

## IX. Educational Intelligence.

LORD AND LADY DUFFERIN, accompanied by several of the members of the New York Board of Education, paid a visit on Thursday to the Normal College, where they remained for a considerable time, after which the party visited the Grammar School in Twenty seventh Street. At both places the visitors were given a full explanation of the workings of the institutions, as well as the particulars relating to the public school system, and at both places they were entertained with the exercises peculiar to such occasions. Lord Dufferin, says the *Herald*, expressed himself as much pleased not only with our school system, but with the manner in which he was entertained by the teachers and scholars.

—COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.—At the Teachers' Convention, for the County of Durham, held at Port Hope recently, the Committee on Competitive Examinations brought in the following report, which was received and adopted:—

1. That Competitive Examinations be held in the Townships of Hope and Cavan.
2. That the first examination take place on Saturday, 20th March, 1875, commencing at 9 o'clock, a.m.
3. That the examination for Hope be held in the Town of Port Hope, and for Cavan in the Village of Millbrook.
4. That the subjects be Reading, Spelling, Geography, Grammar, British History, Arithmetic.
5. That special examinations in Book-keeping, Algebra, and Euclid be held on Friday, 5th March.
6. That Algebra be limited to simple equations of some unknown quantity; Euclid to First Book; History from the Norman to the Stuart period, inclusive; and all other subjects the limits to the Fourth Class work, according to official programme.
7. That candidates be divided into two classes, those fourteen or over, and those under fourteen years of age, and that no pupil who has a teacher's certificate be allowed to compete.
8. That every teacher sending pupils to compete, shall send a certificate of the age of each pupil, signed by his or her parents, and that all applications shall be forwarded to Mr. D. G. Goggin, Port Hope, not later than the 1st of February, 1875.
9. That the number of pupils from each school shall not exceed three in each class.
10. That there shall be ten General Proficiency, and one or more Special prizes in each class.
11. That no pupil shall receive more than two prizes.
12. That Messrs. D. J. Goggin, J. J. Tilley and W. E. Tilley, be a Central Board of Examiners to prepare papers for the examination, and that Messrs. Moulton, Watson, and C. J. Logan, B.A., be examiners for the Township of Hope, and Drs. Hamilton and Thomson, and W. Vance for the Township of Cavan.
13. That a committee consisting of Messrs. W. E. Tilley, Goggin, Glass and Coleman for Hope, and Messrs. Davey, Stanton, Peters and Pendrie for Cavan, be and is hereby appointed to solicit subscriptions from private individuals, and that Inspector Tilley be instructed to apply to Township Councils for aid.
14. That each teacher sending pupils to compete, shall contribute the sum of two dollars into the fund for obtaining prizes, said sum to be raised from his section.

—ENGLISH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.—The first published results of the new Oxford and Cambridge school examinations have appeared in the English papers recently. These examinations embrace all schools that profess to be preparing their pupils for the Universities and the certificates granted to those who pass are accepted as equivalent to one year of study and the first public examination (known as the Little Go) at the Universities. This, it will be seen, must prove an immense advantage in the saving of time and expense to students at the latter, and is calculated to do away with a cause of complaint that has been often referred to by eminent professors, that their aims and efforts to lead students on to the higher branches of a particular class of studies were hindered by their having to go over intermediate ground which should have been covered by the schools, that, in fact, they had to do more of the work of the schoolmaster than was compatible with their efficiency as professors. The examinations are conducted by one and the same body of independent and qualified men appointed by Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and thus all schools will be subjected to the same test. In the recent examinations twenty-one public schools are reported on as having been successful more or less, Winchester College heading the list with thirty-four of its boys who have received University certificates; Manchester grammar school coming next with twenty-eight boys, Marlborough College third, Eton fourth; Wellington College, King's School, Sherborne, Rugby (which has only seven boys passed) and others follow, five large schools only passing one boy, while Harrow, Westminster, Charterhouse and St. Paul's, formerly singled out as worthy of commendation by the Public Schools Commission, are either not placed or have not applied for examination—probably the latter. As this is the first of these occasions, however, there are necessarily the shortcomings and defects inseparable from beginnings, but it is considered that as the system is carried out the result will be a very

great improvement in the character and teaching of the public schools. They will furnish the people with an index as to what institutions are best fitted to prepare boys for university study, and the stimulus thus imparted to education must prove of incalculable benefit.—*Montreal Witness*.

## X. Short Critical Notices of Books.

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF MRS. SOMERVILLE BY HER DAUGHTER.\*

Mrs. Somerville's name will secure her "Recollections" an interested perusal, for though published and arranged by her daughter, the "Recollections" are her own, and recall the names of most of the distinguished men, chiefly, but not exclusively scientific, who have lived, laboured, and died during the past three-quarters of a century. Quite free from the ordinary style of modern biographies, it gives us most of what was interesting and valuable in Mrs. Somerville's life. That portion of it which was "remote from public gaze," she carefully throws into the shade, and her daughter has followed her example closely. Though married twice, both times to a cousin, it was not till her second marriage that she found a real sympathiser in her desires and pursuits. After the publication of her first work—and indeed before—she was treated with great kindness by the scientific and literary celebrities with whom she came in contact, and was made a member of most of the scientific associations of Great Britain and the Continent. In her flittings about Europe she had the rare fortune of meeting many whose names are famous in many lands, and for many reasons. In France, Laplace, Arago, Humboldt, Cuvier, and Sismondi, were as familiar spirits with her, while literature and the fine arts were represented among her acquaintances by Byron, Fenimore Cooper, Thorswaldsen, Canova, Schlegel, Rossini, Miss Hosmer; and patriotism by Cavour.

She witnessed the important revolution consummated by Victor Emmanuel's formal entry into Rome, and was also present at his subsequent entry into Florence. She passed the closing years of her life in Italy, cheered by the continual notice and friendship of those whose acquaintance she valued. Her peaceful death occurred at Sorrento in her 92nd year.

THE EARTH: BY ELISEE RECLUS\*—This is one of those exhaustive works, in which the author so thoroughly masters his subject as to leave to succeeding writers but comparatively little to dilate upon. The very comprehensiveness of the title points to such a task as would deter any but a man like M. Reclus from attempting it.

The internal arrangement of the book is admirable: First, it treats of the relation of the world to other worlds, and then takes up the configuration of the globe, and the influence of remote and immediate causes upon it; while the closing chapters go below things seen, and throw as much light on subterranean causes as visible effects render possible. A conspicuous feature of the work is the illustrations, explanatory of the text—an invaluable addition to so thorough a work.

ARCTIC EXPERIENCES: A HISTORY OF THE POLARIS EXPEDITION, BY CAPTAIN GEN. E. TYSON\*—The unhappy circumstances connected with this expedition, and the sad death of the commander, whose life-dream it had been to "go on to the Pole," invest this account with rather a gloomy interest. The adventures and miraculous preservation of the explorers are truthfully described, and add another chapter to the history of the world's heroic men in connection with scientific discovery. Just now, when other expeditions are being fitted out for a like purpose—though there is nothing in it but the renown of the discovery to be striven for—it will be interesting to read the hopes of the future in the light of the past's varying results.

THE HEART OF AFRICA: BY DR. SCHWEINFURTH, WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY WINWOOD READE.\* This work, in two volumes, though chiefly valuable, *in extenso*, to those interested in the geographical and botanical exploration of the hidden heart of Africa, will yet repay a not

\* New York: Harper & Brothers; Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson, King Street West.