

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

The following are the Statistics of the University of Oxford for this year:—The members of Convocation are 3,545; the members of the books 6,282; Matriculations, 1854, 893; Regents, 198; Determining Bachelors in Lent, 1854, 258. In January, 1854, the members of Convocation amounted to 3,546; members on the books, 6,259. Matriculations in 1853, were 406; Regents, 247; Determining Bachelors in Lent, 1853, 354. The Colleges and Halls that have increased most since 1853 are Worcester, 17; Wadham, 10; and Christ Church, 10. Those that have decreased most are St. Edmund Hall, 22; Baliol, 18; and Exeter, 17....The students and professors of Oxford have subscribed 3,000 dollars to the fund for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed in the Crimea....The name of Dr. Warneford has been made familiar to the Birmingham public by his munificent benefactions to the Queen's College Hospital. On Thursday week he died at the Rectory, Burton-on-the-hill, age 92 years....Ladies' Colleges seem quite the rage in England. Three are advertised in one page of the *Athenæum*....In the French communal schools for girls the ordinary studies are suspended, and the pupils are all engaged in making lint for the hospitals in the East....The French Minister of Public Instruction has issued a work on the Public Libraries of France and Algiers, from which it appears that, *excluding Paris*, there are in all the libraries 8,733,439 printed works, 44,070 manuscripts. Bordeaux has 123,000; Lyons, 180,000; Rouen, 110,000; Strasbourg, 180,000; Troyes, 100,000; Avignon, 60,000; Dijon, 80,000; Versailles, 58,000; Tours, 57,500; Grenoble, 80,000; Nantes, 45,000; Marseilles, 51,000; Amiens, 53,000; Toulouse, 50,000. In 1853-4, there were expended for all these libraries 407,781 francs, of which sum only 184,227 francs were for the purchase of books and binding. There are 338 public libraries.

THE NEW EDUCATION BILL FOR ENGLAND.

Lord John Russell's new bill "to promote education in England" has been read a first time and printed by order of the House of Commons. It contains 22 clauses, of which the following is a brief abstract:—The councils of English boroughs are empowered to submit schemes for the promotion of education in such boroughs (by means either of new or existing schools) to the Education Committee of the Privy Council, with an estimate of the expense thereof. Two-thirds of the members of such councils must be present at the meeting, to be specially summoned for the purpose fourteen days previously. If the scheme be approved by the Education Committee, it may be carried into effect, with or without alterations. The expenses are to be defrayed out of the borough funds, the rate not to exceed 6d. in the pound annually. The act may also be adopted by parishes situate without boroughs if two-thirds of the rate-payers vote at a public meeting in favour of such adoption. If the scheme be rejected by the rate-payers, it may not be again proposed for the space of three years. Where parishes adopt the act, the scheme may be submitted for approval to the Education Committee in the same way as by the councils of boroughs; the expenses to be defrayed from the poor-rates. In all schools established under this act, the Holy Scriptures are required "to be read therein," but not so as to be used as a "school lesson book;" and no Roman Catholic or Jewish children will be obliged to be present at the reading of the Holy Scriptures. Another clause provides that the children of Dissenting, Roman Catholic, and Jewish parents shall not be taught any catechism, nor required to use any liturgy, nor obliged to attend at church, or other religious observances. The management of schools is to be vested in the councils of boroughs and the vestries of parishes, subject to government inspection, and the rights of trustees or visitors. The Education Committee may at any time revoke any order approving any scheme under this act, and so shut up the school disapproved. The committee must, at the same time, state its reasons for so doing.

THE NEW EDUCATION BILL FOR SCOTLAND.

