

climate, but always has some to give away to indigent students and other poor people. His disinterestedness is quite equal to his activity, and of the income of his publications he devotes annually nearly five hundred dollars to benevolent purposes. Unweariedly industrious, and rigidly economical as he is, he lays up nothing for himself. He says, "I am one of those happy ones, who, when the question is put to them, 'Lack ye any thing?' (Luke xxii. 35,) can answer with joy, 'Lord, nothing.' To have more than one can use is superfluity, and I do not see how this can make any one happy. People often laugh at me, because I will not incur the expense of drinking wine, and because I do not wear richer clothing, and live in a more costly style. Laugh away, good people; the poor boys also, whose education I pay for, and for whom, besides, I can spare a few dollars for Christmas gifts and New-year's presents, they have their laugh too."

Dinter, in his autobiography, gives some surprising specimens of gross incapacity in teachers, even subsequent to 1819. The following anecdotes are from that interesting work, *Dinter's Leben von ihm selbst beschrieben*.

In the examination of a school in East Prussia, which was taught by a subaltern officer dismissed from the army, the teacher gave Dinter a specimen of his skill in the illustration of scripture narrative. The passage was Luke vii., the miracle of raising the widow's son at Nain. "See, children, (says the teacher,) Nain was a great city, a beautiful city; but even in such a great, beautiful city, there lived people who must die. They brought the dead youth out. See, children, it was the same then as it is now—dead people couldn't go alone—they had to be carried. He that was dead began to speak. This was a sure sign that he was alive again, for if he had continued dead he couldn't have spoken a word.

In a letter to the King, a dismissed school-master complained that the district was indebted to him 200705 dollars. Dinter supposed the man must be insane, and wrote to the physician of the place to enquire. The physician replied that the poor man was not insane, but only ignorant of the numeration-table, writing 200705 instead of 275. Dinter subjoins, "By the help of God, the King and good men, very much has now been done to make things better."

In examining candidates for the school-teacher's office, Dinter asked one where the Kingdom of Prussia was situated. He replied that he believed that it was in the southern part of India. He asked another the cause of the ignis fatuus commonly called Jack-with-the-lantern. He said they were spectres made by the devil. Another being asked why he wished to become a school-teacher, replied, that he must get a living somehow—a very common reply, even in Canada.

A military man of great influence once urged Dinter to recommend a disabled soldier, in whom he was interested, as a school-teacher. "I will do so," says Dinter, "if he sustains the requisite examination." "O," says the Colonel, "he doesn't know much about school teaching, but he is a good moral steady man, and I hope you will recommend him to oblige me." D.—O yes, Colonel, to oblige you, if you in your turn will do me a favour. Col.—What is that? D.—Get me appointed drum-major in your regiment. True, I can neither beat a drum nor play a fife; but I am a good, moral, steady man as ever lived. Of course neither appointments were made.

A rich landholder once said to him, "Why do you wish the peasant children to be educated? it will only make them unruly and disobedient." Dinter replied, "If the masters are wise, and the laws good, the more intelligent the people the better they will obey."

Dinter complained that the military system of Prussia was a great hinderance to the schools. A nobleman replied that the young men enjoyed the protection of the government, and were thereby bound to defend it by arms. Dinter asked if every stick of timber in a house ought first to be used in a fire-engine, because the house was protected by the engine? or whether it would be good policy to cut down all the trees of an orchard to build a fence with to keep the hogs from eating the fruit?

Towards the close of his autobiography, he says respecting the King of Prussia, "I live happily under Frederick William; he has just given me one hundred and thirty thousand dollars to build churches with in destitute places; he has established a new teacher's seminary for my poor Poles, and he has so fulfilled my every wish for the good of posterity, that I can myself hope to live to see the time when there shall be no schoolmaster in Prussia more poorly paid than a common labourer. He has never hesitated, dur-

ing the whole term of my office to grant me any reasonable request for the helping forward of the school-system. God bless him. I am with all my heart a Prussian. And now, my friends, when ye hear that old Dinter is dead, say, 'May he rest in peace; he was a labourious, good hearted, religious man; he was a christian.'"

Dinter's personal history may be thus summed up: He was first a pastor at Kitzscher, near Borna; afterwards, in 1797, director of the Normal Seminary of Friedrichstadt, near Dresden. In 1807 he exercised the functions of Minister at Gøritz; and in 1816 was named doctor in theology, member of the Council of Public Instruction at Königsberg and School-Councillor. He wrote extensively upon the subject of primary instruction. These writings are very popular in Germany. He died in 1831, highly respected and lamented by the Prussian nation.

A VISIT TO GIRARD COLLEGE, PHILADELPHIA.

To the Editor of the Journal of Education for Upper Canada.

SIR,—Among the many objects of interest presented to a stranger visiting the city of Philadelphia, none has so much attraction for the educationist as that noble monument of philanthropy—the Girard College for Orphans—an Institution erected and endowed through the munificence of a private citizen of that city, for the maintenance and education of "poor male white orphans." Availing myself of the opportunity which a short stay in Philadelphia afforded, I visited the Institution for the purpose of obtaining such information, in regard to its management, &c., as would be interesting and useful; and, having obtained the usual order for admission, I waited upon the President, Mr. ALLEN, who, after a few remarks in reference to our system of education in Upper Canada, very kindly offered to conduct myself and friends through the College, and afford us whatever information we desired. With much pleasure we accepted his kind offer, and accompanied him through the several buildings which are set apart for the lecture-rooms of the College.

There are five separate buildings connected with the Institution, all built of marble, and situated upon a nice plat of ground, about half-an-hour's walk from the centre of the city. The main building, which is built in imitation of a Grecian temple, is surrounded by thirty-four marble columns, each surmounted with exquisitely sculptured Corinthian capitals, and resting upon a platform sixteen feet high, which makes a fine promenade of about 15 feet wide, and is accessible by steps on all sides of the building. The other buildings are without ornament, and are used as residences for the President, Professors, and matrons, and also contain the dormitories for the pupils, and dining-rooms, lavatory, wardrobe, &c. Upon entering the spacious hall of the college, the first object which meets the eye is a marble statue of its founder, STEPHEN GIRARD, representing a low-sized, benevolent, yet eccentric-looking old gentleman, in plain citizen's dress, with his hands crossed before him. A smile plays upon his countenance, as if he were pleased at the wonder and admiration which the product of his wealth creates in the mind of the visitor; or as if he were in the act of welcoming the poor destitute orphan to a noble home where, (to use the words of his will,) "the purest principles of morality are instilled into the youthful minds of its inmates, so that upon their entrance into active life, they may, from inclination and habit, evince benevolence towards their fellow-creatures, and a love of truth, sobriety, and industry."

On either side of the statue, doors lead to the chapel on the left, and the directors' room on the right;—two spacious apartments. The chapel is plainly furnished. Across one end is a raised platform, set apart for the directors and officers of the institution, in the centre of which stands the President's reading desk. Bibles and hymn-books are placed on the boys' seats throughout the chapel for their use while attending prayers every morning and evening. The directors' room is much about the same size as the chapel, and contains, besides the furniture usually required for a board-room, portions of the household furniture of Mr. GIRARD. In this room is preserved a valuable and interesting document,—a copy of a vote of thanks passed at a public meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, expressive of their appreciation of Mr. GIRARD's services during a plague which visited that city about 30 years since. The President, in alluding to it, informed us that while almost every one else was appalled and terrified at the visitation, Mr. GIRARD exerted himself both in person and by his wealth, to re-