

The progress made consists in the abatement of these evils in many municipalities; and, to whatever extent they may still be found in many, we congratulate ourselves, that, though we do not in all places reap the full advantage of the law under which we act, its general justice and liberal intent are well understood and appreciated.

The necessity of education, its advantages, moral and physical, are now deeply impressed on all men's minds, and the few obstacles still remaining capable of arresting our progress, are mainly material and the effect of the badness of the times.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

(Signed,) PIERRE J. O. CHAUVEAU,

Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada.

### Notices of Books.

MONTREIL.—French without a Master, a course of lessons in the French language, on the Robertsonian Method, by A. H. Montreil, Esq., first Canadian from the nineteenth American and eighth Brussels editions, 62 p. in-8. John Lovell, Montreal, and W. Caverhill, Toronto.

It seems from the number of editions this book has gone through in the United States and in Belgium that it has been found very useful. The whole book consists in conversations all made out of a single little story, every sentence and word of which is commented on, so as to elucidate a great many grammatical and philological points.

The work is neatly printed and in Mr. Lovell's best style, which is saying much for its elegance. It contains a great deal of valuable information and is grounded on a comparative study of the two great languages of the world.

THE FRENCH GENDERS taught in six fables, being a plain and easy art of memory, by which the genders of 17,518 French nouns may be learned in a few hours, reprinted by Mrs. Blackwood; 55 p. in-32. John Lovell, Montreal.

It is difficult to understand how any one who is not born of French parents and has not from his infancy learnt to distinguish masculine from feminine words, in a language where there is no neuter gender, should be able to master this great difficulty. The book before us contains a very ingenious scheme to get over this stumbling block. Whether any plan of the kind can be altogether successful, must be left to experience. We are rather inclined to believe that the French, like every other language, requires constant practice to be spoken even tolerably, and the difficulty about the genders is certainly one of the most obvious reasons why it should be so. The great drawback to English pupils who are trying to learn French in this country, is that they will insist on learning it as an accomplishment only; that they will not set to work in earnest and adopt the only real mode of improving which is frequent and habitual conversation. Having recorded this caveat, we must speak without any other restrictions of the utility of the small volume before us, and we shall add that Mrs. Blackwood deserves great credit for placing it before the Anglo-Canadian public. It has besides the recommendation of one who having given the greatest part of his life to the tuition of French, in English communities, is perfectly competent to pronounce on its merits, we mean Professor Frontoau. The following extract, from the introduction, shall give a better idea of the book:

"The system by which the genders of the French nouns may be most readily and firmly fixed in the memory, begins by classing them by their final syllables. Thus there are 643 nouns ending in *er*, which are all masculine except two: there are 144 ending in *our*, all masculine without a single exception: 70 in *ai*, 24 in *ais*, and 83 in *ard*, all masculine without exception: and 305 in *et*, all masculine except one word. Therefore, if these six endings can be fixed in the memory, as *masculines*, the learner will know the genders of 1269 nouns.

But the difficulty is to remember long lists of terminations, and to fix in the mind the gender of each. There are many grammars where whole pages are filled with terminations and exceptions, but they contain nothing to assist the memory,—no clue by which the ending is connected to its own particular gender. Those who learn from these books may perhaps remember that all nouns ending in *ais* are of the same gender; but there being no guide or catchword to assign *ais* to the masculines, they must be continually in doubt.

My plan to help the memory is this: I have introduced the masculine endings in three *Fables*, the actors in which fables are masculine. Every noun in these three fables is masculine, and no nouns are admitted into them but such as give the rules. Thus the endings mentioned above are given in the first four lines of the first fable, which a pupil can easily learn in half an hour, and thus acquire the genders of five thousand seven hundred and ten French nouns."

