

the birth of a kingdom, or nation, and carries the reader upwards in its course amid its various ramifications, changes, and aspects, and finally leaves him when he has obtained a thorough insight into its life, past, present, and possibly future state. For instance, a complete history of France would have to commence with Roman Gaul, and would have to trace the life of England, and all contemporary kingdoms, at the same time as it gave the history of France *per se*, in order to enable the student to get a comprehensive glance at the extension of the kingdom, and the different influences which bore on it during its life and existence. A true historian must not merely satisfy himself in chronicling facts, for such a source would only reduce history to the level of chronological annals. Truth must be his greatest object, and justice his guide. When studying monarchy, if liberal in politics, he should not let republicanism actuate him; all bias of party must be waived in writing history correctly. Our most ancient civil history is found in the Old Testament; but its objects are confined, as it is written more as a chronicle of the facts of the Jewish race, than a general description of other nations, who were also connected with them, in relations of amity or war. Herodotus is the father of ancient history, as he is often rightly called; and to him we are indebted for the first work really deserving this title. The poems of Homer are sometimes regarded as an early history of Greece, but as his words were not written down when composed at first, it would be impossible to consider Homer in a true historic light, as they have only been handed down to us by word of mouth, and are liable to error. Thucy-

dides and Xenophon are the writers who have bequeathed us the deeds of the Grecian commonwealth. Livy is the historian of Rome; Justin the compiler of a brief attempt at general history. The works of Cicero, Sallust, Tacitus and Caesar, also illustrate one of the most important eras in Roman history. After the downfall of that empire, a long series of revolutions took place in the rule of the world, and Europe became parcelled out in various dynasties and powers, giving rise to an increasing need of historical commentations. Of English historians, the venerable Bede is one of the first, and his writings give us the clearest view of the Saxon period. After the revival of letters, history became one of the greatest of literary works, and as such it is esteemed and valued at the present day. To follow its course in modern times would be a work of impossibility, within the limits of the present article. Philosophical history is that in which the mere narration of facts is considered as subordinate to the elucidation of general truths and influence; and, consequently, it often lapses into the broaching of a general theory. Of philosophical historians, Gibbon on the "Decline of the Roman Empire" may be considered as entitled to the chief place; and Lord Macaulay's "History of England" is another instance of how grandly history has risen since first considered in the light of a science, united with literary composition. Whatever be the subject, whatever the political bias of the author, the value of the history will be in proportion to the general depth, greatness, and nobility of the historian's own nature as a whole.—*Beeton's Art, Science, and Literature.*

## EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

### CANADA.

—A new High School building was formally opened in Oakwood on the 7th Dec.

—A new High School building has been erected in Arnprior, at a cost of \$6,362.

—Out of twenty-eight candidates for

admission into the Mitchell High School, thirteen were successful.

—Berlin has just completed a new High School building at an expense of \$8,000. The average attendance at all the schools exceeds 600.