

One word, kind Sirs, pray pardon us the crime  
Of being young—'t will soften down with time ;  
And you, fair Ladies, o'er our efforts fling  
Your smiles' bright sunshine—for, as poets sing,  
Without the smile from partial beauty won,  
Oh! what were man (or boy)—the world without a sun!

The remainder of the programme was as follows :

2. The Idiot Boy—Matthews.
3. Othello's Defence before the Venetian Senate—Macduff.
4. The Duel—Baylis.
5. Scene from "The Merchant of Venice,"—Shylock, Childs; Antonio, Reid; Bassanio, Empey.
6. The Charge of the Light Brigade—Michaels.
7. Sergeant Buzfuz address to the Jury—Baynes.
8. Trial Scene from "The Merchant of Venice"—Shylock, Baynes; Antonio, Mulholland; Bassanio, Macdougall; Gratiano, Fleet, The Duke, Jones; The Doctor of Laws, Cross.

The whole of the recitations were very excellent, most creditable to the lads themselves and to their Elocution Master, Professor Andrew. We never remember to have heard such excellent school recitations. Baynes was particularly clever in Sergeant Buzfuz and Shylock—the trial scene being all done *à merveille*, and Michaels recited "The Charge of the Light Brigade" with wonderful spirit, feeling and good taste.

The elocutionary exercises having concluded, the audience adjourned to the gymnasium, in order to witness the performances of Mr. Barnjum's pupils. First in order came the Junior Class, who, with wooden dumbbells, executed a variety of most graceful and spirited movements, and anything more admirably adapted for the use of children than these exercises, we cannot conceive. Next came a class of older boys with Indian clubs. This beautiful exercise is doubtless familiar to many of our readers, who witnessed it at the late entertainment given at the Rink, on which occasion it was the theme of universal admiration. Next followed the parallel bars, on which the boys showed to very great advantage the elasticity and ease of their movements, speaking volumes for the admirable training which they had received. Mr. Barnjum evidently believes that *nerve* as well as *muscle* should be cultivated, and the dashing in which the young gymnasts threw somersaults in every variety on the bars showed that he had found apt pupils, but still an attentive observer could notice that the *confident* way in which the feats were performed resulted in no small measure from the consciousness of possessing the necessary muscle, for no boy is allowed to perform any advanced feat, until he has proved his subtlety to execute all the simple feats *perfectly*. After the parallel bars came the horizontal bar, and here the feats performed were such as to call forth enthusiastic applause, and it was only the confidence, inspired by knowing that their careful instructor would allow them to do nothing which they were not fully capable of, that could have reconciled many parents to see their sons apparently determining in the most deliberate manner to break their necks; but there was no occasion for fear, as so strong and pliant have the boys' limbs become by practice, and so well can they balance their bodies, that a severe fall seemed to be an impossibility. After the horizontal bar came the Trapeze and Side Rings; on the former several excellent feats were performed, and the latter demonstrated with what perfect comfort one can progress by an alternate hold of the arms, when those arms have been *educated* to the required standard. Next came the inclined ladders, up which the boys climbed hand over hand without the aid of feet, and ran up and down without any assistance from the hand, a feat which, although it looks easy, in reality demands a great command of nerve, and no small practice. After a few more feats, the exercises terminated, and the audience dispersed, evidently much gratified by what they had witnessed.—*Montreal Gazette*.

—The several schools under the control of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of Montreal held their Christmas examinations. At the British and Canadian School and the Griffintown School, the examinations were presided over by Wm. Lunn, Esquire, Chairman of the Board, and books were distributed as rewards. The pupils are numerous in both schools and appear to have made considerable progress during the course of the year. The British and Canadian School is now under the management of Mr. Allan, formerly of the Quebec suburb Model School, and the Griffintown School is conducted by Mr. Williamson. At the Quebec suburb Model School, Panet street, the examinations were presided over by the Hon. the Superintendent of Education; Rev. Dr. Taylor, Hon. James Ferrier, Wm. Lunn, Esquire, and Professor Hicks, being among those present. After presenting the prizes to the pupils, the Superintendent addressed those present, and was followed by Mr. Ferrier and Mr. Lunn. The school is conducted by Mr. and Miss Maxwell with several assistants. The pupils gave evidence of sufficient proficiency in the several branches of tuition.

