

**OXYGEN MAGNETIC.**—Mr. Faraday, at the last monthly meeting of the Royal Institution, announced to the members present his discovery (the subject of a paper sent in to the Royal Society) that oxygen is magnetic, that this property of the gas is affected by heat, and that he believed the diurnal variation of the magnetic needle to be due to the action of solar heat on this newly discovered characteristic of oxygen—the important constituent of the atmosphere. We do not mean to give the above as the terms of Faraday's announcement, or as the exact facts of the conclusion drawn from his last experimental researches, but only as a foreshadowing of the new result and views of one of our most eminent British philosophers. We must add, however, that Becquerel also has recently directed attention to a somewhat similar conclusion; he communicated to the Academy of Sciences at Paris, that oxygen is magnetic in relation to the other gases, as iron is to the rest of the metals, and inferred that it is probable or possible (we have not the paper by us to refer to) that the diurnal variation may be connected with this property of oxygen.—*Literary Gazette.*

**Newspapers and Periodicals.**—One hundred and fifty years ago there was not a single newspaper in England: and it is not two hundred years since the first idea of a regular newspaper was conceived in that island, to rouse the people to resist the Spanish Armada. Now in the United Kingdom there are 547 newspapers. In the year ending January 5th, 1849, 90,928,408 newspaper stamps were issued in the kingdom, of which 76,180,832 were in England alone. After full and careful examination, it is estimated that the aggregate yearly issue of newspapers, magazines, and reviews, from the City of New York alone, in the year 1849, was 72,810,257, of which between nine and ten millions were periodicals.

### Editorial Notices, &c.

**LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS** are required by the 10th clause of the 31st section of the School Act, to transmit their Annual Reports for 1850 to the Chief Superintendent, "on or before the 1st day of March." It is possible that the Legislature will meet in February. It is therefore important that those Reports should reach the Education Office with the least possible delay, as very little time will remain to prepare the Chief Superintendent's General Annual Report, to lay before the Legislature before it rises. The Session will probably be a short one. We earnestly request that the Superintendents will *add up* each column of their Report before transmitting it to the Educational Department.

**PROGRESS OF FREE SCHOOLS.**—We take the following resolution from the last number of the *Examiner*, illustrating, as it does, the progress of enlightened views upon the subject of Education in the rural School Sections. The resolution was passed at the annual school meeting of Union Section, No. 3, Mariposa and Cartwright:

"Resolved,—That this meeting regards the present School Act as an important improvement on former legislation for the support of Common Schools; and we are of opinion that it only requires the addition [of other funds] to the Common School fund to make it a blessing to the youth of our land; and to enable our patriotic Superintendent to realize what he so ardently hopes to see,—the light of a Free School emitting its splendour and imparting its blessings to every child of every school section in Upper Canada."

Our acknowledgments are due to JAMES W. DAWSON, Esquire, Superintendent of Education for the Province of Nova-Scotia, for a copy of his "Preliminary Report" on Schools; and also for a copy of his Tract on "SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE, abridged from Barnard's School Architecture, with notes" and wood cuts. A copy of this Tract has been furnished to each School District in Nova-Scotia.

**THE SCHOOL REGISTERS** are not quite ready. The orders already sent in to the Education Office will be executed on the completion of the stitching and binding.

### FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

To the Senate and House of Representatives, showing the Operations, Expenditures, and condition of the Institution during the year 1849. Washington, 1850. 8vo., pp. 64.

A most valuable official document, for which we beg to thank the Officers of the Smithsonian Institution. Of the Report of the Secretary (Professor HENRY) on the general operation of the Institution, and of the Assistant Secretary (Professor JEWETT) on Public Libraries

in the United States, we hope to be able to avail ourselves in a future number of the *Journal*. Monthly meteorological returns have been made to the Institution by various gentlemen in each of the American States, as well as from HER MAJESTY'S Magnetical Observatories in Canada, Nova-Scotia, and Newfoundland. From the explanatory synopsis given by the Secretary of the "memoirs" of the forthcoming second volume of "Smithsonian Contributions," we anticipate a deeply interesting and valuable work.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW-YORK CITY AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

To the Hon. CHRISTOPHER MORGAN, State Superintendent of Common Schools, for the year 1849. New-York, 1850. 8vo., pp. 24.

We beg to thank Mr. McKEEN for his Annual Report, from which we hope to select for our next number, some valuable and interesting facts and statistics relating to the progress of popular education and free schools in the City and County of New-York.

### WATER CURE JOURNAL,

And Herald of Reforms. New-York: FOWLER and WELLS. 4to., pp. 24. \$1 per annum.

A very interesting looking publication. Upon its professional merits we can express no opinion, but it appears to be a valuable and spirited periodical. Several of the more important articles and reviews are illustrated with neatly engraved wood cuts.

### METHODIST QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Rev. J. MCCLINTOCK, D.D., Editor. Published by LANE and SCOTT, New-York. January, 1851. 8vo., pp. 186. \$2 per annum.

The literary papers in this number of the Quarterly are most interesting and valuable. They are: "Divine Agency in Material Phenomena;" "Present State of Astronomy;" "Campbell's Life and Letters," and "Neander." The papers on CAMPBELL and NEANDER are written with much genuine sympathy with the peculiarities and characters of these distinguished men. The "Literary Notices" and "Intelligence," &c., evince much industry and ability on the part of the Editor.

### KUHNER'S LATIN GRAMMAR;

With Exercises, Latin Reader, and Vocabularies. Translated and Remodelled by Professor J. T. CHAMPLIN, of Waterville College. Boston, PHILLIPS & Co. 12mo., pp. 435.

This work seems to have been remodelled with great care. The arrangement and division of subjects are very good. The Grammar may be regarded as a production of Professor CHAMPLIN rather than of KUHNER, as it embodies Prof. C.'s own views and modes of teaching the rudiments of the Latin language. It will prove an admirable assistant to a student of the grand and stately language of CICERO and VIRGIL,

**WANTED** a qualified TEACHER for School Section No. 2, 4th Concession Scarboro'. A liberal Salary will be given. Apply to JOHN ELLIOTT, JOHN TEADZEL, or M. MACKLEN, Trustees.—20th Jan., 1851.

**WANTED** a FEMALE TEACHER thoroughly qualified in all the usual branches of a plain English education. Salary £50. Apply to WM. HEPBURN; Secretary, School Trustees, Chippewa.—20th Jan., 1851.

**WANTED** a TEACHER for School Section No. 1, Township of Erin. He must be competent to teach Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Grammar, and the outlines of Geography. Salary £50 per annum. Apply to JAS. TAYLOR, WM. McDONALD, and ALEXANDER LAIRD, Trustees, Erin.—18th January, 1851.

**WANTED** immediately for Section No. 8, Township of Stanley, County of Huron, a good TEACHER. None with less than 2nd class certificates need apply. Address the Trustees, Bayfield, Post Office.—16th January, 1851.

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All communications to be addressed to Mr. J. GEORGE HODGINS, Education Office, Toronto.