

## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT GLASGOW.

A very brilliant annual meeting of the *stars* and other *savans* of the British Association and their satellites has just been held at Glasgow. This was the second meeting of the Association in the western metropolis of Scotland, the former having been held in 1840. The arrangements for the present meeting were of the most complete kind. The university classrooms were set apart for the sectional and committee meetings, the City Hall was engaged for the general meetings, the Trades' Hall was opened as a reception-room, and the Merchants' Hall was made available for the meetings of the general committee, who met on Wednesday in last week at one o'clock. Among those present on the platform and in the hall were Prince Lucien Bonaparte, the Earl of Harrowby, Count Frölich, from Sweden; Sir R. I. Murchison, Sir C. Lyell, Sir Charles Pasley, Sir John Rennie, Professor Fleming, Professor Balfour, Dr. Lyon Playfair, Dr. Whewell, Dr. Scoresby, Colonel Sabine, Sheriff Glassford Bell, Mr. Wentworth Dilke, &c.

The Earl of Harrowby was called to the chair, and Professor Phillips, assistant general secretary, read the minutes of the meeting of the general committee at Liverpool in 1854.

Colonel Sabine, as general secretary, read the report of the council to the meeting then held, and which, amongst other topics, congratulated the Association on the probable concentration of scientific bodies in Burlington House. A list of office-bearers was then read and other business transacted.

At five o'clock the Lord Provost of Glasgow gave a grand inaugural banquet in the M'Lellan Rooms. These halls, which were built for public purposes by the late Mr. Archibald M'Lellan, and in which is usually exhibited a collection of works of art of the different European schools, including numerous paintings by great masters (the greater part of the collection having belonged to the late Mr. M'Lellan himself,) were on this occasion superbly fitted up. The saloons are three in number, one of which was prepared as a reception-room, the central one as a dining-hall, and the third as a coffee-room.

Amongst those present, besides names already given, were the Duke of Argyle, as president elect, the Earls of Elgin and Eglinton, Lords Ingestre, Belhaven, and Talbot, Baron Liebig, Sir D. Brewster, and many other eminent men.

The first general meeting of the association took place in the City Hall at eight o'clock. The entire of this great hall was filled with a brilliant assemblage, including a nearly equal proportion of ladies, all in full evening costume. The Earl of Harrowby then introduced, as president elect, the Duke of Argyle, who, after ably reviewing the progress of science, said,—

The advancement of science depends, above all things, on securing for it a better and more acknowledged place in the education of the young. What we desire, and ought to aim at is, that abstract science, without special reference to its departmental application, should be recognized as an essential element in every liberal education. We desire this on two grounds mainly,—first, that it will contribute more than anything else to the further advancement of science itself; and, secondly, because we believe that it would be an instrument of vital benefit in the culture and strengthening of the mental powers. And this brings me to say a word on the value of instruction in physical science, not merely with a view to its own advancement, but as in itself a means of mental training, and an instrument for the highest purposes of education. Even where the researches of physical science can do little more than guide conjecture, or illustrate merely what it cannot prove, how grand are the questions which it excites us to ask, and on which it enables us to gather some amount of evidence. It is sometimes proudly asked, who shall set bounds to science, or to the widening circle of her horizon? But why should we try to do so, when it is enough to observe that that horizon, however it may be enlarged, is a horizon still—a circle beyond which, however wide it be, there shine, like fixed stars without a parallax, eternal problems in which the march of science never shows any change of place. If there be one fact of which science reminds us more perpetually than another, it is that we have faculties impelling us to ask questions which we have no powers enabling us to answer. What better lesson of humility than this? What better indication of the reasonableness of looking to a state in which this discrepancy shall be done away; and when we shall "know even as we are known?"—*The Builder*.

## THE NEW READING-ROOM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

This noble and appropriate building, designed by Sidney Smirke, the architect, is fast progressing towards completion, and has already arrived at that stage by which some idea may be formed of the appearance it will ultimately present. It is situate in the quadrangle at the rear of the main building, and consists of an elegant circular apartment, 140 feet in diameter, and 106 feet in height, surmounted by a very tasteful dome externally

covered with copper to within about two feet of the snow gutter, which of itself, is wider than many of the London footways. At this point, the Seyssel Asphalt Company have applied their material continuing to the gutter, and terminating on the top of the parapet wall, rendering this portion of the building perfectly water-tight. This receives its light not only from the large glazed aperture (about 120 feet in circumference) in the crown of the dome, but also from twenty windows affixed in the springing thereof. Upon the centre of the floor beneath will be a platform for the superintendent, with table cases around for catalogues, and tables to accommodate 400 readers, with free access for attendants, &c. Every attention to the ventilation and regulation of temperature has been paid. Attached are cloak-rooms and other offices, as also ranges of wrought iron book-cases calculated for 102,000 volumes of books, and the whole building being composed of bricks and iron only is completely fire-proof. This new reading room, said to be the largest in the world, is built by Messrs. Baker and Fielder, under a contract of about £100,000. By the general arrangement every facility of access is attained from the libraries in the north wing, as also through the entrance hall of the museum.

## Departmental Notices.

To Municipal and School Corporations in Upper Canada.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

Until further notice, the Chief Superintendent of Schools will apportion *one hundred per cent.* upon all sums which shall be raised from local sources by Municipal Councils and School Corporations, for the establishment or increase of Public Libraries in Upper Canada, under the regulations provided according to law.

In selecting from the General and Supplementary Catalogues, parties will be particular to give merely the catalogue number of the book required, and the department from which it is selected. To give the names of books without their number and department, (as is frequently done,) causes great delay in the selection and despatch of a library. The list should be written on a distinct sheet of paper from the letter, and attested by the corporate seal of the Trustees or Municipalities applying for libraries.

## SCHOOL MAPS AND APPARATUS.

The Legislature having granted annually, from the commencement of the current year, a sufficient sum of money to enable this Department to supply Maps and Apparatus (not text-books) to Grammar and Common Schools, upon the same terms as Library Books are now supplied to Trustees and Municipalities, the Chief Superintendent of Schools will be happy to add one hundred per cent. to any sum or sums, not less than five dollars, transmitted to the Department, and to forward Maps, Apparatus, Charts and Diagrams to the value of the amount thus augmented, upon receiving a list of the articles required by the Trustees. In all cases it will be necessary for any person, acting on behalf of the Trustees, to enclose or present a written authority to do so, verified by the corporate seal of the Trustees.

## TO GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEACHERS.

APPLICATIONS for the office of TEACHER of the PICTON COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, now vacant, will be received by the BOARD OF TRUSTEES until the TENTH day of DECEMBER next. To be forwarded with Testimonials.

C. S. PATTERSON, *Secretary*.

Picton, 12th Nov., 1855.

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