

UNITED STATES.

Items.—Mr. Theron Fisk, of Warsaw, Wyoming County, N. Y., has subscribed two thousand dollars, to constitute two scholarships in the Theological Seminary connected with the University of Rochester. The University of Albany has decided to establish a department of Scientific Agriculture. Professor John P. Norton, of Yale College, will lecture on the science, and Professor James K. Hall, on geology. There will be lectures likewise on chemistry and entomology, as connected with agriculture. The Rev. D. C. Vannorman, A. M., late Principal of the Burlington Ladies' Academy, Hamilton, has been inaugurated Principal of the Rutgers' Female Institute, New York, with appropriate ceremonies.

Regents of the University, New York.—At a meeting of the regents of the University, held in Albany, on the 14th instant, the sum of \$22,000 was appropriated to academies for the instruction of common school teachers. The sum allowed is \$12.50 for each teacher instructed, and no academy is allowed to draw for more than twenty. The amount of the appropriation is fixed upon the estimate that two academies in each county may avail themselves of the premium. The fact is, however, that from nine counties no applications have been made, and from fourteen other counties only one academy in each has applied, so that the sum expended cannot exceed \$21,500, and will not probably exceed \$18,000, as it is not likely that every academy selected will have the complement of twenty teachers under instruction. The term of instruction fixed by the statute is four full calendar months in each of two successive years.—[New York Commercial Advertiser.

Wesleyan University, Middleton, Connecticut.—The joint board of trustees and visitors of the Wesleyan University, Middleton, Ct., yesterday with great unanimity elected the Rev. Dr. M'Clietock to the presidency of that institution. Ever since the death of the late incumbent, the truly great and good Dr. Olin, the friends of the University have felt that much of its prosperity depended upon the selection of a competent successor, and with remarkable unanimity their attention seems to have been directed to the reverend gentleman upon whom the choice of the board has fallen, and who is at present editor of the Quarterly Review, published by the Methodist Church. A better selection could not have been made. Dr. M'Clietock is a thorough and profound scholar, possessing great strength and vigor of mind, an independent and original thinker, quick to perceive and skilful to analyse, and has a native force of character which will make its impression in whatever sphere the Doctor moves. He shares largely also in that spirit which shed so beneficial an influence around the character of his predecessor,—an enlightened and genial, but practical piety, which will season all his instructions to the students, while his intercourse with them will always be that of the true Christian gentleman. As well wishers to the University, we shall be glad to learn that Dr. M'Clietock has accepted the presidency thus cordially tendered to him.—[Ibid.

Common School System of New York.—The first report to the Legislature, showing the number and condition of the Schools in the State, was made in 1793, when the number of Schools in 16 out of 23 counties then organized, was 1352 and the number of pupils 59,660. The first appropriation for common schools was made in 1795, and was on a scale of liberality, which shows the just appreciation of the importance of this fundamental interest in the infancy of our state. The sum appropriated was \$50,000 annually for five years. In 1805, our permanent school fund was founded, by the appropriation of 500,000 acres of the vacant lands of the State. The returns from the school districts were incomplete each year, till after 1816. In that year 2,631 districts made reports, in which the number of pupils was 140,106. In 1817, there were 5,000 Schools, and over 200,000 pupils, exclusive of the city and county of New York. In 1820, the number of districts was 5,113, in which 271,877 children were instructed. In 1821, the Districts were 5,439, and the pupils, 305,549. Since that period, the system having become regular in its operations, the increase in the number of Schools and of children instructed in them, has borne a near proportion to the increase of population, till, by the last report of the Superintendent, the number of Districts is shown to be 11,367, and the children instructed, 794,500. The annual appropriation from the income of the permanent fund, is now \$300,000, and from taxes 300,000, of which \$1,045,000 is applicable exclusively to the payment of teachers' wages, and the support of schools, and the remaining \$55,000 to the purchase of school libraries and apparatus. Since their foundation in 1835, the District Libraries have grown to the amount of 1,500,000 volumes.—[Christian Adv. and Journal.

