

furnished abundant material equally interesting to the amateur and the economist.

Cheap literature is yet a novelty in England; it properly began with the railway libraries; and one disadvantage under which our authors of the higher class labor, in the absence of an international copyright, is that of having their books printed in so shabby and imperfect a style that they rarely come under the eye of the cultivated readers for whom they were intended. A signal advantage which the English author enjoys, is that when once his ability is recognised, his publishers foster his genius. The successful career of many popular writers of the day is traceable, in no small degree, to the loyal and permanent encouragement they receive from the individual of the trade who becomes their medium with the public; a foothold once deservedly gained may thus be permanently lucrative; and what originated in a casual impulse or urgent necessity, lead to long and brilliant triumphs.

The days seem to have gone by when a new poem created a furore, and a fresh review a panic; but the dinner, that great central point of demonstration in all branches of social interest, literary, dramatic, and artistic, according to the very genius of English life, has the same hospitable significance as when Moore enlivened it with his songs, Hook with unique imitations, and Sydney Smith with humorous sallies.—*Tuckerman's Mouth in England.*

— ECLIPSES.—In the year 1858 there will be four eclipses—two of the sun and two of the moon. 1st. A partial eclipse of the moon, February 27th, only partly visible in this country. 2nd. An annular eclipse of the sun, March 15th. The sun will be centrally eclipsed on the meridian in longitude $8^{\circ} 45'$ west of Greenwich, latitude $45^{\circ} 44'$ north. 3rd. A partial eclipse of the moon, August 24th. At some places the first contact with the penumbra will not be visible, but to the principal portion of this continent north of the equator the whole eclipse will be visible. 4th. A total eclipse of the sun, September 7th. This eclipse will be total on the meridian. The sun will be centrally eclipsed in the southern hemisphere only.

— FIRST HALF OF JANUARY, 1858—WATER OF 1857, AND LEVEL OF LAKE ONTARIO.—So far the month has been warm and pleasant, the weather being like that of October. There has been rain or snow on 8 days, but the only snow of five inches was on the 5th and 6th, making pleasant sleighing for three days, when all was melted. The fair, clear days and mornings, have been rich.

The mean temperature of this part of January, for twenty-seven years, was 26.5 deg. and for this half 32.9 deg. This is seven degrees above the mean, and 16 deg. above this period last year, and 12 deg. above that for the year before 1856. The coldest day was the 8th, and the thermometer was at 13 deg.

As the average of December was 6 deg. above the mean, the winter so far has been very warm.

The ground has been frozen a little, and the rain and melted snow have made the roads muddy for a week.

Note 1.—The quantity of water fallen in 1857 is here noticed. All know it to be great; but how great? The average water for 20 years is 31.5 inches; for 1856 it was 24.4 inches; and for 1857 was 42.6 inches; that is 18 inches more than last year, and 11 inches, or one-third more than the average. This is the most rain measured here since I began observations.

In consequence of so much rain here and to the source waters of the great Lakes, the level of Lake Ontario has been three inches higher than before measured, and has been high more than half of 1857. At the beginning of the year the Lake was very low, and in February an inch lower than before.

The range here for 1857 is 3 feet and 11 inches, four more than before. This range is far less than it is often reported, as I am frequently told it is 6 or 8 feet—a range not ever measured by any one. The range of 42 to 48 inches is found in Lake Erie, Michigan, Huron, &c., just what occurs in Lake Ontario.

The Lake shows no indication of any regular or periodical fall or rise of its waters. It rises when great rains take place, and falls on the failure of the adequate influx of the waters.

Note 2.—The first half of January, 1838, was a degree warmer than that of this January, and of 1839, about 1 degree lower.

The average of December for 1847 and 1848 was the former a degree less, the latter a degree greater than that of December, 1857.

The first half of December, 1836, 1839, 1847 and 1848, were warm as in last December.—*Rochester Union.*

XII. Departmental Notices.

To Municipal and School Corporations in Upper Canada.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

The Chief Superintendent of Education is prepared to apportion *one hundred per cent.* upon all sums which shall be raised from local sources by Municipal Councils and School Corporations, for the establishment or increase of Public Libraries in Upper Canada, under the regulations provided according to law. Remittances must not be in less sums than five dollars.

PRIZES IN SCHOOLS.

The Chief Superintendent will grant *one hundred per cent.* upon all sums not less than five dollars, transmitted to him by Municipalities or Boards of School Trustees for the purchase of books or reward cards for distribution as prizes in Grammar and Common Schools.

SCHOOL MAPS AND APPARATUS.

The Chief Superintendent will add 100 per cent. to any sum or sums, not less than five dollars, transmitted to the Department from Grammar and Common Schools; and forward Maps, Apparatus, Charts, and Diagrams to the value of the amount thus augmented, upon receiving a list of the articles required by the Trustees. In all cases it will be necessary for any person, acting on behalf of the Trustees, to enclose or present a written authority to do so, verified by the corporate seal of the Trustees. A selection of articles to be sent can always be made by the Department, when so desired.

SCHOOL REGISTERS.

School Registers are supplied gratuitously, from the Department, to Grammar and Common School Trustees in Cities, Towns, Villages and Townships by the County Clerks—through the local Superintendents. Application should therefore be made direct to the local Superintendents for them, and not to the Department. The present year's supply for Common Schools has been sent to the County Clerks. Those for Grammar Schools have been sent direct to the head Masters.

PENSIONS—SPECIAL NOTICE TO TEACHERS.

Public notice is hereby given to all Teachers of Common Schools in Upper Canada, who may wish to avail themselves at any future time of the advantages of the Superannuated Common School Teachers' Fund, that it will be necessary for them to transmit to the Chief Superintendent, without delay, if they have not already done so, their annual subscription of \$4, commencing with 1854. The law authorizing the establishment of this fund provides, "*that no teacher shall be entitled to share in the said fund who shall not contribute to such fund at least at the rate of one pound per annum.*" This proviso of the law will be strictly enforced in all cases; and intimation is thus early given to all Teachers, who have not yet sent in their subscriptions, to enable them to comply with the law, and so prevent future misunderstanding or disappointment, when application is made to be placed as a pensioner on the fund.

SCHOOL SECTION SEALS

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All communications to be addressed to Mr. J. GEORGE HODGINS, Education Office, Toronto.

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