each section, though conflicting, are equally valid. The Protestant minority of Lower Canada object to the mixed system there, because Catholic religious instruction is imparted in the schools; while the Catholic minority in Upper Canada take exception to the Common School system for the opposite reason —viz: because Catholic religious instruction is excluded from the exercises of these schools. With Catholics it is considered indispensable that secular education and religious instruction should go hand in hand. This has been the practice and teaching of their Church, not to-day or yesterday, but for centuries. What they look for, then, not being an innovation, but the just recognition of a principle long and religiously observed, your memorialists have reason to hope that in Canada where all are recognised as free and equal, where the law sanctions no invidious distinctions of creed or caste, the disabilities under which they labor in regard to the proper education of their children in the faith which they profess, will be removed.

Your memorialists are not unmindful of the objections advanced by the opponents of Separate Schools to any further concessions to Catholics on the plea that, the latter do not contribute proportionately with Protestants to the general Revenue of the country. This, at first sight, is a grave objection. The difficulty, however, vanishes when your memorialists declare that they do not desire to tresspass on the money of Protestants to support Catholic Schools. All they ask by way of Subsidy from the Government is a just appointment of the taxes which they actually contribute to the common exchequer. They would beg to call attention to the fact that, the Catholics in Upper Canada being nearly 300,000 contribute a large amount a large amount to the Revenue as consumers of dutiable commodities. In this way, what may, on their part, be deficient in wealth is made up in numbers. Further, by their labor and industry, they establish a claim upon the Government to provide for the Education of the poor. And, indeed, wise policy would suggest that this be done even with more solicitude than for that of well to do people, since the former, if neglected, are more likely to become a burthen and an injury to the State than the latter. Moreover, your memorialists are of opinion that, Parliament in granting Separate Schools was in no manner influenced by the quots of taxes paid by the Protestant or Catholic minority, nor were the privileges accorded to each measured by such a standard. Separate Schools were established in Upper Canada simply as a measure of justice, and out of respect for the religious views of those who demanded them. These same reasons plead powerfully in favor of the claim set forth by your memorialists, who ask to have the stigma of implied inferiority, which now attaches to their children, removed; and who ask to have their offspring placed on the same level with that of the Protestants of Lower Canada, by having extended to them a similar School Law.

That your honorable body may understand the degrading distinction which at present exists between the educational systems now in force in the Separate Schools of Upper and Lower Canada, your memorialists take the liberty of making a brief allusion to a few facts derived from the official reports of the Chief Superintendents of Education in the two sections of the Province.

The Catholic population of Upper Canada, according to the Census of 1861 was 258,141.

The number of Catholic children of school age is about 51,628.

The appointment from the Government Fund for all purposes of Catholic Edocation in 1863, was $14,888 including the grants to three Colleges.

The Catholic minority of Upper Canada have no University, no National or Model School, no Academies or Grammar Schools, and only three Local Superintendents of their own communion.

The Protestant population of Lower Canada was in 1861, 167,940.

The number of Protestant children of School age in that section is about 33,588.

The amount appropriated by the Legislature for Protestant Education in Lower Canada in 1863, was nearly $36,000, more than twice the amount granted to the Catholics of Upper Canada, and considerably more than three times the amount when the excess in population is taken into account.

The Protestants of Lower Canada have an endowed University, a Normal School, several Model Schools, and Academies, Grammar Schools, wherever required, and a large staff of Protestant Local Superintendents of Education.

In view of these several considerations set forth, your memorialists earnestly hope their claim will meet the favorable consideration of your Honorable body, equally with that of the Protestant minority of Lower Canada.

Respectfully submitted.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAINT BRIDGET'S ASYLUM ASSOCIATION, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1864.

Your Committee, whose year of office terminates this evening, have the honor to submit for your consideration, the following report of their administration of the charitable trust confided to them at the annual meeting of the association.

It is with much pleasure that your committee have to reiterate the expressions of satisfaction contained in the reports of their predecessors, in relation to the internal management of the Asylum.

Order and economy continue to be strictly enforced, and the minutest wants of the inmates are scrupulously attended to, under the efficient supervision of the excellent lady, who for the last six years has gratuitously taken charge of this department.

