

dealt more equitably with our neighbors, it is certainly at the expense of our less fortunate province; for the observations upon Canadian affairs recorded in his pages are not only replete with anachronisms, but appear to have been made under very unfavorable circumstances to say the least, while the revival of the long since exploded prognostications regarding the evil destiny of our fellow-citizens of French descent is of a nature to mislead the general reader as to the actual development of the country.

THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS, their topography, natural history, social condition and commercial importance; By Rev. George Sutherland. Hazzard, Publisher, Charlottetown, P. E. I. 1862.—12mo, 50 pp. Sold for 25 cents.

The Magdalen Islands, though forming part of Lower Canada, seldom claim our attention except indirectly, through efforts made in New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island. These two colonies have indeed, at different times, attempted to annex this group—an undertaking in which they nearly succeeded on one occasion, as the islanders, no doubt discouraged by the neglect they had suffered, seemed eager for the change, and little opposition was made by our government, whose information as to the value and extent of the natural resources of the territory in question was restricted within very narrow bounds. The fortunate action, however, of Mr. Christie, at that time member of Parliament for Gaspé, and the favorable reports of Capt. Fortin, Inspector of the Fisheries, attracted the attention of our public men to this valuable possession and served to prevent its alienation.

In 1853 the Legislative Assembly caused to be published a very interesting account of this part of the country; and an excellent article by Lieut. Baddeley on its geology and natural history, is contained in the third volume of the *Transactions* of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, printed in 1857. We would refer those who, after perusing Mr. Sutherland's interesting pamphlet may feel desirous of obtaining further information, to the publications above indicated.

The Magdalen Islands are eleven in number, with many small islets and detached masses of rocks; the principal members of the group being thus designated: Magdalen, formerly *le Royale* and sometimes called after Admiral Coffin; Dead Man's Island, All Right, Ile-aux-Meules or Grindstone, Amherst or Aubert, in which the Circuit Court is held; Ile d'Entrée, Aux Oiseaux, Byron, and Corps-Mort. The people devote their energies to the fisheries, as the herring, mackerel, cod, porpoise, seal and walrus abound. Whales also frequent this part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and are not infrequently captured. The soil is fertile in many parts, and valuable mineral products are found. The population is principally composed of Acadians and Canadians, and numbers 2659 souls. There are six churches and chapels—three Catholic and three Protestant.

The emphyteutic system upon which the lands have been granted has a tendency to retard the improvement and lower the value of property in these islands, rendering their possession of less importance to the country than it otherwise would be.

GÉOGRAPHIE MODERNE; By Mr. Holmes. 6th Edition. Desbarats and Derbyshire, Printers, Quebec; 1862.—12 mo, 894 pp.

ÉLÉMENTS DE GÉOGRAPHIE MODERNE à l'usage des Ecoles Printed by Desbarats and Derbyshire, Quebec; 1862.—1 vol. 12 mo, 71 pp.

TRAITÉ D'ARITHÉTIQUE à l'usage des écoles; By Jean Bouthillier. Daireau, Printer, Quebec; 1862—12 mo, 180 pp.

These new editions of school books approved by the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada, were much required, not only because the former were exhausted, but as alterations in the text had become absolutely necessary to suit the new order of things.

The Geography of Mr. Holmes will replace the school works hitherto imported from abroad, which always contain inaccuracies in descriptions of Canada and America generally.

TRANSACTIONS of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.—Vol. V, Part 1. 8vo, 164 pp.

This number is dated May 1862, but was not issued from the press until quite recently. It contains the following articles: "1.—E. D. Ashe, Lieut. Royal Navy, F. R. S., &c.—Notes of a Journey across the Andes in Peru. 2.—E. A. Meridith, LL.D.—An important but neglected branch of Social Science. 3.—John Langton, Esq., M.A.—On the age of Timber Trees, and the prospects of a continuous supply of Timber in Canada. 4.—Documents sur les voyages et sur la vie de Jacques Cartier. 5.—Rev. James Douglas.—Belief of the Ancient Egyptians regarding a Future State."

