

voted to Mr. Perrault and to the Quebec Education Society for the introduction of the Lancasterian system, a deaf and dumb institute at Quebec was also provided for, and, under the auspices of Mr. Ronald Macdonald, who had been instructed by Mr. Leclerc, himself a disciple of the Abbé de Lepeée, it realised every expectation.

"Various wise enactments for collecting statistics, for visiting schools by Members of Parliament, and for the distribution of prize-books, were made. One of the statutes provided also for the erection of a normal school; and the Rev. John Holmes, principal of the Seminary of Quebec, was sent to Europe with a view of visiting the normal schools of the old world, and of procuring professors, books, apparatus, and collections of natural history. He returned towards the end of 1836, with Mr. Regnaud, the director of a normal school in France, and Mr. Findlater from Scotland. A Normal School was opened in Montreal; but the troubles having broken out a short time after, and the Constitution having been suspended, the school had to be given up. Mr. Findlater went back to Scotland, and Mr. Regnaud, finding employment here as a land surveyor, remained in the country. The provisions for the maintenance of the Common Schools having been allowed to fall through by the Legislative Council, during its quarrels with the House of Assembly, the system which had been gradually maturing itself, was destroyed. This was the second great blow aimed at the educational institutions of Lower Canada. The first was the confiscation of the Jesuits' and Franciscan estates, shortly after the Conquest. When the second calamity befell us, there was under the operation of the law 1600 schools, wherein 40,000 children were taught; most of which had to be closed. In the meantime, however, several colleges had been erected and were in a most flourishing condition. When Lord Durham came here, with all the powers and attributes of vice-royalty, he found, as he has stated, Lower Canada in the anomalous position of a country where superior education was amply provided for, while nothing almost was done for elementary education. In his Report, he paid however to our classical institutions a just tribute of praise.

"After the Union of the Provinces, the Legislature passed, in 1841, a law for the establishment and maintenance of public schools. It provided for the appointment of a Superintendent of Education for the whole Province, and appropriated a sum of £50,000 for the support of common schools, to be apportioned between the several municipal districts in proportion to the number of children of school age in each of them. The Hon. Mr. Jamieson was appointed Superintendent under this law; but to meet the wants of the two sections of the Province, the Rev. Mr. Murray and Dr. Meilleur were also appointed Superintendents, the former for Upper and the latter for Lower Canada. Dr. Meilleur had been for several years a Member of the Provincial Parliament of Lower Canada, and had published various elementary works. He had also been one of the founders and directors of the College of Assumption. In 1845 another law was passed, applying chiefly to Lower Canada, and providing for the appointment of a Superintendent for each section, and containing a great many new regulations, that had been omitted in the first law. This was again superseded by the law of 1846, which is the foundation of the several laws now in force. One of its most important features was that it made the assessment compulsory, and did away with the voluntary contributions. That important step was however altered in 1849, when a law containing various amendments, most of which, giving to the Superintendent powers of a quasijudicial nature in matters controverted between the parties to the school law, restored the voluntary contribution; which however at present, in most of the Municipalities, the good sense of the people has set aside for the legal assessment. It also contained new provisions concerning the monthly fees, and the powers of the Boards of Examiners. Another law, passed in 1851, provided for the establishment of a Normal School and for the appointment of School Inspectors. In 1855, Dr. Meilleur resigned his office, and was appointed to that of postmaster at Montreal. He left a name untarnished for his assiduity, perseverance, and integrity, and, considering the great difficulties he had to contend with, by the violent opposition to school assessments made in several parts of the country by contemptible seekers of popular fame, justly branded with the French name of *leigneurs*, he may be said to have been generally successful in his administration. He was succeeded by the Hon. Pierre J. O. Chauveau, who had been a Member of Parliament for the County of Quebec during eleven years, and had filled successively the offices of Solicitor General for Lower Canada and of Secretary of the Province.

