

### 3. IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITION OF FRENCH TEACHERS.

The Emperor of the French (says the *Reader*) has of late taken decisive steps towards the amelioration of the state of schoolmasters in France. Their annual income, which formerly was not to be less than 600f., has from the commencement of this year been raised to 700f. The schoolmistresses, 4755 in number, who have hitherto received 400f. annually, are to have 500f. for the future. Nor are delays and irregularities, such as have hitherto not unfrequently been complained of, to be suffered any longer. The head-masters in the primary schools will have their salaries increased from 2000f. and 3000f. to 2,400f. to 3,600f. respectively; the ushers from 1000f. and 1,800f. to 1,200f. to 2000f. The school in the rural communities is henceforth to be, together with the parsonage, the "model house of the village" with respect to architecture, neatness, cleanliness, and airiness. Whenever a new teacher is installed the communities are to pay 300f., to which the state will add an equal sum, in order to procure decent furniture for his house. In case of need the public chest of the department is further to aid the communities.

### 4. EDUCATIONAL MATTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

**MAINE:** The editor of the *Maine Teacher* (who is also State Superintendent) says: "It is a hopeful sign that some of our Academic institutions are requiring applicants to pass an examination on entering. It must elevate the standard of scholarship." Mr. Weston never made a sounder remark; for, until the different grades of school from the Primary A. B. C. one to the College—shall each have its own sphere of study and labor, and shall strictly adhere to it, we shall neither have first class schools nor well grounded scholarship.

**CONNECTICUT:** Yale College has recently received from one of its friends, \$30,000 for the erection of a new chapel, and the same amount from another for the endowment of a College Pastorate.—The whole of the government grant of 180,000 acres of land to the State has been conferred upon the scientific school of Yale—A catalogue of the 3,000 rare and ancient coins of this college has recently been published.

New York, Mathew Vassar,—of whom we know nothing but the name and this one act of noble munificence,—has founded a college for females at Poughkeepsie. The building is now in rapid progress, and is represented as "one of the largest and finest educational edifices in America." It is 500 feet long and 171 deep in the centre; the wings being 50 feet wide and 165 deep; and in addition to the chapel, library, recitation and other halls, is to contain 350 single bedrooms,—every three of which open into a parlor for the three students occupying them. The grounds comprise 200 acres, watered by a pure and never-failing stream. It is expected to be open for the reception of students in the latter part of 1864.

The first meeting of the officers of the College and Academies of the State was held, as already announced, at Albany on the 4th and 5th of August. It seems to have been well attended and so fully up to the expectations of its originators, that under the title of "The University Convocation of the State of New York," it is to become a permanent feature in the educational machinery of the State, and to meet annually at Albany on the first Tuesday in August. Its stated objects are:

1. To secure better acquaintance amongst those engaged in the higher departments of instruction.
2. To secure interchange of opinion on the best modes of teaching.
3. To advance the standard of education.
4. To promote the harmonious working of the States system of education.
5. To consult and co-operate with the Regents of the University, (the highest educational authority in the State.)
6. To exercise a direct influence on the people and the Legislature in favor of education, in all its interests.

In addition to the regents of the University and the authorities of the Colleges and Academies, all "instructors in the higher departments of the Public Schools that are subject to the visitation of the Regents," with the "President, first Vice President, and the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries of the New York State Teachers' Association," are to be admitted as members.—*Pennsylvania School Journal*.

**WASHINGTON:** Some school houses in Washington having been taken by the government for hospitals, the school trustees, to supply the want of school room thus created, proposed to erect a temporary house on the unoccupied field known as Franklin square. This land belongs to the United States government. The President granted permission to use it for the purpose, but the Secretary of war withheld his consent, and thus the intention was frustrated. Nevertheless some excellent school-houses have been erected in Washington within the last year.

### 5. GENERAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

According to Appleton's *American Annual Cyclopaedia* for 1862, the whole number of the children attending the common schools was 5,211,000, or one in every 512 of the free white population. Of these, 4,560,000, were in the loyal states, or one of every four of the population; 651,000, were in the other states, or nearly one in every 14. The expenditure was \$23,461,000, or about 87 cents for every white inhabitant. The largest expenditure for school purposes in any state, in proportion to the population, is in Illinois, where it is at the rate of \$1 58 per head. Massachusetts is the next largest, being \$1 34 per head. The expenditures of the private schools, high schools, academies, and boarding schools, in which there were not less than 600,000 pupils, was \$2,000,000. The expenditure of the 240 colleges, with their 20,000 under-graduates, was not less than \$5,000,000; of the 92 theological seminaries, with 4,120 students, \$1,000,000; of the 55 medical schools and 7,000 students, \$1,400,000; of the 18 law schools and 1,300 students, \$261,000; of the normal schools and 2,740 students, \$500,000; of the 15 scientific schools, the polytechnic, and the agricultural colleges, with 1,500 students, \$400,000; of the 53 institutions for the instruction of the deaf, blind, and idiots, with 7,850 pupils, \$1,187,500; making the total annual cost of these various institutions of learning, containing over 5,855,000 pupils, not less than \$53,198,500. The number of school-books of all kinds consumed annually, both in the week-day schools and the Sabbath-schools, is estimated at between seven and ten millions of volumes.

### 6. PARISH SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND.

From a paper read before the last Social Science Congress by Professor Milligan, of Aberdeen, we learn that, as the result of time and recent legislation, three changes had taken place in their position—first, that they now no longer absorbed the greater proportion of the educational talent of the country as they once did; second, that the changed social aspects of the country had removed the schools as the general or chief educational machinery of the country; and third, that the parish schools were not now so closely connected with the national Church as formerly. To these three points, now changed, the schools had owed no small measure of their fame. There were several characteristics they still preserved, and would, he hoped, preserve, and the most important of these was religious education, for he admitted that religious truth was taught as earnestly now as when the test existed. The other characteristics were the preservation of a high standard of teaching in the schools, the practical freedom of the teacher, the security of income which the teacher enjoys, and the distinct personal character which was impressed on the teachers as a class. The point to consider was whether the revised code preserved these characteristics. It did the very opposite, and threatened to extinguish the very elements of school life it was most desirable to maintain.

### 7. EXAMINATIONS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE OF INDIA.

The following Regulations for the Open Competition of 1864, and the Further Examination of 1865,\* have been transmitted to the Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, by direction of His Excellency the Governor General. We publish them for general information.

1. In June or July 1864, an Examination of candidates will be held in London. Not less than candidates will be selected, if so many shall be found duly qualified. Of these, will be selected for the Presidency of Bengal, [ ] for the Upper Provinces, and [ ] for the Lower Provinces. [ ] for that of Madras, and [ ] for that of Bombay.†—Notice will hereafter be given of the days and place of examination.

2. Any natural-born subject of Her Majesty, who shall be desirous of entering the Civil Service of India, will be entitled to be examined at such Examination, provided he shall, on or before the 1st May, 1864, have transmitted to the Civil Service Commissioners, Dean's Yard, London, S. W.—

(a) A certificate of his birth, showing that his age on the 1st May, 1864, will be above eighteen years and under twenty-two years;

(b) A certificate, signed by a physician or surgeon, of his having no disease, constitutional affection, or bodily infirmity, unfitting him for the Civil Service of India;

(c) Satisfactory proof of good moral character;

\* The Regulations are liable to be altered in future years.

† The number of appointments to be made, and the number in each Presidency, and each division of the Presidency of Bengal, will be announced hereafter.