

acres of each sowed in the township per annum. (4.) *Grasses*. (5.) *General collection of native plants*, found in township, properly prepared.

"I consider that an early love of the study of nature is of inestimable benefit to children, even though their general knowledge is otherwise very defective."

Another local superintendent writes as follows:—

"I have been endeavouring, during the last year, to get some classes formed of young men in our schools, for the study of agriculture, and have been recommending Dr. Dawson's "First Lessons in Scientific Agriculture," published by John Lovell, as a text-book. But some in this enlightened age tell me that it is an unlawful study. That the Council of Public Instruction has not authorized this study in our schools of Upper Canada. You will please inform me whether this study may be lawfully introduced into the schools of an almost entirely agricultural population, and oblige."

The following reply was sent to this communication:

"Agriculture is not only a lawful, but a praiseworthy study in our Common Schools. The fourth and fifth Books treat of subjects akin to it, and the Department has provided an extensive list of Books on the subject for school libraries including Dawson's Work. It was not formally directed that the subject should be taught; that has however arisen from the difficulty experienced in finding persons properly qualified to teach it, but where such persons can be found, the Department will in all cases sanction the teaching of Agriculture in the schools."\*

## 2. CARLYLE ON NATURAL HISTORY AS A BRANCH OF EDUCATION

Mr. Adam White, of Edinburgh, for many years in the natural history department of the British Museum, proposes to introduce the teaching of natural history into boarding-school and private families. On his project, and on the general introduction of that delightful science into the curriculum of ordinary education; Mr. White has been favored by Mr. Thomas Carlyle with a characteristic letter, from which the following is an extract:—"For many years it has been one of my constant regrets, that no school-master of mine had a knowledge of natural history, so far at least as to have taught me the grasses that grow by the wayside, and the little winged and wingless neighbours that are continually meeting me, with a salutation which I cannot answer, as things are! Why didn't somebody teach me the constellations, too, and make me at home in the starry heavens, which are always over head and which I don't above half know to this day? I love to prophesy that there will come a time, when not in Edinburgh only, but in all Scottish and European towns, and villages, the school-master will be strictly required to possess these two capabilities (neither Greek nor Latin more strict!), and that no ingenuous little denizen of this universe be henceforth debarred from his right of liberty in these two departments and doomed to look on them as if across grated fences all his life. For the rest. I cannot doubt but, one way or other, you will by and by make your valuable indubitable gift available in Edinburgh, either to the young or the older, on such conditions as there are, and I much recommend a zealous and judicious persistence till you do succeed.—Believe me yours very sincerely, T. Carlyle."

## V. Biographical Sketches.

### No. 16.—THE REV. DR. ATKINSON.

On Monday morning the sad news reached here from Toronto of the death of this highly esteemed clergyman, throwing a gloom over society generally. For the space of nearly twenty-five years he had filled the position of Rector of St. George's Church, and every year as it passed away seemed to bind him more closely—with stronger cords of affection—to the hearts of his people. When, through a sense of his failing strength, he determined, two years since, to retire from St. Catharine's, his congregation sought by every means in their power to induce him to remain. But he felt that his strength was departing, and a high, conscientious sense of duty compelled him to retire. Since his removal to Toronto, his health gradually failed, until at length, on Saturday evening last, he fell asleep in Jesus. His death, like his life, was very beautiful. He died full of hope in the merits of his Redeemer, looking forward joyfully to a glorious resurrection.—*St. Catharines Constitutional*.

### No. 17.—REV. MR. GRANET.

On Friday evening the Rev. Mr. Granet, Superior of the House

\* See the article on the "necessity for educated farmers in Canada" and the recommendation of the North Oxford Agricultural Society on this subject, in the *Journal* for last month, page 22.

of St. Sulpice, Montreal, breathed his last, having been sick for several months. He was born on the 24th of August, 1810, in France, at Espalem, in the diocese of Puy, came to this country in 1843, and was professor of Theology in the Seminary until in 1856, he succeeded the Rev. Mr. Billaudelle as Superior of the Seminary.

### No. 18.—F. X. GARNEAU, ESQ.

The death of Mr. F. X. Garneau, an historian of Canada, which has been expected for some time, took place at Quebec, on the 3rd ult. The deceased, who was, without exception, one of the most remarkable literary men British North America has ever produced, was born in this city, in 1809, and was, therefore, in the thirty-seventh year of his age at the time of his death. He was educated in the Seminary of Quebec, and adopted the notarial profession, but never practised. He was for some time employed as clerk of the Legislative Assembly; but afterwards received the appointment of City Clerk, which he held up to May, 1864, when he retired, in consequence of ill health, receiving, at the same time, a handsome retiring pension from the Corporation. He commenced his labors in the field of literature at a very early age, and his contributions to the periodicals of the day gave evidence of great ability. In 1831, '32, and '33, he was in Europe, and his talents soon obtained him admission into the literary society of France and England. While in Paris, he was made a member of the "Society of Friends of Poland"—which was organized immediately after the Polish outbreak of 1830—and enjoyed the friendship of Prince Adam Czartoryski and other distinguished men. The narrative of his travels and residence in Europe was afterwards published in the form of a series of letters. His poetic productions, many of which are to be found in Hudson's *Repertoire National*, are characterized by great beauty and vigor. His fame, however, as a writer, rests entirely upon his history of Canada, which cost him many years of toil and research. The first volume was published, we believe, in 1845. The work ran through several editions; and an English translation by Mr. Bell was afterwards published by Mr. Lovell. It immediately directed the attention of American literary men to the author, and Mr. Garneau was looked upon as an authority in all matters connected with the early history of the continent. He was made an honorary member of all the leading literary societies of the Republic, and enjoyed the personal esteem of many of its most distinguished men. Naturally of a delicate constitution, the labors of writing his greatest work told considerably upon his health, which had been feeble for many years. Personally, Mr. Garneau was a most estimable man. Mild and unassuming in the highest degree, he was in every respect a thorough gentleman. His death will not be regretted by his wide circle of friends alone. It will be looked upon throughout the country as a national loss.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

### No. 18.—JAMES SCOTT HOWARD, ESQ.

We regret to learn that Mr. James Scott Howard, died suddenly of apoplexy, on the 1st inst., at the advanced age of 68 years. It was remarked that he never was in better health or spirits than when he left home for his office in the morning. He was a native of Ireland and emigrated to Canada many years ago. He was formerly Postmaster of this city, but was removed by Sir Francis Bond Head during the crisis of 1837-8. He afterwards, for many years, was treasurer of the Home District, upon the abolishment of which he was appointed treasurer of the United Counties of York and Peel, which office he held till his death, and all the duties of which he most satisfactorily filled. Mr. Howard was an active member of the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada since 1846. For many years he was Senior Secretary of the U. C. Bible Society. Both of these bodies have passed resolutions of sympathy with his bereaved family. His loss is deeply deplored.

### No. 19.—JOHN BRUCE, ESQ.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of John Bruce, Esq., Inspector of Schools, who expired suddenly while addressing the pupils at the College of Lachute, on the 19th January. At the time of the painful occurrence he appeared to be in excellent health and spirits, and only a few moments before had been jesting with the children. He was 65 years of age.

Mr. Bruce was born in Scotland and was very respectably connected. While still a young man he came to Canada, adopted the vocation of teacher, and opened a school in Montreal, where his ability and success soon made him known. Many years of his active life were devoted to the exercise of his profession, during which he rendered important services to the cause of education. When the law creating the office of School Inspector was put in force, he was one of those first appointed, and continued to discharge the duties of his official position until death removed him