

—While Canadians are obtaining honors in the English Universities, others meet with equal success among our neighbors. We find in the report of the examinations of St. John's College, Fordham, the mention of the name of Mr. Zéphirin Renaud who has received the honour of Bachelor of Arts. In the list of prizes, Mr Alfred L. Renaud has received in *Belles-Lettres* a prize for his verses in Latin and Greek. These two scholars are the sons of the Hon. L. Renaud, of Montreal.

—The Hon. J. A. MacDonald, Attorney General for Upper Canada, has received the degree of LL. D. from the University of Oxford.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE

—Paris is at present in possession of thirteen different museums, not counting those at the Louvre and at Versailles. Besides the ancient and modern works of sculpture, these rich collections contain the most miscellaneous objects of mediæval art, as well as of Renaissance paintings, drawings, woodcuts, and engravings, Egyptian, American, Celtic, and Roman antiquities. The collection of the Jardin des Plantes, with its cabinet of comparative anatomy, founded by Cuvier, is not included in the above mentioned number. All these collections are opened to the student, as well as the six large public libraries, of which the Imperial contains one million volumes of eighty thousand manuscripts; besides these, there exists a number of valuable libraries of the different faculties, for the special branches of study, and of scientific institutions, most of which are opened to the student; and those few for which a special permission is necessary, grant it without any difficulties. No wonder that Humboldt wrote to a friend in 1827, who had expressed his surprise at the German scholar having made the French capital his abode, "You are surprised at this? I am certain to find here, in one place, what I should have to look for in Germany in thirty-six places, and then very likely in vain."—*Littell's Living Age*.

—We extract the following on the *Library of the British Museum* from the *Illinois Teacher*:

Years ago Washington Irving sketched, in his delightful way, the old reading-room, and pictured the faces and the occupations of the men who were buried in their researches and their book-making. But now the scene is all changed, and that new reading-room, which is far more worth seeing than the House of Lords at Westminster, has been reared and is open to the use of a grateful public. Full accounts of this most beautiful and convenient room have been given in our American journals, but not to the extent precluding my own. It is circular, and forms a dome, the span of which is much larger than that of St. Paul's, and even that of the Pantheon at Rome. St. Peter's alone surpasses it. How high it is I can not say; judging by my eye as I sit here, it is thirty-five feet from the floor to the point where the walls begin to arch toward the summit of the dome. From the floor to that summit can not fall short of a hundred feet. The light is all admitted from the roof.

Now let me try to picture the arrangement of the tables. At the centre of the circle which forms the floor is a hub, so to speak, about twenty feet across, surrounded by a ledge, where the assistant librarians sit and receive the applications for books. Outside of this there are two concentric tables, under which are deposited the great catalogue. These tables are broken at three or four places, so as to allow free passage from the central dais to the main body of the hall. Outside of the exterior of these two ring-like tables the tables for readers begin, and shoot away to the circumference of the room like the spokes of a wheel. At this circumference is the library of reference, containing all such books as maps, dictionaries, and the like, 200,000 in number. The tables for readers are adapted each to sixteen persons, about five feet being reserved to each. You can not see your vis-à-vis, as the table is parted in the middle by a partition, not of a single plank, but hollow and about six inches through. This rises about a yard above the table, and through it the hot air from the furnace is thrown into the room. No other arrangement could possibly have shielded each so well, and so well and so uniformly have warmed all. There are seventeen of these tables, and under each there is a pipe for hot air for the feet. Fastened into this partition and at convenient height is a rack for pens and ink; at the left and at the right of the rack are the most convenient bookholders I have ever seen, which, by an exceedingly effective contrivance, bring whatever large works you may be consulting exactly at the distance and the range which suit you best. In one word, the arrangement is perfect. I do not see a single detail which could be remedied. Your chair is roomy, leather stuffed, and most comfortable. The table is leather-covered and exactly adapted for writing. Paper-cutters and blotters, all the adjuncts of the study, are provided for all. The floor is covered with a preparation resembling leather, and footsteps fall noiselessly upon it. It is a luxury to study here, independent of the vast stores of material in the great library, close by, of half a million volumes.

