

THE NORTHERN MONTHLY.—A Magazine of Literature, Civil and Military affairs. Bailey & Noyes, Portland. 74 pp. Price \$2 per annum.

We are glad to add this new periodical to the list of our exchanges. It is neatly printed and contains a great variety of interesting matter. The first number contains an elaborate article on the Reciprocity Treaty. We would call the attention of the writer to the very able article on the same subject in the second number of *La Revue Canadienne*, by Mr. J. Royal.

JUGEMENT erroné de M. Ernest Renan sur les langues sémitiques, par N. O. 8vo, 23 pp. Senécal, Montreal. Price 12½ cts.

This is a reprint of a series of articles first published in the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique*. The author shows the shallowness of M. Renan's opinions touching the Indian languages which he has defined as incoherent and shapeless. The essay is written in a vigorous style and is full of new and interesting data, throwing light on the origin and metaphysical value of the Iroquois and Algonquin languages. The Lord's Prayer is given at full length in each language, and startling analogies between the Algonquin and the Hebrew are brought out. Such, for instance, as the identity of the possessive pronouns, which in the Hebrew are added to the end of the nouns with which they are incorporated, while in Algonquin they are placed before the first syllable. Thus we have in Hebrew:

SabactaNI, thou hast abandoned me, NI, ME.	
IadeKA, thy hand,	KA, THY.
RagheLO, his foot,	O, HIS.

and in Algonquin NI,aganik, he abandons me; KAnindj, thy hand, and Osit, his foot.

The Algonquin root *enim* has the same meaning as the Latin radical *anima*—it indicates the operations of the mind, so we have *minsenindam*. I am pleased, *sakenima*, I am fond of him; *ni piziskenima*, I know him quite well, and so forth. These are certainly most suggestive as to the unity of our origin, a point which M. Renan and other modern infidels are trying to unsettle by a spurious and overrated scientific display.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—The Committee of Council on Education has presented to Parliament its Revised Code of 1864. The changes in it are confined to points announced by the minutes of the 21st of March and the 19th of May, 1863—viz., endowments, the inspection of work-house schools, and a new system of grants to training colleges. The numbering of the articles in the Code of 1862, which remains unaltered in that of 1864, is preserved for purposes of reference and quotation. An Appendix follows, showing separately all articles cancelled or modified, and all new articles.

The number of "Approved Candidates" who entered the various Training Colleges under the new Regulations at Christmas, shows a marked falling off from that of previous years. The *National Society's Monthly Paper*, commenting on this decrease, remarks:—"Either the number of young persons, both male and female, who now seek admission, is smaller than it was, or the examination to which they are now subject is more stringent. We record the fact, that the number of successful male candidates is about 150 less than at Christmas, 1862, and the number of successful female candidates about 70 less. We are here, of course, comparing the approved candidates at Christmas, 1863, with the Queen's Scholars at Christmas, 1862."—*Educational Times*.

—The *Oxford University Calendar* for 1864 is now published. From the summary with which it concludes, we learn that the present number of members of Convocation is 3891, and of members on the books 6754. In the year just ended the number of matriculations was 452, of M. A. degrees 222, and of B. A. degrees 284. Compared with the numbers of the preceding Calendar, there is an increase in every respect except the last. The members of Convocation have increased by 61, the members on the books by 149, the matriculations by 19, the M. A. degrees by the same number. The B. A. degrees, on the other hand, have decreased by 22, the number in 1862 having been 306. If we take a term of five years, we find that the number of members of Convocation has risen from 3659 to 3891, an increase of above 6 per cent; that the number of members on the books has risen from 6204 to 6754, an increase of nearly 9 per cent.; and that the number of matriculations has risen from 399 to 452, an increase of 13 per cent.—*Id.*

—From the annual report of Queen's College, Cork, just published we find that 219 matriculated students attended lectures there during the past year. Of that number 61 were new students who entered into it for the first time, and 20 non-matriculated students, making together 239 attending students, an excess of 10 over the attendance of the previous year. These 219 matriculated students, in regard to faculties and courses of study for degrees and diplomas, are classified thus:—In the

Faculty of Arts, 72 matriculated students; in the Faculty of Medicine, 104 matriculated and 18 non-matriculated, in all 122; in the Faculty of Law, 7 matriculated; in the Course of Engineering, 42 matriculated and 2 non-matriculated, in all 44; and in the Course of Agriculture, 4 matriculated students.

