

Lord John Russell in the course of his speech, states,

The number of schools supported by the Church of England or what were called National Schools, was in 1847, 17,015; by the British and Foreign Society, 1,500; by the Wesleyans, 396; by the Congregationalists, 82; by the Roman Catholics, 525; and ragged schools, 270; making a total of 29,096. The number of scholars attending these schools were at that time as follows:—

National Schools.....	951,853
British and Foreign.....	225,000
Wesleyans.....	48,000
Congregationalists.....	7,000
Roman Catholics.....	34,000
Ragged Schools.....	20,000

giving a total of 1,285,853. I will now state, so far as it can be ascertained, the income drawn from these schools. In 1847, the sum drawn by

The National Schools was.....	£807,021
British and Foreign.....	171,250
Wesleyans.....	27,357
Congregationalists.....	4,951
Roman Catholics.....	16,000
Ragged Schools.....	20,000

Giving a total income of.....£1,046,579

In reckoning the sources of income, it has been calculated that there were derived from local endowments £16,537; local subscriptions, £366,823; local collections, £111,109; scholars' pence, £413,044; other sources, £83,076. With the exception of the Roman Catholic schools, there is no return of the number endowed by private individuals; and putting down £54,000 for that, as spread over all the others, we have then a total of £1,100,000. There is one item in this table of income, to which I think it worthy to call attention. It is the item put down as "scholars' pence"—which was said to be upwards of £413,000. I have no doubt, that were a correct calculation made, it would be found that the item did not amount to less than £500,000, or half a million. That the working men—that the poorer classes of this country should contribute not less than half a million a year in order to obtain instruction for their children, is a circumstance of the most gratifying kind. I confess that induces me to think the steps we ought to take should be such as rather to strengthen and enforce that system, which has grown up chiefly out of the voluntary efforts of large bodies, than attempt to set up anything else in its place, which might fall far short in supplying the means of education with equal success.

## UNITED STATES.

### MONTHLY SUMMARY.

The New York Legislature on the 15th ult., passed a law to incorporate "the New York State Agricultural College." The farm and ground to consist of 300 acres. The plan of instruction to embrace practical, scientific, agriculture, chemistry, mathematics, mechanics, surveying, engineering, geology, botany, the practical management of the farm, dairy and live stock; "also such other branches of knowledge as may be deemed useful and proper."—A School for the Chinese in their own language has been established at San Francisco.—The New York Legislature have passed a law to remove the educational anomaly which has existed in the city of New York for many years. It was enacted that, as soon as the necessary transfer can be made, the "Public School Society" shall be merged in the "Board of Education" for the city—thus consolidating into one, two bodies, who had long been possessed of co-ordinate and independent powers for the accomplishment of the same object, the one by authority of a charter, and the other by legislative enactment.—Buffalo paid for the support of Free Schools during the last year the sum of \$38,787,56. A liberal system of education is justly stated to be elevating, purifying and ennobling in its influences.—Wisconsin with a sparse and immigrant population, has a school and university fund of \$850,000, and an outlay for the instruction of her children, of \$120,000; 90,000 of her 120,000 children have attended school during the year.—Mr. Ingersoll, the United States Ambassador, at the dinner given him, 7th ult., at Manchester, said:—"Our common schools are attended, so far as most of States go, by every child of a poor man that chooses to attend them; and an education sufficient for all the purposes of life is given, so that there are at this moment—there were, at least, two years ago, and of course there are rather more now—4,000,000 individuals going through a course of instruction in the United States, or about one-fifth of the inhabitants of the country. I speak

for my own particular place of residence, Philadelphia, when I say there are 50,000 poor individuals at this moment who are educated at these public schools, without cost to parents, most of them being unable to pay anything for them."—Subscriptions to the amount of \$21,000, and scholarships to the amount of \$21,000, have been raised for the North Alabama College, which is to be located at Huntsville, Alabama, a healthy and beautiful town. The charter granted last session by the Alabama Legislature requires that before active operations can be commenced, the subscriptions for the erection of the buildings, &c., shall reach \$30,000, and the scholarships for the endowment to the amount of \$60,000.—We learn from the Western Christian Advocate that Mr. Sturges, of Zanesville, an Old School Presbyterian, has offered to furnish \$10,000, as a nucleus for a library for the Methodist College at Delaware, Ohio, on condition, that the Methodists of Ohio will raise \$15,000, in cash before the first day of June next, to put up a building to contain it.—Miss Catherine E. Beecher has offered to endow a *Female Seminary in Dubuque, Mo.*, with the sum of \$20,000, and also to furnish books and apparatus to the amount of \$1,000, provided the citizens of Dubuque will erect a building and guarantee a certain number of scholars. This proposition has been accepted, and a committee appointed to solicit donations.

*The Free School Law of the State of New York has been declared to be unconstitutional*, on the somewhat anti-republican ground of its having been submitted by the legislature to the people for their final vote of acceptance or rejection. This is the substance of a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, as announced by Mr. Justice Pratt, one of the judges of that Court at Oswego. Judge Pratt states that the New York Legislature virtually expressed no opinion on the necessity or expediency of the Free School law of March 26th, 1849. They left *that*, which was their constitutional duty and prerogative, to the people, whose prerogative the constitution says it is not. "The question on the final passage of the bill was to be taken at the polls." The legislature evaded the responsibility of making the law. "No member voted for a free school law, but simply to confer on the people the power to pass or reject the bill." This they had no power or right to do. Judge Pratt stands upon the principle that while all the powers of government—executive, legislative and judicial—are derived from the people and must be exercised for their benefit, they are not and cannot be exercised directly by the people themselves (except by creating endless confusion and disorder) but by their representatives, selected with reference to their fitness for each of the departments of government. This principle is regarded as primary and fundamental in all free countries. The two branches of the legislature will therefore have to re-enact the free school law upon their own responsibility—which they will doubtless do at their approaching session this month.

## Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

### MONTHLY SUMMARY.

Macaulay has been elected Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences, in place of the late Dr. Lingard.—His Majesty the Emperor of Austria has granted the golden medal for literary and artistic merits to Mr. Leone Levi for his work on the Commercial Law of the World.—At the second *soirée* given on Monday by Sir Roderick Murchison, as President of the Geographical Society, were displayed Mr. Arrowsmith's large map of Eastern Australia, about to be published, on which the gold fields and new discoveries are marked, with a separate map of the province of Victoria, accompanied by special plans of the Bendigo and Mount Alexander diggings, on a scale of two inches to a mile; large charts, showing the set of the different currents of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and specially in relation to the two sides of the Isthmus of Central America, by Mr. Findlay; an original map of the Rio Negro, a tributary of the river Amazon, by Mr. Wallace; a beautiful map of Teneriffe, executed by the celebrated Leopold von Buch, together with many new publications. Captain Moore explained his newly-invented patent machine, called the "Spherical Great Circle Indicator," constructed for the use of navigators; and a statuette in bronze, by Raunch, of Humboldt, a portrait of Leopold von Buch, a new engraving of the arctic voyagers, and a separate engraving of Captain Penny, not yet finished, were exhibited.—Mr. Wm. Jerdan, late of the London Literary Gazette, has been placed on the literary pension list for £100 per annum.—Mrs. Richardson, widow of the distinguished traveller, has also received a pension.—Sir Robt. Rich has been put forward by Mr. F. Ayerst, as the writer of the celebrated Junius Letters. The publication of the Grenville papers may throw some *light* on this *nominis umbra*.—The 11th Vol. of