

VIII. Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

— RESULTS OF THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT FOR 1857.—Summing up the general results of the action of the Department during 1857, which have been detailed in the preceding Report, it has been shown that the desire of the public to use the facilities offered by the State for the study of Science and Art is greatly on the increase.

The various Metropolitan Museums and Exhibitions in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, have been visited by 553,853 persons, being an increase of as many as 186,915 persons on 1856. The visitors to the Botanical and Zoological Gardens in Dublin have been 168,908, showing an increase of 10,222 persons on 1856. The circulating Art Museum has been sent to Stourbridge, Worcester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Paisley, and Dudgee, and 36,024 persons have consulted it. The various Schools of Science and courses of public scientific lectures have been attended by 10,372 students. The total number of students connected with the Schools of Art, or under inspection, has been 43,212, being an increase of 25 per cent. on the numbers returned in June, 1856; whilst the cost of the State assistance, from being an average of £3 2s. 4d per student in 1851, before the reform of the Schools of Design, has been reduced to an average of 13s. 1½d per student, the instruction at the same time having greatly improved and the means for study largely increased.

The success of the removal of the Science and Art Department from Marlborough House to South Kensington, has been so signal as to require some special notice of it.

The number of students in the Art Training School at Marlborough House during the Session ending February, 1858, was 292. The number in the month of last March at South Kensington was 407.

The visitors to the Museum in less than ten months have amounted to 439,997 persons, being nearly five times the average numbers annually that attended Marlborough House. [The numbers for twelve months have been 488,861.] The experiment of opening the Museum in the evening has shown that that is the time most convenient to the working classes to attend public museums. Comparing time with time, the numbers have been five times as great in the evening as in the morning. The provision of somewhat increased space has enabled the Department to be useful to all the local Schools of Art, in the circulation and lending of the articles in the Museum, and the books, prints in the Library. These are no longer metropolitan institutions, but are essentially national in their influence. The South Kensington Museum is the storehouse of the United Kingdom, and every School of Art is privileged to borrow from it any article that is safely portable.

The provisions of increased space has enabled the collections of Art for the first time to be properly exhibited to the public. It has also enabled other collections to be made and properly displayed, and it has been proved that if space be provided by the State, the public are willing to fill it. This is shewn by Mr. Sheepshank's munificent gift of British pictures now properly displayed, by the Animal collection, the Patent collection, the Architectural collection, the Educational collection, and the collection of Sculpture; in all of which the objects have been almost wholly provided by the public.—*From the Lord President's Annual Report.*

— THE CHANGE OF LEVEL IN THE GREAT LAKES.—Chester Dewey, LL.D., of the University of Rochester, states that Lake Ontario is seven inches higher than in October, 1857, when it was the highest that had been known for eleven years. He says there is no regular time of rise or fall in the lakes—no periodical changes of five, seven, or eleven years. Lake Ontario is high or low when or soon after the same fact in Lake Erie, and the fluctuations are about equal, as they are in Lake Michigan. The difference in the level is very rarely four feet in a year, when the waters are at rest. The conclusion he arrives at, after eleven years' observation of the lakes, and of meteorological conditions in their vicinity, is, that the fluctuations of their level depend on the quantity of water poured into the lakes by all the streams which carry off the rain and the melted snow, and upon the amount of evaporation.

— HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY.—The Librarian, Mr. John Langton Sibley, submitted to the Library Committee a detailed report of the accessions to the library. By this report it appears that, besides various duplicates, periodicals, newspapers, and catalogues, 2,944 volumes and 3,083 pamphlets have been added to the Public Library since the last annual examination, 10th July, 1857. Of the volumes, 1,563, and of the pamphlets 2,948 were gifts. There have also been received as gifts 11 engravings and 42 maps and plans. For periodicals the library is indebted

(among others) to the editors or proprietors, respectively, of the Canadian Journal of Industry, Science and Art, and the Journal of Education, Upper Canada. The Rev. John Cordner, of Montreal, has given more than 30 pamphlets and 30 volumes relating mostly to Canada, which were accompanied by the large and comprehensive Canada Directory, from the publisher, John Lovell, Esq. The additions to the Library during the year make the total number of volumes in Gore Hall, exclusive of pamphlets, about 77,000, and in all the libraries connected with the University about 120,000.—*Extract from the Cambridge Chronicle.*

— AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—We see it stated, upon what may be considered reliable authority, that thirty thousand Christians have recently been found upon an island north of Celebes. It has been rumored for a time that there was there a Christian people, forgotten and forsaken which, however, yet possessed three Bibles, and continued steadfast in the faith. When missionaries first landed on the island, they met with a school teacher and his pupils, who repeated in the Malayan tongue, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O Lord." No Bibles were found, but the most precious promises of the Bible written upon the bark of trees. They knew the Apostles' Creed, and the Heidelberg Catechism, and had Christian customs. Twenty churches and schools yet existed. Through the instrumentality of Pastor Heldring, founder of the Magdalen Asylum at Steenbeck, and chief patron of Inner Missions in Poland, four missionaries, who had been educated under the venerable Gossner, were sent out, and three thousand persons baptized. This is certainly a most interesting discovery. The island on which these Christians were found belongs to the East Indian Archipelago. The Dutch have for years had political rule in this region. This may account for the original introduction of Christianity among the people, and for the fact that the Heidelberg Catechism was still found in their possession. But still the particular time and circumstances in which this introduction took place may well challenge special attention, and elicit investigation from those who have the leisure and facilities for prosecuting it.—*German Reformed Messenger.*

IX. Departmental Notices.

PRIZES IN SCHOOLS.

The Chief Superintendent will grant one hundred per cent. upon all sums not less than five dollars transmitted to him by Municipalities or Boards of School Trustees for the purchase of books or reward cards for distribution as prizes in Grammar and Common Schools.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

"Township and County Libraries are becoming the crown and glory of the Institutions of the Province."—*Lord Elgin at the Upper Canada Provincial Exhibition, September, 1854.*

The Chief Superintendent of Education is prepared to apportion one hundred per cent. upon all sums which shall be raised from local sources by Municipal Councils and School Corporations, for the establishment or increase of Public Libraries in Upper Canada, under the regulations provided according to law. Remittances must not be in less sums than five dollars.

SCHOOL MAPS AND APPARATUS.

The Chief Superintendent will add 100 per cent. to any sum or sums, not less than five dollars, transmitted to the Department from Grammar and Common Schools; and forward Maps, Apparatus, Charts, and Diagrams to the value of the amount thus augmented, upon receiving a list of the articles required by the Trustees. In all cases it will be necessary for any person, acting on behalf of the Trustees, to enclose or present a written authority to do so, verified by the corporate seal of the Trustees. A selection of articles to be sent can always be made by the Department, when so desired.

ADVERTISEMENTS inserted in the *Journal of Education* for three cents per word, which may be remitted in postage stamps, or otherwise.

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