

— COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR LOWER CANADA.—Secretary's Office, (East,) Quebec, Dec. 17th, 1859. His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointments:—The Right Reverend Francis Fulford, D.D., Lord Bishop of Montreal; the Right Reverend Joseph Larocque, Bishop of Cydonia; the Honorables Sir Etienne Paschal Taché, Knt., Louis Victor Sicotte, Timothy Lee Terrill, Thomas Jean Jacques Loranger; the Reverends John Cook, D.D., Elzear Alexandre Taschereau, D.C.L., Patrick Dowd, Christopher Dunkin, Esq., M.P.P., Come Seraphin Cherrier, Esq., Q.C., Antoine Polette, Esq., Q.C., François Xavier Garneau, Esq., Jacques Cremazie, Esq., LL.D.; to be, together with the Superintendent of Schools for Lower Canada, the Honorable Pierre Joseph Olivier Chauveau, a Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada. Louis Giard, Esq., Secretary to the Education Department for Lower Canada, to be Recording Clerk to the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada.

— NORTH WELLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, under the presidency of A. D. Fordyce, Esq., has lately been formed. We would urge the teachers of the Riding to give it their cordial support.

— THE FIRST SCHOOL IN CANADA.—We learn from our Canada exchanges that the first school in Canada was kept by Father *Lejeune* at Quebec, in 1632. It consisted of a Negro boy and an Indian boy, to whom the good father taught reading and writing. He wrote to France that he would not exchange his class for the best university. The following year he had twenty pupils, most of whom came on foot every day from several miles in the country. That school was the foundation of the famous Jesuit's College which produced men of eminence under the French régime, and was numerously attended when suppressed in 1676. The course of studies was identical with that of the College of *Louis le Grand* in Paris. It occupied an immense quadrangular building with a yard in the centre, which for the times, must have been a most stupendous construction, and is still one of the largest in Quebec. It has, ever since 1776, been occupied by the troops, and is known under the anomalous appellation of 'the Jesuits' Barracks'.—*Illinois Teacher.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

— CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—The Hon. and Rev. Latimer Neville, master of Magdalen College, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University for the ensuing academical year.

— PROFESSOR FORBES, who at present fills the chair of Natural Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed Principal of the United College of St. Salvador and St. Leonard, in the University of St. Andrews.

— SIR JOHN FORBES, the physician and author, has intimated his intention of retiring from active life. He has presented his very valuable medical library, numbering about 3,000 volumes, to the Marischal College, Aberdeen, where he received his early education. He graduated in medicine at Edinburgh in 1817.

— CELTIC PROFESSORSHIPS.—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.

— QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST.—The engineering school of the Queen's College, Belfast, is approved by the Secretary of State for India in Council, as one in which an attendance for two years will qualify a student who has fulfilled also the other required conditions to become a candidate for admission to the engineering establishments of the public works department of India.

— 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 296, 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.

UNITED STATES.

— ST. JAMES COLLEGE, MARYLAND.—The corner stone of the College of St. James, near Baltimore was laid on the 15th of November. The premises consist of 180 acres of land, purchased for \$7,000—about \$40 per acre. The building will have a front of 280 feet, and will cost near \$80,000.

— BAPTIST COLLEGE, ALABAMA.—Jeremiah H. Brown, who had agreed to support fifty-two young men studying for the Baptist ministry in Howard College, Alabama, at an annual cost of \$13,000 in the aggregate, has recently endowed a theological chair in that college by a contribution of \$25,000, in addition to his former pledge.

— CONNECTICUT SCHOOL FUND INCREASED.—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 small 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.

— WISCONSIN SCHOOLS.—In Wisconsin there are 3,538 school districts, 118 districts which have not reported, 1,611 parts of districts, 78 parts of districts which have not reported, and 657 school houses in joint districts. The whole number of children under four years of age who have attended school is 1,066 and of children over 10 years of age, 2,914.

— U. S. LIBRARIES.—From M. S. Rhee's manual of the Public Libraries, Institutions and Societies in the United States we learn that the whole number of libraries is 40,890, containing 12,720,686 volumes. Of the public libraries there are 1,297, containing 4,280,866 volumes. Of these New York has 750,421 volumes, and Massachusetts 632,800. Pennsylvania ranks next with 467,716 volumes. A comparison of the number of volumes in public libraries in the largest cities shows New York has 346,185; Philadelphia, 271,081; Boston, 258,079. The Astor library in this city is also the largest public library in the country, containing eighty thousand volumes, six thousand more than the next in size, that of Harvard University. One fact worthy of remark is that of 4,008,081 volumes in the public libraries of all the states, (omitting the District of Columbia, which contains 272,835) there are 3,103,085 in those of the Free states, and 904,946 in those of the slave states.

— THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY contains nearly seventy thousand volumes of books, many of them are rare and costly. Fifteen thousand volumes have been indexed and opened for gratuitous circulation. Most of the books have been privately donated. Any person professing to be a citizen of Boston is entitled to the privilege of the Library, without paying a subscription. A borrower can keep a book fourteen days. Over that time a slight fine is imposed. The total losses of books for the past five years have amounted to \$100. The fines have more than paid all the losses.

XV. Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

— TORONTO CANADIAN INSTITUTE.—The following gentlemen were on Saturday evening elected office-bearers of the Canadian Institute: President—Professor D. Wilson, LL. D. 1st Vice-President—Rev. Professor Hincks, F. L. S. 2nd Vice-President—Professor H. Croft, D. C. L. 3rd Vice-President—J. Bovell, Esq. M. D.; Treasurer—D. Crawford, Esq.; Corresponding Secretary—Professor J. B. Cherriman, M. A.; Recording Secretary—Patrick Freeland, Esq.; Librarian—Professor H. Y. Hind, M. A.; Curator—J. F. Smith, Jun., Esq.; Council—Hon. G. W. Allan, M. L. C. W. Hay, Esq., Architect; Professor E. J. Chapman; George R. R. Cockburn, M. A.; S. Fleming, Esq.; Thos. Henning, Esq.