

twenty-eight all coming from a small section of country, afforded as good data to work from. However, Dr. Morton made an exception from his type of the Esquimaux, which he regarded as analogous to the Mongols, though he admitted that philologically the Esquimaux did not differ from the other American tribes, so far as generalization could be made of so many different dialects. He here pointed out a drawing of the skull of a Scioto Indian, which he showed by quotations from the writers of Morton's school, was to be considered as the most perfect type of the American head. It differed from the heads of the modern European inhabitants of the country; but it seemed to him to differ as much from that of the northern Indians.—Besides, as the form of the northern Indian differed from the southern Indian, it approached that of the Esquimaux. The Seminole, again, as drawn by Morton, approximated to the Peruvian head, and differed from the accepted type. He then gave several measurements of heads, from Morton's book, to show that even these did not bear out the theory of Morton. He then mentioned a head found near Barrie, in which the peculiar characteristic noticed by Morton—the flat occiput—was so remarkable, that the skull would stand better on that than on any other side; but this was so large a deviation from other heads that it was in all probability an example of formation by artificial means, which indeed he thought might probably be the cause of the peculiarities which had been looked upon as ethnological, but were really archaeological facts. He mentioned, moreover, that the pyramidal form, another great feature in the heads observed by Morton, was most strikingly developed in the Esquimaux head.

A further caution to this school was administered by Prof. Anderson, who addressed the Section on this subject, with a view of showing the importance of some comprehensible classification of the varieties of the human race, in order to the correct observation of those facts upon which one school of ethnologists founded their opinion that mankind consisted of several species, or of one species planted in several centres of creation. "To illustrate the difficulties in the way of such classification, he mentioned that Virey divided the race into two species—the white and the yellow; the black and the brown. But he found all sorts of difficulties in this classification. Take, for instance, the Arabians—the purest of the Semitic races—and he found the Arab in one place with light hair and blue eyes, while in the hot regions of the desert the Arab very nearly approached the Negro. The same changes occurred in the Hindoos and great Iranian races, as they descended from the mountains to the hot deltas of the rivers and to the sea coast. This was also to be remarked in Africa; so that the distinction into white and yellow, black and brown, formed no really useful classification. Jacquemot spoke of three species of men; Dumoulin of eleven, of which the first was the Cello-Scyth-Arab, the meaning of which he could not divine. Colonel St. Vincent made eleven species; and Luke Bird, the editor of the *Ethnologist*, sixty-three; while Dr. Morton's posthumous works made twenty families, each of which the doctor plainly looked on as a distinct species. These could not all be right. Again, Agassiz considered that there were at least eight, and perhaps a thousand centres of creation, though there was but one species; but there were many difficulties about that theory, as it would require a new miracle of creation for each supposed centre; and it was a good rule in physics not to allow new creations except where they were absolutely required. He concluded by saying that he thought the proper attitude for Ethnologists to assume was to hold all theories as provisional, keeping themselves ready to be convinced by any new facts whenever they appeared.

Among other papers read before this important subsection we notice one by Dr. Reid advocating the use of English as a universal language in the interest of science. To this it was objected that other nations, the German and the French for instance would claim for their idioms the same universality which would be sought for the Anglo-Saxon, and that although it would be perhaps desirable that one universal medium of communication should be adopted between men of science, this could be done only by adopting some of the dead languages or by the creation of a conventional tongue of a scientific character. No one seemed to be aware that the latter course had been already suggested by the abbé Oclando, a Spanish savant in a book which has for its title "A Plan for the creation of a universal language." The book was translated into French and we believe also into German. The Paris edition was published during the universal exposition in 1855 with an able introduction by the abbé Toussé.

Professor Whittlesey read a paper on the ancient mining operations of Lake Superior, by which it appears that nations much like the Toltecs or Aztecs of Mexico had been mining in those regions about 1200 years ago.

