

PROVINCIAL JOURNAL.

LOWER CANADA.

Electrical Phenomenon.—Of the many extraordinary incidents which may have occurred during many years, none, we believe, can exceed that about to be made public; and as it is related upon the authority of the Revd. Mr. Jibert, the highly respectable Curate of YAMASKA, the most implicit confidence may be placed on its authenticity. To the philosopher and curious the subject must be considered of such value as to form no contemptible record in private or public museums; and will, besides, satisfactorily prove, that an electrical shock possesses more or less influence on the human system according to the constitutional strength of individuals.

A few weeks ago, Margaret Parateau of Yamaska, four leagues from William Henry, while in the act of reclining on a chair towards one side of the chimney, her cap was struck by lightning, which divested her head of a large quantity of hair. The electrical fluid descended to the right cheek, where it caused a slight hemorrhage of blood—continued to the breast and center of the body, where it separated; and as the lower extremities formed suitable conductors, it reached the heels and penetrated the floor where they stood. The shift and petticoat were torn to pieces and the thread burnt; but the wool, as a non-conductor remained untouched—and, extraordinary to relate, the hair is literally interwoven with it. A part of this petticoat is preserved by Mr. Jibert. The woman remained in a state of insensibility for nearly four hours, and recovered as from a long dream; and being at the time much inclined to sleep, she seemed to the by-standers totally ignorant of the cause of blood on her cheek, as well as of the irritation produced on the sentient parts, by the electrical fluid. The following day she was safely delivered of her first child, which appeared full-grown, but with the entire loss of voluntary action of all the joints of the upper and lower extremities. The husband of the unfortunate woman was present the whole time; but from terror, he kept himself in a bent position. He said, to use his own words, that his wife seemed enveloped in flames, and there was a constant "*combat de flammes*;" but he is ignorant of the length of time this lasted. It is also extraordinary that a window-sash of the house where this happened, was found perfectly glued to the floor, as if placed there by artificial means.

British and Canadian School Society.—A meeting of this Society, of which His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie is patron, was held at Montreal on Thursday the 25th of September, when Mr. Lunn, the secretary, read a luminous report of the affairs of the institution, from which it appeared, that the number of Children admitted into the Schools since October last, amounted to 499, but of which a great many had left it to accompany their parents to the Upper Province. There are at present in the Schools a total of 246 children, viz:—160 boys and 86 girls, 84 of whom are catholics. Several Canadian children, who had been admitted into the School in November and Decem-