

Mr. Cockburn then distributed the prizes to the successful competitors in the first class.

Chief Justice Draper distributed the prizes in the second class, and having done so, briefly addressed the successful competitors. He said they ought to look upon their present successes as only steps to a higher end, and that they should endeavour to make their education the means of their becoming good subjects to their Sovereign, faithful servants to their country, and devoted to their God.

#### SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

— Mr. Hodgins, Deputy Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, and author of several works on geography, has been appointed a member of the Royal Geographical society of London.

— The earthquake felt, on the 17th October 1860, throughout the greater part of Canada and the New England States was still fresh in the memory of every one, when the appalling news of the catastrophe that befell Mendoza, a city in the Argentine Republic (La Plata), on the 20th March, inspired in the minds of many rather serious apprehensions as to what may be going on beneath the crust of this our hemisphere, apprehensions which were in no way allayed by the new shock felt on the 11th instant, about 9 p.m., and which was at least equal in violence, but not in duration, to the first. It was felt at Montreal, Ottawa, Prescott, Brockville, and throughout Central Canada, and a part of the neighboring States. At the Observatory of Dr. Smallwood, on Isle Jesus, the vibration commenced at 9 h. 3 m., mean time, and lasted ten seconds. The wave was from west to east. The sound wave was distinct from that of the earth. The barometer stood at 29: 624 inches; thermometer 57° 5. Wind, S. E. atmosphere rather calm, sky cloudy. The magnetic needle experienced considerable variations. Everywhere the shock was preceded, or accompanied, by loud noise, which was, as usual on such occasions, compared to that of a railroad train at full speed. Door bells were in many houses distinctly heard to ring as of themselves, and the windows rattled as if a hailstorm were beating violently against them. The area over which the phenomenon extended, — it does not appear to have been felt farther in a north-eastern direction than Three Rivers, — was much less than that of the earthquake in October last. Stones fell from chimney tops in divers parts of the country, and in Montreal many people ran out of their houses in the greatest panic.

— A comet made its appearance on the 30th June, and shone with the greatest brilliancy during several nights. Its nucleus appeared to be greatly superior in size and brilliancy to a star of the first magnitude; its tail alone covered a space of at least 70 degrees and extended in the direction of the Great Bear to the Zenith; the nucleus being east of that constellation. The tail however rapidly diminished in size, until a few days ago it only presented the appearance of an evanescent vapor, slightly luminous and of small extent. The sudden appearance of this comet caused universal surprise, as it had been predicted by none of the astronomers of either continent. They all acknowledged to have been completely taken by surprise on this occasion, a circumstance to be attributed, according to their own explanations, to the fact that this comet was enveloped in the sun's rays and was not visible before. Mr. Hind in a communication to the London Times says the comet reached its perihelion on the 11th June, and crossed the earth's orbit on the 28th of the same month. He thinks this is not the comet that appeared in the reign of Charles V. of Spain, and which has now been looked for these several years past. At the academy of science in Paris a spirited discussion is said to have taken place between M. Babinet and M. Leverrier, the first contending that it was the famous comet of 1556, which caused Charles V. to abdicate, and which, in 1224, was said to have caused the death of Pope Urban IV.; but M. Leverrier was of opinion that the velocity and position of the new comet were such that it was impossible to mistake one for the other.

The new visitor was still more brilliant than Donati's comet, so much admired in 1858; and its transit was far more rapid, since shortly after its first appearance it had already receded to so great a distance that it was hardly visible to the naked eye. Besides, its aspect differs in many respects; its tail being in a straight line, and lessening in width from the nucleus to the extremity; while Donati's was curved in the form of a plume. It has moreover a luminous circle and beard composed of curves inclined in the same direction. Frequent changes however mark its appearance. It is evidently one of those bodies that require a long time to complete a revolution, and no one now living may ever see it again. The following comparison may give a good idea of the eccentricity of the orbits of some comets. In speaking of Donati's, an astronomer said: Take a coin of the size of a six-pence and place it on one of the corners of a sheet of letter paper of ordinary size; suppose the centre of this coin to be the sun, and its circumference to represent the orbit of Neptune, which is the most distant of all the planets known; then if an elliptic line be drawn so as to extend to the farthest edge of the paper, it will represent the orbit of our comet.

