

plainly the hard, severe, antique cast of Guizot's intellect is seen in his manner of writing, which is so weighty and impressive, but never picturesque or playful! How fit a vehicle is it for the thoughts of that lofty mind whose

ideas, as soon as they enter it, lose their freshness and become antique—of whom it has been said: "That which he has known only since morning he appears to have known from all eternity!"

(To be continued.)

SCHOOL LEGISLATION.*

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THE recognition on the part of the State of its proper obligations in providing educational facilities for the people lies at the foundation of all our school legislation.

There is a period in the history of every civilized country when first this duty is recognized and assumed by the State, before which time all the education furnished is provided by private enterprise or through ecclesiastical channels.

The earliest schools were those of the priests. Those of Egypt and Judæa, for example, were ecclesiastical. The same is true of the early forms of education in Greece and Rome, in the former of which we find first developed a science of education apart from ecclesiastical training. The Romans are said to have understood no *systematic* training except in oratory. The education of the Middle Ages we know was largely that of cloister and castle. And although by the Reformation great changes were effected there was no general legislation for the people in this direction. Educational privileges were accessible only to the few. So slowly has this special form of legislation developed that even

to-day in England it is only purely elementary instruction that is regulated by law—the universities and endowed schools being largely under the control of private corporations, and not subject to State authority.

Until 1870 elementary education also was dependent on voluntary enterprise. At that date a certain amount was granted, not to establish a system of public schools, but to aid a limited number of existing private schools. Four years ago a step was taken in advance—the State providing instruction, at least in *the three R's*, for every child; though a fee is charged even for this.

Coming to our own country, the first step taken towards legislation for schools was in 1789, when public lands were set apart for a certain number of Grammar Schools.

In 1816 Common Schools were first brought into existence in Canada, \$30,000 a year being granted them. Local Boards of Trustees were then first established. Our present system of Public Schools was regularly established in 1841, the Legislature appropriating, that year, \$200,000 towards their support. In 1844 Dr. Ryerson was appointed Chief Superintendent of Education, and, after visiting the leading countries of Europe, he introduced

* Outline of an Address delivered at the Northumberland Teachers' Convention, and published by request of the Association.