

and Lower Canada, he resigned the Collectorship of Coteau du Lac, in order to enter Parliament, as by Statute Collectors of Customs were prohibited from sitting as members. After the close of the first united Parliament Col. Simpson was appointed Commissioner of the Intercolonial Railroad, and finally was appointed on the Commission for the payment of rebellion losses.

6. REV. FATHER DESMET.

The death of Father DeSmet, the celebrated Catholic missionary to the Indians, is announced in the St. Louis papers. He died in that city on Friday last at the age of seventy-two. He was a native of Belgium, but had resided in that country fifty-two years. Since 1838 his time had mostly been spent among the Indians, and his zeal and disinterestedness have been recognized by men of all religious beliefs, by both the civil and military authorities, and what is more conclusive by the Indians themselves. He dwelt among the most distant tribes, such as the Flatheads and others of Oregon, for years; was always treated with kindness and respect and welcomed with delight on his return. He crossed the plains and mountains many times in his labour of love, and in 1859, being then fifty-eight years old, he descended the Missouri 2,400 miles, from Fort Benton to Omaha, in an open skiff. He was beloved in life and is honoured in death.

7. THE REV. RALPH MORDEN,

Father of Dr. Morden of this city, died suddenly at his residence, Petersville, yesterday morning, at the advanced age of seventy-six. He came from Dundas to reside in Middlesex in 1817. Being old U. E. Loyalists, he and his brother William were granted 200 acres of land each, on the 5th Con. of London Township. He has resided there some 56 years. He was a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and ordained as a minister of that body, although he never left his farm to occupy any station. He was the eldest of a family of ten, only three of whom survive him. He served in the rebellion with credit. He was among the first of his denomination here to repudiate the habit of shaving, and was called before the Conference to answer for this peculiar offence, but insisted on maintaining his principles, and had not used a razor for the past twenty years.—*London Free Press*, 7th inst.

VI. Papers on Education in Various Countries.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have jointly arranged with the authors of the Revised Version of the Scriptures to purchase the copyright of their work and to print and publish the same; and the expenses are to be borne by the Universities in equal shares. The British Committee, who have already finished the first revision of the Pentateuch and the three first Gospels, furnish the American Committee with a printed copy of their work for farther considerations and suggestions. The latter meet in New York two days in every month for united study and consultation. When the work has been gone over in this manner, the Committee will meet in London to act finally on disputed points; but as already stated, it will be a number of years before the Revised Scriptures are published.

A Greek lately deceased in Varna left a considerable fortune to Greek educational and charitable institutions. The sum of \$2,500 is devoted to two scholars, to be sent to Mount Athos to catalogue the manuscripts in the monastery there, with a provision for printing. And another sum of \$500 is given as a prize for a history of Varna, from the days of King Lysimachus to 1860.

Rev. C. Hammond, Superintendent of Middletown, has a preparation for making blackboards that works so well, and costs so little, that we asked permission to print it for the benefit of our country school trustees. The following is the recipe for its preparation:

Extract of logwood $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., dissolved in 5 gallons of hot water; add $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. bichromate of potash; strain and bottle.

Of this consistency, it is adapted for writing fluid. It should be made with less water for blackboards, and applied with cloth to smooth, white wood.

A Nautical School is to be established in New York, under the charge of the Board of Education, in connection with which the "Street Arabs" are to take short cruises in search of useful knowledge. The expenses are to be defrayed this year by special tax of fifty thousand dollars, and, subsequently, from the regular educa-

tional funds of the city. The experiment will be watched with considerable curiosity, as Massachusetts has previously made a similar trial and abandoned the undertaking.

Education has of late received some tangible proofs of interest. The State of Illinois has appropriated one million dollars for a general school fund; Oakes Ames has given fifty thousand dollars for the benefit of a school district in Easton, Mass.; and Chief-Justice Chase has left twenty thousand dollars to two educational institutions.

PENNSYLVANIA.—Before the year closes Pennsylvania will probably have ten State Normal Schools. The State appropriations to these schools now amount to \$284,815.12.

The United States Commissioner of Education estimates that the entire amount of benefaction for educational purposes, in the United States during the last two years, is \$18,000,000.

Oxford had 2,214 students last year.

Prussia has six universities, Austria nine, Italy twenty, and the United States over three hundred.—*College Argus*.

1. THE JOHN FROTHINGHAM CHAIR.

The Germans are about to Germanise Elsass by establishing a university at Strasbourg, which shall hold a first place among the seats of learning in Germany, and whose influence throughout the community it is expected will ere long accomplish the desired result among the population. The German feelings of the professors are likely to be those of the students, especially as many of the latter will be from other parts of Germany, and whatever views the students hold will be the doctrine of the next generation of doctors, lawyers, and normal school professors, and through the latter of the schoolmasters. Slowly but surely the leaven is expected to work on a mass which is at present ignorant and comparatively characterless in a national point of view. In this, then, we have the hope-fullest opportunity for the useful appliance of large bequests and donations which our citizens wish to set apart to public and patriotic purposes. The German universities have certain advantages over those in other parts of the world, in exerting an influence over the people. They are within the reach of the people, and are not the exclusive privilege of "gentlemen's sons," as in England. They build upon a thorough basis of previous training at the gymnasiums or high schools, which in Canada we could not hope to have until teachers earn higher wages than they do. Students are not expected to enter until they are eighteen years old, whereas in Canada the mistake of entering college at from fourteen to sixteen years of age is commonly made. The professors have salaries proportioned to their responsibility; and lastly, they have a system by which any properly qualified person may act as a lecturer if he choose, and, if able, to show his superiority to the regular professors. The Germans are sufficiently liberal in the choice of professors. They rather prefer to have the utmost diversity of tenets in one school than to enforce any form of orthodoxy, except it may be faithfulness to the German idea. For a government without an established creed this is logical ground. Where, however, a college is under trustees it is to be supposed there will be some conscience in their appointments, while they aim at finding men of the widest liberal-ity of view.

The admirable management of McGill College, and the conviction that it is destined to exert a vast influence for good on the future of this country, make us hope that ere long we will see many imitators of the founder of the John Frothingham Chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy, and that the College may continue to add to its ranks such men as Professor Murray, who at present occupies that chair.—*Witness*.

2. AMERICAN NORMAL SCHOOLS.

There are in the United States fifty-one normal schools, supported by twenty-three different States, having 251 teachers and 6,334 pupils; four supported by counties, with eighty-three pupils; sixteen city normal schools, with 121 teachers and 2,002 pupils; all others, forty-three, supported in various ways, with eighty teachers and 2,503 pupils;—making a total of one hundred and thirty-four schools, with 446 teachers and 10,921 pupils. The forty-three private normal schools include colleges and other institutions that sustain normal departments, exclusive of high schools. The number of private normal schools is constantly increasing.