

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—*Pensions to Aged School Teachers.*—The LORD PRESIDENT and VICE-PRESIDENT received a deputation, on May 8, at the Council Office, of teachers, both Churchmen and Dissenters, to explain the particulars of a proposed scheme for granting annuities to aged teachers. The deputation was introduced by Mr. WHITWELL, M. P., Mr. AKROYD, M. P., and Mr. E. CHADWICK. Mr. WHITWELL having explained the object of the visit, a memorial embodying the views of the applicants was presented by Mr. Akroyd. It was explained that the scheme merely proposed that a small percentage of the annual grant now dispensed to schools and training colleges by the Privy Council might be devoted to making a provision for old age and infirmity, by way of annuity. Mr. LAWSON, the secretary of the London Association of Church Schoolmasters added that a detailed scheme drawn up by Mr. Hill, the master of the British Schools at Kendal, estimated that a deduction of 1 per cent, from the annual government grants would provide pensions of £30 a year each for about 200 disabled teachers, which was a larger number than was likely to require them, at all events, at present. Mr. MANSFIELD, the Secretary of the Wesleyan Training College, having spoken, Mr. DAY presented a memorial from the north-eastern district, and other members of the deputation handed in similar memorials from other localities. In reply to questions put by Earl DE GREY and RIRON and Mr. FORSTER, it was stated that the teachers did not contemplate any claim to pension until after twenty years' service in one or more elementary schools, and were prepared to sacrifice the slight deduction that might be made from their salaries during service if the full period of 20 years should not be completed. It was anticipated that the number of claims would for some years be so limited that a reserve might be formed out of the surplus sufficient to provide amply for any increase that might arise hereafter. Earl DE GREY and RIRON could not hold out any hope that this question would be taken up separately from that of education generally, in respect to which the views of the Government would, he hoped, be laid before Parliament next year. He, however, promised on behalf of himself and his right hon. friend the VICE-PRESIDENT, the most careful considerations of the representations made to them by the memorialists and the gentlemen who had addressed them.—*Paper for the Schoolmaster.*

—*Deputation of the National Teachers of Ireland to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.*—A deputation from the national teachers of Ireland waited on His Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant, at the Viceregal Lodge, on the 31st March, for the purpose of presenting a memorial praying his Excellency to use his influence with the Government to obtain a redress of their grievances.

Mr. VERN FOSTER having introduced the other members of the deputation to his Excellency, stated the object of the deputation, and then handed to his Excellency the memorial, which had affixed to it 3,385 signatures.

Mr. JOHN HARTE then called attention to the three points contained in the memorial, first the shameful inadequacy of the class salaries of the national school teachers of Ireland; second, the absolute want of retiring pensions for our teachers, the same as for all other public servants under the crown, when rendered unfit by age or other infirmity from effectually discharging their duties; third—the utter ruin which the 'payment by result' system would be certain to entail on the national school teachers of Ireland in the absence of compulsory attendance of the pupils. Mr. Harte then dwelt with much force and ability upon the present miserable condition of the national teachers, and urged that, even for this year, Parliament should vote such a liberal sum as a supplement to the already forwarded estimate for national education in Ireland, as would enable the Commissioners to largely increase the pittance now received by the Irish national school teacher, that the income from all sources (at present that income averages for the 8,326 literary teachers in the Board's service, at end of year 1867, just twelve shillings and eight pence a week) of the third (or lowest) class teacher might compare with that now received by the stonemason, the carpenter, or the bricklayer.

Mr. FOSTER then said that in consequence of insufficiency of salary, it was annually becoming more difficult to obtain qualified teachers; that 35 years' experience had demonstrated the futility of expecting any considerable amount of voluntary local contribution; that even in England according to a report published a few years ago by the Royal Commissioner there were 10,000 parishes which had failed, not through want of will to qualify by local contributions for the Government grant. If that were the case in rich England, what could be expected in poor Ireland? Parliament he confessed, had acted with more liberality towards England, and as the Commissioners of National Education had always administered the funds at their disposal in a generous spirit towards the teachers, it would therefore, perhaps, be unreasonable to expect an increase of the Parliamentary grant. He agreed in the view taken by the Government on the establishment of a national system, that the schools should be supported in a considerable degree by local contributions, but believed that the only pros-

pect of obtaining such local aid was by means of a compulsory local rate. In his opinion, and in that of the majority of the national teachers, salaries should depend chiefly, say four-fifths, on classification, and one-fifth on the proficiency of the school, the former portion possessing the necessary element of certainty, while the latter portion would be sufficient to act as a stimulant to the teachers.

