

which the government grant was apportioned according to the numbers attending the schools. The Denominational board divided its share of the money among denominational schools, which were practically irremediable. Government inspection was unknown among them.

The franchise was recently extended so as to become nearly resident manhood suffrage, and very soon after murmurs against the waste and incompleteness of the two systems, found expression in the House of Assembly, and the cry arose for a complete national scheme. About six years ago, a bill brought in by the ministry was thrown out because of its unsatisfactory nature, and since that time the question has lain dormant until revived by the present administration. They have brought in a measure, the essential features of which are briefly as follows:—

It dissolves the existing boards, and establishes a new "Council of Education," to consist of five members, appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, together with the Colonial Secretary, for the time being, who is *ex-officio* President. The five members will hold office for the term of four years, but may be removed by the appointing authority. They are to be entrusted with the expenditure of all money voted by Parliament for elementary instruction, and will have authority to establish public schools; to grant aid to certified denominational schools; to appoint and remove teachers and school-inspectors; and to frame regulations for the performance of their own duties under the Act,—for defining the course of secular instruction; the training examination, and classification of teachers; the examination of scholars; and the discipline to be observed.

A public school may be established where there are at least twenty-five children who will attend regularly from the commencement. In districts where it is not practicable to found a public school, itinerant teachers may be appointed; and in thinly-populated districts, private schools may be assisted. Denominational schools, not more distant than five miles from, and not nearer than two, to any public school, and having at least thirty children, may be certified, being subject to the public-school course of secular instruction. In the public schools, four hours a day are to be devoted to secular instruction; and a portion of the day, not less than one hour, is to be set apart, when the children of any one religious persuasion may be instructed by the clergyman or other religious teacher of that persuasion. "Secular instruction" is held "to include general religious teaching as distinguished from dogmatical and polemical theology." The teachers are to be paid by fixed salaries, increasing with the number of their pupils, and no child between five and fourteen will be excluded from inability to pay the fees.—*Montreal Daily Witness*.

—According to a compilation in the last number of the *Yale College Courant*, the aggregate number of the undergraduates in the regular academical course of the various New England Colleges is, 2,234, and including the numbers of the professional and scientific departments, the number is 3,508. The order of magnitude in the institutions is as follows. Harvard University, 961 students; Yale College, 709; Dartmouth, 248; Bowdoin, 232; Amherst, 225; Brown University, 190; Williams College, 196; Wesleyan University, 131; University of Vermont, 127; Holy Cross College, 120; Boston College, 70; Trinity, 59; Tufts, 55; Colby University, 54; Middlebury College, 52; and Norwich University, 40. Divided by classes, the students rank as follows: Seniors, 449; juniors, 484; sophomores, 608; and freshmen, 693. Of the professional schools connected with the colleges, there are five of medicine, with 593 students, two of law, with 188; and two of theology, with 45. The aggregate number of students in the colleges has been steadily increasing from 2,067, in 1807 to 3,508, in the present academical year. As in the number of students, Harvard leads in the number of volumes in her library, which is reported at 168,000. Yale has 77,500; Dartmouth, 40,000, Bowdoin, 32,300; Amherst, 30,000; and Williams, 22,000.

—This institution (the Lachute college) was visited by the Government Inspector of Schools on the 18th ult., and the students were minutely examined by him in the presence of the directors of the college and many others, and received from him the highest expressions of approval. The subjects of examination consisted of Greek, Latin, French, geography, scripture history, British and Canadian history, English grammar and parsing, dictation, Euclid, arithmetic, and reading. Much praise was given to the manner in which the pupils acquitted themselves, as well as to their writing, map-drawing, and compositions, which were exhibited in the room. The Inspector, in addressing a few words, said:—"The college is in a high state of efficiency, and is doing a great and good work for Lachute and neighborhood." The proceedings, which occupied the whole day, closed by the college choir performing several vocal selections, which they rendered with precision and taste. Prizes were awarded to the following students: Male department, Mr. G. H. Christie and Mr. George Hills; female department, Miss Alice Robinson and Miss Lilly McGibbon. This college was incorporated by Act of Parliament about ten years since, and is supplying a really sound education at a very small cost. Any young man can there receive an excellent classical or commercial training, fitting him for the university, professional, or mercantile life, while the beauty and well-known salubrity of the situation, and easy distance from Montreal, make it a very desirable place for boarders. G. H. Drewe, Esq. (of Oxford University), who has had many

years' practical experience in England, is principal of the institution, and is giving great satisfaction; and, under his enthusiastic management, the college bids fair to occupy a prominent position among our educational institutions. We can heartily and cordially recommend it to the notice of the Montreal public. A scholarship of \$50 will give a pupil four years' education, free of college fees; and board can be had at from \$7 to \$11 per month in the village close to the college.—*Cor.*

