

—The Eleventh Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Wisconsin, shows the number of children in the State between 4 and 20 years of age, to be 278,871. This indicates a population in Wisconsin just about equal to that of Michigan. The increase of children in 1859 was 14,519; in 1858, 22,897; in 1857, 27,656.—Though the gain is greater than in Michigan, the comparative falling off is also greater. "The stringency of the times" checking emigration, is assigned as the cause.

Over 100,000 children are reported as not attending school—a much greater proportion than in this State.

The average length of time schools were taught was five and one-half months.

Whole number of districts, 3,656. They have, however, a system of parts of districts, which, if included, make the number a little over four thousand.

The schoolhouse property is estimated at \$1,185,191 93. The most expensive schoolhouse in the State cost but \$20,900.

The average price per month paid to male teachers was \$22 93; to females, \$14 29.

The annual interest of State school funds is \$245,000, of which about \$290,000 is expected to be realized.

The whole amount paid for teachers' wages was \$536,860 66—about one hundred thousand dollars more than was paid in Michigan.

The number of volumes in libraries is less than 50,000.

The Superintendent, Hon. Lyman Draper, congratulates the people that their school interests, "notwithstanding the unequalled pressure of the times," are steadily advancing. He commends the Normal Schools, and Teachers' Institutes.—*Michigan Journal of Education.*

—The Working Men's College in London has progressed so satisfactorily that the institution has been removed to more commodious premises. During the past year from 200 to 300 students on an average have attended the various classes, which include, among others, drawing, arithmetic, mathematics, geology, chemistry, English grammar and composition, Latin, Greek, French, and English, and Bible history. Of the students from October to Christmas, 1858, 109 out of 242 belonged strictly to the class of operatives, the remainder being principally clerks, tradesmen, tradesmen's assistants, and warehousemen, and school masters. The operatives included, in the largest proportion, carpenters, cabinet makers, piano-forte makers, watch and clock makers, opticians, printers, compositors, and bookbinders. The total number of students who joined the college in the first year was 400, in the second 350, in the third 260, in the fourth 236, and in the fifth, to the end of the second term, 169, making a total of 1475. There are classes for women in connection with the college, in which cookery and domestic economy are especially taught, as also reading and writing, and vocal music, arithmetic, history, the Bible, needlework, and geography.—*U. C. Journal of Education.*

—The Hartford Times says that Thomas W. Parmelee, of West Bloomfield, N. Y., by a will made in 1855, after providing for the support of his widow, and making some legacies, bequeathed his real estate to the School Fund of Connecticut, to be conveyed on the death of his wife, (now about 70 years of age.) The property is worth about \$5,000. The School Fund of Connecticut amounts to \$2,044,672. Mr. Parmelee assigned as a reason for giving this property to the School Fund, that long ago, when he was poor, the State loaned him money, which gave him a start in the world, and from which he was enabled to leave a comfortable amount of property, after paying off the loan and all other indebtedness.—*ib.*

—Several public bodies and societies connected with the Highlands have memorialized the Scotch Universities' commissioners to take the necessary steps for instituting and endowing Celtic professorships in some or all of the Scotch Universities.

—We are sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Fisher, Chief Superintendent of Schools for New Brunswick, on whose last Report an editorial appears in our present issue. Mr. Fisher had been hardly ten years in office, and we believe had devoted himself with great zeal to his important task. He is replaced by Mr. Bennett, Inspector of Schools, an appointment which seems to be universally approved. The reader will also find in this number, extracts from this gentleman's last Report, which we had clipped before we had been aware of his preferment.

#### LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—A meeting numerously attended by the friends of education and promoters of intellectual progress, was held on the 17th ultimo, in the building which has been recently erected on Notre-Dame street, in front of the Seminary, for the use of the literary institution, so well known to the citizens of Montreal under the name of *Cabinet de Lecture Paroissial*. At this *réunion*, met for the purpose of inaugurating the new hall, upwards of two thousand persons were present. The opening oration having been pronounced by Mr. Granet, the Superior of the Seminary, the following gentlemen addressed the meeting: His Lordship the R. C. Bishop of Montreal, the Hon. L. J. Papineau, the Rev. Father Vignon, Superior of St. Mary's College, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Superintendent of Education, the Hon. T. J. J. Loranger, C. S. Cherrier, Esquire, members of the Council of Public Instruction, and D. H. Sénécal, Esquire, President of the "Cercle Littéraire."

