

mildness and indulgence, combined with the peculiar faculty which he possessed to a great extent of captivating the minds of children, and leading them gently to the most difficult points of science, endeared him to all his pupils, who, have never forgotten the many pleasant hours they passed with him in those days, that may be called, the dawn of a new era in the history of Colleges.

His great partiality for the study of Geography, which, he used to say, comprises, if well understood, almost every other study, induced him to compile a treatise in French, which is perhaps the most complete and most entertaining elementary book ever published on that subject. * A work of this nature was then much required, there being at the time nothing within the reach of the French Canadian youth, but dry and incomplete treatises which, besides being unreadable, contained inaccurate notions as to America in general, and to our own country in particular.

In that work the most minute attention has been paid to all relating to our continent, and with reference to the rest of the globe, the book having been compiled from extracts from the best authors, and being written in a very attractive and beautiful style, it is perhaps the very best work on geography now extant.

It has been translated into English and we believe also into German and has now reached its fifth Canadian edition, each being brought up to date in point of statistics and of legislation. (1)

In 1836, Mr. Holmes was sent on a mission to Europe by the Provincial Government to procure teachers for the normal school at that time intended to be opened in Lower-Canada. He was also commissioned to inquire into the system of normal schools in several countries and, to procure books, apparatus, and collections of natural history for the new institution. He returned the next year with Mr. Regnaud, who had been recommended to him by Mr. Guizot, then minister of public instruction in France and Mr. Findlater who had been brought up in one of the training schools of Scotland. They opened a normal school at Montreal, but in consequence of the insurrection and of the suspension of the constitution it had to be given up and Mr. Findlater went back to Scotland. Mr. Regnaud found employment here as a surveyor and delivered an address at the opening of the Jacques-Cartier normal school nearly twenty years after the failure of the first undertaking.

In the course of his visit to England, Scotland, France, Belgium and Italy, Mr. Holmes was considered by many men of science with whom he became acquainted, as a person of superior ability and attainments and was treated with the highest regard. He also took the opportunity during his journey, of purchasing for the seminaries of Quebec, of Ste. Anne and of Nicolet philosophical instruments and collections of mineralogy which still do honor to those several institutions. He was accompanied by three young

(*) *Nouvel abrégé de géographie moderne, suivie d'un appendice et d'un abrégé de géographie sacrée à l'usage de la jeunesse.* Québec 1832, Neilson & Cowan. 300 pages in 12.

(1) The last (1854) was published by the Messrs. Crómazie of Quebec, who have bought the copyright.

gentlemen who were completing their studies at the seminary, and whom, their parents being in easy circumstances, had sent to enjoy the benefit of a voyage, in company with so distinguished a mentor. They all entered the church on their return; the Revd. Mr. Taschereau, a son of the late Mr. Justice Taschereau, is now one of the directors of the seminary, the Revd. Mr. Fortier the son of a wealthy merchant of Quebec, died of the typhus fever, while attending the emigrants at Grosse Isle in 1848, and the Revd. Mr. Parent, brother of the present assistant Provincial secretary, is the curé of *Pointe-aux-Trembles*.

A few years after his return, Mr. Holmes met with one of those terrible family afflictions which are so disastrous to the public career of all men of feeling. From that day he withdrew by degrees from the prominent position he used to occupy in the direction of the seminary, appeared seldom in the pulpit of the cathedral where his presence always used to attract great crowds of hearers, till finding that his health was considerably impaired he retired to Lorette where he died in 1852, at the age of 53. A few years before his death he re-appeared in the cathedral where he delivered during lent a series of sermons which were published and are highly esteemed in Canada and abroad. (2)

Having given a brief account of the labours of those men who had the greatest influence in regulating the course of studies in the minor seminary or college, and who have brought it to its present efficient status, we shall now proceed with a synopsis of its various branches. There is first a *preparatory class* in which the elements of the french and english grammar and of arithmetic are taught. The next is called the seventh class. The boys learn Lhomond's french grammar and the elements and the first part of syntax of the latin grammar by the same author—they translate the *Epitome historiae sacrae*. They learn sacred history in french besides, preliminary notions of geography and they go over for the second time Lindley Murray's first grammar. In the sixth class they go over again what they have seen of the latin grammar in the previous year and they complete the syntax of the same; they translate *De Viris* and *Fabulae Phaedrae*, they continue latin, french and english versions and exercises, they continue arithmetic, read *Murray's Introduction*, learn Mr. Holmes' geography of Europe and an abridgment of mythology. The fifth class go over again Lhomond's latin syntax, begin the *method* by the same author, continue Chapsal's french syntax, translate *Cornelius Nepos*, *Commentaria Caesaris Ovidii Metamorphoses* and *Virgil's Eglogues*; they learn ancient history, the geography of Asia, the last part of arithmetic and commence book keeping. They also translate Cornelius from latin into english.

In the fourth class the latin grammar is again reviewed and completed. The latin authors are Caesar, Quintus Curtius, Sallustus and Virgil's *Eneid*. Burnouf's greek grammar is begun, Esop's greek fables are translated. They also learn Roman history, the geography of Africa and of

(2) *Conférences de Notre-Dame de Québec, par M. l'abbé Jean Holmes—Québec—A. Côté et cie.—1850—160 pages 6s.*