

their vigilance. The accounts are well kept. The dissentient school at Pointe Verte has 24 pupils; I believe it is hardly two thirds of the year in operation, and as a consequence it is very backward.

Rigaud (village).—The Industrial College is a handsome brick building, standing on the slope of a noble mountain, commanding the prospect of an immense tract of country. I am convinced that the excellent system of instruction pursued in this Institution, combined as it does the practical with the scientific, must exert a beneficial influence on the growing population of the neighboring valleys and of the whole country. It is attended by 106 pupils, and is conducted by the *Cleres de St. Viateur*. The accounts of the school Commissioners, under whose control the Institution is placed, are kept in perfect order.

Faudreuil.—In this municipality there are five elementary schools, an academy for boys, and an academy for girls, with a total of 351 pupils. The boys' academy is conducted by Mr. Moffatt, an excellent teacher. Besides the branches required for elementary schools, he teaches book-keeping, and linear and geometrical drawing, with remarkable success. The female academy kept by the Sisters of the order of Ste. Anne affords an excellent education, at the time of my last visit great progress had been made there. Miss Séguin, a young teacher trained in this establishment also keeps a very good school. The other elementary schools manifest the most satisfactory results. The accounts are well kept, but many arrears are due. The dissentients have two schools attended by 84 pupils whose progress is but slow owing to the fact that they only attend school regularly during the winter.

Notices of Books and Publications.

WORCESTER'S PICTORIAL DICTIONARY, Boston: Swan, Brewer, and Tileston. 4to. pp. 1,854.—This is the great rival dictionary of Dr. Webster's, and it is in every way worthy of such a competitor. The two Dictionaries are American publications; but, taken as a whole, we regard Worcester's as much superior to Webster's. Worcester's is not only based upon the British standard of orthography (which is yet the only acknowledged authority in the British Empire), but, in the classifications and arrangement of its materials, Worcester's is much more convenient and satisfactory to students and scholars than is Webster's. Thus in Webster's, the Illustrations, Table of Synonyms, and the Appendix of New Words, are separated from the body of the work; while in Worcester's they are all combined in the work itself. The incorporation of the Synonyms in their appropriate places in the body of the work, is a peculiar and admirable feature in Worcester's Dictionary. The largeness and clearness of the type, the size of the pages, and the quality of the paper, as well as the number of pages in Webster's, are altogether in favor of Worcester's. The whole number of pages in Webster is 1,750; in Worcester, 1,854; while each page of Worcester is nearly one-fourth larger than that of Webster's, which amply compensates for the compression of matter by means of the smaller type in Webster's. In one or two features, however, we regard Webster's as better than Worcester's. For instance, the engravings in Webster's, although chiefly copied from *Blurkie's Imperial Dictionary*, are larger and finer than those in Worcester's. Into the matter of comparative definition we will not enter, although, after a careful examination, we find the definition of some words in Worcester's neither so critically accurate nor full as the corresponding definition in Webster's; but this is fully counterbalanced by a like superiority in some of Worcester's definitions. It may be proper to state, that both dictionaries are supplied to public libraries, schools, and teachers, at the Educational Depository.—*Upper Canada Journal of Education.*

The following article on rival dictionaries abridged from the *Globe* by our above named contemporary comes here in its proper place.

Dr. Johnson published his great work first in 1755—a work which did more to settle the external form of our language than any other—and in it he truly says: "No Dictionary of a living language ever can be perfect, since, while it is hastening to publication, some words are budding, and some are falling away." It is needless to say how rapidly the "budding" process has been going on since his day, and what advantages each lexicographer possesses over his predecessor. Similar language applies with almost equal force to orthoepy, or the pronunciation of the language. John Walker published his celebrated critical pronouncing Dictionary in 1791. He had been a teacher of elocution among the higher classes of London, and had enjoyed peculiar advantages for studying the best usage. These opportunities he carefully improved, and in his new work made pronunciation his chief study, his design being, as he expresses it, "principally to give a kind of history of pronunciation and to register its present state." In fact he holds the same rank as an orthoepist that Johnson does as a lexicographer, and almost all subsequent compilers have largely taken advantage of the labours of these two distinguished men. During the present century

