

UNITED STATES.

Items.—The University of Virginia is attended at the present time by 374 students. The President of Middlebury (Vt.) College, since his mission to Boston to raise a \$35,000 fund, has been at New-York, and added \$10,000 or more to the subscription, making the amount now raised about \$25,000. \$10,000 more are wanted to place the college in the position desired by its friends. The Territorial University of Minnesota has been located at St. Anthony. The University building is to be erected immediately. The school fund has been so husbanded in that territory, as to secure to every child a good common school education, free of all expense to parents. The Henry Female College, located at New Castle, Ky., was dedicated on the 23rd ult. There are at present attached to this institution 110 pupils. The new University of Albany, N. Y., goes into operation in its several departments without the delay of erecting buildings, or procuring endowments. All these are to be self-supported, and to depend for their success on the reputation of the Professors, the value of their instructions, and the advantages held out to students in every branch of science. The city school authorities of Cincinnati have purchased \$300 worth of *Holbrook's School Apparatus*, for the use of the City Schools. A set has been provided for each of the houses. Each set consists of a Tellurian, a cabinet of labelled specimens of minerals, a set of geometrical diagrams, and a numeral frame. Mrs. Sigourney once sustained the honourable office of schoolmistress. She held an extensive correspondence with her pupils, and has just published a volume containing selections from her letters. They are quite interesting, full of good counsels and entertaining sketches.

The Law against Truancy from Schools.—The first cause under the new law on this subject came before Justice Rogers. Constable Spurr brought up a lad who was clearly proved by the testimony of the master, and others, to have been an habitual truant from the Mayhew School, whereupon the Justice ordered the boy to be committed to the House of Reformation for Juvenile Offenders, for the term of one month. The law takes cognizance of all children between the ages of 6 and 15, who wilfully absent themselves from the public schools; and the penalty for each conviction is a fine not exceeding \$20, or confinement in any of the municipal institutions, at the discretion of the Court.—[Boston Mail.

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

Items.—The Rt. Hon. Richard Lalor Shiel is dead. The splendid orator, whose eloquence thrilled through every hearer, will be heard no more. His retirement to Tuscany, instead of prolonging his life, only accelerated his death. Mungo Park's brother died lately in Scotland, at an advanced age. The Royal Irish Academy has got possession of the inestimable ancient Celtic and Latin manuscripts of Sir Wm. Betham, £300 having been paid for them. J. R. Hind, Esq., of Bishop's Observatory, Regent's Park, London, has discovered yet another planet, being the fourth first seen by him, and the fourteenth now known to exist between Mars and Jupiter. On Monday week, the new Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn-street, St. James's, was opened, under the auspices of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, in the presence of a numerous and brilliant assemblage of the nobility, and many literary and scientific persons of distinction. A statue of Her Majesty is to be placed in the centre of the quadrangle of Holyrood Palace, to commemorate her Majesty's occupying, for the first time, that ancient palace of her ancestors. We see it stated that, upon examination, agate, cornelians, and madrepores, have been found profusely scattered among the coarser pebbles in the southern portion of Mississippi. The same formation has been observed as far west as the Guadaloupe river, in Texas. An Englishman by the name of Burgess has received permission to publish a Persian Journal in Teheran, and has commenced the publication with the support of the Prime Minister. In the fifteenth century, one Matthew Flint, a dentist, received from Richard the Third, a grant of sixpence a day, on condition of his drawing the teeth of the poor of London without charge. The highest price ever given for an English coin was obtained last year for a rial of Queen Mary, which was sold for £66. The Chapter of Westminster Abbey has appointed two interpreters to assist the regular attendants in explaining the chief features to the numerous foreigners who daily visit the Abbey, which is now open to the public without charge, and will so continue. Miss Martineau's English publisher has cancelled an engagement with her on account of her recent avowal of atheistical opinions. There is no abatement in the furor respecting the great Exhibition, and the attendance of the public is on the increase. The receipts average \$15,000 per day. Amongst the illustrious visitors in London at this time, is the famed German poet, Ferdinand Freiligrath, who has come over to visit the Exhibition. Another celebrity is a young Danish lady, of whose vocal powers the *Athenaeum* speaks in high terms. The introduction of printing in the

Deaf and Dumb Asylum of Ohio, has been recommended by the select committee of the Senate of that State. It is proposed to print school books for gratuitous distribution to those who are not able to pay for them.

