

Mr. Child had filled the office of Inspector since the creation of that office, in 1851. He had been for many years a member of the House of Assembly for Lower-Canada before the Union. He was universally beloved and esteemed, and the local newspapers have testified to his many virtues. As an inspector, he had great zeal and activity, considering his advanced age and bestowed great attention to the state of education in his extensive district, as may be seen by the extracts of his reports, published with those of the Superintendent. As a politician, Mr. Child was long connected with the liberal or reform party of Lower Canada, and, we believe, was held in great esteem by Mr. Papineau, Mr. Morin, and the other leaders of the party.

—A *hortus siccus*, a collection of marine plants, a collection of Canadian ornithology, embracing 130 specimens well stuffed, a small collection of entomological specimens, and a beautiful collection of Canadian butterflies, were recently added to the museum of the Jacques Cartier Normal School. The birds and the butterflies were collected and prepared by Césaire Germain, Esq., of St. Vincent de Paul, Inspector of Schools. Mr. Germain is well versed in Canadian natural history and although he could not make a present of these collections which have cost him some money, he has laudably left them for half the price at which they were valued by a competent person. The herbarium of marine plants was offered by Madame Faure, of Berthier; they were collected on the coasts of Brittany, near Limoilon, the residence of Jacques Cartier.

—A large number of Catholic boys in one of the common schools, in Boston, having refused to read the Protestant version of the Bible, or to recite the decalogue from that version, one of them, named Thomas Wall, was flogged by the sub-master of the school. The sub-master was sued and discharged by Judge Maine, as having merely enforced the law of the land. The case has brought about an interesting controversy in the public papers of the United States and has created no small excitement throughout the Catholic community of America. The teachers and pupils of Nativity Sunday School, New-York, have presented young Wall with a gold cross bearing the inscription: "To Thomas L. Wall for his heroic conduct at the Elliot School, Boston."

In a communication to the Board of School Commissioners of Boston, on that subject, the Right Rev. J. B. Fitzpatrick, R. C., Bishop of Boston, made the following points: 1st. Catholics cannot under any circumstances acknowledge, receive and use as a complete collection and faithful version of the inspired books which compose the written Word of God, the English-Protestant version of the Bible. 2nd. The acceptance and the recital of the Decalogue under the form and words in which Protestants clothe it, is offensive to the conscience and belief of Catholics. 3rd. The chanting of the Lord's Prayer, or psalms or hymns, addressed to God, performed by many persons in unison, being neither a scholastic exercise nor recreation, can only be regarded as an act of public worship. Indeed it is professedly intended as such in the regulations which govern our public schools.

—William H. Powell, late Superintendent of Public Instruction in Illinois, in his report to the Legislature thus sums up the general results of the last two years in that department:

1. The establishment of a State Normal University.
2. The organization of a system of school district libraries, and the introduction of one thousand of the same into the school districts of the State.
3. The building of three thousand school houses in the various school districts in the State.
4. The sustaining of free schools for nearly seven months, during each of the school years, 1857 and 1858, in nearly all the school districts of the State.
5. The organization of about two thousand new school districts in the State.
6. The organization of over fifty Teachers' Institutes in the various counties of the State.
7. The conversion of over two-thirds of the private academies and seminaries, which had an existence in the State, two years since, into public Graded Schools under the law.
8. The introduction of the most approved styles of school furniture and apparatus into a considerable number of the school districts of the State.
9. The awakening and building up of an all-powerful and constantly increasing public opinion, in all portions of the State, and especially the southern, in favor of popular education, which has no parallel in the history of the country.

N. Bateman, for some time editor of the *Illinois Teacher*, has succeeded Mr. Powell, as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—Professor Morse the inventor of the present systems of electric telegraph has been created Knight Commander of the Order of Isabella the Catholic; the Swedish Royal Academy of Science has also elected him a foreign member of the academy.

