

first impression, consisting of 100 copies, has been struck off, in which the necessary alterations are being made at this time. Workmen have been selected for this purpose who have been employed in the office for many years, and they have been told that on the slightest indiscretion on their part they will lose their places. After the printing of each leaf in quarto every form is secured with three chains and three locks, the keys of which Mr. Petitin, the director of the printing office, takes with him. As soon as the printing is completed the sheets are taken into the Emperor's cabinet; then the *collaborateurs* set to work correcting the press or altering such passages as the Emperor wishes to see reduced. You see that measures are pretty well taken against any information reaching foreign papers—a subject of great dread with the author. The work, it is further said, will appear in a few months—and in two editions one printed at the Imperial printing-office, the other at Pion.—*The Reader*.

—Last year Mr. Mignet, Permanent Secretary to the French Academy of Moral and Political Science, had taken the works and life of Hallam as the subject of the usual historical lecture which he delivers at the annual public session. He will, this year, review the life and labors of Macaulay, who was a foreign member of the Academy.—*Revue de l'Instruction Publique* of Paris.

—The literary world has just lost one of its celebrities in P. A. Munch, who died of apoplexy at Rome; he was engaged in searching among the archives of the Vatican for materials to be used in a history of Sweden and Norway.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—A novel mode of lighting has been introduced at a Baptist church, just built at Philadelphia. There is not a gas-burner in the audience room. In the panels of the ceiling are circles of ground glass, two feet in diameter. Above each of these, in the loft, is an argand burner, and over the burner a powerful reflector. The effect is just about the same as if there were thirty full moons shining in the ceiling. The light is not sharp and intense, but abundant and mellow, and not painful to the eyes.—*J. of Arts and Manufacturers, U. C.*

—The preliminary announcement has been made of a new project, bearing the title of the Cape Race Electric Telegraph and Lightship Company (Limited). It is intended to construct, equip, and station a steam lightship off Cape Race, Newfoundland, in the track of steam and sailing ships bound to and from the North American Colonies and the northern ports of the United States. The lightship will have telegraphic communication with the shore by means of a submarine cable, one end of which is to be worked on board the vessel. It is urged that by these means there may be obviated throughout one-half of every year an unnecessary delay of three days, which now occurs in the receipt and exchange of news between Europe and America. Various other useful services are to be rendered, with the aid of a steam tender. The capital proposed is £100,000.—*Ibid.*

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

—Mr. Paull, in rising to move the second reading of "the Poisoned Grain Prohibition Bill," said that the mission of birds was of the utmost utility, and that their destruction was exceedingly injurious, both to vegetation and to agriculture. He trusted also to be able to prove that the means used by some persons to destroy small birds by poisoning seed wheat, &c., was highly dangerous to society at large. The value of small birds to the agriculturist was well understood in France and Germany, where a war of extermination had been too long carried on. In France, in consequence of petitions from the agriculturists, the French Senate appointed a commission to inquire into the utility of small birds and the danger of destroying them. The commission instituted a minute and scientific inquiry, and made a report to the French Senate, which occupied from 30 to 40 octavo pages. In Germany, also, inquiries were made, which showed the great injury caused to vegetation by the extermination of birds. He would first show, as briefly as possible, how enormous was the increase of insect life in countries where birds were exterminated, and at what cost steps were then taken to reduce the amount of insect life. He would then point out the means which he proposed to take for the preservation of small birds. It was not his intention to interfere with the Game Laws, or to make them more stringent. It was solely in the interest of the farmers themselves, and of agriculture, that he asked the House to prevent the indiscriminate slaughter of birds not now protected by law. (Hear, hear.) In the report presented by the French Commission in 1861, it was stated that in the vine-growing communes and in France, during 10 years, (1828-37) the loss from the ravages of the caterpillar was estimated at \$52,000. The value of the cereals destroyed in only one of the eastern departments of France in a single year was estimated at 16,000. An interesting article on destructive insects and the immense utility of birds appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society*, vol. xxii, published last year. This article contained extracts from a work by M. Tschudi, President of the Agricultural Society of

