

On the corbels, around the central court, will be placed statues of the great founders and improvers of natural knowledge. Five of these figures have been presented by Her Majesty, namely those of Bacon, Galileo, Newton, Leibnitz, and Oersted, and three of them have been already very beautifully executed in Caen stone. The undergraduates of the university have presented the statues of Aristotle and Cuvier, and 32 are now required to complete the series. Among the subscribers to this truly national work are the Earl of Derby, 100*l.*; Mr. W. E. Gladstone, 100*l.*; Mr. M. P. W. Boulton, of Eastone, 150*l.*; Mr. John Ruakin, jun., 300*l.*; and among the contributors are Sir R. S. Murchison, the Duke of Argyle, the Marquis of Breadalbane, Sir W. Trevelyan, Sir Stephen Glynne, the Earl of Harrowby, Sir B. Brodie, Sir C. Lyell, Mr. John Ruskin, Professor Sedgwick, Mr. W. Miles, M.P., and many others eminent in science and art. Among the works of public character expressive of the feeling which is entertained in the University on the subject of physical education, we may mention the erection of a new and commodious gymnasium from a design furnished by Mr. Wilkinson, of Oxford. It is 85 feet long, 45 feet wide, and 30 feet high, and the centre of the roof will be in the form of a dome surmounted by a lantern. Altogether it promises to be a handsome and substantial building, and well adapted for the important purpose to which it will be devoted. The extensive works at Exeter College, upon which 30,000*l.* or 40,000*l.* has been expended during the last few years, are expected to be finished about Easter next. The Chapel, which is erected from the design of Mr. G. G. Scott, in the early English decorated style of architecture, is a magnificent structure, and promises to be one of the finest ecclesiastical edifices in Oxford, and reminds those who are familiar with Paris of the celebrated Sainte Chapelle.

— STATISTICS OF BOOKSELLING.—In Ireland there are seventy-four towns, each with a minimum of 2500 inhabitants, (census 1841,) not one of which contains a bookseller. Scotland, with a third of the population, has three times the number of booksellers, being in the proportion nine to one. The seventy-four towns without one of the "trade" include the following: Dungarven, 12,392; Carrick-on-Suir, 11,049; Youghal, 9,939; Carrickfergus, 9,379; Cashel, 8,027; Newtownards, 7,621; Lisbon, 7,524; Kinsale, 6,918. More remarkable still, there are six Counties which cannot boast of even one bookseller, or a single circulating library, and we shall name them: 1. Donegal; 2. Kildare; 3. Leitrim; 4. Queen's; 5. Westmeath; 6. Wicklow. These may be considered strange, and most assuredly they are very startling facts, says the *Literary Gazette*; but is not the explanation to be found in the circumstance that some in that country are not the friends of education and of human progress?

—THORWALDSEN'S CHRIST AND HIS APOSTLES—copies in plaster—were among the really attractive specimens of Fine Arts in the New York Crystal Palace which has recently been destroyed. The group, of thirteen figures, was exhibited by its proprietor, Mr. Edward Bech, Danish Consul in New York. The casts in the Palace were Thorwaldsen's originals; once stood in the Metropolitan Church in Copenhagen, and were only removed to be replaced by copies in marble. The models became the property of Mr. Bech, and by him were contributed to the original exhibition at the Palace. They were not removed during the manifold changes which occurred in the management of the institution. Each figure of this noble group was symbolic. Christ stood in the midst of his Apostles, in the act of saying "Peace be unto you." Paul first at the right of Christ, held the sword; Peter, first at the left, held the keys of power. Matthew and his money-bag, Bartholomew and his knife, doubting Thomas holding the symbol of the square, Thaddeus with the executioner's axe, and the remaining members of the group of significant emblems, made up a striking picture, which very many people have enjoyed and will be sorry to miss hereafter. [Reduced copies of the figures in this celebrated group are in the Educational Museum, Toronto.—*Editor, U. C. Journal of Education.*]

—THE VICTORIA BRIDGE.—There will be 13 tubes completed this season, the scaffolding being now erected for the work. The piers are also to be all above water level during the present fall, and it has been determined to complete the structure in the fall of 1859—probably in the month of October. The branch road from the main line to connect with the Bridge, some four or five miles on the other side of Longueuil, is progressing rapidly; a large number of hands being engaged on the work.

