

meeting with a translator so able and conscientious as Mr. Genaud has proved himself to be.

DESSAULLES.—*La guerre américaine, son origine et ses vraies causes, par l'hon. J. A. Dessaulles.*—Montreal, 1865. Office of Le Pays. 538 pp. in 180.

This is a series of lectures on the civil war, and, especially, on slavery. The author, who holds strong northern views, has treated the subject with his usual ability.

LAFRANCE.—*Abrégé de grammaire française, par C. J. L. Lafrance, directeur de l'Académie Saint Jean-Baptiste.*—12mo, 122 pp. Darveau, Quebec.

LORIMIER.—*Trois jours de fêtes littéraires, par Charles C. De Lorimier.*—Royal 8vo. 45 pp. Eusèbe Sénécal, Montreal.

The pupils and former pupils of St. Mary's College, Montreal, inaugurated the new and splendid hall, under the great church now building on DeBleury street, by three consecutive sittings. Mr. De Lorimier has collected the essays and speeches delivered on those occasions, and they are now issued in a very neat pamphlet, which is embellished with a large woodcut by Walker, representing the new hall.

PARKMAN.—*France and England in North America—A series of Historical narratives.*—Part first.—*Pioneers of France in the New World*; By Francis Parkman.—Boston. 420 pp. 8vo. Little & Brown.

The gifted author of the *Conspiracy of Pontiac*, who has spent the greatest part of his life in collecting books, documents and manuscripts bearing on the early history of America, and who, like the late lamented Prescott, labours under an affliction that, to men of less energy, would seem an insuperable obstacle in the performance of such a task, has at last published the first volume of a series which will contain the results of his patient and untiring researches. During many years he has not been able, through weakness of sight, to read or to write continuously for much more than five minutes at a time and often not at all. The work now before us is divided into two parts; the first gives a graphic and thrilling account of the unsuccessful attempts at Huguenot colonization on this continent, and is entitled "*Huguenots in Florida*"; the second part contains a history of the discovery and first settlement of Canada, and has for its title "*Champlain and his Associates*."

The style of the author is most charming, giving to the entangled adventures of bygone days all the interest and beauty of modern fiction. While the historian or rather the annalist has spared no pains to attain the most minute correctness of details, the writer has thrown over his dreary and wearisome researches, the most beautiful and glossy drapery which hides his toil and labour altogether. What a graceful romance, what a charming poem, is the first thought of the reader; but then what a patient investigation of facts, what a life of minute searching and scraping of books and of manuscripts!

Mr. Parkman is indebted to the researches of others as well as to his own labour, and in every instance he gracefully acknowledges it. Our Canadian antiquarians, Messrs. Faribault and Viger, and our Canadian writers, are duly quoted whenever he has availed himself of the historic lore accumulated through their indefatigable industry.

The many qualities which make of this work a book as pleasant to the general reader as it will be dear to the man of learning, are however marred by an unseemly weakness which we would fain pass over in silence, were it not that it would appear as a want of moral courage on our part to do so. Although the author is not without a certain liberality and fairness, he is too apt to spurn the religious convictions of others, and in doing so, he often goes so far as to sneer at things which most Christian communities have deemed sacred. There is in many cases a want of good taste in his remarks and sometimes even a want of proper feeling. We are sure for instance that the subscribers to the funds for the Propagation of the Gospel, which has its central office in London, and the association *pour la Propagation de la Foi* whose head-quarters are in Lyons, will be equally shocked at the following passage which is more in Voltaire's style than in that of a Protestant writer:

"With respect to Donnacona and his tribesmen, basely kidnapped at Stadaconé, excellent care had been taken of their souls. In due time they had been baptized and soon reaped the benefit of the rite, since they all died within a year or two, to the great detriment, as it proved, of the expedition."

BEAUMONT SMALL.—*Animals of North America—2nd series—Fresh water fish*; By H. Beaumont Small.—Montreal. 72 pp. 8vo. Longmoore.

