

father, he can multiply fifteen figures by fifteen without seeing them, but by a peculiar process. One of the grandsons showed a very marked degree of mechanical ingenuity. Even the granddaughters possessed extraordinary powers of calculation. George Bidder's elder brother, a Unitarian minister, was not remarkable as an arithmetician, but had an extraordinary memory for Bible texts, and could quote almost any text in the Bible, and give chapter and verse. Another brother was an excellent mathematician, and was actuary of a great life insurance company.

THE GRAVE OF COLUMBUS.

It is generally supposed that the bones of Christopher Columbus, the great explorer, are at Havana, in the island of Cuba. But recent investigations have brought to light the fact that it was Columbus' son who was removed there. Let us go back to the first resting place of Columbus, for death did not end his voyages.

He died in 1506 in Valladolid, north-central part of Spain, where he was buried. Then he was removed farther south to Seville and a handsome monument erected by Ferdinand and Isabella; on it were engraved these words:

"To Castile and Leon
Colon gave a new world."

Columbus had made a request in his will that he should be buried in his beloved Hispaniola, and now this idea was brought forward and his remains deposited in the cathedral of Santo Domingo, Hayti. Here also his son Diego, and grandson Luis were interred.

At the close of the war between France and Spain, in 1795, it was stipulated that Spain should cede to the French "all the Spanish part of the island of Santo Domingo," or Hayti. Accordingly, Columbus was once more—as then thought—exhumed and conveyed to Havana with great pomp and ceremony. And a slab which marks the place has engraved in Spanish,

"Oh, rest thee, image of the great Colon,
Thousand centuries remain guarded in the urn,
And in the remembrance of our nation."

In 1877, while men were working in the cathedral of San Domingo, they found a metallic casket which held human remains; on the cover, under the dust and dirt of three hundred years, were found the words, "Discoverer of America, First Admiral, most illustrious and renowned personage, Don Cristoval Colon." Every one who was present accepted this proof that the body of the great discoverer had not been taken away to Havana, but was before their eyes, and Diego's had been removed by a mistake. So, now, the matter rests in this way. Learned scholars are thinking of erecting a monument which should belong to the world, and not limited to the gratification of local or national pride. But such things move slowly, and perhaps it will never be accomplished.—*Scholar's Companion*.

STATISTICS OF POPULATION.

In "Petermann's Mittheilungen" the population of the globe is estimated, for 1877, at 1,429,145,000 souls, occupying a superficial area of 134,460,000 square kilometres. Inhabitants are distributed among the continents as follows: in Europe, 312,398,480; in Asia, 813,000,000; in Africa, 205,219,600; in Australia and its islands, 4,411,300; in America, 86,116,000. Between 1875 and 1877, the whole population increased by 42,000,000. This increase, however, does not depend on the very great excess of births over deaths, but is the result of more accurate enumeration, and more extended knowledge of various localities. The populations of European countries, in 1877, were: Belgium, 5,336,185; Holland, 3,865,456; England, 34,242,966; Italy, 27,769,475; Germany, 42,727,360; France, 36,905,788; Switzerland, 2,759,854; Austria, 37,350,000; Denmark, 1,905,000; Spain, 16,526,511; Portugal, 4,057,538; Greece, 1,457,894; European Turkey (exclusive of the tributary states), 9,578,000; European Russia, 72,392,927; Sweden and Norway, 6,237,268. As regards the proportion of the sexes, there were to 1,000 men in the Canary Islands 1,208 females; in Sweden, 1,064; Switzerland, 1,045; England, 1,043; Germany, 1,037; Austria, 1,024; Russia, 1,022; Spain, 1,016; France, 1,007; Italy, 989; Belgium, 985; Greece, 983; North America, 978; Brazil, 938; Egypt, 1,025; Japan, 971; Siberia, 934.

COMMON-SENSE IN EMERGENCIES.—The story is told of Brunel, the eminent engineer and builder of the Thames tunnel, that one day, while amusing a child with tricks of sleight-of-hand, he attempted one which resulted in a serious accident to himself, and at the same

time illustrated the danger of playing pranks with the mouth. The trick consisted in adroitly concealing a half sovereign in his mouth and pretending to bring it out at his ear. All at once to his dismay the coin slipped down into his gullet, and there stuck, in spite of every effort, surgical or otherwise, to dislodge it. In this dilemma common-sense came to the rescue. Brunel himself devised an apparatus to which he was strapped head downward, keeping his mouth open, when, to his inexpressible relief, the coin dropped from its dangerous position and rolled out upon the floor. A sword-swallower, who once lost a bayonet in his throat during one of his public performances, resorted to similar means for recovering it, and was equally successful.

—Henry Clay once said: "I owe my success in life to one fact, namely: At the age of twenty-seven I commenced and continued for years the practice of reading and speaking upon the contents of some historical or scientific book. These off-hand efforts were made sometimes in a cornfield, at others in a forest, and not unfrequently in some distant barn, with the horse and ox for my auditors. It is to this early practice in the great art of arts that I am indebted for the primary and leading impulse that stimulated me forward and shaped and moulded my entire subsequent destiny. Improve, then, young gentlemen, the superior advantages you here enjoy. Let no day pass without exercising your power of speech. There is no pay like oratory. Caesar controlled men by exciting their fears; Cicero by captivating their affections and swaying their passions. The influence of the one perishes with the author; that of the other continues to this day."

Notes and News

ONTARIO.

Mr. J. A. Clarke, M.A., B.Sc., after spending a term at the Science School Faraday, Victoria University, Cobourg, accepted the head-mastership of the high school, Smiths Falls, where he has been doing good work. Mr. J. M. Buchan, High School Inspector, on a recent visit pronounced the Smiths Falls High School to be in the best condition he had ever seen it, and expressed his opinion that the prospects for its success in the future were very hopeful.

We find the following note in an exchange: "Every Chatham school teacher (the gentlemen at all events, if not the ladies) is not only expected to attend the Association meetings, but to write out an independent synopsis thereof for the School Board. It is rumored that brevity in such reports is not a wholly displeasing feature to the scholastic magnates before whom these resumes are read."

Thirty-six pupils from Watdown High School are intending to write for the Intermediate Examination.

A monthly record of class work done in the Milton Public School is published in the local newspaper.

The separate schools at Lindsay have received special commendation from Dr. J. A. McLellan, High School Inspector. Of the primary schools he states that they are well conducted and doing satisfactory work; of the advanced, that the scholars did unusually well in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic. In the last subject the answering was very good. Of the select school he reports that the answering would have done credit to any high school. The training and culture of the pupils met with the Inspector's warmest praise. We congratulate the Rev. Father Stafford and the teachers on the efficiency of these schools, which reflects much credit on his superintendence and their close attention to their important work.

Mr. Cortez Fessenden, H. M. Napanee High School, has been appointed a member of the Board of Examiners for Public Schools.

The students of Toronto Normal School presented Rev. Dr. Davies, Principal, with an address at the close of the last session, thanking him and his fellow-teachers for the deep interest shown in their welfare during the session.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The annual examination for Teachers' Licenses takes place on the 19th inst. and following days.

The second Annual Meeting of the Provincial Educational Association is announced to be held at Truro on the 13th and 14th of this month. The indications are that the sessions will be of great interest. The important matter of a uniform course of study for the Public Schools comes up for discussion. We hope to give a full report next month.

The Anniversary Exercises of Acadia College were held in the