The presence of the Hon. Mr. Papineau at this grand soirée created quite a sensation. His speech was listened to with marked attention, and elicited rapturous applause. In the course of his remarks he paid a high compliment to the gentlemen of the Seminary for the liberal manner in which they had contributed to the success of the enterprise, and expatiated in eloquent terms on their claims to the gratitude of the country for the efficient encouragement and support given by them to the cause of education in Lower-Canada. It was, he said, to the generous efforts of the Seminary, that Montreal was indebted for the establishment, or the development and preservation, within its limits, of the principal colleges, as well as hospitals, schools, and numerous benevolent institutions, which worked such good, and reflected such credit on the city. At the period when Canada became a British province, Montreal was so inconsiderable a place that it could not maintain a college. It only possessed the elementary schools which had been started by the Seminary. Superior education could alone be had in Quebec, then the seat of Government, of commerce and of trade. The higher branches of learning were taught in the Seminary and the Jesuits' College, at Quebec, from the earliest times of the colony, when Montreal could only afford a sufficient number of pupils to attend the elementary course of studies taught in the primary schools. On the very spot where this fine building was now erected, for the inauguration of which they had met that night, and where they would hear such learned lectures, once stood what was considered to be the head primary school of the time, the one in which he had been taught the rudiments of religious instruction. It was to the Montreal Seminary he owed his first lessons; but it was in Quebec that his classical course of studies had been gone through. As Montreal grew in importance, however, the Seminary founded a college, affording that superior education by which many of his hearers had so well profited. Nor was this event of so old a date. One at least of those who had attended the first class of philosophy opened in this college, was still alive, he meant his venerable relative, the Hon. D. B. Viger, a citizen whose name ranked among the most distinguished in Canada.

The gratitude of the clergy was also due to the Seminary of Montreal, for it was owing to its zealous efforts and its solicitude in their behalf, that ministers of the Gospel who were entrusted with the greater number of the spiritual charges in this diocese, and gave such good examples to their flocks, had had an opportunity of forming themselves. In short, in the institutions founded and directed by the Seminary, Judges who adorned the Bench, advocates who were an honor to the Bar, notaries, physicians, merchants, and citizens of every rank and condition, had obtained that sound and moral education suited to their respective callings. Ever since the time it selected from among the energetic, the honest, and the laborious, the pioneers of colonization; when its members laboured with their own hands to assist the settlers in erecting their first habitations; when, scattered through the land, its missionaries, in their efforts to civilize the Indian, fearlessly encountered death, down to the present day its services had been unremitting, and would extend far into the future. The Montreal St. Sulpicians were now an illustrious Community, and had been presided over by a long line of distinguished men. He would only mention the names of those he had known in his youth, the Rev. Mr. Brassier, and the erudite and pious Rev. Mr. Roux, who was learned as well in civil as in canon law, and whose counsel was sought both by the laity and the clergy. Men equally eminent had succeeded them, and had won for the Seminary of Montreal an enduring name and the strongest claims to the respect, the esteem and the gratitude of the citizens of this important city.

The hon. gentleman then spoke in high praise of the Rev. Abbé Failon, of his works already published, and added that this laborious divine was now writing a history of Montreal. This work would take in a sketch of all the parishes within the seigniories of the Seminary, and would give an account of the families that settled in the country under its auspices and protection. It would necessarily be connected with the history of the settlement of the colony. He concluded by expressing a hope that the pleasure of reading this work would not be denied him before going down to the grave.

We condense from the learned disquisition of Mr. Cherrier the following remarks:—He would, before concluding, say a word about our literature and the causes which had operated to retard its progress. As soon as Lower Canada had been endowed with representative institutions, most of our eminent men had been drawn into the political arena. This boisterous life was ill-suited to the development of literature. Yet that eloquence which can flourish only in a free country, had been successfully cultivated by our public men from the beginning of our constitutional era. History had chronicled the names of two men who, as orators, were exalted. One, by his solid and pressing arguments, close dialectics and powerful eloquence, which always shone with the greatest brilliancy in the heat of debate, had rendered the name of Mr. Pierre Bédard eminent. Another, upon whom nature had bestowed an athletic stature, and a powerful voice, held his auditors by the charm of a vehement eloquence, which was only equalled by the vigor of his reasoning. His successful orations, of which his cotemporaries were proud, had placed him at the head of that phalanx who fought for those constitutional liberties which Fox and Pitt, and other illustrious members of the Imperial Parliament, had advocated for them. All would recognise in this description the father of Mr. Papineau. There were those among us who had witnessed the successful efforts of more modern