

papers read and the discussions elicited by them were of unusual interest and importance. A paper was read by Prof. D. N. Camp, of the normal school in New Britain, Ct., on "The Relation of Normal Schools to Popular Education." Rev. B. G. Northup, of Massachusetts, read an able paper on "The Relation of Mental Philosophy to Education." He clearly showed that mental science underlies the whole subject of education, and that teaching can rise to the dignity of a profession only as it rests on mental science as its foundation. This study will aid the teacher in his own mental discipline. Just views of the laws and capacities of the mind are obviously conducive to self-culture. No science is more fitted to sharpen and energize the mind, and form habits of discrimination and reflection.

Reports from the normal schools of different States were presented, from which it appears that in Massachusetts there were 430 students in the normal schools last year, a larger number than ever before. There is but one normal school in New-York, which has been in existence fifteen years at Albany, and has graduated over eleven hundred teachers, and is now annually sending out more than ever before. But the average salaries of the graduates are still too low, those of males being about \$431, and of females about \$270. In Connecticut, the annual attendance is about 150. The course requires three years, and about 20 graduate yearly. Of the 140 graduates since the establishment of the school, ten years ago, 102 are now engaged in teaching in that State. Favorable reports were also given from Rhode Island by Mr. Tillinghast, from Ohio by Mr. Holbrook, from New Jersey by Prof. Phelps, and from Iowa by Mr. Wells.

Prof. J. P. Wickersham, of Pennsylvania, read a paper on the subject: "Normal Schools necessary to the building up a Profession of Teaching. He discussed the subject under the following heads: 1. Teaching is not now a Profession. 2. Teaching has just claims to such a rank. 3. That no agency except Normal Schools can constitute Teaching a Profession. 4. That Normal Schools can effect this end.

Mr. Edwards, of Missouri, presented a series of resolutions in relation to the death of the lamented Colburn, which were supported by the mover and seconded by M. Wells, of Chicago, and adopted by a rising vote.

The following named gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year. President—Richard Edwards, of Missouri; Vice Presidents—Messrs. A. Crosby, of Massachusetts, D. H. Cochrane, of New-York, Pierre Chauveau, of Canada, and G. B. M. Sill, of Connecticut; Secretaries—J. P. Wickersham, of Pennsylvania, and D. F. Wells, of Iowa; Treasurer—E. C. Hewitt, of Illinois, (late of Worcester.)

The National Teachers Association held its fourth annual session at Buffalo, immediately upon the adjournment of the Normal School Association. About six hundred delegates were present. J. D. Philbrick, of Boston, was chosen President for the ensuing year. Lectures were delivered by Prof. E. L. Youmans, of New York, on the "Study of Matter and the Progress of Man;" and by Dr. M'Jilton, of Baltimore, on "The Importance of the Teacher's Profession in a National View." Dr. J. W. Hoyt, of Wisconsin, delivered an address on the special educational needs of the American people. The session closed with an excursion to the falls of Niagara.—16.

We have great pleasure in noticing the progress made by the Commercial Academy, under the control of the Catholic School Commissioners of Montreal, in Côté street. This school has been attended by no less than 200 pupils in the course of last year. It has now six teachers. Mr. Archambault, the Principal, as also Mr. Desplaines and Mr. Lenoir, are graduates from the Jacques-Cartier Normal school, young men of no ordinary talent and of great energy. Mr. Garnot, who is the senior professor of French literature and of French language, is well known to the Montreal public as a very proficient teacher of those branches. The English branches are taught by Mr. Anderson, who is also known as a most successful teacher, he is assisted by Mr. Hogan, a young gentleman of promising ability. The school rooms are well ventilated and furnished with desks and seats made after the best patterns and such as suggested by the Department. The classes reopened the 3rd September instant.

## LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

G. P. R. James, the author of seventy-five novels, forming one hundred and eighty-nine volumes, died recently at Venice, aged 60 years. His popularity, now still considerable, rests principally on the merit of three of his works, *Richelieu*, *Darnley*, and the *History of Richard Cœur de Lion*, perhaps the only ones that may long survive him. Yet when he first entered upon his career as a writer, he was hailed as another Walter Scott; but he took no pains to realize the expectations of his admirers. He has not the style, nor has he the dramatic interest, nor the correctness of detail, of the author of *Waverley*. Criticism will, however, allow him a just tribute of praise. An incident is reported which does honor to the novelist. A young lady, his cousin, being about to marry, it was found that he had a right to an inheritance to which she thought she also could lay claim. A few days before the time when the contract was to have received the signatures, it was ascertained that the parents of the lady had never been legally married, and that Mr. James was the sole lawful heir to the estate. The latter had no sooner entered into the possession of the unlooked for inheritance, than he ordered a title-deed to be drawn up, and made over the

whole property to his fair cousin. Such an action is more rare than good novels and makes us forget the indifferent prose and bad poetry which is occasionally to be met with in his works. Mr. James after having held a diplomatic appointment in the United States, had been sent to Venice as consul sometime before his death.