—We read in the *Illinois Teacher*: "The school system of New-Orleans has been vastly improved under federal rule. The schools have been organized under common regulations doing away with former irregularities: the English language only is taught in the primary schools, instead of the French as formerly, and other improvements equally important have been introduced, making the system vastly more efficient and far reaching than ever before." We can say nothing of the other improvements; but the only one which is mentioned would hardly be looked upon as desirable by the French population of Canada. This short paragraph is most suggestive, and copied into all our French papers will prove vastly efficient and far reaching. A similar attempt at the proscription of the national language in Poland through the schools is now being made by the Czar; time will tell with what success in both cases.

We can speak as to Canada. When the Royal Institution was suspected of preparing something of the kind its schools were a failure; now that the people are at liberty to learn what language they choose, there is a great demand in all our country parts for English teachers.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—It is stated that the Boston Museum of Comparative Zoology embraces 100,000 specimens, representing 6,000 species. The British Museum has but 20,000 specimens. In the Boston Museum there are, of Birds, 3000 specimens of reptiles, 174 different species, of fishes, 374 species, and 2779 specimens. The Museum has been in operation for only four years. It is under the special direction of Prof. Agassiz.

—What a contrast does the work of the machinists of the present day present to those of a hundred years ago! At one time, as Mr. Smiles observes, an engine of any size, when once erected, required the constant attention of the engineer, who almost lived beside it in order to keep it in working order, such was the friction of its parts and the clumsiness of its construction. At the present time, however, almost absolute perfection of working is obtained. When the 5,000 different pieces of the engines designed for the *Clarry* were brought together from the different shops of the Messrs. Penn, although the workmen who built them up had never seen each other before, yet such was the mathematical accuracy of their fit that, immediately steam got up, they began working with the utmost smoothness. As a new-born child, as soon as it enters the world and expand its lungs, begins to stretch its limbs, so this gigantic engine, immediately steam began to expand in its cylinder, at once exerted its huge members with the smoothness and ease of a thing of life.—*Once a Week*.

—M. Delisle once observed a fly, only as large as a grain of sand, which ran three inches in half a second, and in that space made the enormous number of five hundred and forty steps. If a man were to be able to run as fast in proportion to his size, supposing his step to measure two feet, he would in the course of a minute, have run upwards of twenty miles, a task far surpassing our express railroad engines, or the famous "Seven League Boots" recorded in the nursery fable. In leaping, also, insects far excel man, or any other animal whatever. The flea can leap two hundred times its own length; so also can the locust. Some spiders can leap a couple of feet upon their prey.—*Scientific American*.

—The large number of persons who die annually from the poisonous effects of lead should put people more on their guard, as this metal is used in a great variety of forms for the convenience of man, on account of its cheapness, and the many desirable qualities it possesses over other metals. This metal is a slow but powerful poison in all its forms when taken internally, and often its effects are not manifest until too late. Every family, therefore, should avoid using vessels lined with lead for cooking or keeping provisions in, also the use of this metal for the conveyance of water, as pure water will dissolve the inside of the pipe without the presence of some protecting salt, which forms an insoluble coating and prevents further action, even then there is danger. If you already have lead pipe, the simplest precaution is always to draw off the water contained in it before saving any for use. There is also too much imprudence among the working class with regard to this poison; the painters in their use of white lead and litharge, plumbers eating with hands soiled by particles of this metal, also in the manufacture of glazed cards, glazed earthenware, &c. Many examples of the destructive effects might be cited, but it is unnecessary, as hardly a week passes but we hear of sickness or death from the effects of the substance in question, sometimes caused by ignorance of its nature, oftener by carelessness. Our people drink their poisoned coffee at the breakfast table, poisoned wine at dinner, and poisoned tea at supper, daily mingling, little by little, this unseen destroyer with their food. More caution should be manifested by all, and especially by those engaged in the manufacture of the compounds of lead, and the application of them to the arts.—*Id.*