

members. Mr. McDonald was born in 1798 in the parish of Chronyardt, Inverness-shire, but the family moved to Glasgow when he was five years old. In that city he learned the printing business, and in 1815 emigrated to Canada. The family went to Lochiel, in the County of Glengarry, but Mr. McDonald remained in Montreal, working at his trade in the *Gazette* office, then owned by Mr. Brown. In 1824 he became foreman of the *Herald* office, then owned by Archibald Ferguson, Esq, and continued to fulfil in a very able manner the duties of that responsible position till Mr. Ferguson sold the establishment in 1834. Mr. McDonald then formed a partnership with Mr. John Lovell and commenced the *Transcript*, of which he afterwards became sole proprietor, and which he carried on for thirty years. He then, on account of advancing age, disposed of it, and under the name of the *Daily News and Weekly Transcript* it is still continued by his first partner.—*Witness*.

Books and Exchanges Received. (1)

- The California Teacher*, January, 1870.
 - The Illinois Teacher*; Devoted to Education, Science, and Free Schools, January, 1870.
 - The Manufacturer and Builder*, January, 1870.
 - The Rhode Island Schoolmaster*, January, 1870.
 - The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, December, 1869.
 - The Pennsylvania School Journal*, January, 1870.
 - The Illustrated Educational Bulletin*, January, 1870.
 - Journal of Education*, Ontario; December, 1869.
 - The National Normal*, December, 1869.
 - The American Sunday School Worker*, for Parents and Teachers,—Vol 1. No. 1.
 - Typographic Messenger*, November, 1869.
 - Hitchcock's New Monthly Magazine of Choice Music, Art Notes and Select Reading for the Family Circle*,—December, 1869. New York: Benjamin W. Hitchcock, 24 Beekman Street.
 - The Mount Auburn Index*, December, 1869.
 - Advertisers Gazette*, vol. IV, No. 3., January, 1870.—New York: Geo. P. Rowell & Co., Publishers.
 - New Dominion Monthly*, February, 1870.
 - The Massachusetts Teacher*, January, 1869.
 - The Maine Journal of Education*, January, 1870.
 - The Nursery*, February, 1870.
 - The American Journal of Education*, February, 1870.
 - Notes on the Principles of Population*.—Montreal compared with London, Glasgow, and Manchester, with an examination of the vital statistics by Philip P. Carpenter, B. A., Ph D., One of the Hon. Secretaries of the Montreal Sanitary Association,—By Andrew A. Watt.
 - Vick's Illustrated Catalogue and Floral Guide* for 1870. Rochester, N. Y.; James Vick.
- A copy of this beautifully illustrated catalogue is to hand. It contains about two hundred engravings of flowers and vegetables. Those wishing to plant flowers and vegetables in the spring should send 10 cents to Mr. Vick for a copy.
- Public Ledger Almanac*, for 1870.
- We have to thank the Publisher, George W. Childs, Philadelphia, for a copy of this Almanac, upon the preparation of which great care and no doubt a large outlay have been bestowed. It cannot fail to prove valuable as a reference. Seventy-two thousand copies of it have been distributed gratis to subscribers to the Public Ledger.
- The Farmer's Advocate*, Vol V. No. 1., Edited by Wm. Weld, a practical Farmer, London, Ont. Single subscriptions from 1st prox. 75 cents per annum.
- Peters' Musical Monthly*, January, 1870.—No musical family can afford to be without this monthly of 36 pages. It is printed from full-size music plates and each no. contains at least twelve pieces of choice new music. Send \$3 American currency to J. L. Peters, 599 Broadway, New York and secure the Monthly for 1870.
- Arkansas Journal of Education*, Vol. 1. No. 1, January, 1870.—\$2 per annum. We cordially welcome our new fellow-labourer in the great work of education. The salutatory has the ring of the pure metal.
- From Dawson Bros: Montreal; New York: Harper and Brothers: A German Course; adapted to use in Colleges, High Schools, and Academies,—By George F. Comfort, A. M., Professor of Modern Languages and Esthetics in Alleghany College, Meadville, Pa.

Educational.

