

of regular and punctual business habits, of tried integrity, one who would, we need not add, commend himself by his past record to the general acceptance of Protestant teachers and other educational officials.

Protestant Board of School Commissioners, Montreal.—The regular monthly meeting was held on the afternoon of April 13th. The monthly statement of accounts for March was submitted showing the present floating debt of the Board to be something over \$15,000. The Committee on Examinations reported that all the Common schools and the Senior School are undergoing the annual April examinations. The Superintendent was directed to give notice that all promotions to the High and Senior Schools, that may follow the examinations, are valid only if the successful candidates enter the Senior School as soon as the results are known, in order to begin the year's work promptly. Mrs. Simester was appointed teacher of Vocal Music and Drawing in the Senior School. The resignations of Miss Stephen and of Miss Gordon were accepted.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

LONGFELLOW—BEACONSFIELD AS AN ORATOR—DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS—JUMBO—AMERICAN HUMOUR.

On March 24th, America lost her most prominent man of letters. The essence of Longfellow's writings has been described as domestic morals, with a romantic colouring, a warm glow of sentiment, and a full measure of culture. To the art with which these elements were combined and not to any special originality as a poet is due the fact that he was by far the most popular of contemporary English-speaking poets. He did not reveal a new world of passion, like Byron or Shelley; or a fresh way of looking at the past, like Scott, or of looking at nature, like Wordsworth: he did not invent a style, like Tennyson. Though Longfellow took many of his subjects from American soil, and though these poems are by far the most popular of his works, in his treatment he is more cosmopolitan than American. As far as his style and modes of thought are concerned, his poems might well have been written among the Cumberland lakes or in a London suburb. No doubt Longfellow's popularity is greatly due to the fact that his poems make small demands upon the intellect of the reader. They are consequently household words among that great reading public whose novelist is Charles Dickens, and whose historian is Macaulay. Another source of his popularity is doubtless the facility with which his lyrics have been adapted to music. From the point of view of his smaller poems he will take rank with Moore as a great poet of songs. Nor must we forget in estimating the causes of his popularity, the fact that he is distinctively a moral poet; among the great mass of readers his influence has been well described as that of a male Mrs. Hemans. Though not a poet of the first rank of genius, as a man he will always be remembered for his broad culture, his generous heart, and his stainless life. "Let us be glad," writes *The Nation*, "that in these days of doubt and uncertainty, there was one man for whom death had no real gloom, and who could look forward with absolute confidence to meeting those whom he had loved clothed in new angelhood, within their Father's House."