

## Editorial Notices, &c.

PROCEEDINGS OF TOWNSHIP COUNCILS IN COM. SCHOOL MATTERS.—In our last number, we adverted to the circumstance of a copy of the *Journal of Education* having been ordered for each School Section in the several Townships. Since then orders have been received for a copy of the *Journal* for each School Section of the Townships of Wolf Island, Amherst Island, and Trafalgar. But in no instance have we seen more enlightened views expressed, or a more noble spirit evinced, than in the following resolutions, (model resolutions indeed for every Municipal Council in Upper Canada), which have been communicated to us by SIMON NEWCOMB, Esquire, School Superintendent for the Township of Bayham, County of Middlesex:

At a Meeting of the Municipal Council for the Township of Bayham, held on the 15th instant, the following resolutions were moved and passed *unanimously*:

1. That this Council, regarding the cause of popular education as one of the deepest interest and importance, feel it their duty to employ all proper means to elevate the character and increase the usefulness of our common schools.

2. That, in their opinion, this great object is to be promoted by the general diffusion of information on educational subjects, and by the introduction of a uniform and approved system of school-teaching, and of school organization and discipline.

3. That, in accordance with these views, the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to obtain a copy of the *Journal of Education* for each School Section in the Township; and that he be invited to attend the Teachers' Institute to be held at London on the 14th and 15th June next, with a view to the introduction into our Common Schools of the principles of teaching and system of instruction adopted in the Normal School of Upper Canada.

SCHOOL TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.—It is gratifying to observe the judicious and active preparations which are making in the several counties for the Teachers' Institutes, the appointments of which were announced in the last number of this *Journal*. We hope they will be duly published and numerously attended in every County in Upper Canada. We direct attention to an article on the "*Influence of Teachers' Institutes upon Teachers and the Public*," extracted from the last Annual Report of the Massachusetts Board of Education, and of their Secretary, inserted on the 68th page.

NEW SCHOOL BILL.—The Honble. the INSPECTOR GENERAL, on Wednesday the 29th inst., introduced into the Legislative Assembly a new School Bill for Upper Canada, according to the provisions of which the School Moneys for the current year will be apportioned to the several counties, townships, cities, and towns as soon as the Bill becomes a law.

MUNICIPAL MANUAL OF UPPER CANADA for 1850, with a Map of the Province. 8vo., pp. 132. Price 1s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Toronto: Scobie and Balfour. We have to express our thanks to the publishers for a copy of this work. Under our present extended municipal system, nothing could be more valuable or opportune than this cheap and convenient Manual. It contains complete lists of the various Municipal Corporations of Townships, Counties, Villages, Towns, and Cities, and their Ward Divisions (including their officers, Superintendents of Schools, &c.); also, the boundaries of the several Division Courts—the times and places of holding them, and the name and address of the Judge and Clerk of each Division; and the Municipal Corporations' Act, Road Act, and various other Acts conferring powers and imposing duties on Municipalities. We cordially recommend the *Municipal Manual* to all local municipal authorities.

METHODIST QUARTERLY REVIEW, April, 1850. Rev. J. McClintock, D.D., Editor. 8vo., pp. 160. 10s. per annum—New-York, Lane and Scott. We acknowledge with much pleasure the receipt of this valuable periodical. Although the exponent of certain theological views and peculiarities which cannot be either so elaborately or philosophically discussed in a newspaper as in a calm and dignified Quarterly, this publication may be regarded as the literary organ of a very large and influential body of Christians in the United States. The following is the very interesting Table of

Contents:—I. Wesley the Catholic.—II. John Quincy Adams.—III. Demoniacs of the New Testament.—IV. Ancient Enclosures and Mounds of the West.—V. Inquiry into the meaning of II. Peter iii. 13.—Καινοὺς δὲ οὐρανοὺς καὶ γῆν καινὴν κατὰ τὸ σπᾶγγεῖμα αὐτοῦ προσδοκῶμεν, ἐν οἷς δικαιοσύνη κατοικεῖ.—VI. The meaning of *דִּיָּן* (*iom*) *day*—VII. Sunday School Literature.—VIII. Ticknor's Spanish Literature.—IX. Life of Rev. John Collins—[attributed to the pen of the Hon. Judge McLean of the Supreme Court of the United States.]—X. Short Reviews and Notices, [of the current literature of the day—26 in all.]—XI. Miscellanies—[Theological criticisms, 5 in all.]—XII. Literary Intelligence—Theological, [Classical and Miscellaneous—European and American.] We can only notice two articles.

The article on *Ancient Enclosures*, founded on the first volume of the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, entitled, "*Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*," we have read with peculiar interest. It is profusely illustrated with wood cuts from the original work. The mounds exhibit undoubted traces of the once powerful tribes which formerly inhabited the extensive valley of the Mississippi—in the Indian legend, the *Father of Waters*,—and upon excavation are found to be monuments erected over the remains of mighty chiefs or warriors. Some of the mounds are very singular in shape. One is constructed in the form of a serpent—five feet high and thirty feet wide at the base, its head resting near the top of a natural hill, and its body winding down for nearly 1,000 feet in graceful evolutions, terminating in a triple coil at the tail. The neck of the serpent is stretched out, slightly curved, and with its mouth opened, as if in the act of swallowing an oval figure, which rests partially within its jaws—others are in the form of alligators, crosses, &c., &c. The forms of the ordinary mounds are conical and pyramidal, and their appearance, covered with verdure, is very striking. Though it may appear somewhat anomalous to apply the term *ancient*, to any structure on the Continent of America, yet it appears from indisputable evidence that these monuments must be many hundred years' old, perhaps "older than the Pyramids;" and while the more imposing structures of civilized man have crumbled into shapeless ruins, these humble mounds of the child of the forest yet remain but slightly unchanged from their original proportions.

The paper on *Spanish Literature*, by a learned Professor of Harvard University, is founded on Ticknor's "History of Spanish Literature,"—an exceedingly valuable work on a subject but rarely treated of with the minuteness and research displayed by that author. The review is very favourable. It presents an epitome of Spanish Literature and of English and American writers on Spain down to the present period. The sketch will prove very interesting to students of History.

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