

fane the quiet. From 1698 to 1779 Williamsburgh was the state capital, At one end of the long street were the college buildings and at the other end was the State House, which was destroyed by fire many years ago. A tall, gaunt corner wall is the only remaining monument of an edifice so distinguished in the annals of Virginia. There Patrick Henry thundered out his revolutionary utterances—"if this be treason, make the most of it."—and the youthful Washington made his report of the expedition to the far West of the Province, when the worthy Speaker observing his modest manner, exclaimed, "Sit down, Mr. Washington, your modesty is equal to your merit, and both surpass the power of any language that I possess." Brave and glorious old traditions cluster around this monumental ruin.

Years ago, in the golden days of the old Virginian aristocracy, Williamsburgh was the central point where the culture and elegance of the Province gathered about the residence of the Governor, who as the representative of royalty, was next only to the throne itself. Turning to one side from the broad street of Williamsburgh, you may see the ruins of Lord Dunmore's Palace, and its adjacent offices, destroyed by fire a few days after the battle of Yorktown, when French troops under continental supervision were quartered there. Mayhap, there was wild revelry after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and the final overthrow of British power, in this land, and it is no wonder that in the general joy, some carelessness in regard to this public property might have been manifested. Not distant from the palace is the old magazine, memorable in anti-revolutionary days for certain high-handed acts of the royal authorities, which threw all Virginia into a ferment and sent a sympathetic thrill to the colonies farther north. The quaint old magazine, is or was a few years ago, tenanted by a worshiping congregation of colored people, whose fervent prayers had utterly expelled all trace and smell of sulphur from the building. On the main street stands the old hotel, with the portrait of Raleigh on its creaking sign. And scattered about are residences of the citizens, many of them built "before the war," and all as antique and solemn, as the very atmosphere of the town would demand.

But the College. This was a pile of brick buildings, with a front of 136 feet, and standing in a large park. The original model was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and the edifice was finished under the reign of Governor Spotswood. In the centre of the walk to the front of the college stands the statue of Lord Botetourt, an old Governor of Virginia. Some rude boy broke an arm from the statue years ago in the gymnastic exercise of throwing a cannon ball at it, but though somewhat mutilated and much worn by the weather, the figure bears marks of its original excellence.

Various rooms in the College were adorned with tablets and inscriptions in honor of the buried past, and the library, now destroyed, contained many volumes presented by Dinwiddie, Spotswood and other once notable men, and gifts from colonial assemblies, possessing rare interest to the lover of old books. On the fly-leaves were the autographs of many of the most eminent men in our country. The first President of the William and Mary College was Rev. James Blair, D.D.; Bishop Madison succeeded him, after a long interval well filled by able men. In 1846 the College suffered a severe loss in the death of its then President Thomas R. Drew. The present President is Bishop Johns. Among the graduates of William and Mary, may be named Presidents Jefferson, Munroe and Taylor, and General Scott. But its catalogue is radiant with great names, of national or state reputation. Lamentation loud and deep will go forth over all Virginia, for the loss of its venerable College, connected with which are the tenderest associations of so many of the educated men of that state.

So, one after another, the antiquities of America are destroyed by fire. Can too much care be taken to guard against this calamity? What can compensate for the loss of such a library and such a College.—*From the New York Commercial Advertiser.*

—**EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.**—We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the twenty-second Annual Report of the Massachusetts Board of Education which has just been published, and which exhibits some statements of interest. The money raised for schools in 1857-8, was \$1,341,252.08, an increase of \$57,824.28 on the previous year. The number of public schools in 1857-8 was 4,421, an increase of 61 from the year before. The number of scholars attending the public schools in summer, in 1858, was 199,792, or 8,911 more than in 1857; number attending in winter 118,198, or 15,167 more than in 1857; number of children in the state, between the ages of 5 and 15 years, in 1858, 123,304, an increase of 1,826. The amount raised by tax for each scholar was 21 cents more than in 1857. The various Teachers' Institutes of the state number 1365 members.