Concurrently with Lord J. Russell's English Education Bill, appears a bill to "amend the law relating to Parish Schools in Scotland," introduced by Mr. Stirling and Mr. H. Baillie. This measure provides, among other enactments, that, from and after the term of Martinmas next after the passing of the act, the salary of every parochial schoolmaster in Scotland, who, at the date of the passing of the act, has ceased personally to discharge the duties of his office shall, so long as he holds such office, be not less than the salary payable to such schoolmaster, at the date of the passing of this act, under any prior act of Parliament then in force, nor more than £50,—that the salary of every other parochial schoolmaster for whom provision is not otherwise

made in this act shall not be less than £35, or more than £50, and that the salary of every district schoolmaster shall not be less than £20, or more than £35 per annum. The salaries of existing schoolmasters are to be fixed within two months after the passing of the act by the heritors and ministers of parishes, at a meeting to be held for the purpose. The salaries of future schoolmasters are to be fixed within six weeks after vacancy. The salaries fixed under this act may not be diminished, but they may be increased at the expiration of five years from the passing of the act, such increase being within the limits prescribed. Clause 7 allows an appeal to the Quarter Sessions in case the heritors and ministers of parishes shall neglect or refuse to fix salaries, and also in case any heritor of the parish or the schoolmaster shall be dissatisfied at the amount of the salary fixed. In populous and widely scattered parishes it will be competent for the heritors to establish one or more additional schools, provided always that no more than £75, in the whole, shall be paid in salaries in any one parish. Schoolmasters may resign on account of infirmity or old age, on a pension to be fixed by the heritors and minister of the parish. These retiring allowances are not to be less than £25, or more than £35 for parochial masters, and not less than £15, or more than £25 for district masters. When an offer of resignation on account of age or infirmity is refused, the schoolmaster may appeal to the Quarter Sessions. The Lord-Advocate is empowered to direct the Procurator Fiscal to take proceedings for the removal of incapable, infirm, immoral, and negligent schoolmasters on the complaint of the heritors of parishes. The decision rests with the sheriffs of counties, who are empowered to order the retirement of schoolmasters, or to suspend them for three years, and to fix the amount of their pensions in the event of their dismissal being consequent on superannuation or infirmity. The heritors of parishes are bound to provide dwelling-houses and gardens for schoolmasters (the garden to cover at least the fourth part of one Scots acre) or to grant an additional salary of two guineas a-year in lieu of such garden, where it cannot be allotted without loss and inconvenience. Any dispute on this point is to be settled by an appeal to the Quarter Sessions. All former acts and statutes are saved in so far as they are not altered by, or inconsistent with the present act.

UNITED STATES.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

An effort is being made in the City of New York, to establish Ragged Schools. The Mayor has recommended the project to the consideration of the Common Council... James Russel Lowell, the poet, has been elected to succeed Professor Longfellow in Harvard College, as Professor of Modern Languages and Belles Lettres. There were five applicants for the place, but Mr. Lowell was not one of them, and his nomination was made without his knowledge. He will accept the appointment, but, before entering upon its duties, he will spend a year abroad, in Germany and Spain. He will leave in May; but, before going abroad, he will repeat at the West, the lectures on English poetry he has just delivered before the Lowell Institute at Boston.... A Jewish college, on the model of the German universities, is shortly to be established at Cincinnati.... At a recent meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, S. S. Randall, Esq., late Deputy Superintendent of the State of New York, gave an interesting statistical account of the common school system in this state. He is reported to have said that "there are schools in 12,000 districts, teaching 900,000 children. There are 15,000 teachers, about one half male and one half female. There are 60,000 officers giving their gratuitous services. There are about half a million of books used in the schools, averaging about 125 to each district. The schools are supported by the U. S. Deposit fund, a state tax, and taxes raised in the several towns, &c., amounting annually to two million and a half dollars.... The Paris Correspondent of the N. Y. *Commercial Advertiser*, states, that at a recent meeting of the French Academy M. Guizot, the orator of the day, gave an enumeration of the immense number of public and society libraries in the United States; he also gave an *aperçu* of their common school system which he extolled as being in advance of all others, and spoke of the passion with which Americans were pursuing the collection of historical records referring to the history of their country. He said that no nation bought and read so many books; paid so much attention to their normal schools; labored so hard in the improvement of governmental and civil laws, and entered with such a passion into the collection of historical records. M. Guizot was followed by M. Dupin, former president of the Senate, by M. Cousin, Minister under the Republic, by M. Nodet, Michael Chevalier, and others. M. Cousin grew eloquent over the school system of the United