

surprised at this, when we know that war, like industry, is becoming more and more an affair of science?

"Who does not know the immense sacrifices that Germany has made for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge—spending for instance, twenty thousand pounds sterling at Bonn on a chemical laboratory? Little Wurtemberg devoted more money to superior instruction than big France. A thing unheard of, France made the very fees of the university students a source of revenue. She gave, without counting it, more than a couple of millions of pounds sterling (between fifty and sixty million francs) for the new opera, and she refused forty thousand pounds for school buildings. Last year, on the deck of the steamer which was conveying us to the inauguration of the Suez Canal, M. Duruy, the one man of merit who ever served under the Imperial Government, told me the tale of his griefs in the ministry of Public Instruction. He wanted to introduce compulsory education; the Emperor supported him; he had all the other Ministers against him. He had organized fifteen thousand night schools for adults; it was with difficulty that he succeeded in carrying off forty thousand pounds against the fatuous resistance of the Council of State. There was the whole system of public instruction to re-organize, and he could get nothing. They preferred to employ the gold of the country in maintaining the ladies of the ballet, in building barracks and palaces, in gilding monuments, the dome of the Invalides, the roof of the Sainte Chapelle. It was in vain that men like Jules Simon, Pelletan, Duruy, Jules Favre, cried out, year after year, "There must be millions for education, or France is lost." The government was deaf. It denied nothing to pleasure, to luxury, to ostentation. It denied everything to education.—*Boston Era*.

6. NEW BASIS OF EDUCATION IN GERMANY.

At a great educational congress, recently held in Vienna, and attended by about five thousand educators from all parts of Germany, it was agreed that the principles of religion, but not the dogmas of any particular sect, should be taught in the national schools. They also agreed that the education of girls should be compulsory to the age of sixteen, and that they should be trained for various trades and professions.

7. PRUSSIAN AND FRENCH CONSCRIPTS.

There is a table showing the percentage of the Prussian conscripts who can neither read nor write as compared with the French. In the former it is 3.81, while among the latter it is 30.5, showing that in Prussia education is very general.

8. PROGRESS OF EDUCATION IN TURKEY.

A new public education law has been promulgated at Constantinople. Primary instruction is made compulsory for every inhabitant of the Turkish empire. The period of instruction for girls is fixed at from six to ten years of age, and for boys from six to eleven. The magistrates of districts and villages are to keep a register of the names of the boys and girls whose age qualifies them for instruction, together with those of their parents or guardians. If any of these do not go to school, the magistrate is to warn the parent or guardian of his obligation, and if, after such notice, the child is not sent to school within a month, and no valid reason is given for its absence, a fine of from 5 to 100 piastres is to be imposed according to the means of the parent, and the child is to be taken to school by the authorities. * * * The primary schools are to be either Mussulman or Christian, according to their religion which is most prevalent in the district. The higher schools, however, are to receive *Mussulmans and Christians indiscriminately*. "An Imperial Council for Public Instruction" has been established to see to the due execution of this law.

IV. Biographical Sketches.

1. GEORGE RIDOUT, Esq.

Mr. George Ridout, the oldest barrister of Upper Canada, was a son of the late Hon. Thos. Ridout, Surveyor-General of Upper Canada. He was born in Montreal, but removed with his father's family to Toronto, then "Little York," and was educated at Cornwall, at the late Bishop Strachan's school. He studied law in this city, and rose in his profession; and was, under the government of Sir P. Maitland, appointed Judge of the Niagara District Court; afterwards he resumed the practice of his profession, and was for many years a leading member of the Toronto Bar. He was one of the founders of the Law Society, and one of the oldest on its list

of Benchers. He served under General Brock during the war of 1812, and afterwards received a commission as Colonel of the East York militia.

2. JOHN McNAB, ESQ.

Mr. McNab, County Attorney, was about fifty years of age. A native Canadian of Scotch parentage, he was born in Trafalgar, County Halton, and became an attorney in June, 1848, and was admitted to the Bar in Hillary Term the following year. In 1862 he received the appointment of County Attorney, succeeding Mr. Richard Dempsey. Wherever John McNab was known, he was appreciated as a warm-hearted friend, genial and kind in his manners to all.

3. J. W. GILMOUR, ESQ.

John Walker Gilmour was born in Aberdeen, on the 3rd day of May, 1823, and was the only child of the Rev. J. Gilmour. When 7 years of age, his father, having received an invitation to come to Montreal, sailed for that place in the autumn of 1830, and in due course arrived there, where he lived for six years, during which period the younger Mr. G. attended school. In the fall of 1837 he removed with his father to Peterboro', and shortly after went to Brockville to pursue his education, which was completed in Edinburgh. After returning from Scotland he had some idea of pursuing the mercantile business, and went to St. Catharines for that purpose, but becoming very ill there, on his recovery he returned to Peterboro'. His father having subsequently purchased the present homestead, Mr. G. turned his attention to clearing and improving it, and seemed much pleased with the rough and onerous task. In addition to the farm he started a nursery, to which he devoted a great deal of attention and expense, and, although he brought it to a good state of efficiency, it somehow failed to return him anything commensurate to the skill, labour and expense bestowed upon it. In 1852 he was elected a member of the Township Council of North Monaghan, and continued a member for the five succeeding years. In 1864, he was elected Reeve, and held that office for three years. On the occasion of the death of the late Reeve, Mr. George Young, Mr. Gilmour was again chosen Reeve, and was re-elected in January last.

4. ROBERT CHAMBERS, LL.D.

Robert Chambers, the Edinburgh publisher, was born at Peebles, Scotland, in 1802, and in early youth, with his brother William, was abandoned to his own resources. The brothers received an elementary education, and established in Edinburgh two book-stores, William adding to his a small printing establishment. Robert's taste led him to write, and, in 1824, he published the *Traditions of Edinburgh*, in 1826 the *Popular Rhymes of Scotland*, and in 1827 *Pictures of Scotland*. Then follows the *Life of James I.*, in two volumes, *Scottish Songs and Ballads*, and *History of the Rebellion in Scotland*. In 1832 the two brothers united their fortunes, and soon took rank among the first editors of London and Edinburgh. William wrote a *Guide to Scotland*, and founded *Chambers' Edinburgh Journal* soon afterwards, which since 1854 has been known as *Chambers' Journal*, and in 1863 had attained a circulation of 200,000. Their success led them to publish cheap works for popular instruction, among which were *Information for the People*, *The Educational Course*, and later, *The Cyclopædia of English Literature*, *English Classics*, *Repository and Miscellany of Tracts*, *Library for Young People*, *Papers for the People*, and others. They were the pioneers of cheap literature in Great Britain. In addition to the works named above, Robert Chambers produced *Lives of Illustrious Scotsmen*, *Vestiges of the Natural History of the Creation*, the latter appearing without the name of the author, in the form of *essays* in the periodical press, and with his brother, compiled a history of the Crimean War.

V. Papers on Farming.

1 THE SEED,—SPRING.

BY R. S. P.

When in the dark, imprisoning ground,
The seed lies waiting for its hour,
Within a narrow cell fast bound,
Yet conscious of an inward power,
I know that it must cherish there
Dim longings for the upper air;
Dreams of a life more free and fair;
Foregleams of leaf and flower.