The ladies of St. Patrick's congregation—without whose assistance it would be very difficult to support the institution—have again placed the friends of this charity under many obligations. In October last, a bazaar organised and conducted by these good ladies, was held, the net proceeds of which amounted to the sum of $4,686.88, a result highly gratifying to all the parties concerned.

The admissions during the year, were 12 adults, and 20 children. At the commencement of the year, there were 48 inmates in the Asylum, places having been procured for 5 children and 3 adults, and 6 children have been sent to their relations. Three adults died during the year. There are now in the Asylum 63 inmates exclusive of servants, viz, 36 adults and 27 children.

Your committee would remark, that occupying as they do, the place of those parents of whom in the inscrutible judgments of the Almighty they have been deprived, it is our duty, not only to provide food, raiment, and religious instruction for them, but also to see that they receive a certain amount of secular education. We should therefore recommend the consideration of this subject to our successors, and we have reason to think if application is made to the proper quarter that a school grant, equal in amount to what has been given to similar institutions can be obtained.

In last year's report reference was made to the necessity of enlarging the Asylum, in order that a greater number of persons might be admitted.

Your committee have had the subject under their consideration, and at a recent meeting it was decided that a new building be commenced early next spring.

Connected with this subject, the providing of a building fund occupied also their attention, and as the support of the present number of inmates costs about $1836.00 per annum, as will be seen by the Treasurer's statement submitted herewith, prudence dictated to them, the necessity of deciding that none of the funds now in hand should be used for building purposes, but that a general subscription be taken up for that object. In accordance with this decision, a list was then opened, when over $600 were at once subscribed by the fourteen members of the committee who were present.

This commencement is very encouraging and if followed up energetically by the new committee, which will be elected this evening, no reasonable doubt can be entertained, but that sufficient funds will be procured to complete the building about to be erected.

The whole respectfully submitted.

REV. B. McGAURAN,
President.

GEORGE NEILAN,
Secretary.

Quebec, Dec. 23rd, 1864.

The Treasurer, in Account with the St. Bridget's Asylum Association.

Dr.

To Balance on hand from last year..		$392 26
" Subscriptions.....		31 00
" Life Member		20 00
" Donations in Cash.....		4 00
" Board of Inmates.....		24 00
" Interest on Deposits.....		149 15
" Grant from Legislature.....		320 00
" Donations from Caisse d'Economie de Notre Dame de Quebec...		75 00
" Amount received from Ladies of Bazaar.....		4686 88
" Bequests of the late Mrs. Methot.		400 00
		$6102 29

Cr.

To Butcher's Account....	$199 78	
" Baker's "	288 48	
" Grocer's "	350 65	
" Dry Goods "	162 42	
" Tin Smith's "	77 86	
" Hay & Straw "	40 09	
" Printing "	36 81	
" Fish "	8 77	
" Insurance on Property	16 00	
" Bazaar Expenses.....	220 90	
" Firewood.....	127 10	
" Miss Bradley for Incidental Expenses....	60 00	
" Vegetables.....	96 06	
" Hardware.....	13 48	
" Oatmeal and Flour.....	17 25	
" Carting.....	62 80	
" House Repairs.....	124 35	
" Funeral Expenses.....	16 00	
" Servants' and Laborers' wages.....	139 45	
" Boots and Shoes for Inmates.....	13 70	
" Milk	11 20	
" Rev. B. McGauran for Charitable Purposes.	400 00	
" Cooking Range.....	65 00	
" Instalment on Property.	400 00	
" Interest on "	37 24	
" Sundries.....	22 71	
		$3008 10
Balance in Treasurer's hands.....		3094 19
Amount invested in Saint Patrick's Church		2400 00
		$5494 19

JOHN LILLY, Treasurer.

Quebec, 23rd Dec., 1864.

The following gentlemen were elected, by ballot, as the Managing Committee for the ensuing year, viz:—H. O'Connor, R. W. Behan, J. Lane, T. McGreevy, G. Neilan, J. Lilly, P. Lawler, J. Teaffe, D. Ryan, P. O'Regan, D. McSweeny, E. O'Doherty, H. F. Bellew, M. J. O'Doherty, J. Foley, J. O'Malley, J. O'Reilly, and Wm. Quinn.

