—The semi-annual session of the Association of Teachers for the district of Bedford, was held in the High School, at Durham, on the 17th February instant. Communications were read from the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction and from Principal Dawson, of McGill College, relating to the objects of the Association. Two lectures were delivered, one by Mr. J. W. March, on the "Teacher's profession;" and the other by Rev. J. C. Butcher, subject: "Laughing at impossibilities." Several resolutions were adopted. one among others to petition the executive government for the appointment of the Council of Public Instruction, pursuant to the Act of 1856.

—Chief Justice Sir J. B. Robinson, in a recent charge to a grand jury, made the following remarks:

"Some of my brother judges in this place have, I perceived, felt themselves called on to remark the increase of crime in the younger part of the population, and also the great extent to which the crime of drunkenness had increased. With regard to the young, and their being led astray without any proper means to reclaim them being taken—there is, I think, no country in the world in which one would expect to find less room for such remarks. For here unusual attention has been paid by the Legislature to the diffusion of knowledge by Common Schools. No parents can have a proper excuse for the non-education of their children. I am satisfied that no proper excuse can be given for children of the poor not being sent to the schools ready to receive them in town and cities. But it is really of little purpose; for such schools only give them the means of education to a certain period of life. After having attained 12 or 14 years of age, no doubt, the greater number of children were taken from school to assist their parents. From that moment they become exposed to the temptations awaiting them in a city like this. A great many of them might have sense enough not to listen to any attempts made to draw them to places where idleness and all kinds of vice are going on; but I fear that a great number of them, not having sufficient strength of mind, would be led away by habits of drunkenness. In every little village in the country grog-shops are to be found, under various names. And from their number it is evident they are not at all necessary for the refreshment of travellers. And should you enter one of them, especially after dark, it would be quite evident that their frequenters were not travellers, but parties living in the neighborhood."

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—The inauguration of the new building of the Montreal Natural History Society, took place on the 22d of February, with very great *éclat*. We have already stated that this Society has sold the premises which it has so long occupied in Little St. James street, to the *Institut Canadien-Français;* in a very short time, that is to say, in the course of last summer, the Society have erected a large brick edifice at the corner of McGill avenue and St. Catherine street, in the neighbourhood of the Anglican Cathedral and of the McGill College. The building is an oblong parallelogram. The lower floor is occupied by a spacious entrance, the library, a large and neat lecture room, and other appartments. The upper part is all thrown into one room high with a gallery receiving light but from the ceiling. It contains the museum; which embraces collections in all the departments of Natural History. The establishment as it is, is highly creditable to the *savans* of Montreal; but will be much more so when it shall have been completed by the exertions and donations of the learned portion of our community, who's sympathies seem to be now well enlisted in favor of the institution.

The inaugural soirée was gracefully intermixed with speeches, music, and scientific illustrations with the microscope. A large number of the élite, including many ladies, were present. Principal Dawson, president of the Society, filled the chair and opened the proceedings by an interesting exposé, in which he stated that the cost of the building was $10,000, and payed a just tribute of praise to the gentlemen concerned in its construction. The following part of his speech was enthusiastically applauded:—

"Natural History teaches us that it is by no accident that the greatest and most prosperous city of British America is placed on the Island of Montreal. In its situation halfway between Cape Race and Fort William, at the confluence of our two greatest rivers; opposite the great national highway of the Hudson and Champlain Valley; at the point where the St. Lawrence ceases to be navigable for ocean ships, and where that great river, for the last time in its course to the sea, affords a gigantic water power; at the meeting point of the two races that divide Canada, and in the centre of a fertile plain nearly as large as all England; in these we recognise a guarantee for the greatness of Montreal, not based on the frail tenure of human legislation, but on the unchanging decrees of the Eternal, as stamped on the world that he has made. [Applause.] We know, from the study of these indications, that were Canada to be again a wilderness, and were a second Cartier to explore it, he might wander over all the great regions of Canada and the West, and returning to our mountain ridge, call it again the Royal Mount, and say that to this point must the wealth and population of all this new world flow. It is not worthy of a city so placed to solicit mere artificial dignities; but it is worthy of it to promote within itself all those high moral and intellectual influences which should flow from it to the region around. [Cheers.] Although, therefore, this Society is not for Montreal alone but for Canada, and, as far as may be, for the world; yet, if it should rest for its support on this city alone, we know that, with the kind blessing of the Providence that has given us this goodly heritage, and with that support, cordially and liberally as it is always given to every deserving institution, we may hope to take a high place among the learned Societies of the western world. [Cheers.]"

