

ference with their religion. The governor presided at the inauguration of the school which commenced with 50 pupils.

—The friends of education in Illinois, have succeeded in obtaining very liberal appropriations for a Normal School, and they seem determined to have a building and all arrangements of the best possible character. A special committee was appointed to visit the different Normal Schools in New England, for the purpose of procuring as much information as possible, in relation to a plan for a building. Bloomington has been selected as the site of the new edifice and C. E. Hovey, Esq., editor of the *Illinois Teacher*, has been appointed principal.

—The indications of progress in the cause of popular education, in the state of Connecticut, are many and decisive. The people are erecting better school houses, employing and paying a better class of teachers; providing a better kind and greater uniformity of text books and in various ways endeavoring to render the schools what they should be. "It is not long," since, says the "Connecticut Common School Journal," that our to make "schools had but a mere nominal existence. The school houses were as "miserable as could be and their locations equally so. Poorly qualified "teachers were employed and poorly paid. There was no uniformity of "text books and in many schools, but few books of any kind. Parental "indifference and general apathy prevailed. Darkness brooded over the "state and thick darkness enveloped the Common Schools. And all the "while the geographers said "Connecticut is noted for her common "schools," and all the people rested as though their belief was more in "geography than in the declaration "Train up a child in the way "he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." But "thanks many and great to Barnard, Philbrick, Camp and others who "have with torch in hand, plunged into this thick darkness and endeavor to lead the people to see the light and act according to the light!"

—The exercises of the 26th term of the New York State, Normal school were closed on the 9th of July. The examinations of the classes had been in progress for nearly a week, in the last, six essays on educational matters and several poems were read by the male and female pupil teachers, addresses were delivered by the Principal and the professors, and the whole was interspersed with music, vocal and instrumental. Diplomas were conferred on 31 young ladies and on ten gentlemen, shewing about the same proportion in favor of the fair sex as are noticed in the Toronto and McGill Normal schools in Canada.

—As a sample of the activity of our neighbors of the United States, in the cause of education and to show how they value teachers conferences and associations, we give the following list of such conferences that are to be held in the month of August.—1st August. The Teacher's Association of New York in Albany.—18th. American Institute of Instruction in Manchester, New Hampshire.—4th and 5th. New Hampshire teachers association in Concord.—26th. National Association of teachers in Philadelphia. The New York teachers association met in Binghamton, in the 31st July. Those are great national or State Associations. There are besides innumerable local associations that meet frequently in every state.

—The Right Revd. Dr. Mollock, has recently laid the foundation of a Roman Catholic college, at Charlottown, Prince Edward Island.

—On Tuesday, the 23rd of July instant, the interesting ceremony of inaugurating the new Navigation schools, under the auspices of the government, took place in London, at the Sailor's Institute, where the schools are situated, Mercer street, Shadwell, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, of Alderley, the President of the Board of Trade. Mr. Fieldwick, read a lengthy report which stated, among other details that the institute had been opened during twelve months, for the suffering men in whose interest the British and Foreign Sailor's Society had exerted themselves.

—A new law of public instruction is under consideration in the parliament of Holland. The hardest fight in the house of deputies was as to the more or less religious character which is to be given to the schools. The government have proposed to maintain in the law the words "christian element" and "christian virtues"; reserving to themselves to establish denominational schools. The reform party are desirous to suppress those words or to qualify them so as to restrain their meaning; the ultra protestant party wanted the well defined establishment of separate schools. The government have explained that their intentions were to give the greatest latitude to all sects but to restrain any proselytizing spirit. They have carried their measure by a large majority.—*Journal de l'Instruction Publique* of Paris.

—The annual public meeting of the French Association for the advancement of elementary instruction, took place at the Sorbonne, on the 12th of July, in presence of a large and brilliant audience. Mr. Jomard, member of the Institute of France presided. Several reports were read on the proceedings of the association, on the educational department of the universal exhibition, and on the rewards to be given to the best elementary works published during the year. Acts of virtue and heroic deeds by pupils and teachers were the subject of a separate report by Mr. Amyot who was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic cheering. Several *morceaux* were sung by the Orphean association of the common schools of Paris.