There is at the end a list of words the meaning of which is different by making them masculine or feminine. We subjoin a few of them, to show what very awful misnomers one can make for want of attention to the genders, when speaking French: *un cartouche*, an ornament in designing, *une cartouche*, a cartridge; *le greffe*, the office of the clerk of a court, or the register of a notary, *la greffe*, a graft; *un livre*, a book, *une livre*, a pound-weight; *un mémoire*, a bill or a memoir, *la mémoire*, the memory; *un mode*, a mood or accident, *la mode*, fashion or custom; *un mouk*, a model or pattern, *unemoule*, a shell fish; *un mousse*, a ship boy, *la mousse*, moss or froth; *un page*, a page, an attendant, *une page*, a page of a book; *un paillasse*, a theatrical clown, *une paillasse*, a mattress; *un poêle*, a stove, *une poêle*, a frying-pan; *un poste*, a situation or office, *la poste*, the post office, the mail; *un somme*, a sleep, a nap, *une somme*, a sum of money, *un souris*, a smile, *une souris*, a mouse; *un trompette*, a trumpeter, *une trompette*, a trumpet; *le vague*, the vacant space, something which is vague, *la vague*, a wave; *un voile*, a veil, a cover, *une voile*, a sail.

PROVANCHER.—*Traité de Botanique à l'usage des écoles*, par M. Provancher, curé de St. Joachim; 118 p. in-12. St-Michel et Darveau, Québec.

This is, we believe, the first work of the kind ever published in Canada. It contains many useful references to the Canadian Flora and is illustrated by 84 wood cuts.

## MONTHLY SUMMARY.

### MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

—We are sorry not to find in any of the English papers a more extended biography of Sir William Eyre, than the following one. His Excellency and Lady Eyre had left in Canada a large circle of friends by whom the melancholy intelligence of the death of the late commander, although expected, has been keenly felt. During his stay in Montreal and also while Administrator of the province, Sir William Eyre gave many proofs of zeal for the promotion of education, and our readers have not forgotten his speeches at the inauguration of the two Normal Schools in this city, and at the public examination of the McGill Normal School.

"We have to record the death of Major General Sir William Eyre, K. C. B., late in command of the forces in Canada, who died on 8th Sept., at Bilton Hall, Warwickshire, at the age of 53. The gallant General had been in bad health for months past, and was in consequence of illness compelled to resign his command in North America, in which he was succeeded last June by Major General Sir William Fenwick Williams, of Kars. The deceased entered the army in 1823, and after serving in the 73rd Regiment in Canada, of which regiment he was Major, he proceeded with that gallant corps to the Cape of Good Hope, and while there greatly distinguished himself in both the Caffre wars as Lieut. Colonel. In acknowledgment of his eminent services in the last and previous war, he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath, promoted to be Colonel in the army, and appointed an Aide-de-Camp to the Queen. On the military force being sent out to the East the deceased was appointed to a brigade of the third division of the army, which he ultimately commanded, with the local and temporary rank of Lieut. General. He was present at the battle of the Alma, the battle of Inkermann: commanded the troops in the trenches during the battle of Inkermann, and remained in the Crimea until the fall of Sebastopol, for which he received a medal and clasps. In 1855, he was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, was made a Commander of the Legion of Honor, a Knight of the Imperial Order of the Medjidie of the 2nd class, and was among the General officers of the army who received the Sardinian war medal. After his return home in June, 1856, he was selected by the Commander-in-Chief to command the troops in Canada. His commissions bore date as follows:—Ensign, 17th April, 1823; Lieutenant, 5th November, 1825; Captain, 20th May, 1827; Major, 19th July, 1830; Lieutenant Colonel, 12th November, 1847; Colonel, 28th May, 1853; and Major General, December 12th, 1854. The late General was one of the field officers in the receipt of the rewards for distinguished or meritorious services. Sir William was second son of the late Vice-Admiral Geo. Freyre, K. C. B., by the third daughter of Sir George Cooke, Bart., of Wexley. He married, in 1841, Miss Bridgeman Simpson, third daughter of the late Hon. John Bridgeman Simpson."

—Two "blue books" have recently been published in England by order of Parliament, somewhat similar in their character to the four volumes on the "Commercial Relations" of the United States, from which the London Journals compile some interesting statistics. It is said for instance that Austria and her dominions have increased in population from 36,950,547 in 1846 to 49,411,309 in 1855; the taxes which yielded £21,769,931 in 1851, in 1856 produced £27,316,227. Between 1850 and 1855 the value of the imports rose from £15,895,549 to £23,640,491, and the exports from £10,484,746 to £23,250,870. The tonnage of her shipping advanced thirty-seven per cent. from 1849 to 1856. Her mineral products