Sir William Eyre was then called upon by the President to address the meeting which he did in his usual forcible and happy style. We noticed among his remaks the following evidence born by him to the universal popularity of science. It is certainly worth a perusal.

"Those who once acquired a relish for those pursuits, generally turned away as if by instinct from those grosser pleasures which degrade mankind. Nor were such intellectual pursuits confined to the *literati*, to any particular class. There were a few in every class who could relish and appreciate intellectual enjoyments, and if they were only a few, the object of philanthropy would always be to convert the few into the many. He had been much impressed with some things which had come under his observation while travelling in Greece. Though always aware that the modern Greeks ressembled the ancient Greeks, their progenitors, in many of their qualities, and that at all events they were remarkable for their intelligence, he was not prepared to find on one or two occasions—the poor Greek peasants, but recently emancipated from the galling yoke of Turkish oppression, reposing under the shade of their olives, and poring over the pages of Xenophon and Herodotus—yet such was the case. [Applause.] They seemed perfectly aware of the *prestige* which once had hung like the mountain mist, over their beautiful land. They knew well the glorious height from which their race had fallen, and in contemplation of the glorious deeds of the past, and perhaps dreaming of the future, they seemed to forget the poverty and wretchedness of their present position. So, too, it was in his own profession. Many would be surprised if they went into the barrack-room and saw the description of books that were in the hands of not a few of the soldiers. Many fancied that the poor soldiers, humble and faithful servants of the Crown as they were, had no relish for intellectual pursuits. They could give them credit for courage and fortitude,—and these qualities had been well exemplified on the bleak and dreary plateau before Sebastopol—[cheers]—but it was not so generally known that many of them had minds far beyond their position, and could as keenly appreciate what was great and noble, as could any of their prosperous fellow-citizens. [Applause.]

Professor Hall, of Albany, next spoke. "He said it gave him great gratification to come here to-night to give any encouragement in his power to a Society having for its object the advancement of natural science—a study to which he had devoted 30 years of his life, with scarcely a thought of anything else. He then mentioned some facts connected with the organization of similar societies in the United States, which he said dated back but a little way into the last century. This society had its origin much more recently, but its collection already was a very important one. He looked upon its museum as among the best features of the society, for while only a few could devote themselves to making original investigations in science, nearly all could assist in the collection of natural objects. There was one point which the people of this country could more readily appreciate than the people of the United States, because they were more directly connected with the parent country, whence they had come to fix on this soil homes like those which they or their forefathers had left on the other side. We had here a new soil—not only a new country but a new soil, clothed with a vegetation entirely different from that we had left across the Atlantic. Natural History embraced this soil and all its products, and not only the soil but the rocks from which it was derived, the plants and trees it grew, and the animals which roamed over its surface. Professor Hall went on to trace the process by which European men and animals and even plants were gradually supplanting those indigenous to the American soil. The process was constantly going on; even the solitary traveller, making a trail across the great prairies of the West and over the Rocky Mountains, dropped on his course the seeds of European plants, which, taking root and springling up, were beginning to supplant the native weeds, and prepared the way for the immigration of the white man. We were removing from the face of this continent, first, the men who preceded us, next the animals, and then the vegetation, and introducing in their stead the domestic animals of Europe, and the vegetation on which they feed, and at the same time numberless insects which accompanied that vegetation. In these circumstances, it became a population like that of Canada or that of the United States to study even more closely than those of Europe, the character of their soil and of its products. It was one of the most pleasant duties of his life anywhere and everywhere in the United States, to bear testimony to the advances made in natural science in Canada. They had wrought out in Canada by zeal and intelligence and persevering labour, a knowledge of a set of strata which to this day were but little known in Europe. Their knowledge of their Laurentian rocks was far in advance of anything known in Europe of rocks of the same age. These were not primary rocks. They had been called so; but here in Canada they had the merit of first pointing out to the world that they were stratified rocks shewing beds of lime and sandstone which had been laid down by water, but had been modified by subsequent changes. [Applause.] The knowledge of this, of the age of these rocks of their stratified formation, and of the valuable minerals, were due to Canadian research. They had moreover demonstrated the stratification of another set of rocks, called here the Huronian, which had always formerly been thought to belong to the primary chaotic mass. Cana-