—*British and Foreign School Society*.—After the annual examination of the boys, at the Borough-road Schools, the sixty-fourth general meeting of the society was held. Earl Russell as usual presided. From the abstract of the report for the past year, which was read by the secretary, Mr. A. Bourne, it appeared that 76 students had left the

(1) On our table are many other valuable publications, but received too late for notice in this number.

training colleges to take schools in various parts of the country, and 98 candidates had been admitted; that the number in residence up to Christmas had been 169, and since, 191; that the college at Stockwell is quite full; while at the Borough-road there are only eleven vacancies. Of 169 students presented for examination, not one failed. In the schools under the direct control of the committee 1,300 children receive instruction from seven teachers and nineteen pupil teachers. In three of the schools students in training have been regularly employed in teaching under supervision. The principal subjects of instruction are reading, writing, arithmetic, scripture, grammar, history, geography and drawing. The boys have also been taught animal physiology; the girls domestic economy and needlework. The general operations of the society have been carried on vigorously. To assist in the work of education at home grants of books and materials have been made to the managers of seventy-five schools. The depository has offered facilities for the purchase of school requisites at greatly reduced prices. Teachers have been sent to take temporary charge of 43 schools, which would otherwise have been greatly injured, if not altogether closed. Permanent teachers have been provided for 134 schools; agents have been employed to give needed assistance in the several districts conducting public examinations, attending meetings, and aiding in the establishment of new schools, of which 17, with accommodation for 3,150 children, have been opened in South Wales alone during the year. Thirty Colonial and other schools abroad have received grants of books and school materials, and teachers have been provided in several cases. From the financial statement made by the treasurer, Mr. J. G. BARCLAY, it appeared that the money received from all sources, without including the balance in hand at the beginning of the year, amounted to £13,486. 12s. 11d.; the payments, inclusive of legacies invested, being £13,635. 6s. 5d.

The President, in the course of a long speech, said that he considered it a great misfortune that at the beginning of its school career, now more than 60 years ago, the Established Church did not consent to proceed on the same principle—viz., to give that religious instruction which they thought right according to the doctrines of the Church of England, but omitting all distinctive religious teaching in the schools, and combining all in their schools through the teaching of the Bible. It was a great misfortune that she then established a system of her own, but that cannot be now repaired, and we must look to other means to supply the wants of the present generation.

He trusted that religious instruction would not be lost sight of in any plan of education which the Government might think fit to introduce to Parliament, and that while systematic education should pervade the land, and while schools should be established throughout it, we should be permitted to give that instruction in the Bible which had always been the mark and distinction of that society.

He hoped that those who had hitherto been taxed unduly to maintain schools would no longer be called upon to bear the burden alone, but that those who have shown themselves unwilling, and yet have plenty of means, would be rated fairly to provide and maintain schools.

Lord LYVEDEN, in moving the adoption of the report expressed a hope that in any scheme of education, Government might propose, nothing would be done to damp voluntary education, believing as he did that any system of compulsory education carried out by means of rates and taxes would cramp the object in its ead of promoting it.

STATISTICAL.

—*British Coinage*.—An interesting Parliamentary paper was issued recently, showing the amount of gold, silver, and copper money coined at the Mint from the 1st January, 1859, to the 31st December, 1868, and showing also the real cost or value of the metal and the amount represented by the coin. During the period named the gold converted into currency weighed a fraction over 12,208,007 ounces. It produced 4,129,641 sovereigns, the actual value of which, however, was £4. 3s. 6d in excess of the amount represented by the sovereigns; and it produced 12,482,565 half-sovereigns, the value of which was £6,241,284. 13s. 10d., the total value of the gold currency manufactured during the decade being £47,534,929. 17s. 4d. The total weight of silver manufactured into coins of different value ranging from florins to three-half-penny pieces was 72,400,661 ounces. The real cost of this metal was £3,388,532. 8s. 11d but its representative value was £3,410,182. 18s. 10d. No silver groats have been coined during the last twelve years nor any half-crowns since 1851. The last batch of three-half-penny pieces was made in 1862; but silver pennies are still in existence somewhere, 120 ounces of the value of £33 having been so converted in each of the last ten years. The weight of copper (since 1861,) bronze manufactured into pence, halfpence, and farthings, was slightly over 2,418 tons. The purchase value of this metal was £493,033. 18s. 2d., but its value as coin was £1,000,845. 1s. 6d. The period of most activity at the Mint was 1864 for the manufacture of gold, over nine millions and a half having been coined in that year; 1859 for silver; and 1862 for copper. The nominal value of the silver purchased for recoinage was £1,084,900, the Mint value of which, however, at 5s. 6d. per ounce, was only £938,566 6s. 5d., so that the loss by the recoinage during the ten years was £146,833. 13. 7d. The average price paid for silver bullion purchased during the same period for manufacture into currency varied from 5s. 0½d. in 1857 to 5s. 1½d in 1859 and 1866.