THE OFFICE BEARERS ARE:

Rev. B. McGauran—President.
H. O'Connor—1st Vice do.
D. McSweeney—2nd do do.
G. Neilan—Secretary.
J. O'Reilly—Asst. do.
J. Lilly—Treasurer.

The following letter has been received by the St. Patrick's Society in reply to an Address of condolence on the death of the late Wm. Smith O'Brien, Ireland's true hearted patriot:—

CAHIRMOYLE, NEWCASTLE WEST, Jan. 2, 1865.

SIR,—I have received, through Mr. Sullivan, a copy of Resolutions passed on the 25th July last, at a meeting of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal.—I write on behalf of myself and the other members of my father's family, to tender our thanks for the expressions of esteem and regard conveyed in those resolutions, which I have no doubt embody the feelings of a great majority of the Irish in Canada.

The Addresses which I have received from various bodies of Irishmen in different parts of the world, have afforded me sincere gratification; for they prove by the spirit in which they are conceived that the sentiments entertained towards my father were founded on something far above mere political sympathy, on a genuine and just appreciation of his many noble qualities, and on a high feeling of gratitude for his earnest though fruitless devotion to his native country.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant
EDWARD WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

R. McSHANE Esq., President St. Patrick's Society, Montreal.

THE WONDERS REVEALED BY THE MICROSCOPE.

On Thursday evening, the 26th January, a lecture on the "Wonders Revealed by the Microscope," was delivered before the Catholic Young Men's Society of this City, by Edward Murphy, Esq., in the Bonaventure Hall, which was filled by a highly respectable audience. After a few appropriate introductory remarks by Mr. Coyle, the President of the Society, Mr. Murphy commenced his lecture, and spoke substantially as follows:—

The microscope has claimed so much attention from all observers of natural history, and has added so much to our knowledge of the various processes going on in the organic kingdoms, that it is justly considered one of the most valuable instruments of modern scientific research. An account, therefore, of some of the wonders revealed to us by its aid will, I hope, prove interesting and instructive to my hearers this evening. But previous to entering thereon, I have to thank the members of the Catholic Young Men's Society for the honor which they have conferred on me in calling upon me to lecture in aid of so very excellent an object as the formation of a library for their use.

To estimate duly the value of the microscope, as a means of enlarging the bounds of human knowledge, I shall refer to a few of the misconceptions that prevailed prior to its introduction; as before its invention the mite was supposed to be the least of animated beings, and the existence of living atoms so minute, compared with which, the mite may rank as an elephant, had not been even conjectured, the wondrous beauty in the formation and appendages of the various insect tribes had never been beheld, nor had the miracles of created power folded up in every plant and blossom been fully displayed. Very indefinite and erroneous impressions were held regarding the vital fluid in animals, and the manner of its circulation was imperfectly, if at all, understood. The strange fallacy of equivocal or spontaneous generation was universally maintained, and corruption was deemed the parent of animal and vegetable life. It would take too much time to name all the instances of misconception that characterised the times previous to the invention of the microscope: let those suffice, to which I have drawn your attention, to show how unconscious were the philosophers of past ages of the wonders which the microscope is unveiling to us, as who among them could have imagined it possible to distinguish myriads of living animalculæ in a single drop of water, or that numberless species of creatures should be made visible by its aid, though so minute, that millions are less than a grain of sand; and that not only the exterior form, but even the internal structure and the motion of the fluids in the smallest insects should be rendered objects of sight. Yet all these wonders have been revealed to us by that little instrument. As the microscope in many respects transcends all other instruments in the scientific value and the social interests of its results, and as it possesses so many charms for all, I shall offer no apology for referring at some little length to a few of the principal discoveries made by it.

The Microscope has added a vast amount of information to every branch of science. By its aid the student of nature has discovered an animal, a vegetable, and a mineral kingdom of which he was previously ignorant. By it he is enabled to examine the delicate organizations on which animal and vegetable life depend, and in his analysis to define with certainty the structure of the most minute tissues; it enables him to penetrate the secrets of the earth and the ocean, and to examine the wonderful and beautiful organisms he there discovers, and the more powerful the microscope the more astounding the revelations to him, until he marvels in what sized atom organic matter ceases, and his "facts become stranger than fiction," and far beyond the imaginings of the most poetic brain.

