

only lie between England and France. And to this day, Madame de Sevigne remains the single instance of a woman who is supreme in a class of literature which has engaged the ambition of men; Madame Dacier still reigns the queen of blue stockings, though women have long studied Greek without shame; Madame de Staël's name still rises first to the lips when we are asked to mention a woman of great intellectual power; Madame Roland is still the unrivalled type of the sagacious and sternly heroic, yet loveable woman; George Sand is the unapproached artist who, to Jean Jacques' eloquence and deep sense of external nature, unites the clear delineation of character and the tragic depth of passion. These great names, which mark different epochs, soar like tall pines amidst a forest of less conspicuous but not less fascinating, female writers; and beneath these again, are spread, like a thicket of hawthorns, eglantines, and honeysuckles, the women who are known rather by what they stimulated men to write, than by what they wrote themselves—the women whose tact, wit and personal radiance, created the atmosphere of the *Salon*, where literature, philosophy, and science, emancipated from the trammels of pedantry and technicality, entered on a brighter stage of existence."

PROBABLE EFFECT OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

The subject of the probable effect of the present happy alliance of the two most civilized nations of the world on the language of those nations is one deserving the consideration of every lover of literature, as well as the etymologist. Among many other effects of this alliance this is not the least noteworthy. To the English student it is more particularly worthy of study, for it is a well known fact that the English tongue is more susceptible of change and of receiving impressions than any other language. This is, and always has been, one of the characteristics of our language.

The foundation of the English tongue is very slight, while the superstructure is composed of parts from almost every known language—Latin, Greek, French, Danish, Norman-French, Italian, German, Spanish, and even contributions from the language of Asia, Africa, and America, make up what is called English. The daily intercourse between the two peoples in the tent, in the field, at the bivouac fire, on the march, "shoulder to shoulder," the meetings between English and French seamen, each assisting the other, and *parleyvoing* as fast as possible—all this must perforce cause a strong influx of words and terms from our ally, which eventually will become so incorporated with our own language as to form another permanent addition to its value and expressiveness. One strong reason for believing that the words thus imported will obtain a permanent standing in our language is, that the importation will be the work of the peer and the peasant, the general and the private.

Many foreign terms, in extensive use by the upper classes, are never heard among the lower, and *vice versa*. But now the case is altered. Mark many, aye most of the "letters from the seat of war," even those written by "a private" or a "non-commissioned officer," and we shall find French words used in a manner and to an extent to warrant that which I have already asserted, viz., that the present Anglo-French alliance will effect an extensive addition to the number of words in the English language.—*Correspondent of Carnarvon Herald.*

THE THEORY OF DURATION.

From the Rev. Dr. Wayland's "*Elements of Intellectual Philosophy*"—a volume originally written by President Wayland, to be delivered as lectures from the chair of moral and intellectual philosophy which he occupies in Brown University. The work is now, perhaps, better adapted than any other book we can mention for instruction in the elements of the noble science of which it treats. The amount of learning and the fruits of severe thought condensed in the lucid yet compact pages of this work are unsurpassed. Dr. Wayland's writings, are equally admirable for their sentiments and style. Read for example the following clearly defined theory of

DURATION.

"The first measure of duration seems naturally to be the succession of our own thoughts. A portion of duration seems long or short, in retrospect, according to the number of events to which we have attended, and the tone of mind or the degree of earnestness with which we have observed them. But it is obvious that these elements vary greatly with the same individual at different times, and with different individuals at the same time. We therefore seek for some definite portion of duration as the unit by which we may measure with accuracy any other limited portion. Such natural limit is found in the revolution of the heavenly bodies; and hence we come to measure duration by days, and months, and years, or by some definite portion of these units. Duration measured in this manner we call time. If I do not mistake, we mean by time that portion of duration which commences

with the creation of our race, and which will terminate when 'the earth and all things therein shall be dissolved.'

"But let us take a year, and add to it by unity: we soon arrive at a century. Taking this as our unit, we add again, until we arrive at the era of creation. We go backward still, until we find ourselves, in imagination, at the commencement of a sidereal system. Duration is still unexhausted; it is yet an unfathomable abyss. We conceive of ages upon ages, each as interminable as the past duration of the material universe and cast them into the mighty void; they sink in darkness, and the chasm is still unfathomable. We go forward again, add century to century without finding any limit. We pass on till the present system is dissolved, and duration is still immeasurable. We add together the past and the future term of the existence of the universe, and multiply it by millions of millions, and we have approached no nearer than at first to the limits of duration. We are conscious that it sustains no relations either to measure or limit. It is beyond all computation by the addition of the finite. It is thus, from the contemplation of duration, that the idea of the infinite arises in a human intellect from the necessity of its nature.

"This idea of the infinite, to which the mind so necessarily tends, and which it derives from so many conceptions, is one of the most remarkable of any of which we are cognizant. It belongs to the human intelligence, for it arises within us unbidden on various occasions, and we cannot escape it. Yet it is cognized by none of the powers either of perception or consciousness; it is occasioned by them; yet it differs from them as widely as the human mind can conceive. The knowledge derived from these sources is by necessity limited and finite. It has no qualities, yet we all have a necessary knowledge of what it means. Is there not in this idea some dim forshadowing of the relation which we, as finite beings, sustain to the Infinite One, and of those conceptions which burst upon us in that unchanging state to which we are all so rapidly tending?"

THE POPULATION OF IRELAND.

A return has been issued from the census office in Dublin, showing the population of Ireland from the year 1805, to 1853, both inclusive, as far as the same could be ascertained from various sources. The result is thus set forth:—

Year.	Population.	Year.	Population.
1805	5,395,456	1829	7,563,898
1806	5,460,447	1830	7,664,974
1807	5,526,224	1831	7,767,401
1808	5,592,792	1832	7,807,241
1809	5,660,162	1833	7,847,285
1810	5,728,344	1834	7,887,534
1811	5,797,347	1835	7,927,989
1812	5,867,181	1836	7,968,655
1813	5,937,856	1837	8,009,527
1814	6,039,544	1838	8,050,609
1815	6,142,972	1839	8,091,902
1816	6,246,174	1840	8,133,408
1817	6,255,177	1841	8,175,124
1818	6,464,014	1842	8,217,055
1819	6,574,713	1843	8,259,210
1820	6,687,306	1844	8,301,563
1821	6,801,827	1845	8,344,142
1822	6,892,719	1846	8,386,940
1823	6,984,826	1847	—
1824	7,078,164	1848	—
1825	7,172,748	1849	—
1826	7,268,598	1850	—
1827	7,365,729	1851	6,551,970
1828	7,464,156		

NOTE.—The number of persons returned for 1805 is the result of a computation made in that year by Major Newenham, based upon the results furnished by the collectors of hearth money. The population for 1813 is partly the result of an enumeration and partly of computation, no returns having been made in the following places—viz., the cities of Limerick and Kilkenny, and the Counties of Meath, Westmeath, Wexford, Cavan, Donegal, and Sligo. The population for 1821, 1831, 1841, and 1851, is taken from the census returns made in those years under specific acts of Parliament.

The population as shown in this return for the intermediate years has been computed from the increase which took place between the periods from 1805 to 1818, from 1818 to 1821, from 1821 to 1831, from 1831 to 1841, and at the same rate from 1841 to 1846. In 1847 and the succeeding years, a considerable decrease is known to have taken place, but the annual account is not known.

POPULATION OF MEXICO.

According to the latest census of the population of the Republic of Mexico, which we find published in the last Mexican papers, the entire number of inhabitants is 7,853,395, to wit:—