—The minister of public instruction of France, having received copies of the report of the Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada and of the two Journals of education, English and French, has written a letter of thanks and ordered that his own reports and *Le Journal de l'Instruction Publique* and other documents on education, he sent in exchange to the education office at Montreal.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

The great poet Béranger, died on the 16th of July instant. Chateaubriand, Lamennais, Lamartine, Victor Hugo and Béranger, have been the greatest literary men in France, since the revolution of 1789. Béranger's songs although religion and morality must weep at the detestable use he made of his talent in many of them, Béranger songs, that is to say those that are free from moral and religious objections, will be for ever one of the greatest glories of France.

He was born at Paris, in the year 1780, in the house of his maternal grand father, a tailor. He alludes to this fact in one of his most charming songs, "Le Tailleur et la Pée." He was exceedingly poor in early life, and indeed poverty has ever been the muse that inspired him. If we did not know that the world is made of contrasts, one could wonder that such a man could have been the great poet of our mercenary and gold thirsty era. Lucien Bonaparte and the banker Lafitte were his first protectors.

"Though, says the London News," he was proud of the glory Napoleon had shed over France still his patriotic eye was not blind to the Emperors tyranny; and the powerful though good humoured satire of le "Roi d'Yvetot," made the puissant Emperor wince on his throne. But when misfortunes began to pour down in such tremendous succession upon the head of the once invincible captains, the poet forgot all his faults in admiration of his glory and in pity for his fate. It was then that he poured forth those imperishable strains consecrated to the victories and the misfortunes of the Empire, which did so much to keep alive in the hearts of the French people the name of their great Emperor, strains which often brought and still bring tears to the eyes of the French peasant....

"He died at the ripe age of 77 in full possession of all his faculties and was buried the next day at the Cemetery of Pere LaChaise, under circumstances most unusual and which show how great a power in the State was this writer of songs, and how a powerful Emperor was obliged to call out a hundred thousand soldiers for fear that the peace of Paris might be disturbed as he passed to the grave amidst the sympathies of a republican and revolutionary population. Never before was a poet so feared or so honoured."

—The magnificent new reading room of the British Museum contains ample accommodation for 500 readers. It is calculated that the inner library shelves in the galleries within the dome room will contain 80,000 volumes. The building contains three miles lineal of bookcases, which in all the cases are eight feet high. The cost about £150,000 include the fittings and furniture and the necessary shelves for the working of the existing library establishment. The number of readers who now use the library annually is upwards of 30,000. In 1836, two years before the opening of the old reading room, the library of printed books consisted of 230,000 volumes. In 1851, it consisted of 470,000, an increase at the rate of 16,000 a year. It is probable that the increase of books added to the British Museum will as education advances, be more than 16,000 volumes annually, but even at that rate the library in 1900 will contain 1,270,000 volumes. In 1851, the library occupied 51,050 feet or very nearly ten miles of shelves; at the end of this century, the shelves will extend nearly thirty miles, or ten miles further than from London to St. Albans.—*U. C. Journal of Education*.

—Mr. Charles Béranger, a poet, and one of the forty life members of the French Academy, died at Paris, on the 5th of June. The place left vacant by Alfred de Musset, at the date, was not yet filled. There are therefore at present but 38 immortals. Béranger would never consent to be one of them. Mr. Biot, the recently elected academician, spoke on behalf of the academy, as it is the usage in France, at the funerals of Mr. Béranger.

—It is asserted that in the English language proper, apart from technical and scientific terms, there are 10,500 nouns, 40 pronouns, 7,200 adjectives, 8,000 verbs, 2,000 adverbs, 60 propositions, 19 conjunctions, 68 interjections and 2 articles. According to Webster's dictionary, there are 100,000 words in the language.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—Baron Thénard, if not the greatest, one of the greatest chemists of our days, died on the 21st of June, at the age of 80. He was one of the oldest members of the Academy of sciences and it is another loss to be added to all those made by the Institute of France, in the course of the present year. Not one number of the *Journal des Savans*, has appeared without containing the intelligence of the death of one or more members of that learned body though they are very limited in number.