

UNITED STATES.

— **GYMNASTIA IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS.**—The experiment of introducing physical culture, by means of gymnastic and calisthenic exercises, as part of the system of education at Amherst College, is pronounced, after trial for one term, a decided success. The institution has a gymnasium, thoroughly appointed, with bowling alleys and wash rooms. The department is under control of a graduated professor, whose business it is not only to regulate the mode and quantity of exercise, but to impart instruction in physiology and hygiene as well. It is made obligatory upon the students to take exercise, just as it is to recite Latin and Greek. And it is found, under a careful and natural regimen, that what was feared would be disagreeable as partaking of the nature of compulsory routine is a very pleasant pastime, under which great bodily good is realized by all the students.

— **NORWEGIAN COLLEGE IN IOWA.**—The Norwegians are raising money to build a college in Iowa. Twenty thousand dollars have already been raised for this purpose.

XIII. Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

— **THE PRINCE ALBERT MEDAL POEM ON WASHINGTON.**—The Prince Albert prize medal offered by the University of Cambridge, England, for the encouragement of English poetry, on the subject of "The Prince of Wales at the Tomb of Washington," has been adjudged to Frederic W. H. Myers, of Trinity College.

— **THERE IS A METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT** in the British Board of Trade, which is under the superintendence of Admiral Fitzroy. A map of the world is divided into squares, and numbered; and books are issued to sea captains to be filled up with their observations during their voyage. The entries to be made are under the heads barometer, thermometer, hydrometer, winds, weather, currents, variation, soundings, crossings, passages, storms, ice, shooting stars, meteors, aurora, and electricity. The Chamber of Commerce should give its support to this laudable effort.

— **CURE FOR DIPHTHERIA.**—The *American Medical Times* calls attention to the efficacy of creosote as a local application for diphtheria. Ten drops of creosote to a gill of warm water is applied as a gargle; one or two applications effect a cure.

— **OBSERVATORY ON MOUNT ARARAT.**—The Emperor of Russia has given \$25,000 for the establishment of a permanent observatory on Mount Ararat, near Tiflis.

— **INSTANTANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHS.**—Sun pictures may be taken in various modes, some requiring several minutes and others only an instant. Photographs of rapidly moving objects, as race horses, the waves of the sea, &c., are taken in the hundredth part of a second.—In English experiments, an image was taken in the ten-thousandth part of a second; and a rapidly revolving wheel was taken in so brief a space that it seemed perfectly well defined and stationary, being illuminated by a single discharge of an electric battery, occupying, according to Wheatstone, only the millionth part of a second.

— **NEW DYE IN CANADA.**—At a late meeting of the Botanical Society, in Kingston, Professor Lawson exhibited specimens of a new dye of great richness, prepared in the Laboratory of Queen's College, from an insect, a species of *Coccus*, found for the first time last summer on a tree of the common black spruce (*Abies nigra*, Poir), in the neighbourhood of Kingston. This new dye closely resembles true Cochineal, a most expensive coloring matter, capable of being produced in warm countries only, and which is used to give a fine and permanent dye in red, crimson, and scarlets to wool and silk. Unlike Cochineal, the new dye, discovered at Kingston, is a native Canadian product, and capable of being produced in temperate countries. Having been but recently observed, a sufficient quantity has not yet been obtained for a complete series of experiments as to its nature and uses; but the habits of the insect, as well as the properties of the dye, seem to indicate that it may become of practical importance. In colour it closely resembles ordinary Cochineal, having rather more the scarlet hue of the flowers of *Adonis autumnalis*, and no doubt other shades will be obtained. The true Mexican Cochineal is now being cultivated in Teneriffe and other vine growing countries of Europe and Africa, with such success as to displace the culture of the grape vine; yet the Directors of the East India Company offered in vain £2,000 for its introduction into India.

— **NEW BRILLIANT DYE.**—The recent discovery, at Lyons, of a new species of red dye more brilliant than any hitherto produced, and, above all, more solid than that of the best Chinese reds, has caused a sensation amongst the manufacturers. The color is said to be particularly soft to the eye—something between scarlet and ponceau—the peculiar red beheld in the small garden flower, "the blood of Adonis." It is already highly appreciated as "rouge sublime" in the trade, and promises, it seems, to become very popular, both for furniture and dresses.

— **THE MAUVE DYE.**—In the course of a lecture at the Crystal Palace, Dr. Lankester said, speaking of the mauve dye, that it was owing to the perseverance of a young man in a humble position that they had this choice dye. That young man commenced and persevered in his study under every disadvantage, till, by continued application, he obtained a mastery over the elements with which he dealt. He then took a specimen of his dye to a Glasgow merchant, and obtained as a reward for his perseverance £20,000.

— **DISCOVERY OF GREEK COINS.**—A letter from Athens announces that in the village of Rugra, not many miles from Corinth, as many as 9,170 Greek coins, of great antiquity,—the most modern being of the time of the Achaean League have lately been found buried in a bronze vase a few inches in the earth.

— **OHIO COAL.**—The amount of coal annually taken from mines in Ohio is estimated by the Commissioner of statistics to exceed 2,000,000 tons.

XIV. Departmental Notices.

POSTAGE REGULATION IN REGARD TO GRAMMAR AND COMMON SCHOOL RETURNS.

All official returns which are required by law to be forwarded to the Chief Superintendent, or a Local Superintendent, and which are made upon the printed blank forms furnished by the Educational Department, *must be pre-paid*, at the rate of one cent, *and be open to inspection*, so as to entitle them to pass through the post as printed papers. No letters should be enclosed with such returns. A neglect to observe this regulation has repeatedly subjected this Department to an unnecessary charge of 14 cents and 21 cents on each package, including the Post-office fine of nearly *fifty per cent.* for non-payment.

PRE-PAYMENT OF POSTAGE ON BOOKS.

According to the new Postage Law, the postage on all books, printed circulars, &c., sent through the post, *must be pre-paid by the sender, at the rate of one cent per ounce.* Local Superintendents and teachers ordering books from the Educational Depository, will therefore please send such an additional sum for the payment of this postage, at the rate specified, and the new Customs duty, as may be necessary.

INDISTINCT POST MARKS.

We receive, in the course of the year, a number of letters on which the post marks are very indistinct, or altogether omitted. These marks are often so important, that Postmasters would do well to see that the requirements of the Post-office Department, in relation to stamping the post-mark on letters is carefully attended to.

NO PENSIONS TO COMMON SCHOOL TEACHERS UNLESS THEY SUBSCRIBE TO THE FUND.

Public notice is hereby given to all Teachers of Common Schools in Upper Canada, who may wish to avail themselves at any future time of the advantages of the Superannuated Common School Teachers' Fund, that it will be necessary for them to transmit to the Chief Superintendent, without delay, if they have not already done so, their annual subscription of \$4, commencing with 1854. The law authorizing the establishment of this fund provides, "*That no teacher shall be entitled to share in the said fund who shall not contribute to such fund at least at the rate of one pound per annum.*" No pension will be granted to any teacher who has not subscribed to the fund.