

D.D., Superintendent of Education for that Province. The Lower Provinces have now two educational periodicals, this, and the *Parish School Advocate*, also published in Halifax for all the other Provinces. Now that schemes for a federal union are afloat, it will be interesting for our readers to follow the series, the extracts we propose publishing from time to time from these papers. The project of uniting the educational and the agricultural periodicals in one has been discussed in the Board of Agriculture for Lower Canada; but it has been found more advisable to try first the improvement of the *Farmers Journal* and the "*Agriculteur*" which, after having been suspended have reappeared in a very neat shape, the former under the direction of James Anderson, Esquire, and the latter under the care of Joseph Perrault, Esquire, secretary of the Board. The September and October issues of these two publications are now before us and we must say that they are highly creditable both to the learned and able editors and to the printers Messrs. de Montigny. "The *Farmers Journal* and the *Journal of Education*, says the *Canadien*, ought to be subscribed for by every family in the country; their cheapness and their utility leaves no excuse to those who remain without them."

— A school of agriculture has been recently opened at Ste. Anne Lapointière in the county of Kamouraski, in connexion with the splendid college of that place. Messrs. Casgrain and Pelletier, two of the professors of the college, recently visited the chief agricultural schools of Europe.

— A model farm is to be established at Varennes, near Montreal, by a joint stock company. It is to be managed by a Board of Directors elected by the shareholders. Mr. Perrault is now busy in preparing for the opening of this establishment, which is we believe, to be principally conducted by him.

— The public courses of the Laval University are now held in the splendid halls of the large building of which a view is to be found in the 3d number of our first volume. The rooms although very large are densely crowded every night. We were present at one of the lectures of the course of intellectual and moral philosophy by Father Tailhan, recently arrived from Paris. There were more than four hundred hearers amongst whom we noticed several of the leading men of the city of all creeds and origins. The Rev. lecturer expounded the highest principles of metaphysics in a most clear, forcible and elegant manner.

— A weighty blue-book just issued, gives the report of the Commissioners on the progress and condition of the Queen's colleges at Cork, Galway and Belfast. The Commissioners recommend the abolition of the professorships of the Celtic languages. The great majority of the students in the colleges belong to the middle classes of society, and in 1857-58 there are registered 135 students, of whom 109 are matriculated. The total number of students from 1849-50 to 1857-58 is 758 representing 1686 individuals.

— We see in the *Moniteur* that the seven pupils who gained the first prizes at the annual competition of all the colleges of the University, dined with the minister of public instruction, His Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon, and the Archbishop of Paris: and that several other ministers and dignitaries honored Mr. Rouland with their presence on that occasion.

— On the occasion of the great convocation of authors which met at Brussels in Belgium, great festivities accompanied the ceremonies. Mr. Rogier, the minister of public instruction, met and reviewed the students of all the public institutions of the country. The King and his son, the young Duke of Brabant, presided over this most extraordinary ceremony.

— Two *salles d'asiles* (infants' schools) and two *crèches* are now being established in the city of Montreal, under the auspices of the gentlemen of the seminary. The *salle d'asile* and *crèche* of the Quebec suburb are conceded to the Sisters of Providence, and those of St. Joseph suburb to the Sisters of Charity. In the latter ward a building is now in course of erection and will soon be completed; it is 120 feet long and 30 deep. The school room will be 16 feet high. The building will contain easily 350 children in the *salle d'asile* and 50 in the *crèche*. Further particulars will be found in the last number of the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique*; and all information on the system followed in similar institutions in France, may be easily obtained by applying to the Education Office, for the "*Ami de l'Enfance*, journal des salles d'asiles," and for the "*Bulletin des Crèches*."

#### LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

— A great congress of authors and publishers is now being held in Brussels, to discuss all the questions connected with copyright, with a view to assimilate the laws of all civilized nations in that respect and to arrive at international reciprocity. The congress was opened by a very good speech by Mr. Rogier, minister of the interior and of public instruction. His Majesty, the King of Belgium, honoured the congress with his presence. Mr. Cozens made a speech in the English language, as representing the United States; his address was immediately translated into French, by the secretary. An animated debate, in which Messrs. Walewski and Jules Simon took an active part, was commenced on the question whether copyright ought to be a portion of the inheritance of any estate, like any other property, or whether it ought to be limited to the life

of the author or to a certain number of years after his death, as is the case in several countries.