Comets whose revolutions are accomplished within a short space of time, have their orbits within the known limits of the solar system. Encke's, Biela's, Faye's, and Vico's comets are of this description. The first of these revolves in its orbit in 1207 days. Halley's comet takes from 75 to 76 years to perform its revolution, and its tail is usually

of great length, and very brilliant. Since 1835 when this comet last appeared, no other has been seen that could, for magnificence, be compared to our splendid visitors of 1858 and 1861; which prove that the historians of the times of Charles V. and Urban IV have not been guilty of exaggeration, as it had been supposed. Though it is now certain that neither of the recent comets can be identified as that celebrated in history, they still come up to its descriptions as handed down to us.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

### SAINT FRANCIS COLLEGE, RICHMOND, C. E.

#### CALENDAR FOR 1861-2.

The FALL TERM of sixteen weeks, will begin on THURSDAY, the 29th day of August, 1861.

The WINTER TERM will commence on THURSDAY, the 2d day of January, 1862.

And the SPRING TERM, on THURSDAY, the 17th day of April, 1862.

#### EXPENSES FOR TUITION.

##### PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.

(THREE TERMS PER YEAR.)

Elementary Class, English Studies .....	\$1.00 per term.
Intermediate Class, English Studies .....	\$5.00 "
Highest Class, English Studies (including Latin if desired) .....	\$6.00 "
Latin and Greek, with English Branches .....	\$6.50 to \$7.00.
Scientific Department (Preparatory for Surveying, &c.) .....	\$8.00 per term.

It will be observed that the charge for tuition is unusually low.

##### COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT.

Tuition, including all the studies of the regular College course, \$32.00 per year.

##### EXPENSES FOR BOARD.

The charge for board in the family of Prof. Graham, who resides in the College building, is from \$2.00 to \$2.25 per week including room, fuel, lights, washing, cabinet furniture, mattress and bedding. Students may furnish their own towels, which they generally prefer. According to the By Laws of the College, the tuition is to be paid each term in advance or it may be paid during the second week of the term. The Board is to be paid either at the beginning or middle of the term, or both. Rooms for self-boarders may be obtained at a reasonable rate. Books and Stationery can be procured here at common prices.

##### TERMS AND VACATIONS.

"The Collegiate year is divided into three terms. The ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT is held on the THIRD WEDNESDAY in JULY. After a vacation of six weeks the Fall Term begins and continues sixteen weeks. After a Christmas and New-Year's vacation of two weeks, the second or Winter Term begins and continues thirteen weeks. After another vacation of two weeks, the Spring Term follows."

It is very desirable that students should be present at the beginning of each term and attend punctually and constantly till the close. Occasional holidays are given.

##### LETTERS OF INQUIRY.

Respecting tuition, board, sessions, requirements for entering college, etc., may be addressed to Prof. Graham, St. Francis College, Richmond, C. E., or to the Rev. D. Falloon, D. D. Principal, Melbourne; or for any other information to the following gentlemen who are trustees of the college:—Lord Aylmer, President, Melbourne; Rev. J. Sieveright, A. B. Vice President, Melbourne; C. B. Cleveland, Esq., (late Mayor of Cleveland for a series of years) Richmond; W. H. Webb, Esq., Advocate, Melbourne; Thomas Tait, Esq., Merchant, Melbourne; G. K. Foster, Esq., Merchant, Richmond; Thomas Steel, Esq., Cleveland; F. C. Cleve, Esq., Provincial Land Surveyor, Richmond; John Ethrington, Esq., Merchant, Melbourne; Hon. T. L. Terrill, Stanstead; Henry Hubbar, A. M., School Inspector, Danville; Rev. S. S. Wood, A. M., Durham; C. Dunkin, Esq., A. M., Montreal; or W. C. Baynes, A. B., Secretary of the University of McGill College, Montreal.

D. FALLOON, D. D., Principal,

AYLMER, President,

JOHN H. GRAHAM, A. M., Secretary.

Richmond, C. E., July, 1861.