Education in England and Wales.—The progress made by England in the education of her youth is thus stated by Mr. Hunt, late Registrar of the Royal Commission on Education as follows:—In 1803 the number of day scholars relatively to the population was 1 in 174; in 1818, 1 in 174; in 1833, 1 in 114; in 1851, 1 in 8.36; and in 1858, 1 in 7.7 or 2,535,462. In France the scholars are as 1 to 9 of the population; in Holland as 1 to 8.11; and in Prussia as 1 to 6.27. Putting the ordinary school life at 6 years, 2,655,757 were to have been expected to be found attending school. The actual number was only 120,305 less.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—Dean Milman presided at the anniversary of the Royal Literary Fund in London on the 15th May. In the course of the proceedings he reviewed the present position of English literature. He said: English books were read, and English authors were known, not only on the banks of the Thames and the Severn, the Trent and the Forth, but of the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi and the Ohio, and on all the seaboard of the vast continent of Australia, of the Orange river, and of the streams which washed Southern Africa, of the Ganges and of the Indus, and perhaps he might say of the Yellow river of China. The authorities of the custom-house, he dared say, took little account of the statistics of literature or of intellectual progress, but when a ship from England arrived at Boston, or New York, or Sydney, or Melbourne, and perhaps Hong Kong, the inquiry was not what calico had they got from Manchester or Glasgow, or what hardware from Birmingham, or what cutlery from Sheffield, but what had they got from Albermarle street and Pater noster Row—what new historical volumes had been published, and new works were there by Dickens, or Trollope, or Bulwer? or what more abstruse work or essay by Mr. Stuart Mill or the Duke of Argyll? or what new essays were there on the history and progress of language by Professor Max Muller, or what works of science by Sir John Herschel, or Mr. Tyndall, or Professor Owen.

The English boasted of being great founders of colonies, but he maintained that the great conquerors, because their conquests were the most durable and most beneficial to mankind, were the authors of England, and their conquests were not confined to the dominions of England, but extended over the whole civilized world. Shakespeare was a greater conqueror than Alexander, or Cæsar or Napoleon. Why, there was not a library from California to Labrador, or New York to Westminster that had not the works of Shakespeare on its shelves. But while some authors were successful and got their reward, there were others who were not able to continue the contest with the vicissitudes and misfortunes of life. He would say nothing of the uncertainty of the public tastes, of the shifting of fashion, of the variation in the wind of popular judgment, nothing of those to whom originality was at once their glory and their misfortune, men who were before their age, who spoke a language unintelligible to their age, and who, in consequence, left behind imperfect structures out of the materials of which others who followed built magnificent and famous edifices. Without saying anything of these, he asked them to consider how many there were whose hopeful career was suddenly cut off by some of the inevitable calamities of life. It was such men as those who received the assistance of the society—assistance which was never given except the claimant was a man of literary merit but which had been extended to men of whom literature was proud, and on these grounds he thought the society worthy of continued and extended support.—*Exchange*.

ARTS INTELLIGENCE.

—Among the works of art sent to the Paris Exhibition from this country is a fine painting by a French Canadian artist, Mr. Bourassa. The subject is the apotheosis of Columbus. There are sixty-five figures represented, the surface of canvas covered being four hundred and fifty feet, or twenty-five feet by eighteen.

—On the 20th of May Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone of the Hall of Arts and Science at Kensington, London. The ceremony was one of the regal magnificence, and her Majesty was received with a genuine outburst of enthusiasm. An immense crowd attended. The musical performances were as perfect as the Royal Italian Opera company could make them. The Prince of Wales, as chairman of the committee, read an address to the Queen. Her Majesty replied very briefly, and was back at Windsor early in the afternoon.—*Exchange*.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—At the third annual meeting of the Entomological society held at Quebec, the President spoke of the progress made by this society and of its success during the past year. The committee of management submitted a very satisfactory report. The number of members enrolled was twenty-one.