system will not bear *comparison;* and when to this we add the still more wonderful astronomic fact that suns, numerous as the sand on the sea shore form distinct systems, each system having one grand focal point of movement, each star carrying along with it, its attendant retinue of worlds. Indeed the number assigned by recent observation to double, ternary, quadruple, and multiple systems, that is of suns revolving around a common centre in almost every possible modification of relationship which secondaries can bear to their primaries, or to each other, is altogether amazing. And to some such system our own sun no doubt belongs. Herschel ascertained that our solar system moves towards a point near to the constellation Hercules; and his discoveries have been since confirmed by subsequent and more accurate enquiries in both the northern and southern hemispheres. Thus the progressive motion of our system may be considered as determined within certain limits, and from it the question naturally follows—"Is the world of the fixed stars composed merely of a number of neighbouring partial systems, divided into groups, or must we assume the existence of our universal relation—a rotation of all self-luminous celestial bodies—namely suns—around one grand common system of gravity, which is either filled with matter or void?—Will the future history of astronomy ever reveal the secret?

We now come to the last division of our subject—"The Nebular Hypothesis."—In observing the remotest regions of the sidereal space, it is found that there are multitudes of masses of cloudy light of irregular but permanent forms. Their forms are exceedingly singular and varied—some round—some oval—some annular some convoluted or spiral—some spindle-shaped, and others have very strange forms, with luminous streams running spirally from the centre.

One of the most magnificent clusters in our hemisphere occurs in the constellation Hercules. It is visible to the naked eye on dark nights as a hazy-looking object, and the stars composing it are readily seen with a telescope of moderate power. When examined by a powerful instrument its aspect is grand beyond conception: the stars which are coarsely scattered at the borders, come up to a perfect blaze in the centre.

Another splendid cluster is situated in Centaurus. While in the telescope it is found to cover a space $\frac{2}{3}$ of the apparent diameter of the moon; over it are congregated, luminous bodies, or suns of countless numbers. But our subject in wonder and extent, has no limit; and contemplation has no limit. The number of suns and of systems the unaided eye can take in, is a thousand, and the best telescope which the genius of man has constructed can take in eighty millions. But why subject the dominions of the universe to the eye of man, or to the powers of his genius? Fancy may take its flight—its flight far beyond the ken of eye or of telescope. It may expatiate in the outer regions of all that is visible, and shall we have the boldness to say that there is nothing there—or beyond? The farthest off twinkling point brought to view by Rosse's telescope, may be, with reference to the whole universe, but on the mere threshold of creation.

Once more, view in thought the mighty field, studded with worlds, and crowded with systems, lying within the *reach of aided* vision. Speak we of their distances—we speak of what the mind cannot take in. Had Adam and Eve started by an express train at their creation, to go from Neptune to the sun, travelling at the rate of 50 miles an hour, they would not have reached it yet, for Neptune is more than 6000 years from the centre of our planetary system. Of magnitudes and numbers, we relate and recount what the mind cannot grasp. Mark the magnitude of the sun: it is 500 times larger than the whole system of planets, satellites and comets, and would contain within its circumference thirteen hundred thousand globes as large as our own, and more than sixty million globes of the size of the moon. Look at the milky way. It alone must contain more than 20 millions of suns,—around which there is every reason to believe a thousand of millions of worlds are revolving. Look, too at the nebulæ which are so many milky ways, and which are even, in some cases estimated to surpass the Galaxy in splendour. Three thousand of these have been actually discovered; and if two-thirds of them be estimated as revolvable, we have the tremendous aggregate of some 40 thousand millions of stars, existing in what appeared at first to us only as streaks of clouds; and these are suns—each bearing with it its system of planetary worlds! How surpassing the spectacle! How transcending all finite comprehension! How magnificent the evidence here presented of the greatness of the Almighty Author of all! Think on the glorious majesty of His kingdom—who has set His glory above the heavens. Think, and wonder! Think, and believe, that the Architect of the heavens—of the universe—*by* whom and *for* whom all were breathed into existence—is He, who, in the humblest form, came to save us!

JOHN BRUCE,
Inspector of Schools.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

BOOKS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The Council of Public Instruction, at its meeting of the 12th May last, approved of the following Books, which approval was confirmed by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 21st of said month, viz.:

(*For Model Schools*)

Cours d'Arithmétique Commerciale;—Printed by Eusèbe Senécal, Montreal, 1863.

Cours de Tenue des Livres, en partie double et en partie simple.—Eusèbe Senécal, Printer, Montreal; 1861.

LOUIS GIARD,
Recording Clerk.

DIPLOMAS GRANTED.

CATHOLIC BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.

First-Class Model School (E)—Miss Maria Ann Mulquiney.

First-Class Elementary (F.)—Messrs. David Bélanger, Godfroy Boileau, Joseph Lemieux, Isaïe Noiseux, Antoine Tarte; Misses Sophie Bélanger, Mathilde Bourgeois, Julienne Bénèche *dit.* Lavictoire, Julie Chevrier, Adélaïde Salomée Choquette, Marie Alma Courval, Flavie Demers, Onésime Dorval, Marie Anastasie Duvernay, Julie Galipeau, Albina Gaumont, Aurélie Guilbert, Marie Hébert, Joséphine Hogue, Agnès Lacombe, Marie Célina Lafontaine, Marguerite Mélina Lambert *dite* Aubin, Avelina Langevin, Cordélia Lavallée, Marie Phélonise Leblanc, Angélique Lucas, Marie Anne Eulalie Stéphanie Marchesseau, Victoire Martel, Marie Césarie Perras, Alphonsine Perron, Marie Georgina Pion, Marie Vitaline Pion, Louise Poirier, Rachel Raby, Domitilde Ranger, Célina Reinville, Rosalie Rodier, Stéphanie Rouleau, Marie Théonise Rousse, Vitaline Sabourin, Malvina Savoie, Elisabeth St. Germain, Célina Touchette.

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Second-Class Elementary (F.)—Misses Marie de Lima Auclair, Marie Malvina Bachant, Marguerite Brault, Sophronie Brault, Aurélie Brunelle, Marie Hermine Charpentier, Adeline Demers, Marie Herminie Demers, Célestine Goulet, Esther Grégoire, Emilie Hébert, Rosalie Hébert, Marie Célina Lalancette, Eulalie Lapalme, Elisabeth Lavallée, Marie Christine Leduc, Angele Phaneuf, Flavie Taraux.

Second-Class Elementary (E)—Misses Elena Murphy, Catherine O'Connell, and Jane Reilly.

May 5th and 6th, 1863.

F. X. VALADE,
Secretary.

CATHOLIC BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF QEBBEC.

Second-class Elementary (F.)—Miss Marie Célina Breton.

May 30, 1863. (Adjourned meeting.)

N. LACASSE.
Secretary.

SITUATION WANTED.

A young lady, who holds a Model school diploma from the McGill Normal School, would accept of a situation as Teacher. She is competent to teach, in addition to the usual branches, French, Drawing, Mensuration, and the elements of music. Address "E. H." Education Office.

NOTICE TO TEACHERS.

The Catholic Board of Examiners of Montreal will meet on the First Tuesday in August next, at the usual place of meeting, Vitré Street, at 9 o'clock a.m. All candidates for diplomas must come provided with a Certificate of Baptism and Testimonials of good morals, as required