This instrument teaches us not to despair or think lightly of little things, as there is not a flower in garden or in field, not an insect that creeps the earth or flutters in the breeze, not even a drop of water from a roadside ditch, that does not teem with beauty and with life. Indeed, there is not a form, that will not yield some new wonder to the diligent microscopic observer.

By the microscope the physiologist has discovered the wonderful arrangement of the perspiratory pores in the human skin. The number of these pores dispersed over our bodies is too large for our conception, they amount in round numbers to two thousand millions. It has verified Harvey's great discovery, the circulation of the blood, as by its aid the vital fluid may be seen circulating in the web of a frog's foot, in the fin or the tail of a small fish, and the larvæ of many aquatic insects.

To the Zoologist the Microscope, among other things, reveals the important fact that the minute structure of the bones of the four great classes of vertibrated animals, viz:—quadrupeds, birds, reptiles and fishes, differ from each other in so marked a degree, that should a fragment be found, either in a recent or fossil state, he can, on examination by it, of the *bone cells*, at once discover the class of animal to which it belonged. The examination by it of the dental structure of animals, even of those extinct for thousands of years, enables the naturalist to form a good idea of their form and habits.

To the Entomologist the microscope is invaluable, as by its aid he is enabled to study and properly classify the various insect tribes, and to examine the exquisite beauty found in their formation and appendages, and also their wonderful economy, as it reveals to us that these little creatures are possessed of a nervous system, muscles, veins, arteries, and other parts analogous to, and in common with the larger animals. And although their other exterior appendages are well worthy of our careful examination, I shall only now call your attention to their eyes, which differ so much from those of other animals. The eyes of insects are of two kinds, the single and the clustered or reticulated—the latter when examined under the microscope will be found divided into a number of hexagonal cells, each of which forms a complete eye in itself. The number of separate lenses in the eyes of some insects is almost beyond belief, the little common house fly, for instance, has 4 000, the silk worm 6,236, the cock chaffer 8 820, the dragon fly 12,544, the butterfly 17,355, and the mordella beetle 25,088, separate and distinct eyes, each having its own optic nerve and forming on the retina of the little creature a perfect image of every object that may be placed within its range.

The Botanist by the aid of the microscope dissects and unravels the structure of trees and plants, and lays open to view the wonders to be met with in the vegetable world—the formation of the wood, the motion of the saps, and the uses and the developement of the leaves, the flowers and the seed.

By the Microscope the chemist is enabled to discern the changes of form and colour effected by the test fluids upon solids, and opens to him an endless subject of investigation full of wonders, rich in beauties and almost boundless in extent. In crystallization it brings the whole process under the eye of the observer, from the primitive form to the most intricate combination which it ultimately assumes.

This instrument has made important and valuable contributions to the exigencies of social life, as by it can be detected the invisible ingredients which adulterate our food, our drink, and even our medicines.

The Microscope reveals to the geologist the astounding fact that this world is but the wreck of ancient organic creations; that the vast limestone rocks are but the catacombs of myriads of animal tribes, too minute to be perceived by the naked eye; and that immense layers of earthy matter, forming extensive portions of our globe, and varying from a few inches to many feet in thickness, are but the fossil remains of invisible animalculæ, which were once in full and active existence, replete with life and beauty, ages upon ages ago. It is calculated that there are in some fossil earths the remains of over forty thousand millions of those minute creatures in a cubic inch, and that one hundred and eighty-seven millions of them weigh but a single grain.—What an immense subject this is for contemplation, and yet immensity in its common impression on our minds hardly conveys to us an idea of the myriads upon myriads of animalculæ, that have lived and died to have produced the tripoli, the opals, the flints, the bog iron ores, the ochres, and the vast limestones and coral rocks of the world, the organic structure and origin of which is ascertained by their microscopic examination. We learn by it also that the immense coal beds are the remains of a luxuriant and gigantic vegetation which flourished in past ages of the world, as it has discovered not only the woody fibre, but even the most delicate of the vegetable organs.

The Fossil Botanist, by its aid, determines with accuracy the orders and genera of the fossil trees and plants of former ages, as it tells him whether they grew up like our own forest trees by yearly additions to the outside, or by internal accessions, like most of the trees of the tropics.