Statistical Items.—Correspondence.—Assuming the accuracy of the following returns, by a Swedish paper, of the number of letters posted in the countries named, and their proportion to the population, it will be seen how greatly this country is in advance of others:—

	Population.	Letters.
Great Britain,	29,000,000	320,000,000
Switzerland,	2,400,000	13,600,000
France,	36,000,000	108,000,000
Prussia,	16,500,000	75,000,000
Austria,	37,000,000	23,000,000

Stamps.—A return just issued to the British House of Commons of the aggregate number of stamps issued for newspapers, in the United Kingdom for the year ending 5th January, 1851, shows that the penny stamps issued for England amounts to £65,741,271, to Scotland, 7,643,045; and to Ireland, 6,302,728. The advertisement duty paid by metropolitan papers in the same period amounts to £66,873 15s; provincial papers, £65,672 6s. 6d.; Scotch, £18,685 11s. 6d.; and Irish papers, at the rate of a shilling per advertisement, £11,806 8s.

Plants.—The number of species cultivated in British gardens (including indigenous plants) is stated by Loudon to be 26,660.

Hindustan Newspapers.—There are in Hindostan twenty-six newspapers in the native language.

American Pianos.—In Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York, there are no less than 18,000 piano fortes manufactured and sold yearly.

Extent of London.—London has 300,000 houses, which cover an area fourteen miles along and seven miles wide. Between the 1st of January, 1839, and January, 1849, 64,058 new houses were built, forming 1,652 streets. London has more population than Greece, more than half that of Belgium or Holland, as much as all Hanover, and within half a million of half as much as Bavaria.

It is said that during the last seven years, two hundred miles of streets have been added to London. Villages, which not long ago were ten or twelve miles distant, are now virtually a part of this great city.

Census of Australia.—The population of Australia has nearly doubled within ten years.

Census of Canada, 1850.—A population table has been laid before Parliament, from which it appears that the population of Upper Canada is 813,485. In 1839, the population was only 407,515—showing an increase in 11 years of nearly 100 per cent.

Newspapers.—At a recent meeting of the London Tract Society, it was stated that there are no fewer than ten stamped newspapers of an infidel tendency, the circulation of which, throughout the country, is not less than 11,700,000. There are six unstamped newspapers, of which the circulation is 6,240,000. Of miscellaneous publications of evil tendency, there is a circulation not less than 10,400,000. Of the worst class of all, the circulation amounts to 5,250,000. In the United States there are, doubtless, as many as in Great Britain, when the population is taken into account.

Journaux.—Il y a 10 papiers-nouvelles publiés en Auriche, 14 en Afrique, 14 en Espagne, 20 en Portugal, 30 en Asie, 65 en Belgique, 85 dans le Danemark, 90 en Russie et en Pologne, 300 en Prusse, 500 dans la Grande-Bretagne et l'Irlande, 1800 dans le Etats-Unis et environ, 120 dans le Canada. — Il y a environ 30 publications françaises en Amérique.—[La Moniteur Canadienne.

Scientific Discovery, by Prof. Potter, formerly of Toronto.—Prof. Potter, of University College, and lately of King's College, Toronto, has made a communication to the *Philosophical Magazine* for last month, which is likely to produce a considerable sensation in the scientific world. Sir Isaac Newton had concluded from theory that the number of feet per second which sound travels in air of a given temperature and density should be a mean proportional between twice the number of feet which a body descends in vacuo in the first second of time, and the number of feet of altitude in an upright column of air of the given temperature and density, whose weight would represent the pressure of the air upon the base of the column. This deduction was found not to agree with the results of observation and experiment, and Newton's method of arriving at it has been on good grounds objected to. The velocity found by this rule comes out about one-sixth too small. Laplace gained great *éclat* by his correction of this theory, grounded upon the consideration of the sensible heat developed on the sudden condensation of air when in a state of sonorous pulsation. This explanation, however ingenious, has been held by many mathematicians