"In his first report, Mr. Chauveau recommended various reforms; and for the accomplishment of most of them, two laws were passed in the session of 1856. One of them chiefly relates to superior, and

the other to elementary education. The most important features of this new legislation consisted in providing for the distribution through the Superintendent, and on his report, of the annual grants to Universities, Colleges, Academies, and Model Schools; the creation of several Normal Schools instead of one; the publication of Journals of Education; the appointment of a Council of Public Instruction; and the creation of a teachers' pension fund, on the same principle as that of Upper Canada. With the exception of the appointment of the Council of Public Instruction, these measures have all been carried into effect. There are now published two Journals of Education, one in French and the other in English. They are issued alternately every fortnight, are conducted by the Superintendent with an assistant for each of them, and, with the exception of the official notices, the articles and selections are different in each. The price of subscription is one dollar for each. Teachers are allowed a copy of both, or two copies of either, for the same price. It is sent free to public institutions, and to the School Commissioners for their use and that of teachers unable to subscribe. Each number contains one or more illustrations. The issue of the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique* is 4,000 copies, that of the *Journal of Education* 2,000. The former has nearly 900 paying subscribers, the latter about 300.

The Jacques Cartier and McGill Normal Schools were inaugurated in Montreal on the 3rd of March 1857. The Laval Normal School was opened at Quebec on the 15th of May. The McGill Normal School is intended for Protestants, and the teaching is carried on chiefly in the English language; but the French language is also taught with great care. The two others are intended for Catholics; and the teaching is carried on chiefly in French. The English language is however taught to the French pupils; and arrangements have been made that instruction may be also imparted to any English pupil-teacher in his own vernacular. In their Model Schools there are French and English teachers, about an equal number of children of each origin, and the two languages are placed precisely on the same footing. The McGill Normal School started with the boys' and girls' department in full operation. The girls' department of the Laval Normal School was opened on the 15th of September. The girls are boarders at the Ursuline Convent, but the instruction is chiefly imparted to them by the professors of the Normal School. The girls' department of the Jacques Cartier Normal School is not yet organized.

The Model Schools attached to the McGill Normal School number 220 children, those of the Laval Normal School about 300, and that of Jacques Cartier 82. The pupils of the Jacques Cartier Normal School who have obtained diplomas have all been hired, with salaries of, from £90 to £120, exclusive of lodging.

Besides carrying into effect the several provisions of the laws above mentioned, Mr. Chauveau has also re-organized the department by the appointment of more clerks and a better division of labor; he assisted in the organization of the Associations of Teachers in connexion with the Normal Schools; caused the distribution of prize-books by the Inspectors on their visits; and formed the nucleus of a departmental library, which numbers about 3000 volumes. The pecuniary responsibility of the office has been greatly increased by the new law; and from the 1st of January to the end of August 1856, 17s. 10d., were distributed through the Education Office. The correspondence is also daily increasing. During the first six months of 1857 no less than 3,824 letters and reports were received, and 10,557 letters and circulars sent from the office of the Department."

THE NATIONAL ARITHMETIC on the inductive system, combining the analytic and synthetic methods, forming a complete course of higher arithmetic, by Benjamin Greenleaf, A. M., Boston, 1757; 1 vol. large octavo 444 pages.

This work seems to have been compiled with great care, and is highly spoken of by our American exchanges.

DICTIONNAIRE HISTORIQUE des hommes illustres du Canada et de l'Amérique par Eliaud Jene, Montreal, 1857, 380 pages in-12o. This interesting work has been published in numbers, the last of which is just issued. It contains information which could be found nowhere else, on most of the public and literary men of Canada, from the earliest history of the colony to the present day.

ÉTUDES sur l'Instruction Publique chez les Canadiens-Français par M. D. P. Myrand—Quebec, J. T. Brousseau. First edition 16 pages royal 8o., second edition 24 pages 8o.

M. Myrand has already given two editions of this valuable pamphlet, containing the reprint of a series of articles which appeared in the *Courrier du Canada*, and to which we alluded at the time of their publication. The second edition was got up at our special request, and is revised and improved by the addition of summaries to each chapter.