

northern and southern poles of the earth, but appear to revolve about them, in very unequal periods of time. The magnetic equator of these poles crosses the earth at four points. Its form and position are also undergoing continual changes. The intensity with which the magnetic needle is attracted towards these poles varies at different hours of the day. So also does the direction of the needle, usually called the variation of the compass; this amounted at Toronto to a little more than one degree and a half west in the year 1848. The variation of direction is also subject to a daily change. It is least at about seven o'clock, a. m. and greatest about 2, p. m. It is also greater in summer than in the winter. Captain Lefroy made a very touching allusion to the Franklin expedition one of whose chief objects was to make observations on Terrestrial Magnetism. Many men of exalted reputation, as Sabine, Haughton, Humboldt, and Gauss, had devoted their lives to the study of this branch of knowledge, others had perilled and even lost their lives, in laborious and difficult observation of its changes and effects. Governments had expended vast sums of money in assisting their researches; and one vast expedition has now been lost to the civilized world, for many years, in a region of ice. It would be asked, what has been done by all this expenditure of time, labour, and treasure in the cause of science? But little apparently as yet. The collected observations now amount to more than twenty-seven quarto volumes of figures. These have yet to be compared with one another, and deductions drawn from the results; but as for any confirmed theory of Terrestrial Magnetism nothing seemed to be absolutely certain. Captain Lefroy then alluded to the discovery of the magnetic power of oxygen when heated by Faraday; who considered that terrestrial magnetism was mainly induced by the warmth imparted to the oxygen of air, by the sun's heating rays. It was, however, thought by those who knew most about the phenomena of terrestrial magnetism, that Faraday's theory did not completely set the question at rest. He (Capt. Lefroy) felt sure, however, that the labour of the observer and the liberality of Government, would not be in vain. Whatever had been called into existence by the Creator, was well worthy of being examined and investigated by all His intelligent worshippers, and he was satisfied with the conviction, that time would bring due reward to those who in faith quietly pursued their work, that as in days of old heathen men deified the inventors of the sickle and the plough, so in times to come Christian men would signify their approbation in a better and more enduring form, of the labours of those who are now confidently seeking a hidden treasure, fraught with benefit to all mankind in time to come.

The second Lecture on "The Dawn of English Literature" was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Burns. This interesting subject was treated in a masterly manner, and must have been instructive and entertaining to a large and numerous audience, entirely filling the hall. The Lecturer commenced with a brief account of the state of learning in the earliest period of British history, anterior to the time of the venerable Bede, known as the father of English literature, respecting whose character and acquirements the Reverend lecturer spoke at some length. After alluding to several illustrious names that shone in the general darkness immediately preceding the reign of Alfred the Great, he passed on to mention the great exertions made by that monarch for the encouragement of learning, not only by the example of industry set by himself, but by founding schools for all classes of his subjects, and inviting to his court illustrious men of all nations, famed for their wisdom and learning. The lecturer also pointed out how the gradual formation of the present English language, was continually going on by the constant infusion of new elements till after the time of the Norman invasion, when a new impulse was given to the spread of learning by the Norman scholars, who took great pride in academical honors, and by the example of many of their monarchs. The crusades also in their turn, by the introduction of new sciences and the acquirements of new languages, added greatly to the stock of learning. In the time of Edward the First, the lecturer went on to say, the study of law in particular was carried to a great extent, being attended with a beneficial result to the people in general, by improving the laws themselves; and giving stability to the national character. The lecturer then passed on to speak of Chaucer, the father of English literature, and Wyckliffe, the father of the English reformation; and to show the state of the English language at that period, he read an extract from Wyckliffe's translation of the Bible, pointing out the great similarity between his version and the one in present use. He also read extracts from the travels of Sir John Mandeville, written by himself, showing how much beauty and eloquence were combined with the quaintness and oddity of his style: He also read the Lord's prayer in the Anglo-Saxon language, comparing it sentence by sentence with the English translation of the 8th century, to show the state of the language of that period. The lecturer then alluded to a remark in the *Edinburgh Review*, stating if all the literature of the United States of America were swept away from the republic of letters, the loss would not be felt. This statement he strongly condemned, and concluded by reading an extract from a poem written by a professor of an American College to disprove the remark. [Abridged from the British Colonist and Patriot

*Alleged Discovery of Perpetual Motion.*—The *Courier de la Gironde* states that a civil engineer of Bordeaux, named De Vigneron, has discovered the perpetual motion. His theory is said to be to find in a mass of water, at rest, and contained within a certain space, a continual force, able to replace all other moving powers. The above journal declares that this has been effected, and that the machine invented by M. de Vigneron works admirably. A model of the machine was to be exposed at Bordeaux for three days, previous to the inventor's departure with it for London.

### Editorial and Official Notices, &c.

**SUBSCRIBERS TO THE JOURNAL FOR 1852.**—In accordance with an invariable annual practice, we beg to apprise the subscribers to the *Journal of Education* for 1851, that with the January number of 1852, a new set of mail books for that year will be opened. All parties, therefore, who wish to have the *Journal* sent to their address next year will please transmit their subscription as usual. This notice will prevent the recurrence of many disappointments which were experienced by former subscribers in the early part of this year. A great many illustrations will be given and some new features added to the *Journal* next year.

**AN EXTENDED DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE** of the school maps books and school requisites for sale at the Depository, in connexion with the Education Office, will be published in the *Journal of Education* for January and February 1852.

**NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1851.**—To those wishing to keep their files complete, we shall feel happy to furnish any missing numbers of the present volume, which they may not have received. Single numbers of previous volumes may also be obtained by former subscribers upon application.

**TRUSTEES' BLANK REPORTS.**—Local Superintendants will please return to the Education office any Trustees' blank School Reports which they may have received over and above the number required for the use of the Schools under their jurisdiction.

In reporting Union Schools, care should be taken to report them in the Township only in which the school houses are situated.

### COMMON SCHOOLS.—CITY OF TORONTO.

THE Board of School Trustees for the City of Toronto will receive applications until Tuesday, January 13th, 1852, from parties desirous of filling the following offices, viz:

Local Superintendent and Visitorial Teacher, combined—to which will be attached the salary of £160 per annum.

And,—Teacher to School No. 6,—Salary £100 per annum.

Applications, with testimonials, to be addressed (postage paid) to the undersigned—who will furnish any further information.

G. A. BARBER,  
Secretary, Board School Trustees.

Toronto, Dec. 23, 1851.

**WANTED**—A Teacher for School Section No. IX, Township of York; salary about £65. Application to be made about the 1st of January, 1852, to Mr. John Watson, 6th Lot 2nd Concession, East of Yonge Street.

**WANTED** for Section No. VII, Pickering, a well qualified Teacher. One trained in the Normal School will be preferred. Salary good and entry immediately. Apply (post paid) to Rev. A. Waddell, Pickering, P. O.

### WILLIAM HODGINS, ARCHITECT AND CIVIL ENGINEER,

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Reference kindly permitted to the Chief Superintendent of Schools, and the officers of the Educational Department.

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All communications to be addressed to Mr. J. GEORGE HODGINS,  
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