## IX. Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

—**RELATIONS DES JESUITES.**—Among the most rare and precious historical documents of America, and of the North-west, are the famed "Relations of the early Jesuit missionaries—the pioneers of western discovery and settlement. The original publications, over forty in number, have long been out of print. Not a single collection, entire, exists on the continent of America, and single volumes have brought incredible prices.

The liberality of the Canadian Government has at length, placed these important works before the American public, in an admirable reprint, in three volumes, royal octavo, executed at Quebec the present year. The event is one of sufficient interest to justify a public announcement; and it will be warmly greeted by every student in American history. The government of Canada could confer upon the people of North America no more worthy or honorable proof of its enlightened and liberal spirit, unless we might except the publication of its extensive and beautifully arranged collections and manuscript documents, relating to the early history of New France, which will unquestionably follow at no distant day. The pains with which the present publications of the "Relations" has been achieved, will be better understood when it is stated, that, in order to secure the collection complete required for the present publication, it was found necessary to have several numbers of the Relations transcribed by hand from the originals in Paris. Fortunately in the preliminary, as well as subsequent labor involved in the projection and issue of such a work, the people of Canada have been favored with the experience of the honored and learned President of the Historical Society at Quebec, Mr. G. B. Faribault, to whom much of the credit of this publication is due. It is matter of congratulation to our community, that the rich stores of historical material, relating to the Northwest, in the possession of the people of Canada, are fast becoming available to the public. The spirit of enquiry into our early history is already active. The inhabitants of the Northwest and of Illinois, owe a debt of historical justice to the people of France, so early and so long distinguished for their brave and persistent, though in the end unsuccessful, efforts to colonise the vast inland regions of North America.—*Chicago Press and Tribune.*

—**THE KORAN TRANSLATED INTO HEBREW.**—*The Educators Israëlite* observes:—"The Hebrew translation of the Koran, by Herr Reckendorff, is completed. It is desirable that this work should find its way into the hands of the Eastern Jews, who would thus be enabled to form a correct notion of Mahomedan law, and the rights of other religions.

—**A NEW SHAKSPEARIAN SCHOLAR.**—A new illustrator of Shakspeare has entered the field in the person of the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, Lord Campbell. During a recent vacation in Scotland, he turned his attention again to our great dramatic poet; and reading over his plays consecutively, he was struck by the vast number of legal phrases and allusions they contain, and by the extreme appropriateness and accuracy of their application. He began noting and remarking upon them, giving them such explanations and elucidations as his vast experience and knowledge of the law enabled him readily to furnish. He has since put them into more regular form and order, and is printing them in the shape of a familiar letter to Mr. Payne Collier, who in his recent biography of Shakspeare states that there are more indications in Shakspeare, that he had in some way, early in life, been connected with the legal profession, than are to be met with in all the works of contemporary dramatists put together. Lord Campbell's contribution to our small stock of information regarding the life and productions of the poet is nearly ready for publication.—*Athenæum.*

—**PRaisEWORTHY CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE.**—Professor Agassiz has offered to the Massachusetts Legislature his very extensive Cabinet, in the collection of which he has expended \$22,000, besides twelve years of the best portion of his life. Of this museum, he says, he had endeavored to collect a complete form of the physical nature of North America. He had not gone to any unnecessary expense, nor had he bought those things which were readily for sale. But the collection consisted of those things which money could not buy—which required, in their collection, knowledge as well as opportunity. He had, after a time, received liberal assistance from all parts of the country, and the specimens constantly arriving were greater than the resources of any museum in the world. If the collection already made could be properly exhibited, in a proper building, it would favorably compare with any museum in Germany. It remained only for the liberality of the Legislature to make the museum, in three years, such, that only two in the world would excel it,—the British Museum and *Jardin des Plantes*