

UNITED STATES.

—The number of schools in Pennsylvania in which the Bible is read is over 10,000.

—Under the new constitution of Pennsylvania, women are eligible to any office pertaining to the administration of the school laws of that State.

—The new State Normal School of Nebraska had during the present year 357 students. There are three departments—model, preparatory and normal—and the students in the normal school practice teaching in the model school.

—Tennessee has 4,680 teachers and 417,442 children of school age (6-18). The average salary of teachers is \$32 per month. About \$30,600 has been donated to the public schools from the Peabody Fund during the past year.

—The American Geographical Society is to be represented at the millennial celebration in Iceland by Dr. Hayes, the Arctic explorer. Dr. Hayes will take his departure from this port about June 1, and leave Dundee, Scotland, in a vessel specially chartered for the voyage to Iceland.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

—The Czar of Russia—on the advice, no doubt, of his "Minister of enlightenment"—has ordered that thirteen new training schools for male and female teachers shall be added to the already existing ones, which are reported to be seventeen in number.

—In Chili there are 1,190 schools, of which 726 are public and 464 private. In the towns there is on the average one school for every 1,769 persons, and in the country one school for every 3,020 inhabitants. In 1872 these schools were attended by 82,152 pupils, and the amount expended by the government for educational purposes amounted to 414,127 piastres. The number of teachers in the primary schools was 896 males and 657 females.

—Fifteen against eight of the Cantons of Switzerland voted for a revision of the Swiss constitution. The effects of this resolution, from an educational point of view, will be the following: discretionary permission given to the central power of founding a polytechnical school, a university or other establishment for the higher education of the young; free access for every citizen's

child, irrespective of the parent's creed, to all the public schools, with power given to the federal authorities to take coercive measures against the refractory cantons; abolition of all compulsion in respect to religious instruction and ceremonies; the tutelage of the father or guardian in the matter of religious instruction to be limited to the sixteenth year of the child or ward, etc. The eight brakes on the chariot of Swiss progress were the Cantons of Uri, Schwytz, Unterwalden, Zug, Freiburg, Valais, Appenzell (interior) and Lucerne. The fifteen "advanced" Cantons were the following: Zurich; Berne, Glarus, Solevæ, Basle, Schaffhausen, Appenzell (exterior), St. Gall, Grisons, Aargau, Thurgau, Tessin, Vaud, Neuchatel and Geneva.

—Prof. Francis W. Newman, arguing in the *London Examiner* in favor of free schools in England, says that their present system involves an immense waste of teaching power, a fact which appears also in Germany. A Professor of Natural History in University College, London, whose fame was European, for a series of years had classes which could always be counted on the fingers. Another bad result of the system which he notes is the expense of highly educating a family, which he calls a "great moral mischief to the gentry. On one side," he says, "it leads to delaying marriage too long, and on the other makes it harder to be content with comparative poverty, by which a father becomes incapable of fitly educating his children. Men's minds are hereby made less independent; on both sides the evil recoils on the public." The Professor compliments the American system, declaring that our curriculum and text-books are all the product of fresh thought, and that the routine of classical Europe has not been allowed to cripple the most enlarged modern views.

—The *Schoolmaster*, London, England, is devoted in the late number, almost to the exclusion of all other news, to the meeting of the English National Union of Elementary Teachers, held in the second week of last month. England is now in the throes of establishing the public School; but here is what the teachers there seek: "We may venture to summarize the expressed opinion of the Conference: It is highly desirable that there should be a Minister of Education, on whose shoulders shall lie