

9. EDUCATION IN PRUSSIA.

Among the debates of the Chamber of Deputies during the last week those respecting the Education Bill claim universal interest. It is notorious that the general education of the people in Prussia is considered to have attained a high and favourable position. It is from the fact that even in the country few are to be found who are unable to read or to write, that the nation has acquired its reputation for intelligence. Few, however, are acquainted with the darker side of the educational question in Prussia. The young candidates who devote themselves to the calling of teachers receive in the seminaries but an indifferent education, that scarcely places them above village schoolmasters. From the beginning they have no prospect of advancement, and the stimulus of ambition in their calling is wanting in their case. Out of the 30,000 elementary schoolmasters the greatest number of those living in the country are literally exposed to famine, and the circumstances in which they are living are worse than those of a day labourer. Their material situation is, besides, one of the most miserable among all classes in Prussia.

No pensions are provided for the schoolmaster, as is done for all other state officials. After a long period of service, when he grows old and is unable to teach any longer, his successor, whose salary is often under £30 a year, is obliged to provide for him, and should his family survive him, it is reduced to beggary. Now, since 1849 the system of tuition in the public schools should, as prescribed in the constitution, have been regulated by a bill, and in 1850 the Minister Von Ladenberg announced its accomplishment. This Minister, however, resigned his position before he could bring in his bill, and ever since that time it has been lying in the office of ecclesiastical affairs without having benefitted the country. Instead of this bill, the successor to the above-mentioned Minister, Herr Von Raumer, ten years ago issued, without the permission of the Chamber, a prescription on the subject under the name of the "Regulative." This bill is, perhaps, one that has been most attacked in Prussia. It not only impresses upon the schools a strictly exclusive confessional character, but it also exchanges an extended animated instruction for a restricted formalism. It prohibits the reading of the great German authors, lessons in natural history, mathematics, and even in universal history. It deemed, moreover, the decimal system to be suspicious. The educational committee of the Chamber, induced by numerous petitions, had moved a resolution to the intent that the bill promised by the constitution had every year become a more urgent necessity and an inevitable duty, and it had at the same time elaborated a series of twenty-four propositions that touch all the above-mentioned evils, and that will serve as a foundation for the expected bill. The Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs did not disavow the unfortunate situation of the schoolmasters, but added, however, that during the last few years more than half a million of dollars had been spent in improving it. The Government, he said, intended to regulate this question, and to effect a reform in educational affairs by means of an ample bill, and for that reason he would be unable to recommend the acceptance of those resolutions, as they would forestall the government. He added, however, that the present state of general political affairs in Germany, which also influenced tuition, had not as yet rendered the bringing forward of the intended bill possible. This declaration, the object of which was evidently to postpone the bill *ad calendas Græcas*, did not, however, satisfy the Chamber. This has now been going on for thirteen years, and after several stormy debates the resolutions have at last passed by a great majority.—*Berlin Correspondent of the Standard*, March 28, 1863.

VI. Biographical Sketches

No. 28.—THE HON. MR. WALKER.

The Hon. Wm. Walker, of the Legislative Council, died yesterday in Quebec. He was a Crown appointed member; and his death will therefore not necessitate an election. Born in Scotland, he came to Canada in 1815, and was for many years engaged in mercantile business in Quebec and Montreal. In 1837 he was appointed a member of the Special Council. He was the first Chancellor of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, which conferred upon him the degree of D.C.L.; was first President of the Quebec and Rivière-du-Loup Railway Company, before its amalgamation with the Grand Trunk; was for many years President of the Board of Trade of Quebec; President of the Bank of Montreal; Deputy Master of the Trinity House, and was part owner and one of the building committee of the seagoing steamer *Royal William*, constructed at Quebec, which was the first steam vessel which crossed the Atlantic ocean. He was called to the Legislative Council by Royal Mandamus, 19th August, 1842.

No. 29.—LIEUT.-GEN. T. J. ("STONEWALL") JACKSON.