Earl SPENCER promised the deputation that their views would be considered attentively by Her Majesty's Government.—*Id.*

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—*Lambeth Library.*—The Ven. Archdeacon Hale has accepted the honorary curatorship of the Archbishop's Library at Lambeth. This is good news for literature. In his care facility of access and accommodation for consultation may be relied upon. Literary men should feel indebted to the Archdeacon for taking an office which can have no recommendation, unless it can be found in a desire to render the library an honour to the see and an advantage to men of letters.—*Notes and Queries.*

—*The Rev. D. Silvan Evans*,—Rector of Llanymawddwy, Merionethshire, is preparing "A Dictionary of the Welsh language, from Original Sources."

—*The French Academy*, has awarded a prize of 3,000 francs to M. Edouard Grenier for a poem on "The Jews in the East."

—*A Brazilian Present to the Poet J. G. Whittier.*—A curious present has been sent to the American poet Whittier from Brazil. One of the poet's most beautiful pieces is the "Cry of a Lost Soul," founded on a tradition of Northern Brazil, to the effect that the lonely nocturnal cry of the bird called by the people of the Amazon the *Alma de Coboelo*, or *Alma perdida* (the Soul of the Indian, or the Lost Soul), is not the cry of a bird, but of—

"The pained soul of some infidel
Or cursed heretic that cries from hell."

This poem so interested the Emperor of Brazil that he translated it very faithfully and poetically into Portuguese, and sent an autograph copy to Whittier. It was also translated by Pedro Linz, a Brazilian poet, and published widely in South America. The Emperor furthermore sent to Mr. Whittier two fine stuffed specimens of the *Alma Perdida* (the *Piaya Cayana*, Lin.), but through the honesty of the captain of the vessel, or of the New-York Custom-house, the birds never reached Amesbury. A few weeks ago two other unstuffed specimens were sent from Brazil to the poet, and have recently been "set up" here, and have attracted much attention.—*Boston Transcript.*

—Literary merit has lately been recognized by Spain, the Provisional Government at Madrid having conferred a Knight Commander's Cross of the distinguished Order of Charles III, upon Mr. Frederick W. Cozens, of Clapham Park. The diploma, signed by Marshal Serrano, was granted for services rendered to the literature and arts, as well as to the commerce of the country. This distinction is the first which the present Spanish Ministry have awarded to a foreigner; and the honour is well deserved.—*Athenæum*

METEOROLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—Meteorological observations taken at Quebec during the month of June, 1869—Lat. 46°48'30" North; Longitude 71°12'15" West, height above St. Lawrence, 230 feet,—by Sergt. John Thurling, A.H.C.

Barometer, highest reading on the 9th.....	30.165 inches.
" lowest " 5th.....	29.305
" range of pressure.....	0.860
" mean for month reduced to 32°.....	29.643
Thermometer, highest reading on the 4th.....	86.2 degrees;
" lowest " 7th.....	39.0
" range in month.....	47.2
" mean for month.....	62.7
" mean of maximum in sun's-rays, black bulb..	112.8
" mean of minimum on grass.....	50.3
Hygrometer, mean of dry bulb.....	65.0
" wet bulb.....	56.9
" dew point.....	50.3
Elastic force of vapour.....	.365 inches.
Vapour in a cubic foot of air.....	4.1 grains.
" required to saturate, do.....	2.7 "
Mean degree of humidity (Sat. 100).....	59
Average weight of a cubic foot of air.....	522.5 grains.
Cloud, mean amount of (0-10).....	6.3
Ozone " " (0-10).....	1.2
Wind, general direction.....	N. E. and W.
Mean daily horizontal movement.....	120.9 miles.
Rain, number of days it fell.....	17
Amount collected on ground.....	7.27 inches.