

ized the establishment of stations, at the seat of the Grammar Schools in each County in Upper Canada, for making meteorological observations.

The objects of the enactment are thus briefly explained by the law itself:—"Whereas it is desirable, at Seminaries and places of Education, to direct attention to natural phenomena and to encourage habits of observation; and whereas a better knowledge of the climate and meteorology of Canada will be serviceable to agriculture and other pursuits, and be of value to scientific enquirers," &c.

The duty of procuring the necessary instruments was imposed on the Chief Superintendent of Education, but unavoidable delay has up to the present time postponed the benefits designed by the Legislature.

It appears that instruments selected in the United States were found to be unsuitable, and upon consultation with Colonel Lefroy, the Chief Superintendent deemed it advisable to have instruments expressly prepared for the purpose, and with improvements which experience in this climate had suggested.

All these instruments have now been procured—have been tested by a competent person, and approved by Colonel Lefroy, long and favourably known in connection with Her Majesty's Magnetical Observatory in Canada. They are now ready to be issued.

We think the Chief Superintendent acted wisely in waiting till the best instruments could be obtained, and until they had been subjected to a winter's test at the Toronto Observatory. The value of observations depends entirely on their accuracy, and none can be relied on as "facts" unless where properly tested instruments are employed. Further, the duty of making the requisite observations is thrown upon the Head Master in each Grammar School, and it is most important that these gentlemen, if not already fully acquainted with the use of instruments, should be properly instructed.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist amongst the gentlemen composing our Municipal Council on questions of a debatable character, we are proud to say that in matters of this kind a liberal and enlightened spirit has ever characterized their proceedings. And it is truly said by the Department of Education that "the great practical importance to a new and but partially settled country of establishing (thus early in its history, and before its physical condition is materially changed) a complete and comprehensive system of meteorological observations, need scarcely be remarked upon.

"Every enlightened country in Europe is now more or less engaged in prosecuting enquiries in this particular branch of science. In the other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, and in the United States, meteorological stations have been long since established. Although the science is yet comparatively in its infancy, yet from the aggregate of facts which have already been collected at various points, and in different countries, truths of the highest value and importance in scientific research have been unfolded; unsettled theories have been tested, and questions relating to physical phenomena which had long remained among the sealed mysteries of nature have been satisfactorily solved."—*Northern Advance*.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

— **FREE CHURCH COLLEGE OF GLASGOW.**—The new Free Church College which has been lately erected in Glasgow, Scotland, was formally opened on Wednesday, the 4th of November. The Rev. Dr. Wood, Moderator of the General Assembly, presided, and the four Professors, viz., Principal Fairbairn, Professor Gibson, Prof. Hetherington, and Prof. Douglas were also present. The Moderator having opened the meeting with praise and prayer, Mr. Towers, Secretary to the Building Committee, read a report referring to the various proceedings connected with the origin and progress of the erection. It will be remembered by some of our readers that in 1855, Dr. Clark, a wealthy citizen of Glasgow, offered to contribute £20,000, provided other parties would undertake to make up a similar sum. The offer was accepted, and the necessary sum guaranteed. The Assembly sanctioned the arrangement, providing a sum of not less than £30,000 should be appropriated for the endowment of the College. A site was procured, and the building erected, Dr. Clark adding £1,900 more, with £1,000 for the purchase of books. The foundation stone was formally laid on the 21st of August, 1856. All the heavy work is now finished with the exception of the Belvidere tower. The remainder will be completed in the spring. After the reading of the report, Principal Fairbairn delivered the opening address, on the "careful study and proper interpre-

tation of the Word of God." The proceedings were closed with an eloquent speech from the Moderator on a similar topic. On the following day, the other professors delivered inaugural addresses in their respective class rooms to large audiences. No mention is made of the number of students likely to be in attendance.

— **EDUCATION IN THE WINDWARD ISLANDS.**—EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH OF THE HON. FRANCIS HINCKES, GOVERNOR IN CHIEF, ON MEETING THE LEGISLATURE OF BARBADOES, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 1857.—"The question of Education will doubtless engage your early attention. It seems to be generally admitted that considerable improvement can be effected to the system which has been for some time in operation, and especially in that branch of it on which reliance must be placed for an adequate supply of competent teachers. I trust that the information which has been recently obtained, and which has been embodied in the Report of the late Joint Committee on Education, will be of assistance to you in legislating on this interesting subject. When providing for the education of the rising generation, you will not, I venture to hope, lose sight of the interests of those unhappy children, who, from neglect or bad example, become liable to the penalties of the law. The punishments now inflicted on juvenile offenders are wholly inadequate for the purpose of reformation, and additional legislation appears to be indispensably necessary. I attach the greatest importance to the establishment of Reformatory Institutions, and I earnestly recommend the subject to your consideration."

UNITED STATES.

— **PRESENTATION TO TEACHERS, &c.**—The President of the Board of Education in New York recently refused to sign a check for the payment of the salary due to principal of ward school No. 2, on the ground of having violated a by-law of the Board in accepting a present from some of the pupils after he had ceased his connection and entered upon the duties of assistant superintendent of public schools. The by-law in question runs as follows:—"No teacher shall make or contribute towards any gift to a school officer or superintendent; nor shall money or other thing be in any case collected or taken from a pupil for the purpose of presenting a gift or testimonial to a teacher, school officer or superintendent, or for any other purpose, unless the same shall be for the sole benefit of the pupils, and previously sanctioned by the proper board of trustees or by this Board.

"No payment shall be made to a teacher in whose case the provisions of this by-law have not been complied with."

— **NOBLE BENEFACTIONS TO EDUCATION.**—Mr. Seth Grosvenor has left to a number of charities and libraries in this city and Buffalo, a perfect bouquet of bequests, which entitle him to a niche among the great American benefactors. Ten thousand dollars each to the following:—Lying-in Asylum, American Bible Society, American Home Mission, American Colonial Society, Presbyterian Board of Education, New York Historical Society, Deaf and Dumb Association, Aged Indigent Females, Society for Ameliorating the condition of the Jews, American Sunday School Society, American Tract Society, Merchants' Library Association, Institution for the Blind, New York Hospital, fifteen thousand dollars. Corporation of Buffalo, ten thousand dollars for a public library building, and thirty thousand dollars to provide the same with books. Board of Education, New York, thirty thousand dollars, the interest to furnish books for the Free Academy.

— **BETHANY COLLEGE DESTROYED BY FIRE.**—About one o'clock on the morning of the 10th ult., the College buildings at Bethany, Virginia, were discovered to be on fire. The entire buildings, together with the furniture, three valuable libraries, extensive laboratories and chemical apparatus, and valuable papers, were destroyed. The fire is supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

VIII. Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

— **MANCHESTER EXHIBITION OF ART TREASURES. CLOSING SCENE.**—On Saturday, the Art-Treasures Exhibition, which has excited the envy of Londoners and the amazement of foreigners, and which, for this year at least, has quite rivalled the attractions of the capital, was closed for ever. The only alteration from the usual every-day arrangements was in a large and tasteful trophy of banners being erected at the end of the building over the orchestra, and the orchestra itself, being strengthened by