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# FOR LOWER CANADA.

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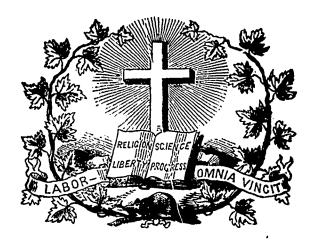
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## EDUCATION.

#### The Teacher's Task.

We have much pleasure in transferring to our columns the following extract on the above subject, from a lecture delivered before the Teacher's Association at Stanstead by Mr. C. C. Colby, and published at the request of the association in the Stanstead Journal.

The Common School Teacher of to-day has a more accurate and extensive knowledge of all that is worth practically knowing than the proudest philosopher of antiquity, yea, than all the philosophers, sophists and sages of antiquity, and half of their successors in modern times combined. In Rhetoric he can comfute Aristotle or Quintilian, he knows more of Mechanics than Archimedes, more of Astronomy than all the Ptolemes and modern Astrologers, not excluding Galileo and Copernicus, of Chemistry, than all the Alchemists and gold seekers of the middle ages, of Gravitation, than Newton, of Electricity, than Franklin or Dufay. And all this various knowledge and tenfold more he is called upon to impart to the young and unin-formed minds and memories of those entrusted to his charge. He must also keep himself in the infinite number of new discoveries and improvements which are being developed with such marvelous rapidity in our day. Being possessed of the requisite knowledge he must also have a capacity of imparting it. In order to this, the first and most indispensable requisite is a clear, distinct and accurate apprehension on his part of the several branches which he professes to teach. If his own ideas upon a given subject are vague, hazy and undefined, he may be assured that corresponding impressions

It is so with the teacher in a greater degree, for the unfortunate pupil of a careless and inaccurate teacher not only fails to acquire a proper understanding of the subjects presented to his mind, but what is more to be regretted, he positively acquires those loose habits of mental effort which disqualify one from close thinking and reasoning upon any and all subjects. The teacher must be attentive and zealous in the discharge of his duties, otherwise the pupil will assuredly become listless and indifferent. He must be patient, year than must emulate that most exemplary model of patience who ever he must emulate that most exemplary model of patience who ever passed through sore trial and affliction, and whose name is ever suggestive of that lowly virtue, otherwise his impatience will be reciprocated by impatience and irritability. The appearance of every object whether seen by the bodily eye or the mental vision, depends much on the point of observation. The boys in the fable who stoned the frogs prided themselves upon the exhibition of manual dexterity and close mark-manships regarding not the suffering inflicted, while the frogs looked upon the boys as persecuting, wanterparts. ton murderers. The humorists and fiction writers assuming the pupil's point of observation, have ever dealt with the poor pedago-gue most unmercifully. They have caricatured him in every con-ceivable aspect which could provoke ridicule, inspire contempt, disgust, aversion or horror. They have satirised his pedantry, eccentricities, exposed his ignorance, drawn dismal picture of petty tyranny, and grave oppression practised under cover of authority.
They have ever portrayed him as a Squires, a Thwackum, a Squeers
a Dominie Sampson, or other ridiculous or odious character. But seldom do I recollect have they taken the teachers' point of observation, and pointed us to the petty annoyances and vexations, or to the severe trials and disappointments by which the teacher's life is har-rassed and made at times more miserable than human nature can patiently bear. But wisdom enjoins patience in the most trying circumstances. Duty exacts it. If parents are indifferent, he must be patient; if scholars are unruly, turbulent, fractious, he must be patient; if his rules are suspended by ignorant and meddling managers, if insubordination is encouraged by the natural guardians of his scholars, if he has to encounter at every step open resistance, sullen obstinacy, or insensate stupidity, he must still be patient; patient he must be through all the trials, discouragements and vexations incident to the irksome, worrying, nerve-grating character of his daily routine, or prudently quit his occupation. Lesser heroes than the faithful school teacher have been lauded to the skies for than the faithful school teacher have been lauded to the skies for their virtues, but he has been more often the victim of misrepresentation, the butt of ridicule and the subject of indiscriminating censure, than the recipient of praise or even of appreciation. Unless the young man can fortify his mind with a strong determination to bear with equanimity not only the graver anxieties but also the minodiversations incorrable from a vecation which although emiand underned, he may be assured that corresponding impressions bear with equanimity not only the graver anxieties but also the mills be formed in the minds of his pupils. If an artist would graphi—minor vexations in separable from a vocation, which, although emically delineate a landscape or a human face he must first have a clear nently calculated to draw out and engage the best feelings and and vivid conception of the lineaments which he would portray. If sympathies of his nature, is equally liable to poison and embitter his own conceptions are confused and indistinct the result of his them, he had best at once abandon a mode of life which he cannot efforts will certainly be a heteroge eous daub and not a portraiture. Prosecute with satisfaction to himself or advantage to others.

