

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

### BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society, preceded by the usual examination, took place on Tuesday, May 8th, at the school-room in the Borough-road, London. The Duke of Argyle presided. The reports stated that the average attendance at the model schools during the past year had been 977, affording employment to 32 pupil-teachers. The normal schools had been attended by 148 young men and 157 young women. Certificates of merit had been awarded to 57 students, 55 new Queen's scholars had been admitted, and 140 schools had been supplied with teachers. In the agency department 892 visits of inspection had been paid to schools, in 443 towns and villages; 96 public meetings had been held, and 41 new schools opened, affording education, it was supposed, to 4,000 additional children. Grants had been made to schools in the East and West Indies, Ceylon, New Zealand, and the South Seas, and correspondence maintained with the friends of education in Southern and Western Africa, Canada, Australia, Greece, and Syria. The total receipts of the year had been £17,358, of which £5,425 consisted of legacies; the expenditure, including a payment of loan, £15,691. The meeting was addressed by the Dean of Hereford, Mr. R. A. Slaney, Mr. S. Gurney, and the Revs. W. Cadman, W. Arthur, J. Aldis, and W. Gill: the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

### RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The Eleventh annual meeting of the Ragged School Union was held on Monday, May 7th, at Exeter-hall; the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. It appears that 300 schools connected with the society are now at work in the metropolis. In connection with the institutions now on the society's list there are 113 Sunday-schools, with 14,248 scholars; 79 Day schools, with 10,449 scholars; 108 evening schools, with 7,184 scholars. The increase of scholars during the past year was—in Sunday-schools, 1,148; in Day-schools, 1,449; in industrial classes, 294. The average of shoe-blacks engaged was 95, 54 of whom had been sent out during the last six or seven months. The total earnings were £1,443 7s., and the number of pairs of boots and shoes cleaned 346,404; 837 scholars had been sent from 54 of the schools to situations, the remaining 80 schools not having forwarded their returns. The income of the union was £5,085; the balance at the bankers, £458.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

There is an increase in the Civil Service estimates for the departments of Education, Science, and Art, for the year ending the 31st of March, 1856, amount to £816,323, showing an increase of £92,913 upon the last year. There is an increase of £118,921 under the head of Public Education in Great Britain, and £22,160 in Ireland. The principal item of decrease is from £101,142 to £27,720 for the buildings of the British Museum.

### NON-SECTARIAN EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

The last English mail contains an account of an important public meeting held in Edinburgh, for the purpose of getting a new education measure for Scotland passed. It was resolved by the meeting:—"That the machinery for education in Scotland is not adapted to the present circumstances of the country; that Scotland is ripe for a measure establishing a system by which every child in the kingdom may receive a sufficient education, and that such a system should not be sectarian or exclusive—should not operate by means of Privy Council grants to different associations, but should be national, and not denominational; should recognize the eligibility of the best qualified teachers without regard to sect or party, and should vest the management of schools, the appointment and removal of schoolmasters, the control over the expenditure, and the regulation of the branches of education to be taught, in popularly elected local boards."

## UNITED STATES.

### A NEW SCHOOL LAW FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

A new school bill introduced into the Assembly provides, that on the 1st day of May the Town Superintendents shall meet at the County Clerk's office, and elect, by ballot, certain Deputy Superintendents to hold their offices to January 1, 1857; their successors to hold for three years. Their compensation is to be three dollars per day, when actually in service, to be audited by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and paid out of the United States Deposit Fund. These Deputy Superintendents are to examine the schools as often as possible, to consult with the Trustees, advise in regard to ventilation, play-grounds, outhouses, and to recommend books, to examine

teachers and give and revoke their certificates, and to promote education generally. There is no limitation upon the number of these appointments except that every county must have at least one, and every county with two representatives in the Assembly, must have at least two. The bill proposes to substitute for the present \$800,000, raised for Free School, a three-quarter mill-tax. On the aggregate valuation of 1854, this would amount to \$1,028,115.

### ELMIRA FEMALE COLLEGE.

We learn from the *Elmira Republican* that this institution, the embodiment of a beneficent idea, will be completed at an early day in the month of the coming October. It is a novel experiment, without a precedent in the Union. It will stand in relation to the best existing female seminaries, the same as colleges in their relation to the higher schools and academies, one step in advance.

### THE RIGHTS OF SCHOOLMASTERS AND PARENTS.

A case of considerable interest was tried before Justice Ladd, of Cambridge, recently. A citizen of Newton was complained of for an assault upon the master of a school at that place. It appeared that the master was in the habit, as is now the general custom, of keeping the child of defendant, with other scholars, after school hours, to learn her lessons, which had been imperfectly recited during school hours. The parent believing that the detention was illegal, went to the school-house and demanded his child. This was after regular school hours. The master said that the child should go as soon as she had recited her lesson. The parent attempted to enter the school-room to take his child, but his entrance was resisted by the master, and the assault upon the master was the result. The Court ruled that the keeping of a child until the lessons of the day had been perfected, was legal; that the parent in attempting to enter the school-room, in opposition to the will of the master, was in the wrong; that a child placed at school by the parents is under the control of the master, until regularly dismissed; and that a parent cannot withdraw the child from school during the day against the master's will, except through the intervention of an officer and the school committee. The defendant was fined \$30 and costs.—*Boston Traveller*.

## Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

### MONTHLY SUMMARY.

The *Picton U. C. Gazette* mentions a somewhat extraordinary phenomenon, which occurred on the shores of Prince Edward County, on Wednesday. The water receded to a considerable distance without any assignable cause. In Picton Harbor it fell nearly three feet, and had not, at the time the article was written, recovered its usual level. At Wellington, the water fell between four and five feet, and at South Bay it receded forty-nine paces. . . . The *Manchester (Eng.) Guardian* says:—"We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Nichol, formerly Miss Brontë, who, under the *nom de plume* of Currer Bell, established a lasting reputation by the publication of 'Jane Eyre.' We have two other novels from her pen, 'Shirley,' and 'Vilette,' and all are especially distinguished for great power of conception and vigorous portrayal of character. The unfortunate lady, who was the last survivor of a family of six, died on Saturday, March 31st, at her father's house at Haworth, Yorkshire." . . . Sir Henry De la Beche died on Friday morning, the 12th of April, at ten o'clock. Sir Henry was Director of the Geological Survey, Director of the Museum of Practical Geology, and Director of the Government School of Mines. . . . The *Athenæum* states that Mr. Henry Reeve, translator of De Tocqueville's book on America, has been appointed editor of the *Edinburgh Review*. . . . A memoir of the Rev. Sydney Smith is to be published by his daughter, Lady Holland. . . . Lord Carlisle has resigned the presidency of the Royal Society of Literature, on going to Ireland as lord-lieutenant. . . . One of the last acts of the Emperor Nicholas was to present a diamond ring to a writer named Rottchoff, for a pamphlet entitled, "The Truth about England." . . . Since the commencement of the year 1855 the weekly sale of the *Illustrated London News* has been upward of one hundred and thirty thousand copies. . . . The *Inverness Courier* publishes a letter from a London correspondent who says: "When Thackeray finishes his 'Newcomes,' he will go to America with a new set of lectures all hot for the Yankees, and not delivered here first. I believe Mr. Macaulay's historical volumes 'will' appear this year. Mr. Carlyle is working at the life of Frederick the Great. He seems to get despondent about it occasionally, perhaps from fits of disgust with the characters it brings him into contact with. Mr. Tennyson has a new volume of poems 'written,' which are spoken of as equal to anything he has done; but when