Evening Schools in the City of New York.—Evening schools, for the gratuitous instruction of apprentices, and other persons, unable to avail themselves of the free public day schools, were opened at twelve different points in the city, on the 13th ult., under the direction of the Board of Education. From the terms of the notice published at the time, we are

unable to say whether more than one school is held in the same building, but we presume that there are now only twelve of these schools. In the winter of 1847-8, when the experiment was first made as an auxiliary to the day schools, six evening schools were opened, and there was an average attendance of 1,224 pupils. The following season the number of these schools was increased to fifteen, and 2,490 pupils attended; and last winter, we believe, there were twenty schools, with an average attendance of 2,945 pupils. With the rapid increase of our population, it is not likely that the demand for evening tuition can be diminished; and it is therefore possible that if there are only twelve schools open now, their number will be augmented when the winter sets in and the nights become longer. The number of pupils who registered their names each season was much larger than the regular attendance, many merely visiting the school occasionally, being, perhaps, unable from the nature of their avocations, to give constant attention. Of the number registered last winter, we are informed that 4,912 were entirely ignorant of arithmetic, and 1,321 were unable to read. A great portion of these illiterate persons were adults. Many of the pupils are Germans, who seek to acquire a knowledge of the English language; and in one school, where nearly a hundred of this class of persons resorted, a German teacher was employed as an interpreter. In this respect the schools are valuable, as tending to render our diversified population more homogenous. Much as these evening schools have been frequented, there is still room for an extension of usefulness. There are thousands of persons, youths and adults, who might profitably avail themselves of the privilege of acquiring the rudiments of a good education, who now waste their evenings in vicious pleasures, and trifling amusements. Ignorance is too often the handmaid of idleness and crime, and the further we can banish her from our midst, the better for the highest interests of society. We consider these evening schools a most powerful agency for good, and hope to see them increased and improved so as to draw within the circle of their influence the greatest possible number of uneducated persons. "Never too old to learn," is an admirable motto to encourage aspirations for advancement.—[N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

Items.—A model of the Crystal Palace is exhibited at Munich, by M. Lipp, an artist. Its length is thirty feet: its breadth seven feet, and the height of transept two feet. The number of metal columns is 3,842, and that of the smaller supports 2,141. The Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay has at length completed two more volumes of his "History of England," and they will be published during the autumn. It is said that Prince Metternich is writing his biography, and a history of the Austrian Court, which is not to be opened until sixty years after his death. A new archaeological museum is about to be established in the Lateran at Rome, in addition to that existing in the Vatican library. The coal area in the British Islands, amounts to 12,000 square miles, or about one-tenth of the entire area of the country. The annual product is estimated at 32,000 tons. The cable telegraph wire, between Dover and Calais, was laid on the 23rd ult. The statue of an idol in stone, coarsely executed, but supposed to date from the period of the Phœnicians or Carthaginians, was found about a fortnight since among the ruins of the town of the old Arzew, Algeria. A very fine Roman mosaic has been discovered at Aumale in Algiers. A discovery has also been made in the Roman ruins of ancient Arzew, of a large stone idol and five large tumular stones. They are Phœnician and Carthaginian antiquities. The Tuscan journals announce the death of the celebrated mathematician and astronomer, Giovanni Inghirami. We learn from Hanover that in the course of a revision of the archives of Celli, a box has been found, containing a collection of important documents from the thirty years war, namely, part of the private correspondence of Duke George, of Brunswick-Luneburg, with drafts of his own epistles, and original letters from Pappenheim, Gustavus Adolphus, and Piccolomini. Baron Liebig is now making a tour in Ireland, in company with Mr. James Muspratt, Mr. Samuel Lover, Mr. Truchman, and other gentlemen. Professor Kiss, the sculptor, whose "Amazon" has attracted so much notice at the Exhibition, has received from the King of Prussia the order of the Red Eagle of the 3rd class. The Master of the Rolls has given an answer to a memorial presented to him by Lord Mahon and various literary men, praying for the admission of historical writers to the free use of the records. It is an extremely important answer, and is highly favourable. The great lunatic asylum which has just been erected at Colney Hatch, Middlesex, is said to have 1,045 rooms, 7,845 windows, and 1,470 doors.

An Emerald Mine.—The *Overland Chronicle* contains the following interesting account of an emerald mine in Egypt:—It appears that the existence of an emerald mine on Mount Zabarah, situate on an isle in the Red Sea, has long been known. It had been worked by the Pacha of Egypt, but the operations had been stopped in the latter years of the reign