College have formed themselves into a Society, similar to the Association of the University of Toronto under the title of "The McGill University Society." Alexander Morris, Esq., M. A., is the President.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

Oxford University Accounts for 1856.—From an abstract of the general accounts of the University for the year ending Nov. 6, 1856, prepared by the delegates of accounts and issued by the Vice-Chancellor, we find the total amount of payments is £28,172 against the receipts of £22,638, making a loss of £5,533 6s 11d in the year. The chief expenses of the University are as follow:—purchase of estate near the parks from Merton College, with interest for one year, £9,634; stipends due annually by statute or by decree of Convocation, £7,147 13s 8d; police account, Bodleian Library account, lighting and paving rates, and other payments, formerly charged on the university dues, £6,003 5s 1d; law charges, and and other miscellaneous payments, £1,566 14s 6½d; returned to the Lords of the Treasury for the Parliamentary grant to the professors, paid in error for the year 1855, £890 9s 4d; payments fixed by ancient custom or decree of Convocation, £7,91 18s; grants of money by decree of Convocation, £784 9s; schools accourt, £532 2s 2d. Balance in favour of the University, Nov. 6, 1855, £8,666 4s 2¾d; receipts for the year 1856, £22,638 14s 5½d; making a total of receipts of £31,304 19s 8¼d. Deduct payments for the year, £28,172 0s 4d½d; leaving a balance in favour of the University, Nov, 6, 1856, of £3,132 18s 3¾d.

—— Working Men's College affiliated.—The Senate of the University of London have resolved to admit the Working Men's College in the University.

—— Medical Students—London.—The number of medical students now pursuing their studies at the various metropolitan hospitals amounts to 1,080.

—— Death of Dr. Paris.—It is with very sincere regret that we announce the death of this excellent and distinguished man Few men have run so long and at the same time so honorable a career. For half a century precisely, Dr. Paris had practised as a physician and had risen to the very highest honors which it was in the power of his professional brethren to bestow. He was born at Cambridge.

—— Queen's College, Ireland.—A late London *Gazette* contains the appointment of the Commissioners to inquire into the progress and condition of Queen's Colleges at Belfast, Cork, and Galway respectively. They iconsist of the Marquis of Kildare, Sir T. N. Redington, B, Price, Esq., and J. Gibson, Esq.

—— Independent College at Halifax.—It is proposed to erect, near Manchester, a new Congregationalist College, at a cost of £20,000. The Halifax *Guardian*, referring to this project, says:—"The liberality of the Messrs. Crossley, of this town, seems to know no bounds. This week John Crossley, Esq., has commenced preparations for erecting a college which, when completed, is to vie with the schools at Harrow and Rugby, and other equalty celebrated scholastic establishments. We have not seen the plans for the architectural elevation, but we understand the college will be a massive building, with a large spire and four small towers, and, from its elevated position, will form a grand object for observation for many miles round. When completed, there will be ample accommodation for 130 pupils, and nine resident masters, with the principal. The large dining hall will be on the south side of the college, and from its windows a most extended view of the neighbouring hills will be obtained. The school-room is on the osposite side of the of the college, and both rooms are to be perfect gems. Commodious class-rooms, baths, lavatories, museum, and library are to occupy the ground-floor, all of which wil be communicated with by a spacious corridor lighted from the roof. This munificent and princely gift to the town and neighborhood cannot be too highly estimated.

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

——Science In France.—The prize of thirty thousand francs instituted by the Emperor of the French for the most notable discovery in science, has been awarded to M. Fizeau for his experiments and demonstrations on the rapidity of the movement of light.—M. Carrere has shown to the Academy that Newton's rings may be reproduced by letting fall on water a drop of a solution of bitumen of Judea, with benzine and naphtha. It is a curious optical experiment, and the more so, as the film may be taken off the surface of the water on a sheet of paper, and kept, when dry, for permanent observation.—The French Government have established a system of meteorological observations for the whole of France, and observations are now sent every day to the central observatory at Paris; five meteorological observatories are also to be started in Algiers, three on the coast and two in the interior, whereby some knowledge will be arrived at of the atmospheric and other climatic phenomena of that part of Africa.—The spongy metals discovered by M. Chenat are found applicable to purposes for which castings have hitherto been used. The metal is subjected to hydraulic pressure, and any variety of form and surface may be produced, solid and durable, with great economy of time and expense.

——Another Metal Discovered.—Dr. Hoffman, following in the wake of Davy and Deville, has come forward as a discoverer of metal. In a lecture delivered by him lately at the British Royal Institution, he exhibited a bright glistening mass, something resembling butter, and described it as ammonium—the metallic base of ammonia. This is regarded as a highly interesting chemical fact, inasmuch as it strengthens the views entertained respecting the constituents of the atmosphere, viz: that they are all metallic.

——Marbleizing Plaster Objects.—Objects in plaster of Paris are now rendered like marble, by coating them, one or more times, with a liquid of two parts stearine and two parts Venetian soap, with 20 or 30 parts of cold solution of caustic potassia; then add one part of pearlash, and cold ley sufficient to produce perfect flexibility.

——American Patents in 1856.—It appears from the classification of patents granted last year, that New England, with about one-ninth of the population of the country, has nearly a third of the patents. New York, with about one-eighth of the population, has also nearly a third, and more than all New England. Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New Jersey, among the other States, are those which exhibit the greatest inventive activity. More patents have been granted to residents of the District of Columbia, in proportion to the population, than to any other territory.

——Revolving Obliterating Stamp.—The Postmaster-General has been pleased to grant Mr. John Gilchrist, a stamper in the General Post-office, Edinburgh, a gratuity of £10, in consideration of that officer's zeal and ingenuity in bringing to perfection a revolving obliterating stamp.

——Lightning Rods attracting Lightning.—Sir Snow Harris has made a valuable scientific report to Parliament, in which he refutes the fallacy of the unphilosophical assumption that lightning rods "attract" the lightning, and so act as efficient safeguards. It is proved by an extensive induction of facts, and a large generalization in the application of metallic conductors, that metallic substances have not exclusively in themselves any more attractive influence for the agency of lightning than other kinds of common matter; but that, on the contrary, by confining and restraining the electrical discharge within a very narrow limit, the application of a small rod or wire of metal to a given portion of a building is in reality highly objectionable.

——Novel Meteorological Theory.—The late fearful inundations in France have set the philosophers and savans of Paris to speculating upon the probable causes of a calamity which, with more or less violence, afflicts the country periodically. At a late sitting of the Academy of Science, an essay was read on the subject, in which the idea was advanced that the overflows of the rivers are chiefly occasioned by the sirocco from Africa. It is conjectured that the hot blast in its course over the sea causes a rapid and copious evaporation, and that the vapors are carried by it and finally condensed amid the cold atmosphere of the mountains in the centre, East and South of France, where they descend and flow into the plain and valleys in fierce torrents, whose volume is swollen by the waters of the melting snows. This is at least an ingenious and plausible theory, whatever may be its practical value.

——Instrument for Determining Latitude.—An English mechanician has invented a very ingeniously constructed nautical instrument for accurately determining both latitude and lodgitude, without the assistance of a chronometer and without lunar observations—an observation of the sun only, being required.

——British Commerce.—No fact can more clearly show the enormous activity of British commerce than this—that the exports of our home produce and manufactures for eleven months of the past year exceed by £10,000,000 in value our similar exports for the whole of the preceding