

16. The propriety of laying periodical statement of the University accounts before convocation.

Her Majesty's Commissioners also request to be furnished with statements under the subjoined heads, and with any further information, or any suggestion, which may occur to the parties addressed:—

1. The nature of endowment, and its present annual value, and whether any other sources of income are attached to it.
2. Whether any special qualifications are required by statute in the persons appointed.
3. Whether any residence, lecture-room, library, apparatus, collections, &c., are provided for you; if so, if there are any funds for keeping them up.
4. Whether there are any statutes requiring the performance of specific duties; and whether those duties are such as could not profitably be now enforced.
5. The mode of appointment to your office, whether it is held for life or for a term of years, and whether the person holding it is removable.
6. The nature and number of lectures usually delivered in each year, the average number of pupils attending, and the fees paid by each pupil.
7. The general condition in the University of the branch of study to which your professorship relates, and the means of promoting its advancement.

[In our next No. we hope to give a synopsis of a plan of collegiate reform which has originated in the University of Oxford—stimulated, probably, by the issue of the Royal Commission of Inquiry.—*Ed. J. of Ed.*]

Westminster Abbey, or Collegiate Church of St. Peter.—A brief account of this ancient building may not prove uninteresting at this moment. This interesting edifice derives its name from its situation in the western part of the city, and its original destination as the church of a monastery. It was founded by Sibert, King of the East Saxons, but being afterwards destroyed by the Danes, it was rebuilt by King Edgar in 958. Edward the Confessor again rebuilt the church in 1065; and Pope Nicholas II. constituted it a place of inauguration of the kings of England. The monastery was surrendered by the abbots and monks to Henry VIII., who at first converted the establishment into a college of secular canons under the government of a dean, and afterwards into a cathedral, of which the county of Middlesex (with the exception of the parish of Fulham, belonging to the Bishop of London) was the diocese. Edward VI. dissolved the see, and restored the college, which was converted by Mary into its original establishment of an abbey. Elizabeth dissolved that institution in 1560, and founded the present establishment, which is a college, consisting of a dean, twelve secular canons, and thirty petty canons, to which is attached a school of forty boys, denominated the queen's or king's scholars, with a master, usher, and also twelve almsmen, and an organist and choristers. The present church was built by Henry III. and his successor, with the exception of the two towers at the western entrance, which are the work of Sir Christopher Wren. The length of the church is 360 feet, the breadth of the nave 72, and the length of the cross aisle 195 feet.

Primary Instruction in France is in the hands of Government. It was organized by a law, which M. Guizot presented to the Chambers in 1833, and which contained, amongst others, the following articles:

“Primary instruction is of two kinds, elementary or superior. Primary elementary instruction comprehends religious and moral instruction, reading, writing, the elements of grammar and arithmetic, with the legal system of weights and measures. Primary superior instruction comprehends besides, the elements of geometry and land surveying, notions of natural philosophy and history, singing, and the elements of history and geography especially of France. As to religious instruction, the desire of the parents is to be attended to. Any individual, aged 13, possessing a certificate of capacity conferred, after examination, by the University, and a certificate of morals delivered by the municipal authorities of his place of residence for the last three years, may become a schoolmaster. Every commune is required to have a superior primary school, if its population exceed 6,000 souls; if not, an elementary one at least. The salary of teachers is to be raised by legacies, private donations, taxes, or a grant of the Council of Public Instruction, and cannot be less than 200 francs (or £8) a year, besides the children's pence, and a house. Children whose parents are too poor to pay, are to receive instruction gratuitously. Besides these public schools, free schools may be opened by regular schoolmasters.”

Such has been the impulse given by this law, that nearly 13,000 boys' schools have been opened during the last twenty years, and 4,000 girls' schools during the last ten years, besides 3,000 evening schools for adults. The number of scholars has increased by one million, being now above 3,750,000. The influence of these schools on the masses is shown by the following fact—that in 1827, out of 1000 conscripts, or recruits for the military service, only 423 could read, while in 1844, there were 610.

UNITED STATES.