"Prof. Dawson communicated some facts collected by a mission-

ary to the Island of Aneiteum one of the new Hebrides. The people were of the Papuan or Austral negro race, perhaps with some intermixture of the Polynesian. Their colour a dark copper, their forms undersized and slender, and the hair crisp but round oval in its cross-section, and more smooth on the surface than that of the European, with the internal fibrous structure very strongly developed, and an intense brownish colour. It was trained by the chiefs in slender locks, bound together by vegetable fibre. He mentioned some facts relating to the religious observances of this race, apparently one of the most degraded on the globe. Travellers and even missionaries often did great injustice to barbarous people, by representing that they worshipped objects, which were in fact merely symbols of the spiritual beings to whom they rendered their devotion. Some tribes allied to these had even been represented as having no religious ideas. His friend Mr. Geddie, missionary in this island, had found on the contrary that these islanders believe in a number of spiritual beings called Natmasses, apparently identical with the Nats of Burmah, and with the genii and demi-gods of other mythologies. One of these superior to the rest had drawn up the island from the depths of the ocean when fishing. The others were the special deities of particular places and objects. They were worshipped by means of sacred stones. Some of these are pieces of vesicular trap in the cavities of which the spirits were supposed to reside; others were of rounded, conical and cylindrical forms, due to weathering and beach rolling. Another object of veneration was the decayed trunk of a tree, having a rude resemblance to the human form, and perforated by cavities apparently caused by decay, and in which the spiritual essence was believed to reside. It was unnecessary to point out the essential identity of this religious system with the prevalent mythologies of antiquity, though the rudeness of its appliances corresponded with the low state of civilization of the people.

He concluded by mentioning that these islanders apparently so degraded, had already received a considerable amount of civilization; a christian church had been organised among them, and he had a copy of the gospel according to St. John, which was printed from type set by them alone."

(To be continued in our next.)

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—His Lordship Bishop Fulford of Montreal, is now in England for the interest of his diocese. His Lordship before leaving, kindly offered to aid the Department of public instruction, in establishing an intercourse between the educational institutions of England and those of Canada, and his offers have been as a matter of course gladly availed of.

—A normal school for the state of Illinois is building at Bloomington. The act providing for its erection enacts that the avails of the Seminary and University funds should be appropriated for the support of the institution, but that no part thereof could be used in purchasing sites or erecting buildings. It was thought proper that these essentials should be provided gratuitously by any city or county where the school should be located. The board of Education was instructed to locate the Normal University in that city or town, accessible and not otherwise objectionable which should offer the greatest donation. It was understood that the central portions of the town were "accessible" and then competition ran high. At first almost every enterprising town in the interior took the initiatory steps towards making a bid; but sometime before the day for opening the proposals it was whispered round that Bloomington and Peoria were ahead of all other competitors. Most of the smaller towns decline to submit their proposals, and the contest virtually lay between the two cities. The board visited these points and examined the sites offered. Upon opening the bids it was found that Peoria had offered \$30,000 and Bloomington \$140,000.

The institution was of course located at Bloomington. The building will be three stories high exclusive of the basement, 166 long, 100 feet wide and 156 feet from the ground.—*Illinois Teacher*.

—The Reverend Mr. Cornish, B. A. of London, has been appointed to the chair of English Literature, and Mr. Johnson, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, has been called to the chair of Mathematics in the McGill University. Mr. Markgraff, professor of German language has been named librarian and assistant secretary.

—Mr. Paul Stevens formerly of *La Patrie* and the author of a volume of *Fables* in verse, has been named professor of French literature in the College of Chambly. Mr. Stevens is a native of Belgium.

—The Reverend Mr. Aubry, for a great many years a professor of theology in the Seminary of Quebec, and lately attached to the Bishop of Three Rivers as archdeacon, has accepted the professorship of Divinity in the College of Ste. Thérèse de Blainville. Before leaving Three Rivers, the Revd. gentleman was presented with an address signed by all the