The death of this memorable man, on the 10th ult., has sent a thrill of sorrow far beyond the confines of the Confederacy which his skill and valour has so materially aided to establish. Born in Lewis county, Virginia, in the year 1826, and left an orphan at an early age, Jackson's family influence enabled him to enter the Military Academy at West Point in his seventeenth year. He was graduated thence in 1846, in the same class with McClellan, received the usual appointment of brevet second lieutenant, and was assigned to duty in the Second Regular Artillery. It was the time of the Mexican troubles, and Jackson saw his first military service under Magruder, in his celebrated battery, which went through the campaign. On the 20th of August, 1847, he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant; was soon after breveted to a captaincy, for gallant conduct at Confreras and Chumubusco; and became a major for bravery at Chapultepec. On the 20th of February, 1852, he resigned his position in the army on account of impaired health, and accepted a professorship at the Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. Appointed to a colonelcy in the Southern army of Virginia, Jackson advanced from Harper's Ferry with a considerable force, and occupied that post on the 18th of April, 1861. On the 2nd of the following July, he was attacked at Martinsburg by Gen. Patterson, and was obliged to retreat. From that time until the first battle of Bull Run, Jackson did good service to the Southern cause—dashing here and there—committing depredations—and entitling himself to the reward of a Brigadier-Generalship, which was bestowed upon him. During the winter of 1861-2, his forces remained at Centerville; but while McClellan was removing his army to the Peninsula, Jackson went into Western Virginia. Hastening back to Richmond, he was in time to take part in the battles before Richmond, which closed the disastrous campaign of the Federal forces on the Peninsula. Untiring and zealous, Jackson retraced his steps to Northern Virginia, and, with a large force, led the advance of Lee's army in its campaign against Pope; crossed the Potomac into Maryland; occupied the city of Frederick; recrossed the river; moved westward, and again captured Harper's Ferry; and returned to Maryland, to take his usual prominent part in the battle of Antietam. Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General in the Confederate army, Jackson was in command of a heavy force at Fredericksburg, at the attack upon that place by Burnside, and again in the recent movement of Hooker; and it was in the terrible contest at Chancellorsville that he found the end of his career. He left the field and went home to die at the early age of 37.

INCIDENTS OF HIS MILITARY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE.

The incidents which are told of this able and daring leader would fill a volume. They all hinge upon the sincerity of his zeal, his personal bravery, his dash and courage in military operations, and the remarkable influence which he exercised over his men. Jackson was a very religious man. While in command at Winchester, he took a prominent part in revivals, and habitually led the "Union prayer meetings." A servant of his, captured by the Federal forces not long ago, says that before entering upon an engagement, his master always retired to his quarters to pray. Nor was he devoid of generosity. There is a story, that when the surgeon of one of the Indiana regiments and two of his brother officers were captured by a party of Ashby's cavalry and taken before Jackson, he said, "It was you, gentlemen, who lately saved the property of a dear friend of mine in the valley from the fury of your own men. I thank you. Have you any means of transportation back to your regiment?" "We have not, General." He then gave them horses, an escort, and one hundred dollars, and courteously dismissed them on their parole. In society he is quiet but cheerful; not loquacious, but intelligent and shrewd; in religion, a strict Presbyterian, and extremely strict in his church observances. As there are many conflicting reports about the origin of the name of "Stonewall," it may be interesting to repeat the true circumstances under which it was given. In the first battle of Manassas, July 21st, 1861, General Bee, of South Carolina (himself subsequently killed in the same action), observing his men flinching and wavering, called out to them to stand firm, exclaiming "Look at Jackson's men; they stand like a stone wall!" In his official report of the battle, General Beauregard employed the same expression in connection with General Jackson's command, and the name has clung to General Jackson ever since.

OFFICIAL ORDERS REGARDING HIS DEATH.

"Chancellorsville, May 4.

"To Lieutenant-General T. J. Jackson.
"General,—I have just received your note informing me that you were wounded. I cannot express my regret at the occurrence. Could I have directed events, I should have chosen, for the good of the country, to have been disabled in your stead. I congratulate you upon the victory, which is due to your skill and energy.

"Most truly yours,

R. E. LEE, General."