Items.—At two recent festivals in the State of New York, the following toasts were given:—*The Common School*—The tree of knowledge originally planted in New England—its seeds are wafted over the continent.—*Education*—The soul of the press, by whose benign influence it shall govern the world.—The Senior Class of Dartmouth College have lately presented to Prof. Charles B. Haddock a premium silver pitcher, as a testimony of their high regard and great esteem.—The literary societies of the University of New York have elected Rev. Dr. Bethune orator, and John G. Saxe Esq., poet, for the next anniversary.—Chief Justice Taney of the U. S. Supreme Court has been elected Chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, vice Mr. Fillmore recently called to the Presidency.—The body of Stephen Girard has been removed from the grave-yard attached to the Church of the Holy Trinity to the grounds of the Girard College for Orphans, Philadelphia. A monument will be erected over the remains.—The Superintendent of Public Schools in the first Municipality of New Orleans has absconded with \$20,000 of the city School Funds.—The students of Harvard University have objected to the presence of two coloured youths who are studying medicine there prior to their departure to Liberia.—The Massachusetts Legislature has chartered a Board of Trustees for establishing a college in Liberia, and the effort meets with much favour. The Alexandria High School at Monrovia, Liberia, has gone into full operation.—At the annual re-organization of the City Government of Boston last week, Mayor Bigelow, after taking the oath of office, read an address to the two branches of the city government. Among other things he speaks of the Public Schools, which are at once the ornament and glory of the City. He remarked that the whole number of schools of all grades is two hundred, having an aggregate attendance of 21,000. Expenditures for instruction during the past year, \$182,000; for repairs, fuel, &c., \$56,500; for new school buildings, \$56,000; making the handsome sum of \$294,500. The schools maintain the high character they have acquired, and the best teachers are employed.—The Board of National Popular Education Ohio, held its annual meeting at Cleveland recently, when Governor Slade reported the receipts for the past year to be \$5,020 50, disbursements \$4,859 45. There was a balance on hand of \$1,119 58, the whole of which is to be consumed in sending seven teachers to Oregon in March next. The society, since it was organized, has sent out 199 teachers.—The New Jersey School fund amounts to \$397,314 14, and its income will justify an appropriation of \$40,000 toward the support of common schools, without disturbing the capital. The passage of a law is recommended to submit to the people the question of the establishment of Free Schools.—The Methodist Episcopal Church in the U. S. has forty-six universities, colleges, and seminaries, under her control in the different States, as follows; Ohio eight; Pennsylvania five; New York six; Vermont four; Massachusetts one; Long Island two; Rhode Island one; New Jersey three; Maine one; Delaware one; Virginia two; New Hampshire one; Indiana two; Illinois four; Michigan one; Iowa one; Wisconsin one; Connecticut two.—The Methodists in Illinois are about to establish a University at Chicago, to be called the North Western University. It is designed for Wisconsin and Iowa, as well as Illinois.—The Rev. Benjamin Wofford, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, has left \$100,000 to build and support a Methodist College at that place.

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

Items.—At an interesting Lecture recently delivered by Professor Croft at the Mechanics' Institute, Toronto, on *Entomology*, the lecturer stated that the number of insects known to the entomologist exceeds 150,000; but as in tropical regions, only the large kinds have been enumerated, it may safely be asserted that the number of varieties actually in existence in the world does not fall far short of 400,000. In temperate climates, however, the number is considerable: in England alone it is not less than 12,000.—Harper's Magazine for this month contains a very admirable statistical paper, entitled, a “General View of the States of Europe.” From the preliminary paragraph we select the following items: Europe contains an area of 3,816,936 square miles; population, 262,000,000, i. e. 133,000,000 Catholics; 58,000,000 Protestants; 59,000,000 Greek Church; 7,500,000 Mohammedans; and 2,500,000 Jews. There are 55 independent states: 33 German; 7 Italian, &c. Of these states, 47 have an essentially Monarchical form of government, and 8 are Republics. Of the Monarchical governments, 3 are technically called Empires, 15 Kingdoms, 7 Grand-Duchies, 9 Duchies, 10 Principalities, 1 Electorate, 1 Landgraviate, and 1 Ecclesiastical State.—Mr Powell, an American, has recently painted “The Burial of Fernando de Soto in the Mississippi.” The committing of the body of the grand old enthusiast to the turbid current of the Father of Waters, of which he was the discoverer, is a splendid