

Such is the progress of education, that even the once penal colony of Australia, has now established an excellent educational system, and also a Normal School, which was attended at last report by 714 students.

The expenditures of the different countries of the world, for educational purposes, are very great. England alone, expends annually, nearly £600,000 for elementary instruction, exclusive of the large appropriations in aid of other institutions of learning,—besides large amounts derived from private and other sources. The expenditures for the same object in France, Prussia, Germany, United States, and some other countries, are equally great.

The population of the world at the present time is variously estimated; but suppose it to be 1,200,000,000 which is probably near the amount,—there cannot be more than one hundred and twenty millions who are able to read and write, exclusive of China, the education of which, is of the lowest and most superstitious order.

Of the population of the world, as given above, we will be safe in estimating the number of the human family, who are entirely destitute of elementary instruction of any kind, at seven hundred millions; and of the five hundred millions who may know how to read, two hundred and ninety millions of them are not receiving an enlightened education. Such an education as will “make the heart glad,” and enable them to develop the latent resources, both of the mind and matter, which those countries contain.

LIBRARIES, BOOKS, ETC.—In the middle of the seventeenth century, says Macaulay, “No circulating library, no book society then existed even in the capital” London, “and as to the lady of the manor and her daughters, their literary stores generally consisted of a prayer-book and a receipt book.” And other countries were still worse than London, in this

respect. The following statistics from Elihu Burritt’s “Year Book of the Nations”—1848, will afford but a faint idea of the number of libraries and books extant in the world of letters at the present day:—France had 186 libraries, containing 4 700,000 volumes; Prussia 53 libraries, 2,050,000 volumes; Austria 49 libraries, 2,450,000 volumes; England 34 libraries, 1,840,000 volumes; Bavaria 18 libraries, 1,300,000 volumes; United States in 118 colleges, 965,000 volumes; these were scattered over the different countries of Europe and America in all four hundred and ninety nine libraries, containing thirty millions of volumes. These are exclusive of the thousands of small libraries in the possession of Clergymen, Professional men, school libraries, circulating libraries, and private individuals; besides the increase since 1848, the date of our statistics, must be immense, in consequence of the cheapness and dispatch with which printing is done, and the speedy and safe modes of transit, all tending to multiply books and bring them within the reach of the poorest families in the world.

NEWSPAPERS, ETC.—The number of daily and weekly newspapers, and ‘monthlies’ in circulation is almost incredible; the weight per week of reading matter of this description, might be easier counted by the ton than by the number; and they are circulated throughout the world with unprecedented dispatch; while a post boy’s waggon would have held all that was published in Europe in a week in the middle of the eighteenth century,—when the stage-coach running between Edinburgh and Glasgow took six days to perform the journey—distance forty-four miles; and when in 1763 there was but a monthly stage-coach between London and Edinburgh which took a fortnight to perform the journey.

The power and controul wielded by the press of the present day over the