

THE INSTRUCTOR,

FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND.

EDITED BY - - - ALEXANDER MUNRO,
Bay Verte, New-Brunswick.

All Communications to be addressed to the Editor POST PAID.

TERMS—3s. 9d. per annum. Clubs of Five 15s.—One Copy Extra.

Vol. 3.

APRIL, 1860.

No. 4.

Modern Literature and Elementary Instruction. No. 3.—(Concluded.)

PRUSSIA has long had a national system of education, which makes it compulsory on all children to attend school from the age of seven, and remain till they are fourteen, under heavy penalties. Such a system, though it is true, compels every child to be a scholar, still, it has not tended to educate the Prussian mind in a manner, commensurate with the means employed,—and may be set down as an educational military despotism.

The people under despotic governments never have in any age of the world arrived at a very high state of refinement; and it is equally true of education,—whenever it has been forced upon the people, it has not tended to draw out the mind of the mass of society, and lead the people to realize the importance and beauty of useful knowledge. It is not by coercion that the great improvements and discoveries, which have from time to time been made in the arts and sciences, and the thousands of other objects, have been produced. No, they were the spontaneous produc-

tions of the master spirits of the world, impelled and stimulated onwards by other and more noble means, and for higher ends, than to subserve the interests of despotisms.

FRANCE, previous to 1791, was without any system of public instruction. The little intellectual light that existed in the nation was destroyed by the revolution of 1789. So that the thirty millions of people were without any schools, or school system. In 1828 there were fifteen millions of the people of this nation that could neither read nor write. But recently some of the provisions of the Prussian system of education have been introduced into France, but on a modified basis, and a great change has taken place in the educational state of the nation—the great majority can now read and write, and the higher institutions of learning, intellectually considered, are in a very efficient state, and France continues to send forth men highly educated in all the modern departments of knowledge.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, at the be-