Although not in a position to say that the views advanced by Mr. Langton in his article on the Timber Trees of Canada are in every particular correct, we admit that he has touched upon a matter of the utmost public importance. The rapid disappearance of our forests before the woodman's axe, is a very serious matter when taken in connection with the declarations of our geologists that no coal beds exist in the country. Under the present system, the lumberers having no direct interest in the reproduction of trees, remove them carelessly during their temporary occupation of the land, which is then turned over to the settler. To prevent the total destruction of our valuable forests, Mr.

Langton suggests that the Government shall sell, instead of leasing, certain tracts of land for the special requirements of the timber trade, among which the systematic reproduction and growth of forest trees are, of course, included.

The documents relative to Jacques Cartier are printed in the language in which they have been originally written, and will serve to clear up some obscure points in that distinguished navigator's biography, they are highly interesting, and great credit is due the gentlemen who were instrumental in bringing them to light. The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec caused to be published in 1843 the most complete edition of Cartier's voyages extant: it was compiled in part from the Rouen edition (1596) of the account of the first voyage, now very difficult to obtain, from a valuable MS. account of the second voyage, contained in the Royal Library of Paris and supposed to be the original and to have been written about the middle of the 16th century, and from Hackluyt's account of the third voyage, translated from the English by Mr. Faribault. The public will, we are sure, not fail to appreciate the renewed efforts of the Society to unveil the early history of Canada and of the men who played so conspicuous a part in those stirring times.

LES ÉLÉMENTS DE L'AGRICULTURE, à l'usage de la jeunesse canadienne; By James Smith, Professor of Agriculture at the Agricultural and Industrial College of Rimouski. 12mo, 117 pp. Office of the *Canadien*, Quebec. Sold for 25 cents each, or \$2.40 per doz.

The author has dedicated this work to the Minister of Agriculture, and we are informed that he intends to submit it to approval to the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—At the Annual Meeting of the Colleges constituting the Queen's University in Ireland, the Lord Chancellor, who is Vice-Chancellor of the University, stated that 116 members had passed their academical examinations during the year—a larger number than in any previous year—and that of the 745 students in attendance during the last session, 293 were members of the Established Church, 200 Roman Catholic, 247 Presbyterians, and 25 members of various other religious denominations. The number of annual entrances had increased from 196 in the session of 1858-59 to 312 in the last session—a number almost identical with those who had entered the ancient University of Trinity College.—*Educational Times.*

—The Rev. Mr. Brunet, Professor of Botany in the Laval University has just returned from Europe with a collection of works on Botany and several herbariums, fruits, roots &c., in waxwork, intended for the museum of the university. We presume that the Botanical Garden will now be proceeded with under the supervision of the learned professor.

—The meteorological apparatus of Dr. Smallwood has been removed from his observatory at St. Martin to the McGill University, near which a new observatory will be established under his direction.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—It is announced in Quebec that a new collection of native literary essays and compositions, which have not yet appeared in book form, will be published under the name of "*Le Foyer Canadien*," several former contributors to the *Soirées Canadiennes* constituting a committee of compilation, and Messrs. Desbarats & Derbyshire printing the work. The proprietors of this *recueil* intend to present each subscriber, if a sufficient number be obtained to cover expenses, with a volume of 400 pages, entitled, "*Les Poètes et les Littérateurs Canadiens de 1850 à 1860.*" It is also announced that the publication of the *Soirées* will be continued under the management of Mr. Taché, formerly connected with the enterprise, and who will now be assisted by several new contributors.

—Mr. Eugene O'Curry, one of the most laborious philologists and archaeologists of Ireland, says the *Paris Athenæum*, died on the 30th of July last, of disease of the heart. He had been engaged in revising the translation of the Brehon laws, edited by himself and the late Dr. O'Donovan, and his death will be a heavy loss to the literary circles of that country. It had been his intention, after completing his labors and publishing the whole work, to extract from it the materials necessary for the compilation of a new Irish dictionary. His death has also interrupted the publication of the second volume of his work on the MSS. touching Irish history.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—The celebrated French chemist, M. Boussingault has recently presented a memoir to the French Academy, detailing a series of interest-