

The book which we have now before us contains a plain and most affecting relation of the whole history of the Ursulines of Quebec from that day to the year 1700. The next volume will bring it down to the present time. The work like those of Mr. Faillon, on the Hôtel-Dieu, the Hospital-General, and the Congregation of Montreal, will prove a most valuable contribution both to the historical and literary lore of Canada. These works indeed embrace a much larger scope than would be imagined, and by occasional glimpses on the general state of the country at various times, by curious and sometimes marvelous incidents, by the quotation of rare and interesting documents are of a much more entertaining character to the general reader than one could suppose.

McGEE.—A popular History of Ireland from the earliest period to the Emancipation of the Catholics; By Thomas D'Arcy McGee, B. C. L., 2 vols.—New York, Sadlier & Co.; pp. 823.

This is a simple, unpretending but most able compilation in a popular form of the History of Ireland. It does great credit to the activity and industry of its gifted author, who while engaged in so many other, and as it seems, all absorbing occupations, has found time to write this very useful and entertaining work. It proves once more the saying of a French writer: "*Tout est possible aux gens laborieux: il n'y a que les oisifs qui n'ont le temps de rien faire.*"

CALENDAR OF THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Session of 1863-4.—EXAMINATION PAPERS OF THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Session of 1863-4; pp. 200.—Montreal, Becket.

From a perusal of these documents we see that the scope of that institution is extending every year, and that the number of its pupils and of its graduates is rapidly increasing. The Faculty of Medicine is the most flourishing of the three in operation. The Faculty of Arts has, since a few years, assumed considerable development. The fee for each session in that Faculty for Undergraduates and special students is \$20; Gynnasium, \$2; Library, \$2; Practical Chemistry, including glass and reagents, \$26; fee for practical and occasional students, \$5 for each course of lectures; Matriculation, \$4, required only in the year of entrance; fee for graduation, \$5, to be paid before the examination. Students in Arts are permitted to board in the city; but arrangements have been made for receiving those who may desire to reside as boarders in the College, and for placing such students under the immediate superintendence of Rev. Prof. Cornish, to whom application may be made: rate of board, \$16 per month.

ANNUAIRE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL pour l'année académique 1863-64; 60 p.—Québec, Côté et Cie.

This annual, in addition to the usual announcements, contains interesting details on the Library and on the Museum of the University, which are growing rapidly and bid fair to rank among the largest and most complete on this continent. The library of the Seminary of Quebec, which became the nucleus of the present collection, at the time of the incorporation of the University, in 1852 is already large and valuable. Since that time many donations and acquisitions have been made. In 1859, George O'Kill Stuart, Esq., made a donation of a thousand volumes of medical works from the library of the late Dr. Fargues, one of the most eminent physicians of this country. Large and splendid gifts have also been received from the French Government through Baron Gaultier-Boileau. By such donations, and considerable purchases made in France, in England, and in America, the library has been increased from about 15,000 volumes, which it contained in 1858, to 35,000 its present number. They are distributed as follows: Theology, 5,400; Canon Law, 600; Civil Law, 2,000; Philosophy, 700; Literature, 3,500; History, 5,400; Medicine, 3,000; Science, 2,600; Polygraphy (comprising journals, reviews, cyclopedias, pamphlets, &c.), 12,000.

We have recently visited the Library and found that the collection of works on Theology, Civil Law and Medicine, is a most valuable one and includes a great many very costly and rare books. The collection on the History of America is one of the best in the province and even rivals that of the Parliamentary Library.

The Museum of the Faculty of Medicine is divided into three departments; the first consists of anatomical and pathological preparations, natural and artificial, and numbers nearly 1000 different pieces. The next department is that of surgical instruments. It is perhaps the best to be found in any institution of the same kind, having been prepared under the supervision of one of the professors, by the renowned maker, M. Mathieu of Paris. The pharmaceutical department is most complete, and contains beside the genuine preparations, specimens of the adulterated ones to

be found in the trade, so that by a comparison the pupil may guard against errors which are so common and which have proved so fatal.

The Museum of the Faculty of Arts is far from being complete; some of its departments, such as zoology, have hardly a beginning; but everything is being laid out on a very large scale.

The collection of philosophical apparatus is a most valuable one. It was begun long ago by the Revd. Mr Demers, at his private expense. It now contains about 900 different instruments and has cost the Seminary and the University over \$14,000. The number of pieces are arranged under the following heads: Mechanics and pneumatics 218; Acoustic 72; Caloric 149; Electricity and Magnetism 208; Optics 230; Mathematics and Astronomy 30.

The department of mineralogy and of geology is divided into several sections. It contains 4000 specimens. There are general and local collections. Among the former is a most curious one prepared and catalogued expressly for the Seminary of Quebec, by the celebrated Haüy, the founder of the modern system of crystallography. There is a Canadian collection, an Italian collection, &c. The botanical department was established only since the return of the Rev. Mr. Brunet,—the professor who has been lately travelling on the continent of Europe for the institution. It contains numerous collections and herbaria. The latter contain about 10,000 specimens. There are general and local Floras. There is a beautiful Canadian Flora, the specimens of which have been compared with those of the herbarium of Michaux and of that of Sir W. Hooker at Kew. The artificial specimens of fruits, of mushrooms, and of legumes are beautiful. The collection of Canadian timber showing separately the bark and the interior of the wood, polished and unpolished, is a most curious and useful one. The museum is also supplied with microscopes and chemical preparations specially adapted to the study of botany.

EIGHTY YEARS progress of British North America, by Messrs. Hind, Keefer, Hodgins, Robb, Perley and Murray—Toronto—Stebins, pp. 776 in-8o, with numerous engravings.

This book is very well suited to our times. There is no poetry, no romance in it; it is all matter of fact. It is a good compilation, each part having been written by a person well versed in the subject. Of course there are here and there a few remarks with which many of our readers will not be pleased. For instance Mr Keefer speaks rather sneeringly of the French Canadians standing by their *cahots* as one of their institutions. He ought to know that few rural populations will readily assent to sudden changes in their habits of life, particularly if such improvements are to be made at their expense. It is not long since the turnpikes in England and Wales were the subject of riots and bloodshed, while in Lower Canada, the peaceful *habitans* have only offered a legal and constitutional opposition to the *steigh ordinances*. Mr. Perley, in the article on New Brunswick, speaks coolly of the dispersion of the Acadians as "the banishment of a disloyal population."

More than 150 pages are devoted to an Historical Sketch of Education in Upper and Lower Canada, by Mr. Hodgins, deputy superintendent of public instruction for U. C. The Lower Canada portion of this able sketch contains an interesting *exposé* of the several unsuccessful attempts made under the old governments of Lower Canada for the establishment of an elementary system of public instruction. It is a strong record against those governments and in favor of the clergy and of the people of Lower Canada. We regret that the space allotted to Lower Canada should have been so small. The author states that "at the request of the publisher his article on education in Lower Canada has been considerably abridged." We do not thank the publisher.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN, a monthly Magazine devoted to Literature, Science and Art—Toronto—Rollo & Adam publishers—Lovell & Gibson printers. H. Y. Hind M. A. general editor, pp. 112, 8o \$3 per annum.

We have received the first four numbers of this new Canadian periodical. Literature, science, art and criticism are well represented by its contributors; and it contains a great quantity and variety of original reading matter. Among other interesting articles we have noticed "North West British America," and "Scenes of Indian life," by the editor, and "Given and Taken," by Mrs. Leprohon of Montreal. Besides the original articles the *British American* gives notices and reviews of books and a synopsis of the contents of British, American and Canadian periodicals.