—POSTAGE STAMPS have been introduced into Spain. They are square in shape, and the colours are pink, green, and brown. Within a circular border is the representation of the head of Queen Isabella. The values of Spanish postage stamps are half a real (1½*d.*), one real (2½*d.*), and two reals (5*d.*).

— NEW SPANISH ISLANDS.—The steamship *Vasoo de Gama* has discovered two islands upon the coast of Africa, and has taken possession of them in the name of the Queen of Spain.

— A NEW DICTIONARY.—A new English dictionary is to be prepared under the authority of the Philological Society. The work has been placed by the Society in the hands of two committees, the one literary and historical, consisting of the Dean of Westminster, Mr. Furnivall, and Mr. H. Coleridge; and the other etymological, composed of Mr. Wedgwood, Professor Malden, and another not yet named. The former of these committees will edit the dictionary, and direct the general working of the scheme; and arrangements have been made for an early publication in parts. The committee have laid down some general guiding principles which may be briefly stated. The first lexicographical canon declares that a dictionary should contain every word occurring in the literature of the language it professes to illustrate. They repudiate the theory which converts the lexicographer into arbiter of style, and leave it to his discretion to accept or reject words according to his private notions of their comparative elegance or inelegance. All English books are to be admitted as authorities, except such as are devoted to purely scientific subjects as treatises on electricity, mathematics &c., and works written subsequently to the Reformation for the purpose of illustrating provincial dialects, reserving, however, a discretion of deciding, in doubtful cases, what shall or shall not be deemed a dictionary authority. The same principles of volunteer co-operation is to apply to this portion of the work as to the other, and the labor is invited of any contributors who may be willing to send in suggestions as to difficult etymology, or amendments on those already in the dictionaries, or lists of words illustrating any philological laws, such as those of the better change.—*The London Critic.*

—DISCOVERY OF SONNETS BY PETRARCH.—Dr. George Thomas, one of the librarians at the Royal Court Library at Munich, has discovered in the manuscript department of that rich collection a written copy of hitherto unknown sonnets by Petrarch, partly erotic and partly political. Dr. Thomas reported on this important discovery at the last meeting of the philosophical section of the Royal Academy, which, we understand, will have his report printed in a future volume of its "Transactions." It is likewise intended to print, with diplomatic accuracy, the manuscript itself, and to publish it next year on the occasion of the Academy's jubilee. The manuscript, it is asserted, belonged formerly to the library of the Welsler family, at Augsburg, and was brought to Germany, most likely, by Marcus Welsler, the learned member of that family, who lived in the latter part of the sixteenth century.—*Athenæum.*

## XII. Departmental Notices.

### 1. REVISED PROGRAMME FOR THE EXAMINATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHERS OF COMMON SCHOOLS, BY THE COUNTY BOARDS, PRESCRIBED BY THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR UPPER CANADA.

To be in full force until repealed or revised by the Council.

N.B.—Candidates are not eligible to be admitted to examination until they shall have furnished the Examiners with satisfactory evidence of their strictly temperate habits and good moral character.

#### (1) Minimum Qualification of Third Class Teachers.

Candidates for certificates are required:

1. To be able to read intelligibly and correctly any passage from any common reading book.
2. To be able to spell correctly the words of an ordinary sentence dictated by the Examiners.
3. To be able to write a plain hand.
4. To be able to work readily questions in the simple and compound rules of arithmetic, and in reduction and proportion, and to be familiar with the principles on which these rules depend.
5. To know the elements of English grammar, and to be able to parse any easy sentence in prose.
6. To be acquainted with the relative positions of the principal countries of the world, with the principal cities, physical features, boundaries of continents, &c.
7. To have some knowledge of school organization and the classification of pupils.