

proportion of the Protestant community. Twenty years have elapsed since the introduction of the system of national education into Ireland. After a careful review of its progress, and of the difficulties which it has had to encounter, we are convinced that it has taken deep root in the affections of the people, and that no other plan for the instruction of the poor could have been devised, in the peculiar circumstances of this country, which would have conferred such inestimable blessings on the great majority of the population. Every passing year strengthens our conviction that the intellectual and moral elevation of the humbler classes in Ireland will be effectually promoted by a firm adherence to the fundamental principles of the system, and by liberal grants from Parliament towards its support. During the present year, 1852, we have had to lament the death of two of our most valued colleagues. The one was Archbishop Murray, who died on the 26th of February; the other was Dr. Townsend, Lord Bishop of Meath, whose death took place on the 16th of September, Archbishop Murray, so long the ornament of his church and country, was one of our original members; and our success has been greatly owing to his constant presence amongst us, and to the confidence reposed by the members of his church in his great sense, experience, and integrity. He was strongly convinced that our system was one of the greatest blessings ever conferred on the people of Ireland; and one of the last acts which preceded the close of his life was to assist, at the age of 83 years, a meeting of our board. Dr. Townsend, Lord Bishop of Meath, though but recently appointed a commissioner, had long been one of our ablest and most zealous supporters. He has been withdrawn from us in the prime of life, and at a time when his attachment to our cause would have been more than ever serviceable to it."

EDUCATION IN PRUSSIA.—The Kingdom of Prussia, including all its Provinces, is only as large as New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey combined, though possessing a population of near 17,000,000. According to official reports in a German paper, there are at present in Prussia 24,201 common schools, with 30,865 teachers, and 2,453,062 scholars; 505 Burger schools—the pupils pay a small sum for tuition in these—with 2200 teachers, and 69,302 scholars; 385 girls' schools, with 1918 teachers, and 53,570 scholars; 117 gymnasia, with 1664 teachers, and 29,474 scholars. The 46 normal schools, or school teachers' seminaries, count 2411 pupils; in the seven universities, at the end of last year, were 4,306 students, and in the six theological seminaries 240.

UNITED STATES.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

It was proposed to hold three public meetings in Albany, N. Y., to discuss the subject of a National University. The first meeting was to have been held on the 26th and 27th ult., and the others on the 23d and 24th days of February and March. The mornings to be devoted to discussions, and the evenings to public addresses. Several eminent educationists have signified their willingness to attend and unite in the discussion.—The Camden Co. (N. J.) Educational Convention lately held a meeting to recommend an appropriation of the revenue of the Public Works to the School Fund, and suggesting the establishment of an educational newspaper in the State.—The Free Academy of the city of New York has thirteen professors, nine tutors, and four hundred and ninety-seven pupils—one instructor to every twenty-three pupils.—In the schools of Switzerland, there are not less than fifty boys from the United States. In the schools of Paris, American boys and students of medicine are numerous; and in the "public schools" of England there are always a few.—The Superintendent of the Common Schools of Pennsylvania reports that the number of pupils at the schools in the State are 480,771. This does not include the city and county of Philadelphia.—The Comptroller of the State of New York reports that there are in that State 862,507 pupils attending public schools; 1,767 attending private schools; 105 coloured schools, with 4,416 scholars.

ITEMS REGARDING COLLEGES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The colleges named below have the following number of students:—Yale College, 603; Harvard College, 662; Dartmouth College 294; Brown University, 240; University of Vermont, 123; University of Virginia, 420; Wabash (Ind.) College, 120; William's College, 202; total, 1734.

The catalogue of Columbia College for the year 1852-3, shows that the present number of students is 156, viz., Seniors 34, Juniors 41, Sophomores 32, and Freshmen 50. The college library contains 16,000 volumes.

