

In 1854 Sir Charles Woods' well-known despatch on education was issued, the aim of which was to foster *general* education in various ways, leaving higher education to be provided for by those desiring it; but the provisions of this bill were never properly carried out, for ultimately higher education received at least half of the money grant attached to it.

The failure of this measure led to the appointment of a Commission on Education in India by the English Parliament in 1882, whose labours have resulted in the following recommendations:—1st. The establishment of a thorough system of primary education. 2nd. Secondary education to be made self-supporting, and facilities offered to colleges so that they may be placed under private management. 3rd. Every encouragement to be given to the spread of religious instruction in the schools, the Bible may be taught at any hour of the day, free from any denominational limit or conscience clause. 4th. The system of "grants in aid," to be developed and made the means of spreading education throughout the country. 5th. Female education to be warmly encouraged, and the conditions of grants to girls' schools to be made easier than to boys' schools, more especially in the case of those established for poor or low-caste girls. 6th. That grants from public funds be made for *zenana* teaching, and to associations for the promotion of female education.

These recommendations have been adopted by the Governor-General in Council, and a minute adopted by the General Council on Education in India, in which it is stated that female education is to be pressed on and fostered on the liberal principles so well laid down by the commission.—*Condensed from an Address by Rev. And. Grey, Dalkeith.*

TECUMSEH: A DRAMA.

BY CHARLES MAIR.

AMONG the communications to the section of the Royal Society of Canada, devoted to English literature, history and archæology, there is printed in the last volume of "Transactions" a paper by John Lesperance entitled "The Poets of Canada." The French poets receive the first attention, and a succession of graceful versifiers is passed in review, from Jean Taché, the author of the "Tableau de la Mer," in 1732, to Fréchette and Gevanturel. The English poets of Canada are next taken in hand, and the number who challenge the critic's award is large. A creditable array of poetesses head the list; and as to the roll of Canadian poets, the reader who is new to the subject will be astonished at their number. But their themes are, for the most part, not Canadian; though some of them, such as John Reade's "Prophecy of Merlin," and Charles Heavysege's "Saul," are of high merit. Charles Sangster, however, has long been known to Canadians for his graceful song of their great river; J. J. Proctor has recently produced his "Black Hawk," and Charles Mair, who was already known by his "Dreamland," now enters the lists as a native dramatic poet with his "Tecumseh."

We need not wonder that dramatic poems have not hitherto been numerous. The "Saul" of Heavysege has been widely recognized as a poem of high merit; and the "Prince Pedro" of Garnier has been pronounced "one of the best contributions to Canadian dramatic poetry." But in a distinct and very special sense, Charles Mair must be recognized and welcomed as a native dramatic poet, and on this account his new poem is an important addition to Canadian literature. Its subject is the War of 1812, though with the requisite passion and romance superadded in the form of scenes between Lefroy, a young English