

prizes, as they are called, the winners of which, besides hearing their names proclaimed at the festival of distribution, the grandest in the academic year of the Parisians, are exempted from conscription, and admitted without fee to all Government Schools. A like privilege has just been granted to the pupils, nearly ten times as numerous, of the provincial lyceums and colleges. The pupils of each academic district are first to compete among themselves in order to ascertain the presumptive prizemen—*lauréats*—in each; the *lauréats* of all the provincial academic districts will then compete for three, equal in every respect to those competed for in the metropolitan district. So great a value was set on the Emperor's prizes, given till now only in the metropolitan district, that the provincial lyceums and colleges very generally lost such of their pupils as had any chance of succeeding in the competition for them; and the present extension of the privilege aims expressly at "reviving provincial life, and rekindling centres of light, more than one of which burned brightly in the past."

— The Quakers are establishing a college in Pennsylvania. It is incorporated as Swathmore College, and about \$40,000 have been paid towards the enterprise.

— WILLIAM H. WELLS, Esq.—This distinguished educator has been compelled to resign the office he has honored so long as City Superintendent in Chicago, and henceforth promises himself easier work, with more money, in other fields of labor. The Chicago papers contain the announcement in the following terms:—"The Resignation of William H. Wells, Esq.—Yesterday, at the meeting of the Board of Education, William H. Wells, Esq., the Superintendent of the Public Schools of Chicago, resigned his office, the resignation to take effect at the close of the present school term. We understand that he resigns the post of School Superintendent to take charge of the Illinois Branch Office of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company. As was felt by all, the retirement of Mr. Wells is a calamity to the public schools of Chicago. Able, accomplished, and thorough in all things, he practised a courtesy that reached all hearts, and a firmness that commanded universal respect. He is a man among thousands, and difficult indeed will it be for the board to find any person to succeed him who will bear himself in office as honorably to himself and so satisfactorily to the public."

XI. Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

— SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—At the request of the Council, the Executive Committee has prepared a report on the constitution and operations of the Association. They suggest that the departments should be reduced from six to four, viz.:—*first*, Jurisprudence and the Amendment of the Law; *second*, Education; *third*, Health; *fourth*, Economy and Trade. The department of Reformation has been embraced in that of Education; the department of Trade and International Law, partly in that of Jurisprudence and partly in that of Economy. It is suggested, at the same time, that the departments may be subdivided into sections when it is found advisable. As to the mode of conducting the proceedings at the Annual Congress, the following suggestions are made:—"That the principal subjects for discussion be fixed by the Committees of Departments, in the form of questions, sometime previous to the annual meeting, and with a view, among other considerations, to the specialities of the members likely to attend; that no department or section take up more than one such question on any day; that the committees obtain reports and papers to open the discussion on these questions, without subjecting the authors to the twenty-minute rule; that other papers, nevertheless, may be sent in under that rule at the option of the authors; but that the committees take care that the total number of papers read do not occupy more than one half of the day, the other half being reserved for discussion, under a limit of twenty minutes for each speaker; and that the papers not read may, nevertheless, be published in the *Transactions*, if the council think fit." A new law provides for holding an Annual Business Meeting of the members, at the office of the Association, for the election of the officers and the reception of the accounts. The Eighth Annual Meeting will be held at York, from the 22nd to the 29th of September next, under the presidency of Lord Brougham.

— THE NEW COMET.—Astronomers inform us that the face of the heavens is again about to be changed by the presence of one of those mysterious wanderers of the celestial spaces which from time to time, come into view clothed with great splendour, majestic proportions, and

awfully significant form. This visitation is altogether unheralded. The comet was discovered with a telescopic object, simultaneously at Marseilles and Bologna on the morning of the 6th ultimo. Its parabolic elements, as provisionally determined, indicate that it has never before been observed, at least so as to be computed; and that its future geocentric positions are favourable for its being seen in the evening and morning skies. The time it requires to move around the sun and its physical traits remain therefore, to be ascertained. The last comet of considerable magnitude, visible to the eye, was that discovered at Cambridge by Mr. Tuttle, about midsummer, 1862. It had the form of a Turkish scimitar, and moved out from the north with its convex side in advance. While traversing the arctic constellations it was a marvellously sublime spectacle, and attracted universal attention. The stars shone through its gigantic form, giving it a wondrously picturesque aspect.—Unfortunately this fine comet does not reappear till after the lapse of nearly a century and a half.—*Boston Courier*.

— SCIENCE IN NAPLES.—Prince Ottajano, governor of the Royal Palace of Naples, applies his salary of 1,000 fr. a month to purposes of charity or advancement of science and literature. With the latter intention he has just offered a prize of 1,000 fr. for the best comedy written in Italian by any inhabitants of the Southern provinces of Italy. The pieces are to be sent in to the said Academy on or before the 15th of October.

— THE QUEEN'S MEMOIRS.—The *Cobourg Gazette* states that Queen Victoria is engaged in writing her own memoirs, and that this accounts for her withdrawal from Court receptions, &c.

— BOOK AND COINS.—A very curious book has been published by Harper Brothers, New York, on the "Current Gold and Silver Coins of all Countries," with nine hundred *fac-simile* illustrations in silver and gilt values and denominations. Among the curious facts which it brings out, is the one that the Austrian dollar, coined at the present day, is the exact copy of the dollar of Maria Theresa of 1780.

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Dean of the Faculty—Hon. John Rolph, 56 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, to whom apply for any further information.

Toronto, August 24, 1864.

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July, 1864

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