In Harvard University, the Rev. Dr. James Walker has been chosen to fill

the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of President Sparks. By this change, the chair of Moral Philosophy, heretofore filled by Dr. Walker, is made vacant. The resignation of President Sparks takes effect at the close of the present academic term.—*N. Y. Observer.*

The Rev. Dr. Ferris, of the Reformed Dutch Church, has been elected Chancellor of the University of the city of New York.

We learn from the *Methodist Protestant*, that the Protestant Methodists have commenced a movement to build up a college in Alabama. About \$30,000 were promptly raised at the start. One noble-hearted Southern gentleman, Abner McGehee, Esq., near Montgomery, Alabama, contributed \$10,000 in the form of an endowment.

The necessary amount of funds has been subscribed for the construction of a Female College, at Eufaula, Alabama. . . . The farmers of the State of Delaware, have subscribed \$50,000 for a College at Newark, on condition that a Professorship of Agriculture be at once established. . . . Rev. E. P. Barrows, late Professor in the Theological Department of the Western Reserve College, also Editor of the Ohio Observer, has been appointed Professor in the Andover Theological Seminary.

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

From the *Canadian Journal* for January, we learn that the Council of the Canadian Institute has established two prize Medals, as follows:—"1. A Medal, value £10, for the best comprehensive Essay on the Public Works of Canada, their relations to a general system of American Public Works, their engineering peculiarities, cost and other statistics, to be accompanied by illustrations. "2. A Medal, value £10, for the best Essay on the physical formation, climate, soil and natural productions of Canada." The Toronto Athenæum is to be amalgamated with the Canadian Institute.—Mr. Cornwall Lewis has succeeded the late Mr. Empson as Editor of the *Edinburgh Review*. The salary is 1,500 per annum. Mr. Cornwall Lewis was a member of the late Parliament.—Thackeray, in his last lecture, paid a deserved compliment to the English language. "It is the only language," he said, "that Freedom is permitted to speak." A beautiful thought, and as true as beautiful.—Itinerating village libraries are being established at Yorkville, England.—We learn, says the Boston Advertiser, that Benjamin Pierce, L. D. Professor of Astronomy and Mathematics in Harvard College, has been chosen a Fellow of The Royal Society of London. We understand that Dr. Franklin and Dr. Bowditch, are the only citizens of the United States who have before received the distinction of membership of this ancient Society.—A Monsieur Rollin lately exhibited before the French Academy a silkworm's cocoon of a rose color: remarkable because the color was produced by feeding the worms on mulberry leaves sprinkled with chico (*Bignonia chica*.) A cocoon had been exhibited on a former occasion of a blue tint, produced by sprinkling indigo upon the mulberry leaves. The tint in the present case was, however much stronger than that of the blue cocoon.—Several of the Noblemen of England have lately devoted themselves to the duties of Popular lecturers. The Earl of Carlisle, the Duke of Newcastle, Belfast, Lord John Russell, Lord John Manvers and others have recently appeared in the same capacity. The Earl of Carlisle lectures on the Poets of Pope, and of Gray, as well as the Earl of Belfast's lectures on the English Poets and poetry of the 19th century, have been published.—The appearance of Lord John Russell at the Leeds Mechanics' Institute was an event worthy of more notice than the ordinary visits of the titled and official patrons of these institutions. Of our younger nobility there are many who, not only by their influence, but by their personal efforts in lecturing and otherwise, have nobly co-operated of late in popular education. But it is interesting to be reminded in the proceedings at the Leeds meeting, of the first establishment of these Mechanics' Institutions, in which Lord John Russell in early life took active part along with Dr. Birkbeck. In his speech Lord John reviewed the social history of the past forty years, so far as to show the vast improvements in the condition of the manufacturing districts, and the general education of the working classes.—The library of the famous physiologist and metaphysical philosopher, Oken, is to be sold by auction in Zurich, on the 17th May, 1853. The following is an outline of the system of arrangement adopted by the philosopher in his catalogue:— I. Historia Naturalis. II. Organismi. III. Zoologia. A. Zoologia universalis. B. Zoologia specialis. A. Animalia vertebrata. B. Animalia inver-