The wonderful discoveries made by the Microscope regarding animalculæ has added much to our knowledge of animated nature that was quite unknown to our forefathers. The term animalculæ is used to denote the living creatures inhabiting fluids, which are too minute to be seen by the naked eye. They are found in incredible numbers in both animal and vegetable infusions. A single drop of water may contain millions of these invisible creatures; and in this new world we find displayed beauty, perfection, adaptation and reproduction, far surpassing the ordinary objects of every-day life; indeed, the mind becomes almost overwhelmed and confounded whilst examining the internal structure, the mode of action, and the natural instincts of a living atom, so minute that a million of them aggregated together would present but little more than a sensible speck to the naked eye. Animalculæ are found in oceans, seas, rivers and lakes, as well as in stagnant ponds and ditches. They exist in the fluids of the animal body, in plants, and also the most powerful acids. Motion seems their great delight; they traverse with ease and rapidity the whole dimensions of a drop of water. Thousands may be seen in constant action, yet never striking against each other.

Animalculæ are of all shapes and forms, from the simple monad to bodies resembling eels, globes, trumpets, corkscrews, serpents, stars, pitchers, tobacco pipes, bells, tops, flasks, wheels, fans, branches of trees, &c., &c. They have various periods of life allotted to them: some live but a few hours, others for weeks; they are generally very rapacious. It has been observed that the occupants of two drops of water, which had been brought from different places, were at peace with themselves whilst the drops were separate, but presented a scene of the most horrible strife and destruction so soon as the drops were thrown into one.

Professor Owen beautifully explains the use of the vast amount of animalcular life found throughout nature. He says:—"Consider their incredible numbers, their universal distribution, their voracity, and that it is the particles of decaying animal and vegetable matter which they are appointed to devour and assimilate, surely we must in some degree, be indebted to these ever active and invisible scavengers for the salubrity of the atmosphere and the purity of the water." How strange to reflect that the same Omnipotent Being who peopled infinite space with ponderous globes, has breathed a peculiar intelligence into these minute specks of matter, of which thousands should be thrown together before they could become perceptible to the most searching human vision.

Time will not permit me to dwell longer on the many wonders revealed to us by the Microscope, but enough has been said, I hope, to prove the importance of that little instrument to the student as well as to the man of scientific acquirements; and indeed to all who would cultivate their minds by possessing a store of interesting facts, as it enables them to discover and contemplate the wonderful and exquisite works of the great Creator, whose power and wisdom are seen, as well by its aid, in the minutest atom, as in the most gigantic masses by the naked eye.

I shall conclude by quoting from an article on the Microscope, in the poetic and impressive language of the late Dr. Chalmers. He says:—"The Microscope unfolds to us a *world* in every atom, that may harbour in it, the tribes and families of a busy population, as it tells us that in the leaves of every forest, in the flowers of every garden, and in the waters of every rivulet, there are worlds teaming with life, and numberless as the stars of the firmament—in a word it reveals to us a universe, in the compass of a point, so small as to be invisible to the naked eye, but where the Almighty Ruler of all things finds room for the exercise of His attributes, where He can raise up other worlds and fill and animate them all with evidences of His power and His glory."

At the conclusion of the lecture, Mr. Murphy exhibited, by means of a powerful Oxyhydrogen Microscope, a number of objects from Natural History, illustrative of his subject, which had a pleasing, instructive and beautiful effect, and which were viewed with much interest by the audience, who manifested their appreciation of what they saw and heard by frequent bursts of applause.

The entertainment closed with a vote of thanks to the able lecturer, proposed by Marcus Doherty, Esq., and passed unanimously, amid loud cheers.

Died.

Suddenly, on the 20th ult., Jane Jenkins Ludlow, the beloved wife of Thomas Ludlow Jenkins, of this city, aged 54 years.

At Grand River, Gaspe, Mrs. John Carbery, who departed this life after three hours' illness. She leaves a family and a large circle of friends to lament her death. May her soul rest in peace.

In Boston, U.S., on the 26th Dec., Margaret Carbery, the beloved wife of James M'Kernan. May her soul rest in peace.