Canton St. Gall, Switzerland, in which it was stated that some of the Governments of Germany expended several thousand thalers for the destruction of caterpillars. In one year an area of 860 acres of fir forest was entirely stripped of its leaves by the caterpillars of the *Noctua*, and the Government paid more than 1,000 thalers for the destruction of 94,000,000 of the above dangerous insects. In Franconia, the caterpillars, during 1839, devoured the produce of 2,200 acres of Government forest. A calculation had been made of the different orders of birds—viz., those which were insectivorous and those which consumed grain and vegetables. In Germany and Switzerland—and the calculation would apply to England—there were about 150 species, and only one-twelfth of the number were purely granivorous. All the rest consumed insects. He had now shown the great increase of insect life where birds were destroyed. The destruction of small birds abroad was much to be lamented. In one day in Lombardy, 15,000 birds were captured, and in one district, on the shores of the Lago Maggiore, between 60,000 and 70,000 small birds are annually destroyed. It might be said that English sportsmen were not addicted to the destruction of small birds like the sportsmen of other countries. (Hear, hear.) At the same time the destruction of small birds was going on at a very alarming rate in this country. (Hear.) A country clergyman stated that a birdcatcher estimated that 13,848 goldfinches were annually sent from Worthing alone. He had received letters from various parts of the country complaining of the great destruction of birds that was going on, and the injury caused to gardens from this cause. Some years ago in Hampshire a war of extermination was waged against them, and rookeries were destroyed. The natural consequence soon showed itself in such an increase of various hurtful insects, and especially of the cockchafer (which is three years in the grub state, and all that time does an immense amount of injury to the roots of grass and corn) that women and children were obliged to follow the plough to pick up these grubs which the rooks would have devoured had they not been murdered. This practical proof of the utility opened the eyes of the Hampshire farmers, and rookeries were again established, and rooks protected. The same thing happened in America, where one time the State offered rewards for their destruction, and in consequence, they so much decreased, and noxious insects so greatly increased, as to induce the State to offer a counter reward for their protection. Various letters had appeared in the public journals on this subject. Among them was one which stated that three or four sportsmen belonging to a single Sparrow Club had destroyed nearly 13,000 birds. Agriculturists had hitherto used some description of brine for destroying the ova and smut that might attach themselves to the seed of cereal crops in the course of growth. Of late years, however, a system of using poisoned wheat had been introduced. He need scarcely point out the danger of the indiscriminate sale of an article which would cause almost immediate death on the part of the animals eating it, and if those animals were good for food the analytical chemist would tell them it was impossible to say where the injury would stop.—*Times*.

—Iceland, which has a population of about seventy thousand, is under the government of Denmark. The language spoken in Iceland is the old Scandinavian, closely akin to the Saxon, with no admixture of Greek or Latin roots. It has, singularly enough, a literature 900 years old. There are four presses on the island, and four newspapers. About 60 volumes are issued in a year, but most of them are published in Copenhagen. There are colleges and academies of medicine there, and common schools. But most of the education is domestic in its character. The fathers teach the children so effectually, that a young Iceland boy or girl of eight years old cannot be found unable to read and write. Wandering minstrels, like those of the old time in Scotland and Germany, are still to be found traversing the country, and dropping in on families happy to receive them, who gladly give them a night's supper and lodging in exchange for their lay. The Icelandic Church is Lutheran. There are 199 churches on the island, with 280 clergymen.—*Educ. Times*.

The terms of subscription to the "Journal de l'Instruction Publique," edited by the Superintendent of Education and Mr. Auguste Béchar, will be five shillings per annum and to the "Lower Canada Journal of Education," edited by the Superintendent of Education and Mr. J. J. Phelan, also five shillings per annum.

Teachers will receive for five shillings per annum the two Journals, or, if they choose two copies of either. Subscriptions are invariably to be paid in advance.

3,000 copies of the "Journal de l'Instruction Publique" and 2,000 copies of the "Lower Canada Journal of Education" will be issued monthly. The former will appear about the middle, and the latter towards the end of each month.

No advertisements will be published in either Journal except they have direct reference to education or to the arts and sciences. Price—one shilling per line for the first insertion, and six pence per line for every subsequent insertion, payable in advance.

Subscriptions will be received at the Office of the Department, Montreal, and by Mr. Thomas Roy, agent, Quebec: persons residing in the country will please apply to this office per mail, enclosing at the same time the amount of their subscription. They are requested to state clearly and legibly their names and addresses and also to what post office they wish their copies to be directed.

ÉUGÈNE SÉNÉGAL, Caloric Printing Presses, 4, St Vincent St., Montreal.