## The Coming Vacations.

Last year we gave fuller reports of the Holiday Examinations, Exercises, Prize Lists, dc., of a larger number of Educational Institutions, than ever before given in the Journal. This year, we intend to surpass that of last, if possible, therefore do we earnestly request Heads of Institutions and others interested in the progress of Education and Letters throughout the Province to furnish us with full and authentic reports as soon as possible after the close of the examinations and exercises of their different Colleges, Academies, Convents and Schools.

We have been unable to acknowledge receipt of our usual Exchanges, and some Books for revicw, for which we claim indulgence.

## MISOHLIAAN.

## Education.

- Middle Class Schools in Englund.-The amual meeting of the Middle-Class Schools Corporation was held on the 24th March last. The report of the Governors stated that 1060 boys are now being with 960 at their school in Cowper-Street, Finsbury, as compared to 960 in the preceding year. The school was originally designed was anmodate 1000 schulars, and it was to be assumed that 1060 Was the maximum number that can be received there. That circumof a a sithey said evidenced the policy of the acquisition already made fa site for another school in Lambeth.
-Since the last amual meeting the Cloth-workers' Company, with
the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, have given $\$ 5,000$ towards the schools out of the fuads in their hands originally bequeathed for the relief of the poor debtors; and the trustees of Barnes's Charity, in the parish of St. Margaret, Lotbury, under a scheme of the same Commissioners, $\$ 7,500$ out of funds originally appropriated to apprenticing inhabitants of that parish. The Council are in communication With the Eudowed Schools Commissioners and various other trustees Thd budies, with the view of obtaining further gifts from like sources. The orards developing the scientific elements of education in the school the Gilchrist trustees have voted $\$ 500$, and Mr. Alfred Davis has given $\$ 2,500$ for a kindred object. Mr. Lewis Lloyd, banker, has given $\$ 2,500$ towards the same object; and Sir William Tite, M.P., and Mr. J. P. Gassiott have both signified their intention of presenting a similar sua for like purposes. Preparations are being made to erect a laboratory and a drawing school in comnection with the school
in iis Cowper-street.

The payments made by the scholars of one guinea a quarter continue to defiay the actual cost of their eucation, but an endowment fund of about $\$ 5,000$ a year is necessary to mect rates, taxes and repairs. A building has been obtained for trying the experiment of a girls' schoo!, and money has been specially contributed by individual liberality for the purpose, to the extent of 300 girls for three years. The council have been able to redeem the Cowper-street estate, beend by an appeal against the rating of the schools, the rate has $W$ been reduced from $\$ 6,500$ to 4,500 . The Head-Master, the Revd. W. Jowitt, M. A., having been thanked for his exertions, replying to the compliment, spoke to the tone of mauliness, truthfulness, and purity which pervaded the whole school. He added that M. G. Moor, of Cheapside, had signified his intention to institute scholarships to oncourage biblical instruction in the school; and M. Roundell had offered $\$ 25$ a year for a prize in English literature.
-John Billings says: "There is one man in this basement world Whom I always look upon with mixed feelings of pity and respect, to Whom I always take off my hat and remain uncovered until he gets safely by; and that is the district schoolmaster. When I meet him I way upon him as a martyr-just returned from the stake, or on his Way there to be cooked. Don't talk to me about the patience of ancient Job. Job had pretty plenty of boils all over him, 1:o doubt, bat they were all of one breed. Every young one in a district school Find boil of a different breed, and each young one needs a different kind of ponltice to get a good head on houn."

## Science and Literatire.

-Heights of Nuture's Reservoirs.-For the purpose of comparing different heights on the surface of the earth, a uniform and generally adopted standard is offered by the huge water reservoirs, the oceans. We give below a table of heights of some of the remarkable lakes and imland seas. The highest of all these is Lake Siri-kol, in the mountains of Central Asia; and next, Lake Titicaca, in Bolivia SouthAinerica, recently visited by our countryman, Mr. Squiers. It is about ten times hi fher above the ocean than the Swiss lakes Constance and Geneva. The Dead Sea, in Palestine, presents the reverse phenomenon of being actually about as much lower than the ocean as the Alpine lakes mentioned are above it. This sea has no outlet ; but the water which it received principally from the river Jordan, is evaporated.just about as fast as it ruus in, and consequently the level of this sea is nearly uniform. Of course, a freshet in the Jordan would cause a temporary raising of the sea-level; but as this would considerably increase the surface of the sea, more water would be evaporated, so that the sea would soon return to its ordinary limits. Owing to the extreme heat of the country, more than 1200 pounds of water are evaporated by each square foot of surface in the course of the year. This would lower the sea twenty feet in the year, were it not that an exactly equal amount is yearly added by the Jordan. The whole average yearly rain-fall of Palestine would, at the average temperature of the country, be evaporated in one year from a surface of ahout 1000 square miles. About one third of this water flows through the Jordan into the Dead Sea, which has an area of 372 square miles. Hence rve see that the yearly supply and the loss by evaporation counterbalance each other as nearly as possible. The solid substances which are introduced in very dilute solutions by the river have no chance to escape, and this accounts for the large quantity of common salt and other solid matter which the water of the Dead Sea is celebrated for holding in solution.

-Lartel, the discoverer of human relics and remains in caves and Quarternary formations in France, the principal author of the Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ, and an active member of the French Institute, died in the department of Gers, during the investment of Paris. He was Professor of Paleontology at the Museum of Natural History, filling the place left vacant by the death of d'Archiac.

- Becquerel, the Physicist, died in Normandy, during the siege of Paris, at the aye of eighty.
-Guillaume Le Jean, Secretary of the Geographical Society of. France, and author of various Geographical papers, died recently.
-Haidinger of Vienna, the veteran Mineralogist, Crystallographer and Pnysicist, and the most active promoter of scientific progress in Austria, died in the latter part of the month of March.-The American Journal of Seience and Arts.
-The Congressional Library at Washington contains 187,688
volumes.