many English Dictionaries have appeared both in Britain (1) and in the United States; but the two which divide public favour in America at present, are those of Dr. Webster, of New Haven, and Dr. Worcester, of Cambridge. The former of these appeared first in 1829, in two quarto volumes, and a new edition followed in 1840. An edition revised and enlarged by the late Rev. Chauncey A. Goodrich, D. D., of Yale College, appeared in 1847, in a large quarto volume. And a still later pictorial edition has been issued by the Messrs. Merriam of Springfield, Mass. Unquestionably greater pains have been taken with the definitions in this work, and if in this respect, Worcester excel, it may fairly be asked whether the improvements are not in some measure attributable to the fact that Worcester succeeded Webster. Important changes were made by Webster in the orthography, changes which are of two kinds, and which rest on different grounds. He rejected the *u* from such words as *favour*, *labour*, &c., and changed the terminations of certain words in *re* into *er*, as *centre*, *metre*, &c. Further, in adding to the formatives *ing*, *ed*, *er*, a single consonant if one precedes, is doubled when the accent falls on the last syllable, as in *forgetting*, *beginning*, &c., but it is not doubled when the accent falls on any of the preceding syllables, as in *benefiting*, *gardening*, &c. Dr. Worcester published his "Comprehensive pronouncing and explanatory Dictionary of the English Language" in 1830, and his Quarto Dictionary was published just 30 years after, on the 3rd January of present year. This splendid work, containing about 104,000 words was issued from the publishing house of Swan, Brewer & Tileston, of Boston, and had all the advantages of the personal oversight of the author, beautiful typography and pictorial illustration. Its claim to superiority over that of Webster, chiefly rests on its having adopted the English standard of orthography and orthoepy—in this respect meeting the views of Everett, Webster, Irving, and a majority of the literary men of the United States—in the better discrimination of the slighter and more obscure sounds of the vowels, giving in the "key" to the system of notation seven different sounds of *a* (three more than Webster,) five sounds of *e* (three more than Webster,) six of *i* (two more than Webster,) six of *o* (one more than Webster,) six of *u* (three more than Webster,) and four of *y*; in the copiousness of technical terms in the Arts and Sciences, and in these being illustrated by numerous diagrams and pictorial representations. We understand that an edition of Webster has also been published with pictorial illustrations, so that this can no longer be regarded as in the catalogue of improvements.

Bowen: "An historical sketch of the Isle of Orleans, being a paper read before the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec," by H. N. Bowen, 40 p. in-8o. Cary.

Mr. Bowen of Quebec, is a Notary and son of the Hon. Chief Justice Bowen. The *Transactions* of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec form three interesting volumes, now very seldom met with. Two parts of a fourth volume were issued, and after a lamentable interruption of this work, we welcomed with pleasure an essay read before the society, and printed, no doubt, at the expense of the author. The work of Mr. Bowen, conceived in an excellent spirit, is besides well recommended by its literary merit. Local sketches of this kind, which are now adopted by some colleges as subjects to be given to their pupils for competition, not only serve to record and preserve archaeological facts, and to save traditions and legends from oblivion, but they also instil patriotic zeal, and create a practical taste for useful pursuits.

The aspect of the Island of Orleans, clothed by magnificent forests of oak, elm, pine, and cedar, and bounding with the wild grape, struck Jacques-Cartier, who, as it is known, called it the Island of Bacchus. He, however, in the spring of 1535, gave it the name which it now bears. It is 21 miles long, and in some places, is as wide as 3½ miles, and formed part of the Seigneurie of Beaupré, granted in 1536 to Sieur Gastillon, by the Company of *la Nouvelle-France*. The island which, with the Seigneurie, had passed into the hands of *Monsieur Laval*, was afterwards exchanged for the Island of Jesus, belonging to Mr. de Berthelot. It was erected into a *fief noble* under the name of County of St. Laurent, and contained as many as six *arrière-fiefs*. Mr. Bowen gives a short but very interesting synopsis of its history, topography, and of its resources. He describes the Haron colony which in 1639, settled there, and the foundations of whose fort the author has discovered upon his own farm; the establishment, in 1695, of the convent of the *Sœurs de la Congrégation*, at Ste. Famille, by the Sisters Roux and Barbier, who underwent such severe trials; and the encampment of Wolfe in the centre of the island, where he first caught a glimpse of the ramparts of Quebec. The troops now encamp on nearly the same spot every summer. The *Columbus* and the *Baron Renfrew* were built here in 1824-25, and were then the largest vessels in the world. The author also mentions the legend of a cross erected to commemorate an exchange of relics between two parishes of the island, a subject which had been the occasion of much trouble, the massacre of the Hurons by the Iroquois in 1636, the rash expedition of the youth de Lauzon against the:

(1) The most important English publications of the kind, are *Blurkie's Imperial Dictionary* in two volumes, and the celebrated *Critical Dictionary* of Dr. Charles Richardson, in two volumes. The philological and scientific copiousness and accuracy of this latter work is as yet unapproached by any of its competitors.—*Ed. Journal of Education.*