DEATH OF HUMBOLDT.—Among the items of intelligence by the *Canada* is an announcement of the death, on the 6th instant, of the illustrious philosopher, Baron Alexander von Humboldt. He was born in Berlin on the 14th September, 1769 (which was also the natal year of Napoleon and Wellington), and had therefore, at the time of his death, nearly completed his ninetieth year. His long life was so usefully and indefatigably employed that he has left behind him the reputation of a comprehensive mastery over all the departments of natural science, greatly beyond what has been attained by any of his contemporaries. His first work, "The Basalt on the Rhine," was published in 1790, nearly three score and ten years ago, being the fruit of his observations during an excursion while pursuing his university studies. In the spring and summer of that year he made a tour through Belgium, Holland, England, and France. Having a strong penchant for the cultivation of physical science, he repaired, in 1791, to the School of Mines and Freiberg, where he received private lessons from the celebrated Werner. A year or two later, he published a treatise on the fossil botany of Freiberg. He was for three years about this period Superintendent of Mines in Franconia. But his thirst for foreign travel became irrepressible, and, resigning his office, he repaired to Vienna, in 1795, to prepare himself for travel. In the first place he made a journey with Batler to North Italy, to study the volcanic theory of rocks in the mountains of that district. In 1797, he was about to proceed to Naples with a similar object in view, but was stopped by the events of war, and turned his steps to Paris, where he made the acquaintance of Bonpland, the celebrated naturalist. In 1798, he proceeded to Spain, whence, in the spring of the following year, accompanied by Bonpland, he sailed for the New World Landing at Cumana in July, 1799, he immediately began his South American explorations. Four years were spent in travelling through the tropical regions of South America, and making himself acquainted with their productions and natural history. During these explorations he accumulated a vast body of facts of much interest in the various departments of science. On June 23, 1802, Humboldt and Bonpland reached a height of 19,230 feet on Chimborazo, a greater height than had ever before been attained. At this extreme elevation, the adventurous travellers were enveloped in thick fogs, and in an atmosphere of the most piercing cold, while, on account of the rarity of the air they breathed with difficulty, and blood burst from their lips and eyes. Only once has the elevation they reached on the Chimborazo been surpassed, when Boussingault in 1831 by a different path attained a height of 19,600 feet. In 1803 Humboldt and Bonpland proceeded to Mexico, and spent several months in exploring the volcanic regions of that country. In the following year they went to Cuba, where they spent two months, and then visited the United States. Having made but a brief sojourn there, they sailed for Europe, and in August, 1804, Humboldt landed at Havre, richer than any previous traveller in collections of interesting objects, and in observations in the field of the natural sciences, in botany, zoology, geology, geography, statistics and ethnology. On his return to Europe he took up his residence in Paris, where having made the acquaintance of Gay-Lussac, he devoted himself for some months to chemical researches. Shortly afterwards he commenced a series of gigantic publications, giving the result of his observations in every department of science. Up to 1817, four-fifths of the intended work had been published in parts, each of which cost in the market more than \$500. Since then the publication has gone on more slowly, and is left incomplete. After a journey to Italy, he returned to Berlin in December, 1805. In 1807 he accompanied Prince William of Prussia on a political mission to France, and with a view to the publication of his works remained for the most part in Paris till 1827. He visited Italy, however, in 1818, with Guy-Lussac, and afterwards travelled in England in 1826. In 1827 he took up his residence in Berlin, and, enjoying the intimate friendship of his sovereign, was made a Councillor of State, and entrusted with several diplomatic missions. In 1829, at the desire of the Czar Nicholas, he made an expedition, accompanied by Ehrenberg and Gustave Rose, to the Altai and Ural Mountains, for the purpose of examining those regions. Since 1842 Humboldt has been engaged in the preparation of the "Cosmos," the work by which he is most widely and popularly known, and which sums up the results of his life's studies with regard to natural phenomena of all kinds, and the laws by which the universe is regulated.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—Mr. de Tocqueville, the celebrated French publicist and litterateur, died at Cannes, on the 17th of April last. Alexis Charles Henri Clérel de Tocqueville was born at Verneuil, the 29th of July, 1805, and consequently was not yet 54 years of age, although his name has been long before the public. By his mother he was a descendant of Malesherbes. He was entrusted with judiciary functions as early as 1826. In 1831 he was named with Mr. Gustave de Beaumont commissioner to investigate the penitentiary system of the United States. He visited Canada at that time on his return with his colleague and both were, we believe, in Québec, the guests of the late Hon. John Neilson, who had also been entrusted with Judge Mondelet, of Three Rivers, with a similar mission, and who published a very interesting report. Like all other Frenchmen who visit Canada, he was struck with the sprightliness of the French language and manners, and was delighted with his visit to the beautiful parishes about Québec. Soon after his return he published his famous work "*De la Démocratie en Amérique*," which Royer Collard