—We had the pleasure of visiting the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Coteau St. Louis on Saturday last, when the whole of the pupils, 35 in number, were mustered to receive a lesson in writing from Professor Long. We should premise that M. Magnan, one of the preceptors, has himself been studying under the Professor, with the purpose of being better able

to instruct his pupils in the art of writing, and so enable them, as book-keepers or accountants, to earn an honest living. The Principal of the Institution, Mr. Belanger, was present, and three other Priests. The boys, who in age varied from 8 to 20, were put through a great many exercises on the black board; the explanations of Professor Long being interpreted to them by their tutors. The boys seemed to enjoy their drill very much; and it was surprising with what aptitude they imitated the curves and straight lines which the Professor put before them. At the conclusion of the hour's exercise, they thanked Prof. Long for his visit, which he promised to repeat after the Holidays. This highly benevolent institution is under the auspices of His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, and the Seminary of St. Sulpice, protected by the Provincial Government, and directed by the Clerks Regular of St. Viator. English as well as French is taught. The course of studies is of six years, and comprises grammar, history, geography, arithmetic, book-keeping, drawing and catechism, with some notions on agriculture and domestic economy. The charges for board and tuition are very low, and the unfortunates who have had to seek for education there look very comfortable and happy. They seem to be deeply attached to their teachers, and were delighted when any one of them smiled upon Professor Long's appreciation of their efforts. The charge for board and tuition is very low, and there is no characteristic dress—only the pupils must be provided with clothes, that they may be always kept clean.—*Transcript*.

#### SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—The usual monthly meeting of the Montreal Natural History Society was held in their lecture-room on the evening of the 18th Dec.—Dr. Smallwood, the President, in the chair.

The meeting was well attended. Among the members present were the Lord Bishop and Metropolitan, Principal Dawson, Dr. De Sola, Dr. Wilkes, Dr. Philip Carpenter, and others.

A paper on "Sanguinaria Canadensis" or Blood Root, by Dr. Gibb of London, England, was then read.

In January, 1860, I had the honour to read before the Medical Society of London a lengthy paper upon the natural history, properties, and medical uses of the *Sanguinaria Canadensis* with the chief object of making the medical profession in Britain acquainted with a plant which I had employed for some years with decided advantage in many affections of the chest and wind-pipe. My observations were the result of many years' study of the plant in Canada, where I had made myself familiar with everything concerning its growth and natural history.

As far as traditional evidence can be traced, this plant has been used for some time by the Indian tribes of North America as a pigment and a medicine, and also as a dyeing agent. Charlevoix appears to have been the first writer who mentions the purpose for which it was employed when using the expression: "S'est souvent servi de la racine de cette plante pour provoquer les mois;" or, in other words, it was administered as an emmenagogue.

The first printed notice of the plant is briefly given in the *Historia Canadensium Plantarum*, by Jac Cornuti, Doctor of Medicine, published in 1635. The second notice was by John Parkinson, apothecary, London, 1640. It cannot be inferred from Parkinson's writings that the plant was cultivated in England, although seeds of the plant had been sent from Canada and Virginia, which had propagated abundantly in a garden near London.

The plants described by Charlevoix in 1744, which he met in Canada in 1721 and 1722, are considered in the first volume of the *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec* by Mr. Wm. Sheppard.

The *Sanguinaria* cannot be considered a handsome, showy plant; nevertheless, its humble but beautiful little white flower, and the extreme delicacy of its leaves curiously veined on the under side with a pale orange, almost at once strikes the observer; with justice it may be called elegant, and can be admired not only for its delicacy, but is interesting from the circumstance of its very early inflorescence, being among the earliest of the Spring plants of North America, appearing as soon as the frost leaves the earth in the month of April or May.

The flower resembles the White Crocus very closely, for when it first comes up the bud is supported by the leaf, and is folded together with it. The flower, however, soon elevates itself above its protector, while the leaf, having performed its duty of guardian to the tender bud, expands to the full size. The flowers have generally 3 petals—I have seen them of 10 or 12. They are, therefore, not double; with care and attention a fine double variety might be produced, as there is a great propensity in this plant to multiply its petals.

There are, probably, two varieties of the *Sanguinaria*, carefully founded upon the difference in the form of the petals. When the flowering has passed about a month the whole plant becomes much increased in size, frequently attaining, by midsummer, to the height of 15 inches, but commonly not exceeding 12. The number of leaves varies from 2 to 5 or 6, and several flower stalks are furnished from a single root. The number of flowers depend upon the number of buds or hybernacula, but usually 3 to 4.

The plant has been successfully grown in various parts of Europe, still it is very little known in Britain, and is not even mentioned in many of the systematic works on Botany.

Dr. Wm. P. C. Barton speaks of it in an arid sandy soil near the University of Pennsylvania; whilst Pursh says it delights in fertile soil;