

ciety. To the "Philosophical Transactions" he contributed, at different times, eight valuable papers. He was an associate of most of the eminent men of science of the last generation in England, and was much respected for his proficiency in the department of chemistry, as well as for his amiable and unassuming manners. He had no fixed residence, and formed no family ties. The last years of his life were spent mostly on the continent, and he died at Genoa, June 27th, 1829.

From the property which he received by his mother, and the ample annuity allowed him by his father, his frugality enabled him to accumulate a fortune, which, at the time of his death, amounted to about 120,000 pounds sterling.

By his will, he directed that the income of this property, (after deducting some small annuities) should be paid to his nephew, Henry James Hungerford, during his life, and that the property itself should descend to his children, if he had any, absolutely and forever.

"In case of the death of my said nephew without leaving a child, or children, or of the death of the child or children he may have had, under the age of 21 years, or intestate, I then bequeath the whole of my property (subject to an annuity of 100 pounds to John Fital, and for the security and payment of which, I mean stock to remain in this country,) to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

Such are the words of the will, and the only words of Smithson which have come to us relating to this remarkable bequest.

Of the reasons which led him to make this disposal of his fortune, we know nothing except by inference. He was never in America, had no friends or acquaintances here, and is supposed to have had no particular fondness for republican institutions. No sentence among his papers, no book in his library, no recollection of his associates, shows that he had made the United States an object of special thought and study. It was, we may suppose, as a friend and patron of science and learning, and to accomplish a noble work, that he made this bequest; which he did without trammelling the legacy by any condition, restriction, reservation or direction.

Young Hungerford died at Pisa, on the 5th of June, 1835, without issue. The property thus descended to the United States. The particulars of the bequest were communicated to that government, and both Houses of Congress passed a bill, which was approved the first of July, 1836, authorizing the President to appoint an agent to prosecute, in the Court of Chancery of England, the right of the United States to the bequest; and pledging the faith of the United States to the application of the fund to the purposes designated by the donor.

Hon. Richard Rush, of Philadelphia, was by the President appointed the agent of the United States. He proceeded to England, instituted a suit in the Court of Chancery, recovered the fund and paid it into the Treasury of the United States, in sovereigns, during the month of September, 1838.

The amount of the fund at this time was \$515,169. It was not till eight years after this period, 10th August, 1846, that the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution was finally passed.

This act creates an establishment, to be called the Smithsonian Institution, composed of the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War, and the Navy, the Postmaster General, Attorney General, and Mayor of Washington, with such others as they may elect Honorary Members. It devolves the immediate government of the Institution upon a Board of Regents, of fifteen members; namely, the Vice President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Mayor of the city of Washington, *ex officio*, three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President thereof, three members of the House to be appointed by the Speaker, and six persons to be chosen from the citizens at large, by joint resolution of the Senate and House, two of whom shall be members of the National Institute, and the other four inhabitants of States, and no two from the same State.

The act establishes a permanent loan of the original fund (\$515,169) to the United States at six per cent. interest; appropriated the accumulated interest, then amounting to \$242,129, or so much as might be needed, together with so much of the accruing income as might be unexpended in any year, for the erection of a building; provided for the establishment of a Library, Museum, Chemical Laboratory, &c., and left most of the details of the organization to the Board of Regents.

As the result of the labors of the Board of Regents, a plan of organization has been adopted which seems to give universal satisfaction, and promises the widest usefulness.

The cost of the building is limited (with furniture, grading the grounds, &c.) to \$250,000. This will be taken mostly from the income of the original and building funds, so as to save \$150,000 of the building fund, which will be added to the original fund, making a permanent fund of \$675,000, yielding nearly \$40,000 per annum.

This income, with all sums received from other sources, is to be permanently and equally divided between two great methods of increasing and diffusing knowledge—the first by publications, researches, and lectures—the second by collections of literature, science, and art.

The first two volumes of a series entitled "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," in 4to, have been issued; also, several works in a series of a more popular character, and in 8vo. form, entitled "Smithsonian Reports." It is proposed, also, to publish for still wider circulation, a monthly "Bulletin." Researches in various departments of science have been instituted, or aided by the Institution, and several courses of free lectures have been delivered.

The various publications of the Institution have been very liberally distributed among the literary and scientific Institutions of this country and of foreign countries.

The Library has been commenced, and although the funds have not been available for its rapid growth, it is destined, we hope, to meet that great want of American scholarship, a National Library for reference and research. Measures have been taken, also, for supplying the Cabinet of Natural History and the Gallery of Art.

THE SCHOOLMASTER'S MISSION.

Lecture by the REV. C. H. BROMBY, M. A., *Principal of the Training College, Cheltenham, England.*

To obtain to a due conception of the Schoolmaster's Mission, we must recur to the first principles of all such inquiry. What is Education? Now, education has been so often and so variously defined, that it becomes difficult to know which definition to choose; we had, therefore, better think of a new one. I would define education as the instrument of fitting the child for the future man; I speak of the term in its usually restrictive sense. In its larger sense, we ought to say that it is the instrument of fitting man for his future state of being. We are engaged with the term in its first sense. The true object of education is to prepare the child, in order to enable the man to discharge all the duties and to enjoy all the privileges of his manhood. We accept it as a truism, that education, to be real, must not be special, but universal. It must take cognizance of the entire being—the physical man, the moral man, the intellectual man, the religious man. It must seek to develop harmoniously and contemporaneously the whole faculties which constitute his nature. In short, the educator, if he knows what he ought to be, should vie with the artist who strikes out of his unshapely block of pure marble the character and lineaments of a perfect form. Education should begin with the earliest years, or rather, I would say, that as education must begin with the beginning of life, whether we will or no, whatever advantages, whatever appliances artificial education has to offer should be brought to bear upon the earliest years. That just-awakened infant, crowing on its mother's lap, is educating itself. The look, the smile, the love of its mother's soul, and the light of its mother's eye, have begun the work. Would that its whole infancy and childhood were carried onwards so propitiously. But in too great a majority of instances, it soon must pass from so favorable a nursery to the streets and lanes of the neighborhood. Now, since the hope of a whole generation, and, in a measure, the gradual development of the human race, depends upon the faithful discharge of our duty to children, it becomes a very important question—how we shall secure fit men to whom we may entrust the interests of the multitude, and the office of presiding at the fountains of our humanity. All thinking men must be convinced that the whole course