

The Normal School is justly the pride and glory of Canada. Her people have given the strongest and most positive proof of their attachment to the cause of popular education, in providing on the most liberal plan buildings and grounds for carrying out this great object. A stroll of an hour through the different departments strengthened our love and heightened our zeal in the cause. The destinies of all countries are, to a certain extent, placed in the hands of our youth, and hence nothing can be more necessary for governments than to see that they are properly instructed in all the arts and sciences of civilization, and thus become proper and fit subjects to sway the sceptre of government. Mr. Hodgins, the faithful and obliging Deputy Superintendent, will please accept our thanks for the courteous manner in which he treated us, and the pains taken in showing us the different departments of the institution. . . . Messrs. E. & J. F. Moore, of Hamilton, have offered a site of "ten acres of ground on the Mountain, within a quarter of a mile of the southern limits of the city," for the contemplated College in that city. J. Hurlburt, Esq., A.M., of the Adelaide Academy, has suggested the erection of the College into an University, containing six Faculties of (1) Arts, (2) Law, (3) Medicine, (4) Agriculture, (5) Commerce, and (6) Mechanics. . . . The Calendar of Trinity College, Toronto, for 1855, has been published. The following degrees have been granted: One D.C.L., four M.D., eight M.A., nine M.B., one Mus. Bac., and nine B.A. There are forty-three Undergraduates. The following are the scholarships and the prizes: Scholarships,—Two Wellington, two Burnside, one Strachan, two Soc. Prop. Gospel, two Cameron, three Allan, one Law, five Divinity, and one Denison Exhibition; Prizes,—Two Kent, two Bethune, two Chancellor, and one Bishop. The Library contains 2600 volumes. . . . M. H. Foley, Esq., M.P.P., has presented a volume of Maps of the Counties of Canada to the Norfolk Grammar School. . . . The London (U. C.) *Times*, thus reports the proceedings at the close of the term of the British and Foreign School Society's School:—"Most of the scholars, neatly dressed and well behaved, were present, together with a large number of their parents and friends of the institution. The services of the evening were commenced with singing and prayer; the children engaging very correctly and heartily in the singing. The Rev. Mr. Dillon gave a pleasing statement of the principles of the school; which are those of a secular education incorporated with consecutive religious instruction. Before closing, Mr. Dillon remarked that, through the liberality of the friends of the cause, the building formerly known as the Artillery Barracks had been fitted up for a school; the present room being found too small, upwards of 200 children having been refused admission. The new rooms will accommodate some 400 children." . . . The usual Examinations of Upper Canada College were held on the 25th ult. A "Spectator" states that,—"The audience was composed of many ladies and gentlemen, all of whom took a deep interest in the proceedings. The large room had placed on its walls several large boards, on which in gilt letters were inscribed the names of those College boys who have distinguished themselves in the University, &c., after leaving College. One board at the south side had inscribed upon it the names of the exhibitioners." . . . Alexander Workman, Esq., of Ottawa, having retired from the office of Local Superintendent of Schools for that city, a very complimentary address was presented to him on the 14th ult. by the teachers of the city.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

### MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EARL STANHOPE has signified to the Vice Chancellor of Oxford University that it is his intention to give during his life, and to bequeath after his death, an annual prize of £20 for the best composition on a modern history subject. . . . The total number of students in Edinburgh University is 1273, being 35 less than in the previous year.—Of these 978 belong to Scotland. . . . An English newspaper, in surveying the recent proceedings of the Legislature in regard to popular education, "observes:—"Educational Bills—Nos. 1, 2, and 8,—were respectfully inurned without the honours of a second reading, and with but brief regrets from their several friends. Sir John Pakington's speech did him much credit, and to his sincerity, and even to the value of his three main principles, Lord John Russell paid willing homage. Next session, if the present Government be in existence, Lord John will be prepared with a measure of ampler scope than that which he introduced at the beginning of the present. It will include the feature of local rates, although with the design of aiding the existing system of education rather than of having recourse to a new one. His lordship has also come over to Sir John Pakington's opinion that it would now be an improvement if the