— An autograph signature of Shakespeare, which is considered as the best in existence was recently sold by auction and bought by the British Museum, at the price of £315 sterling. It was the signature on a mortgage deed, and it would be interesting to know the amount of the mortgage which is now, perhaps, more than covered by the value of the poet's autograph. Old copies of Shakespeare also realized large amounts on the occasion referred to. A copy of the sonnets, 1609, was paid £154 stg.!

— A decree which covers nearly the whole of the *Moniteur* has been issued, concerning the reorganisation of the Imperial Library of France. The staff of officers is prodigious and their salaries very handsome. The library is to be opened free to all parties during six hours every day, except during the Easter vacation. It is to be re-divided into four departments: 1st. Printed books, maps, and geographical collections; 2nd. Manuscripts, charts, and diplomas; 3rd. Medals, cameos and other antiquities; 4th. Engravings

#### SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

— A statue of the great mathematician and astronomer, Sir Isaac Newton, from the hand of W. Theed, Esquire, in light coloured bronze was inaugurated at Grantham, Lincolnshire, in the last week of September. The statue is twelve feet high; about two tons of bronze were used in founding it, one half of which was presented in the shape of old cannon by Her Majesty. It is placed on a pedestal fourteen feet high carved out of a block of marble. Newton is represented clothed in the robe of a master of arts, and as in the act of lecturing to a class. He points with his right hand to a scroll which he holds in his left, upon which is traced the diagram of one of his celebrated problems in the *Principia*, that we believe upon gravitation. The following speech was delivered after the falling of the veil which covered the statue, by Lord Brougham, who presided on the occasion:

"We are this day assembled to commemorate him of whom the consent of nations has declared that man is chargeable with nothing like a follower's exaggeration of local partiality which pronounces the name of Newton as that of the greatest genius ever bestowed, by the bounty of Providence, for instructing mankind on the frame of the universe, and the laws by which it is governed—(the noble Lord was here overpowered by emotion, and paused: in a few seconds he proceeded)—

Whose genius dimmed all other men's as far  
As does the midday sun the midnight star.

But, though scaling these lofty heights be hopeless, yet is there some use and much gratification in contemplating by what steps he ascended. Tracing his course of action may help others to gain the lower eminences lying within their reach; while admiration excited and curiosity satisfied are frames of mind both wholesome and pleasing. Nothing new, it is true, can be given in narrative; hardly anything in reflection; less still, perhaps, in comment or illustration; but it is well to assemble in one view various parts of the vast subject, with the surrounding circumstances, whether accidental or intrinsic, and to mark in passing the misconception raised by individual ignorance or national prejudice which the historian of science occasionally finds crossing his path. The remark is common and is obvious, that the genius of Newton did not manifest itself at a very early age; his faculties were not, like those of some great and many ordinary individuals, precociously developed. His earliest history is involved in some obscurity; and the most celebrated of men has, in this particular, been compared to the most celebrated of rivers, the Nile—as if the course of both in its feeble state had been concealed from mortal eyes. We have it, however, well ascertained that within four years—between the age of eighteen and twenty-two—he had begun to study mathematical science, and had taken his place amongst its greatest masters, learnt for the first time the elements of geometry and analysis, and discovered calculus which entirely changed the face of the science, effecting a revolution in that and in every branch of philosophy connected with it. Before 1661 he had not read Euclid; in 1665 he had committed to writing the method of fluxions. At twenty-five years of age he had discovered the law of gravitation, and laid the foundation of celestial dynamics, the science created by him. Before ten years had elapsed he added to his discoveries that of the fundamental properties of light. So brilliant a course of discovery, in so short a time—changing and reconstructing analytical, astronomical, and optical science—almost defies belief. The statement could only be deemed possible by an appeal to the incontestable evidence that proves it strictly true. By a rare felicity these doctrines gained the universal assent of mankind as soon as they were clearly understood, and their originality has never been seriously called in question. The limited nature of man's faculties precludes the possibility of his ever reaching at once the utmost excellence of which they are capable. Survey the whole circle of the sciences, and trace the history of our own progress in each—you find this to be the universal rule. Nor is this great law of gradual progress confined to the physical sciences; in the moral it equally governs. Again, in constitutional policy, see by what slow degrees, from its first rude elements—the attendance of feudal tenants at their lords' courts, and the summons of burghers to grant supplies of money—the great discovery of modern times in the science of practical politics has been effected, the representative scheme,