever issued in Lower Canada,—The *Courrier du Canada*, at Quebec—(the first having been the *Monteur Canadien*, now discontinued,) two other French papers have commenced publishing daily editions, and have much enlarged their size. These are—*La Patrie*, at Montreal, and *Le Canadien*, at Quebec. The former also issues a weekly edition. The daily *Patrie* is of the same size as the *Transcript*. *Le Canadien*, instead of enlarging its sheet, gives eight pages of the dimensions of the *True Witness*.

Mr. de la Pouterie, formerly a writer in *Le Correspondant*, at Paris, is now editor of *La Patrie*, conjointly with Mr. Paul Stevens, a native of Belgium. There are also other contributors.

Mr. Barthe, formerly a member of Parliament, has succeeded Mr. Derome in the editorial chair of the *Canadien*. Mr. Barthe recently edited *Le Bas-Canada*, at Three Rivers, and several years ago conducted the *Aurore des Canadas*, at Montreal. He is the author of a work published in Paris under the somewhat startling title of "*Le Canada reconquis par la France*." It is, however, but justice to Mr. Barthe to state that the author meant nothing beyond a moral and literary conquest.

Mr. Derome retires with the consideration and high esteem of all who can appreciate a classical and gentlemanly style of writing. A new English paper has also been recently started in Montreal, under the name of the *New Era*. It is conducted by a gentleman well known in the literary and political world in Europe and in America,—Mr. D'Arcy McGee.

—The annual meeting of the friends and supporters of the Sailors' Orphan Girls' School and Home took place lately in London. The honorable Kinnaird, M. P., presided. One of the principal objects of the institution is to train the children in the knowledge of domestic duties. Twenty-four girls over twelve years of age discharge all the duties of the kitchen, laundry and dormitory. Attached to the school is a temporary home for girls formerly pupils, who are received when out of situation. During the past year a new infirmary has been erected.—(*Illustrated London News*.)

—The anniversaries of the United Association of Schoolmasters, and of the Ladies' Institution for female idiots, also took place with great effect in London.—*Ibid*.

—A meeting was held at Willis' Room, the Earl of Shaftesbury presiding, in aid of the Society for providing home teachers and books in Moore's

type to enable the blind to read the scriptures. The society was established in 1855. The first teacher was a blind man, who was able to teach after one month; the second teacher was also a blind man, who was able to teach after six months, and in eighteen months they had taught reading to 117 pupils, and 73 were still learning. Some of the blind who attended excited considerable surprise by the fluency with which they read passages from the New Testament, and much admiration was awakened by the singing of three of Mr. Moore's female pupils from the blind establishment at Brighton, who sang solos and trios from the oratorios of Hayden and Handel, and Rossini's "Charity,"—their instructress, Madame de Fauche, accompanying them on the piano.—*Ibid*.

—The month of May is dedicated by Catholics to the Holy Virgin Mary, and evening sermons and prayers are held in every church during the whole month, in all Catholic countries, particularly in Lower Canada. It appears that, in England, a vestige of that devotion still remains, being kept up in some parts of the country by young girls who sing pious songs, and dance with garlands of flowers around a figure dressed in white. In the old times parties of old and young people used to ramble in the fields and woods the whole night, and to come back in the morning with birds, boughs and branches of trees to decorate the inside of their houses.

A writer in an English paper publishes the following old song which he has heard sung by young girls while dancing around a figure on May day:—

"I've been rambling all this night,
And some part of this day,
And now returning back again,
I brought you a garland gay.

"A garland gay I brought you here,
And at your door I stand;

'Tis but a sprout, but 'tis well budded out,
The works of our Lord's hand.

"Why don't you do as I have done,
The very first day of May?
And from my parents I have come,
And could no longer stay.

"So dear, so dear; as Christ loved us
And for our sins was slain.
Christ bids us turn from wickedness,
And turn to the Lord again."

—The abbé Pauvert, a French ecclesiastic and a Knight of the Legion of Honor, has taken a patent, in England, for a new chemical process for the making of steel. Experiments have been made in the arsenal of Woolwich, by the abbé's agent, Mr. Meslin, which have been declared highly satisfactory.

—A great exhibition of paintings, statues, and of fine arts generally, is now being held in Manchester, in England, and is attended with much success.

—While it appears that the population of France has increased very inconsiderably during the last ten years, that of Spain has been progressing at a very extraordinary rate. It was only 14,000,000 at the end of 1849, and had reached 17,000,000, at the end of 1856.

—In a preceding number of this journal, we alluded to the visit of the King of Prussia to Mons. de Humboldt. We see that since then, Prince Napoleon before leaving Berlin, also paid a visit to the prince of science, and decorated him with the *grand cordon de la légion d'honneur*.

—The Botanical Society of France is, this year, to explore the environs of Montpellier, the Cevennes, and part of the coast of the Mediterranean.

—The designs for the monument to be erected to the memory of the late Duke of Wellington, in St. Paul's Cathedral, are in course of being arranged, and will be open for inspection, in Westminster Hall, early in July.

—Cardinal Wiseman, in a pastoral letter to the several Catholic congregations in London, announces that, within the last twelve months, no less than seven religious edifices have been opened in his diocese, and that others are now building. Among other institutions lately founded, is a hospital presided over by the Sisters of Charity, who served in the East during the last war.

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