—Mr. Robert Brough, another English writer, died at the age of 32 years. A humorist, full of spirit, he contributed to most of the lesser contemporary periodicals, and left writings of which a collection will no doubt shortly be made. He has, besides, left an amusing imaginary biography of the famous Shakespearian character, Sir John Falstaff, and admirable translations in verso of the odes and ballads of Victor Hugo, and of the songs of Béranger. Improvident as poets usually are, he died in straightened circumstances. Theatrical performances for the benefit of his family are to be given, in which some of the most distinguished in literature and in art will amuse the public by taking part in those dramatic burlesques from which the author reaped so little profit for himself.—*Revue Européenne*.

—From official statistics recently compiled, it would appear that during the year 1859, the number of publications issued in England amounted to 28,807, which may be subdivided thus: Complete works 5,507 volumes; published in parts or serial works, 5,642 volumes; in numbers 15,707; pamphlets 236, musical works 4,066; atlases, charts, maps, 3,096. Great Britain exports to the United States alone double the number of books imported by her from other countries. Her Australian colonies also offer an advantageous market. Of the number of volumes imported during the year, France supplied 2,886.

—It is announced that the first number of a weekly Greek newspaper will shortly appear. This journal which will be printed in London, in modern Greek, is named *O Bretanikos Aster* (The British Star), and is destined for circulation among the population of the Danubian Principalities, Montenegro, Albania, Asia Minor, Egypte, Syria, the Ionian Isles, and Southern Russia. It will be illustrated by first class artists and will contain a synopsis of European news, political, parliamentary and judicial. It is got up to advocate Russian interests, and its existence has been guaranteed for at least two years.

## MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

We have to-day to record the decease of the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, after a long period of public service. He was born in Rosshire, Scotland, where he passed his youth. In the year 1809, he removed to London, and was engaged in commercial pursuits for the succeeding eleven years. He was there brought into communication with the late Earl of Selkirk, then the leading spirit of the Hudson's Bay Company. This was the period (1819) of the bitter rivalry between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company of Canada. It was at this period too, that Lord Selkirk engaged in the scheme for colonizing the territory, and undertook the task of founding the Red River settlement. Sir (then Mr.) George Simpson was selected to take a leading part in conducting the operations of the Company, which required then men of unusual energy and capacity. He sailed from England for New York in the early part of 1820, and in May of that year left Montreal for the far North West. His first winter was spent at Lake Athabasca where he endured much privation, and carried on the competition with the North West Company with the energy and success that characterised all his undertakings. This competition—involving losses to both Companies—was terminated the following year, by their coalition when Mr. Simpson was appointed Governor of the Northern Department, and subsequently Governor in Chief of Rupert's Land, and the general Superintendent of all the Hudson's Bay Company's affairs in North America. On attaining this position, the peculiar talents of the Governor became conspicuous: he reconciled conflicting interests, abated personal jealousies, and established a controlling influence which he retained to the last.

Sir George Simpson took great interest in the cause of geographical discoveries on the Northern coast of this continent,—and to his admirable selection of leaders and skilful arrangements are due the successful expeditions under Messrs. Dease and Simpson in 1834-5, Dr. Rae in 1845 and '53 and Messrs. Anderson and Stewart in 1855. For these services, and as a mark of general approbation, Her Majesty was pleased to confer the honor of knighthood on Mr. (thenceforward Sir George) Simpson. Soon after he set out on his celebrated overland journey round the world, of which he subsequently published a very interesting narration. Sir George has latterly resided almost altogether at Lachine, near which village is situated the beautiful Isle Dorval, from whence came off the canoe expedition given by the Hudson Bay Company to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

The last public act of Sir George Simpson's long and active life was to receive as a guest the heir apparent to the throne of England, and it must be gratifying to his family and friends to know that the Prince graciously acknowledged the attentions shown to him by Sir George, and that the Noble Duke who presides over the Colonial Department availed himself of the opportunity afforded by personal communication to express the high opinion entertained by himself and Her Majesty's Imperial Advisers, of the skilful and successful administration of one of the most extensive provinces of the British Empire.