

### MEANS OF EDUCATION IN ST. PETERSBURG.

The University of St. Petersburg is one of the most recent academies of the Russian Empire. Catherine II. had instituted in her capital a Normal gymnasium, which in 1819 was elevated to the rank of university. In 1824 it numbered only thirty-eight professors and fifty-one students. In 1841, fifty-eight professors and a hundred and three students. Its expenses each year amounted to 300,000 francs. The salary of the ordinary professors is 5,800 francs, that of the extraordinary ones 4,000 francs. With this university are connected nine gymnasiums and two hundred and eighty-six schools of an inferior order, which in 1841 contained sixteen thousand and fifty-four pupils. The curator of this university, Prince Gregory Wolkonsky, has a reputation for thorough knowledge acquired here and in foreign countries. It is he who rules this institution and the schools connected with it, under the direction of M. Ouwaroff, one of the most intelligent and sensible men in the literary world. The emperor honors this faithful minister with a particular regard, and all Russia owes him gratitude for the services he has rendered her in the course of his long administration.

The school of mines is the vast and splendid institution, which has already rendered great services to Russia, and which must, in the future, render greater still. It was founded by the Empress Catherine, in 1773, and re-organized in 1834. It is now under the direction of General Schefkine, who unites to extensive acquisitions an amiability of disposition which I am not the first to eulogize. This school contains three hundred and twenty pupils, divided into two sections: the first pursues the Greek and Latin courses, as in college; the second enters into the abstruse studies of the mathematical and Physical sciences. Part of the pupils are maintained at the expense of the government, and others pay their own expenses. On leaving the school, the pupils are sent to the manufactories, where they must spend two years in practical studies; then they enter the service of the government, either with the grade of officers or that of superintendents, according to the studies they have pursued and the aptness they have shown.

The collections of this School of Mines are magnificent; one finds there a complete assemblage of the mineral wealth of the North, of the finest productions of the Ural Mountains and of Siberia: a block of emerald containing twenty-three of these precious stones, the smallest of which is an inch long; a piece of native platina weighing ten pounds, and valued at 100,000 francs; a block of malachite more than four feet in diameter, and a quantity of pearls, topazes, and diamonds.

I also saw for the first time the entire skeleton of a mammoth, that monstrous animal beside which an elephant would seem small. When he formerly roved over the vast plains where his bones now lie buried the earth must have trembled beneath his feet.\*

### Educational Intelligence.

#### CANADA.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.—RETIREMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND FRENCH MASTER.

Yesterday we witnessed the annual recitations and distribution of prizes; the attendance was limited chiefly to some of the parents and friends of the pupils; but it was no small gratification to meet there our worthy excellent Bishop, who has ever shown himself the warm supporter of this Institution. This day will ever be marked in the annals of the College, as witnessing the retirement of two of its Masters, one of whom, Mr. Barron, has been connected with it twenty-two years, and of these, as Principal, fourteen; the other, Mr. De la Haye, twenty-seven—since its original organization. The distribution of the Prizes was made by the Principal, accompanied by remarks in each case, which must have been equally gratifying to the boys and to the masters. After this, the successful competitors of the exhibition were called up to sign their names. After concluding his official duties, Mr. Barron announced, that his official connexion with the College would now cease. The Rev. Mr. Stennett then came forward, and on the part of the Masters, presented an address to the Principal, accompanied by the gift of a portrait to the College, and a silver wine-cooler to Mr. B. himself. The portrait was painted by Mr.

\* The inhabitants of Siberia, astonished at the quantity of bones of the mammoth which they find in the ground, and which overflowing rivers wash from their beds, have imagined that this animal lives under the ground, like a mole, and perishes if struck by the light of day. The Chinese, who have also, doubtless, mammoth bones in the northern parts of their empire, have adopted a similar fable.

Berthon, and is an excellent likeness. The wine-cooler is simple and plain, with a suitable inscription. After Mr. Barron's reply, Mr. Stennett read an address to Mr. De la Haye, accompanied with the present of a handsome chimney-piece clock with glass case. Mr. De la Haye replied in very suitable terms. Master Bethune, of the seventh form, then came forward and presented an address from the Upper Canada College Boys to the Principal, accompanied by a beautiful silver epergne and salver. This address was signed by all the boys actually at College, about 250 in number. Mr. Barron's beautiful and affectionate reply needs no comment. Mr. Barron then turned to Mr. De la Haye, and in highly complimentary terms to him and his whole family, requested his acceptance of a handsome silver-mounted glass butter cooler, which he hoped he might find useful in his new rustic habitation, and where he (Mr. B.) hoped he would long enjoy that competency which he had so well earned. After a few short remarks, scarcely audible from emotion, he (Mr. B.) then begged his Lordship the Bishop to close the meeting with the divine blessing. This was done, and thus terminated the day's proceedings—proceedings which will be long remembered by those who were present.—*Daily Colonist*, 24th July.

### Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

#### HOW THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH CABLE IS MADE.

The process of making this cable consists in taking copper wire, of a small size, of the requisite length, and completely insulating it, by means of gutta percha. Three copper wires, thus enveloped, are placed together, side by side, in as compact a space as possible, all the interstices between them being filled with rope yarn. These three insulated wires are then twisted around each other, by means of machinery, as in the strands of a rope, and the whole is completely surrounded by another envelope of gutta percha. A transverse section of this cable gives the appearance of a solid gutta percha rope, in which appears three copper wires, running through its whole length. This is enveloped by twelve distinct large iron wires, running parallel to it, which are strongly twisted around the gutta percha rope, as before, by means of machinery, at an angle of 45 degrees; this is then smeared with tar, and is ready for use. Its diameter is an inch and a half.—*Student and Schoolmate*.

VILLAGE LIBRARIES IN YORKSHIRE.—The beautiful mansion and classic domain of Castle Howard, the princely seat of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, was thrown open last week to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the establishment of Village Libraries in the district around. The festive part was comprehended in tea and cakes, for which upwards of three thousand shilling tickets were issued. The *Malton Messenger* says:—"The castle and grounds were, by the generous order of the noble proprietor—the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—thrown open for the fete. On the north front of the castle, in the general park, there was a kind of fair for the entertainment of those who did not join in the festival, and these amounted to nearly 2,000 people. There were stalls of different descriptions, supplied with the usual delicacies, including tea and ginger-beer; while at another part there was a cricket match, and many other amusements, not forgetting, amid the great attractions, the unwearied efforts of an humble minstrel to supply some rustic maidens with sweet sounds, while they engaged in the merry dance, and the oft-repeated tale of the unlettered showman, who was vociferously reciting the story of the Alma, 'accompanied by illustrations.'" The report exhibits the good effects of this admirable system of Village Libraries. "The third annual report shows that the present position of the Castle Howard United Villages Itinerating Library is very encouraging. Branches have been opened in the fifteen villages, besides four sections of books in different parts of the town of Malton. The library contains 1,050 volumes of well-selected books of standard literature, whose mission is to soften and civilise; including the best attainable works upon practical and scientific improvements in the various branches of farming—the last particularly suitable to an agricultural district. The issues of books in the year have been 8,280 which have been distributed as follows among the several classes of works:—History, 1,090; biography, 620; voyages and travels, 1,160; miscellaneous, 3,015; fiction, 2,009; natural history, farming, &c., 386. It is gratifying to have to state that the fair sex are great readers. The financial state of the association is very encouraging."