

Editorial Notices, &c.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—One hundred and twenty four names have been admitted on the books as Students of the Normal School during the Winter Session, besides many applications rejected for want of qualifications in the candidates. This is the largest number yet admitted to the Normal School, at the commencement of any one Session.

SCHOOL HOUSE ARCHITECTURE.—In the present number we conclude the articles and illustrations intended for this volume on School house Architecture. In the prospectus of the volume we expressed our intention to furnish at the rate of one illustration each month. We have given more than three times that number. The illustrations in the present number are from an excellent work, entitled *The School and School Master*, by BISHOP POTTER, of Philadelphia, and the Rev. G. B. EMERSON, of Boston.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SOUND EDUCATION OF EACH VOTER.—In the Rev. Mr. MAY's Lecture on the Importance of our Common Schools, delivered at Boston, before the *American Institute of Instruction*, the following singular incidents are mentioned:—

"Some of the most momentous measures of our State and National Governments have been decided by the votes of one or two individuals. In the decision of the Missouri question, two votes only enlarged the borders and rivited the curse of slavery upon our country. And it is, I believe, susceptible of proof, that the war with England in 1812 would not have been waged, but for one vote given in a passion by an obscure individual in Rhode Island. That vote affected the election of that one member of the United States Senate, to whose vote at an important crisis may be ascribed the subsequent decision of the Senate, to plunge our country into the horrors and vast expenditure of that useless conflict."

INTELLECTUAL LABOURERS.—"Zeno and Chrysispus," says Seneca, "did greater things in their studies, than if they had led armies, borne offices, or given laws, which indeed they did, not to one city alone, but to all mankind."

PROGRESS OF THE COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE LONDON DISTRICT.—*Extract of the Report of W. ELLIOT, Esq., District Superintendent, presented to the Municipal Council last month.*—"It is nearly four and a half years since I had the honour to be intrusted with the confidence of the District Council as Superintendent of the Common Schools of the District. I will not say that the improvements in those Schools which I then hoped to witness, have been realized. But I can say that I believe the progress which the cause of popular instruction has made in this District during that time, has yet been onward. It is true there are many localities which at this moment seem to furnish a contradiction to this assertion. But take the District at large, and it will be found that many new schools have been established in the recently settled parts of the Townships where before there was none—many school houses of a better description have been erected—a better supply of books procured—and upon the whole, the character of the Teachers has been raised and remuneration increased. The cause of education then, I would say, has prospered thus far in the District, that the means of instruction in elementary branches is furnished to every parent who is disposed to avail himself of the opportunity; a system of public instruction has been firmly established, and a conviction of the high necessity of instructing the youth seems to have become more general among our population. But beyond this, there remains much to be done before we shall see our Schools upon that thoroughly efficient footing which is desirable."

Statistics of French Literature.—It is calculated that from the 1st January, 1840, to the 1st August, 1849, there were issued from the press in France, 87,000 new works, volumes and pamphlets; 3,700 reprints of ancient literature, and French classic authors; and 4,000

translations from modern languages—one third of the latter from the English, the German and the Spanish coming next in numbers, and the Portuguese and Swedish languages having furnished the smallest contributions. Nine hundred dramatic authors are named of pieces produced on the stage, and afterwards published: 60 only of comedies and dramas not acted. Among the published works are 200 on Occult Sciences, Canibalism, Chiromancy, Necromancy, &c. and 75 volumes on heraldry and Genealogy. Social Science, Fourierism, Communism, and Socialism of all sects, count 20,000 works of all sizes; 6,000 Romances and Novels; and more than 800 works of Travel. According to a calculation, for which the authority of M. Didot's (the publisher) name is given, the paper employed in the printing of all these works would more than twice cover the surface of the 86 departments of France.—[Galilvani.]

Families of Literary Men.—The *Quarterly Review*, in discussing an objection to the Copyright bill of Mr. Sergeant Talfourd, which was taken by Sir Edward Sugden, gives some very curious particulars about the progeny of literary men. "We are not," says the writer, "going to speculate about the causes of the fact, but a fact it is, that men distinguished for extraordinary intellectual power of any sort, rarely leave more than a very brief line of progeny behind them. Men of genius have scarcely ever done so; men of imaginative genius, we might say, almost never. With the one exception of the noble Surrey, we cannot at this moment point out a representative in the male line, even so far down as in the third generation, of any English poet; and we believe the case is the same in France. The blood of beings of that order can seldom be traced far down even in the female line. With the exception of Surrey and Spencer, we are not aware of any great English author of at all remote date, from whose body any living person claims to be descended. There is no other real English poet prior to the middle of the eighteenth century, and we believe no greater author of any sort, except Clarendon and Shaftsbury, of whose blood we have any inheritance amongst us. Chaucer's only son died childless: Shakspeare's line expired in his daughter's only daughter.

None of the other dramatists of that age left any progeny; nor Raleigh, nor Bacon, nor Cowley, nor Butler. The grand-daughter of Milton was the last of his blood. Newton, Locke, Pope, Swift, Arbuthnot, Hume, Gibbon, Cowper, Gray, Walpole, Cavendish (and we might greatly extend the list,) never married. Neither Bolingbroke, nor Addison, nor Warburton, nor Johnson, nor Burke transmitted their blood. M. Renouard's last argument against a perpetuity in literary property is that it would be founding another noblesse. Neither jealous aristocracy nor envious jacobinism need be under much alarm. When a human race has produced its 'bright consummate flower' in this kind, it seems commonly to be near its end."

Poor Goldsmith might have been mentioned in the above list. The theory is illustrated in our own day. The two greatest names in science and in literature, of our time, were Davy and Walter Scott. The first died childless. Sir Walter left four children, of whom three are dead; only one of whom (Mrs. Lockhart) leaving issue; and the fourth though living, and long married has no issue. These are curious facts.

Popular Literature.—The whole subject of popular literature requires the deepest consideration. The press is pouring out every day a tide of books, which distract the attention, weaken the judgment, corrupt the taste, and defy the criticism of the public by their very multitude. Every one, young or old, man or woman, fool or wise, thinks himself able to say something which may catch the public eye, to raise himself either money or notoriety. The whole world is become a great school, where all the pupils have turned themselves into teachers; and the ravenous appetite of an idle people, always craving for some new excitement, or amusement, and ready to swallow the most unwholesome food, is daily stimulating the market. What should we say if a man had the power of volatilizing a grain of arsenic that its effluvia should spread over a whole country, entering into every house, and penetrating to the most vital parts of the body? And yet until it is shown that the human mind is good itself, and the source of good,—that it is not, what we know it to be, save only when purified by religion, corrupt itself and a corrupter of others; this power, which every man possesses and which so many exercise, of diffusing their thoughts over the world, and insinuating them into the heart of a nation, is, in reality, the power of spreading a pestilential miasma.—[Edinburgh Review.]

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