President of the Council became Minister of Education, and if the Committee were represented in the House of Commons, by an official holding the rank of Privy Councillor, whose function would be to explain and defend the measures submitted on the subject of education. Accordingly, we may expect in due time to see the establishment of a Government Department of Education. The Scottish Education Bill survives, and is passing through Committee with now and then an amendment carried in spite of the Lord Advocate, and with majorities whose smallness must chagrin him. . . . A grand cavalcade of the students of the University of Leyden has recently taken place, on the occasion of the 280th anniversary of the foundation of that establishment. The town wore all the appearance of a *fête*, and the cavalcade was remarkable for its historical correctness, and for the richness of the costumes. A great number of foreigners were present. . . . A curious monument was erected last winter, to the Swedish poet Tegnér. The students of Lund moulded a gigantic figure out of snow; which they were pleased to call an effigy of their beloved bard, and which, according to the latest reports, is still standing most majestically in the square before the University, in spite of the sunshine.

### SUGGESTIONS ON EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

Two Blue Books have just been published treating of Education in England. The first contains copies of all minutes of the Privy Council on education, arranged in chronological order, extending from the 3rd of June, 1839, to the 19th of January, 1855. The second, a thick volume of 765 pages, contains minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, correspondence, financial statements, examination papers, and reports by her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools for the year 1854-55. The two most remarkable of these reports, perhaps, are those of the Rev. H. Moseley, and the Rev. W. H. Brookfield. Mr. Moseley does not consider that the present subjects of elementary instruction are the best, inasmuch as religious knowledge, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, history and geography, under the form in which they are usually taught in schools, tend but little to the development of the reasoning powers, or the exercise of the intelligence of children, and are but poor expedients of general education. He urges, and has urged for many years, the teaching of that kind of knowledge dignified by the name of the "science of common things," so powerfully advocated by the Lord Ashburton, but does not disguise the great difficulty of introducing this as a branch of elementary instruction, doubting, as he does, whether the whole of the training schools could furnish one master possessing enough for the purpose of that kind of scientific knowledge which must be at the basis of it. Mr. Moseley thinks the science of chemistry the best adapted to this end, one great characteristic of which is that, with whatever is to be reasoned on and understood, there is always associated something that is to be done.

Mr. Brookfield (who presided last February at the annual festival of the Church Schoolmasters' Association) equally urges the importance of the study of "common things," and humorously reminds his professional friends of the south-eastern districts, in reference to some examination papers in history which he lately reviewed, that Alfred the Great would have been the last man, notwithstanding his neglect of "those unlucky cakes" in the Isle of Athelney, to advocate a disconnection between uncommon lore and "common things," a mistake peculiar to the ignorant and the pedantic. Mr. Brookfield expresses his conviction that the cause of elementary instruction has made steady and very satisfactory progress in the south-eastern district. He has in no department observed a greater improvement than in geography, and in three subjects only does not see much advance, namely, English grammar, English history, and the Church Catechism. With reference to the study of grammar, the Rev. Inspector strongly recommends the two little volumes upon "Words," and "English past and present," by the Rev. Professor Trench, of King's College, London; and, as regards English history, he traces the deficiency of knowledge to a want of good books, brief and inexpensive, on the subject. The Church Catechism is taught too much by rote, and its repetition with verbal accuracy appears to be the sole result of the instruction under this head. The questions given at the examination for the Ashburton prizes in 1854 appear, on the whole, sufficiently practical to elicit a candidate's knowledge of "common things," although it is certainly rather amusing to find the school-mistress asked to state "the advantages of cleaning the teeth daily, and the disadvantages of losing them (to ladies especially) in early life."

### PRUSSIA RETROGRADING IN EDUCATION.

We learn, from a late number of the *New York Independent*, that the Prussian Government has taken the first step towards degrading the charac-