

of the Arabic characters. Their copy-book is a piece of bright tin, and they use a reed pen called a *kalam*. The ink-bottle is a box containing a sponge saturated with some brown fluid.

A long row of tiny slippers, of every form and colour, lies neatly arranged at the door; for the place where the bones of a saint are enshrined is holy ground, and no one may soil the clean matting of the floor without outside defilement. No register is kept of the pupils, or of their days of attendance. Indeed, although the *fakheeh* can repeat the whole of the Koran or book, it is highly probable he would find some difficulty in counting up to the number of his scholars. His acquirements begin and end with a textual knowledge of the sacred book, and unfortunately the wishes of his pupils' parents with regard to the education of their children are bounded by the same narrow limits. The schoolmasters are miserably paid, mostly in kind, for piastres are scarce; but they exercise considerable influence, and no marriage or family fête is complete without their presence. In better class Arab schools a little arithmetic is sometimes taught, but not always. Boys who wish to pursue that branch of their education generally learn from the public *gabani*, a man whose business it is to weigh merchandise. A child whose father keeps a shop is taught by assisting in it. Geography is also neglected, which is fortunate, as nothing can be more ludicrous than the lessons when they are attempted.

The teaching is, of course, entirely based upon the Koran, which upholds Mr. Hampden's views with regard to the shape of the earth. The children learn that it takes 500 years travelling to get round the mighty plain, while perhaps a few yards from the school door hangs one of Mr. Cook's placards, offering to do the whole business in 90 days. It must be a little hard to explain all about the seven earths and the seven heavens, and the seven climates and the seven seas of light. The one important fact which the children retain is that Mecca is the centre of the earth. At present each boy comes to the master with his lessons, says it, and returns to his seat. He is succeeded by another, and so on during the whole day. This would be impossible if more than reading and writing were taught.

Of the mosque schools the ancient El Azhar is still the most important. It provides instruction, such as it is, for more than 11,000 pupils. A considerable number are housed and fed within its hospitable walls. The scholars are of all ages, and come from the most remote provinces as well as the larger towns. They may stay as long as they like and go there when they please. If they are rich they make presents to the professors, who are paid entirely by voluntary donations; if they are very poor, they receive help from their Alma Mater in the shape of food. The *baksheesh* of 500 sheep sent one day by the Viceroy on the occasion of a family rejoicing was therefore not unacceptable. The school is, in fact, a great free national university for the teaching of the theology of the Koran. There are few rules; there is no compulsory course of study; there is no roll-callor classification of students. Curiously enough, coffee and tobacco are here forbidden within the walls; but, no doubt, the students rich enough to have rooms outside make up for the deprivation by an extra allowance at home.

Some of the Coptic schools are well worthy of a visit. The principal one in Cairo is exceedingly well attended. The boys look as if their intelligence was cultivated, and many of them read and speak either French or English with ease and a good accent. They seem to have a great interest in each other, and to feel a genuine pride in seeing their companionous show off their small

accomplishments to strangers. The Copts take some pains to teach their girls, and have two fairly well managed schools at Cairo. The children are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, singing, and needlework.

McGill University.

PUBLIC MEETING OF CONVOCATION—DEGREE IN ARTS AND APPLIED SCIENCE—HONORS AND STANDING—ADDRESSES.

The annual public meeting of Convocation for the conferring of degrees in Arts and Applied Science, was held in the William Molson Hall at three o'clock on Tuesday the 1st of May, Hon. Chancellor Day presiding. There were present the following members of Convocation:—

Governors:—Hon. C. DiDay, Chancellor. Hon. James Ferrier, Hon. Judge Dunkin, Peter Redpath, Hon. Judge Torrance, Sir Francis Hincks

Principal:—J. W. Dawson, M. A., F. R. S., Vice-Chancellor.

Fellows:—Ven. Archdeacon Leach, Vice-Principal, and Dean of Faculty of Arts, H. A. Howe, LL. D., G. W. Campbell, M. D., Alex. Johnson, LL. D., Rev. Prof. Cornish, Rev. Dr. Wilkes, Rev. Dr. McVicar, R. A. Ramsay, M. A., B. C. L., John Reddy, M. D., Rev. J. Jenkins, D. D., J. J. McLaren, M. A., B. C. L., E. Holton, B. C. L., S. B. Schmidt, M. D., J. R. Dougall, M. A., Rev., J. C. Murray, LL. L. R. Craik, M. D.

Secretary:—W. C. Baynes, B. A.

Officers of Instruction—W. E. Scott, M. D.; R. P. Howard, M. A., B. C. L.; G. P. Girdwood, M. D.; G. Ross, M. A., M. D.; B. J. Harrington, B. A., Ph. D.; Wm. Osler, M. D.; Wm. Gardner, M. D.; E. Harris, C. E.; J. S. Archibald, B. A., B. C. L.; C. H. McLeod, Ba. App. Sc.; F. J. Shepherd, M. D.; A. Duff, M. A.

Doctor of Laws and of Civil Law—James Kirby, D. C. L., LL. D.

Doctors of Medicine—A. A. Browne, M. D.; Wm. A. Molson, M. D.

Master of Arts—F. E. Gilman, M. A., B. C. L.

Bachelors of Civil Law—T. L. Butler, B. C. L.; W. S. Walker, B. C. L.; W. S. Walker, B. C. L.; Cushing, B. C. L.

Bachelors of Arts—F. W. Kelley, B. A.; R. Laing, B. A.; A. D. Taylor, B. A.

After prayer by the Ven. Archdeacon Leach, honors and prizes were awarded to students of the faculty, and degrees were conferred, as appears by the following statement:—

FACULTY OF ARTS.

PASSED FOR THE DEGREE OF B. A.

In honours (alphabetically arranged).—First rank—Charles H. Gould, Eugene Laffeur, Robert Robertson, Mathew H. Scott, William H. Warriner.

Second rank—Calvin E. Amaron, Sidney C. Chubb.

Ordinary.—1. McGill College, in order of merit—Class I: Albert W. Atwater. Class II: Robert D. McGibbon, George A. Forneret, James A. Anderson. Class III: Archibald E. McGregor.

3. Morrin College—Class I: Salem G. Bland.

PASSED THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

Class I: Eadie, McClure, Cross, Howard. Class II: Lighthall, Stevens, McConnell. Class III: McKibbin, Allen, Lane, Mercer, Wood, H. McN. Robertson, Redpath.

PASSED FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE.

Course of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, in order of merit—William J. Sproule, Norval Wandrop, William T. Thompson, William McLea Walbank, Thomas H. Jones, Richard B. Rogers.

BACHELORS OF ARTS PROCEEDING TO THE DEGREE OF M. A.

John S. Archibald, B. A.; Robert Laing, B. A.

MASTER OF ARTS PROCEEDING TO THE DEGREE OF LL. D.

Francis E. Gilman, M. A.

HONORS AND PRIZES.

GRADUATING CLASS.

B. A. Honors in classics.—Charles H. Gould—First rank honors and Chapman Gold medal.

B. A. Honors in Natural Science.—Matthew H. Scott, first rank honors and Logan gold medal; Sidney C. Chubb, second rank honors.

B. A. Honors in Mental and Moral Philosophy.—Eugene Laffeur, first rank honors and Prince of Wales gold medal; Calvin E. Amaron, second rank honors.

B. A. Honors in English Language, Literature and History.—William H. Warriner, first rank honors and Shakspeare gold medal.