Mr. Small intends to make of this a compendium of Canadian zoology. His work is dedicated, by permission, to the Montreal Game and Fish Protection Club, a useful institution, whose efforts deserve much praise.

THE SATURDAY READER.—Such is the title of a valuable periodical issued by our enterprising publisher Mr. Lovell. It consists of sixteen 4th pages, printed in close type, and containing a large supply of reading matter of a sober and useful character. Price \$2 yearly.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—The Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada having, in the course of this month, gone to Aylmer and Portage-du-Fort to inspect the registers and examination papers of the Boards of Examiners for the counties of Ottawa and Pontiac, availed himself of that opportunity to visit the schools of the two above-named places. At Aylmer he visited, with Mr. Inspector Rouleau and the Revd. Mr. Michel, the Catholic academy, conducted by Mr. Deguise, who holds a diploma from the Laval Normal school, and the girls' school conducted by Miss MacDonald, also a graduate of the same institution. Both schools have afforded ample proof of the ability and zeal of the teachers. The academy is however irregularly attended, and the rooms and school furniture are not what they ought to be. The two schools are in one building, where there is hardly sufficient space for both; but a large stone building is now being erected for the girls' school, so that the whole of the present school-house will be left to the academy. The Hon. Superintendent also visited the Protestant Academy, conducted by Mr. McQuat, B. A. of McGill College, who also holds an Academy diploma from the McGill Normal school, obtained at the close of last session. Mr. McQuat enters on his new duties with a good will and every required qualification. All this, however, will be of little avail if the pupils are not sent regularly to school, or if they are allowed to disregard the efforts made by their worthy teacher as some among them appear to have done. The special grants to such institutions are the occasion of much competition on the part of the several counties, and parties who wish to retain them must be made to understand that unless they give some kind of return for the liberality of the government, the boon will be transferred to other places. It is therefore to be hoped that some efforts will be made on behalf of both the Protestant and Catholic academies. The teachers are competent and the matter will rest with the parents and rate-payers. At Portage-du-Fort the Superintendent visited the common school, which is attended by Protestant and by Catholic children, and which is well conducted by Mr. Beer. He was accompanied by O. Leblanc, Esquire, secretary of the Board of Examiners, and by the School Commissioners. The school is well attended, but there are few French pupils and the French language is not taught. In the evening, the Superintendent, on the invitation of the School Commissioners, lectured in the Town hall, in French and in English, to a numerous audience, reviewing the whole of the educational laws and commenting on various educational topics of a practical nature. After the lectures were over a vote of thanks was moved by the Revd. Mr. Kiernan, seconded by Dr. Purvis and carried. A full account of the proceedings appeared in the *Pontiac Pioneer* of the 22nd of September.

STATISTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—If the following account is true, London is no longer the metropolis of our planet. That distinction belongs to the Japanese city of Jeddo, which a correspondent of the *Boston Traveller* thus describes:

"But what shall I say of this greatest and most singular of all cities? A volume is needed to describe it without attempting to give its history. I have read of old Nineveh and Babylon below the ground, and seen and handled the works of art which have been disinterred, and created so much admiration on both sides of the Atlantic, but one living Jeddo above the ground is worth a hundred old fogy cities below it. I cannot give you an idea of it, it is so unique, so unlike everything except itself, and so impossible, as you will think.

"I have seen several places of interest, and maintained a cool head, but I was bewildered and confounded when I saw this. It is situated on the western shore of this charming gulf, twenty miles wide by twenty-four long, to which the Lake Tiberias is nothing, except in the sacred feet which once trod its shores. It stretches for twenty miles or more along a beach of a semi-circular form, with its horns turned outward, and along which a street extends, crowded with blocks of stores and houses, and teeming with moving crowds, while shop-keepers, artisans, women and children seem equally numerous within doors and at the doors. Indeed,