One word as to the catalogue. It is in manuscript, and is kept, as I said, under the ring-like tables which surround the librarian's dais. I hardly dare tell you how large it is. Each volume is of the size of a merchant's ledger: and how many of these huge folios do you think there are? There are eleven hundred and fifty-five! There are a hundred and sixteen

devoted to the letter H alone. Under such words as 'Bible' and 'Shakespeare' there are several thousands of entries. And yet it is so thoroughly systematized that, if you know the full name of an author, you find no difficulty in proceeding. In applying for a book you have to write the number of the shelf where it is to be found, the title, size, place and date of publication. A half an hour's waiting puts the book before you.

Thus much for the reading-room of the British Museum. There are seats for upwards of three hundred students, and they are generally well occupied. One would think there would be more, but I believe the accommodations are equal to the demand. Busy men come and go, and pay no regard to each other and to each other's work. At this moment there are students both on my right and left, each hard at work over their large volumes, but I know not what. I only know that I myself am looking up the whole literature of Syrian and Arabian travel, and my own task alone is what engages me. But let no reader of mine ever come to London and neglect to look in at this British-Museum reading-room. The museum itself, with its magnificent collections in all departments of science and art, he will of course not pass by; but next in interest to the collections of ancient statuary and the autograph letters of England's greatest men, collected under this roof, the most interesting sight of all is the noble reading-room.

—M. Sainte-Beuve, a member of the French Academy, has been made a Senator. This appointment is supposed to have some connection with the recent admission of a political writer, M. Prevost-Paradol, to the Academy, in the room of M. Ampère. If the Academy is to draw its recruits from politics, it is only just that the Senate should render the same homage to literature.

NECROLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—*Willmer and Smith's European Times* (Liverpool) of the 29th ultimo has the following in its second edition:—We announce with extreme regret the death of Sir Samuel Cunard, whose name in connection with the British and North American Royal Mail Steamship Company, established between Liverpool and America, has a world-wide reputation. He expired yesterday evening at his residence, Bush-Hill House, Edmonton, Middlesex, in his seventy-eighth year. The hon. baronet was born in 1787, and married in 1815 the daughter of a gentleman named Duffus, of Halifax, Nova Scotia. His eldest son, Edward, born in 1816, succeeds to the baronetcy, and, though his permanent residence is in New York, he was present when his father breathed his last. The British government, to mark their appreciation of the great services which Sir Samuel Cunard had rendered to the commerce of the world, and more immediately to that of England and America, conferred on him, in 1859, the dignity of a baronet—a dignity won by his triumphs in a field of enterprise in which the company he assisted to establish has distanced all competitors, and proved itself at once the most successful, and the best friend of civilization and progress, in the whole history of navigating the ocean by steam power. What Watts and Arkwright were to the spinning jenny, Sir Samuel Cunard was to the marine engine.

—We announced yesterday the death of the Honorable J. S. McCord, one of the Justices of the Superior Court for Lower Canada. He was born near Dublin on the 18th day of June, 1801. His father, who had friends in Canada, came here in 1806 on business connected with a dispute about property in Grifftown, and settled in this country. He was elected and sat for Bedford County (now Missisquoi) in the Parliament of Lower Canada in 1817. Judge McCord was sent to school to the Rev. Dr. Wilkie, at Quebec. He afterwards was for some time a student at the Seminary of St. Sulpice in this city, where he gained a perfect mastery of French. He studied law in the offices, first, of the late Chief Justice Rolland, and subsequently in that of the late Mr. Justice Gale, and was called to the bar in 1822 or '23. He continued to practise his profession until the outbreak of the rebellion in 1837, when he entered the volunteer service. On the reorganization of the courts by the Special Council, he became a District Judge and Judge of the Court of Requests, and subsequently Judge of the Circuit Court. Later, on the reorganization of the Judiciary in 1857, he became a Judge of the Superior Court. He has thus been on the Bench for 23 or 24 years, and in that time has done judicial duty in every portion of the old District of Montreal, embracing about half the population of Lower Canada. Although not standing foremost among the jurists who have won celebrity among the members of our Bench and Bar, he has yet proved an eminently useful and painstaking judge. He was successively Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor of the University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, which office he held at the time of his death. He was the active promoter of the establishment there of the Grammar School, now such an eminently successful feature of the institution. In the Church Society he took a most active part, with the late Mr. Moffatt, and others in the work, more especially of the Central Board and Lay Committee, of which he was for several years chairman. He was also one who laboured most zealously in putting the fund for widows and orphans of deceased clergymen on a satisfactory basis, and to promote the formation of a sustentation fund for the partial endowment of