This leads me naturally to a few general remarks upon the subject of school discipline. A period occurs in the life of every child, however carefully and fondly nurtured, when the paternal supervision must be intermitted. Custom, convenience and a variety of engagements preclude the possibility of the child remaining entirely under the eye and control of the father during the whole of his minority, and common consent has confirmed the expedience of investing the public instructor with the intellectual and to a great extent the moral training of the child at a very early age, when the infant mind is impressible like wax but retentive like adamant. This most critical period, so pregnant with consequences, is viewed by the parent with the profoundest solicitude, by the child with a feeling of relief as of expected emancipation from restraint, it should be regarded by the teacher with a corresponding sense of responsibility. The power of regulating the conduct, informing the mind, expanding the moral and intellectual faculties, of punishing the bad and rewarding the meritorious acts of the child, which nature originally devolved upon the parent as his exclusive precative are for the time upon the parent as his exclusive prerogative, are for the time delegated to him. How fearful the trust! when we consider the keen perceptions, the budding passions, the dormant fires, the exquisite sense and faculty of imitation of early childhood, of that sacred period when the purest and holiest desires may be awakened, a thirst for knowledge created, a noble and life abiding manliness established, by the force of good example, noble precept, and correct discipline! of that fatal period when the self-consuming yet inextinguishable fires of uphala passions may be opconsuming yet inextinguishable fires of unholy passions may be enkindled by force of evil example and communications and imperfect discipline! Truly, the reins of discipline and authority should be held at this time if ever with a firm yet gentle hand.

The teacher in the government of his school must not lose sight of one principle which should in most instances be the guide of his conduct, whatever feelings predominate in his own mind will be reflected as by a mirror in the minds of his scholars. The greater number of children who attend Common Schools are as yet within the domain of instinct. They instinctively approach and unbosom themselves to a kindly and congenial nature, and as instinctively close and shrink from a harsh and unkindly nature.—There is a magic in kindness, especially in our intercourse with the young. If punishment or kind rebuke is inflicted in a spirit of kindness it carries its balm with it which mollifies the wound. Anger, begets anger; contention, begets contention; recrimination, begets recrimination; wanton cruelty, begets retaliation; harsh and coercive measures beget dislike, obstinacy and even hatred. If we drop the seed upon the frozen soil or flinty rock we do not expect germination; so if the seeds of scientific or moral truth are dropped upon the callous surface of a mind frozen by indifference or indurated by aversion and dislike, we need not expect intellectual germination. Kindness, gentleness, persuasion, operate upon young minds in rendering them fitting receptacles of truth, like the genial influence of vernal suns and showers and winds upon the face of the earth. If the cheerful smile, the encouraging look and gesture, the clear ex-planation, the timely aid fail to awaken a disposition or capacity to learn, corporal coercion, the strap, the birch, the dark closet, will prove in a more signal manner ineffectual. Another and not less important consideration to be ever borne in mind by the teacher, is the regulation of his deportment. Although men differ as to the propriety of introducing religious or sectarian instruction into the secular schools, all, I believe, agree in the propriety of inculcating prudential maxims and moral precepts therein. As before intimated, the instincts are keenly alive and sensitive during childhood and youth, and it may be added that the perceptions at that time are equally vigilant and acute. Could the teacher see as clearly the thoughts and emotions which are coursing through the busy brains of his pupils as they can read the thoughts which are transpiring in the teacher's breast, he would perceive many close and curious observations upon his own conduct and character. Those little eyes which are reving so heedlessly and innocently everywhere, are like which are reving so heedlessly and innocently everywhere, are like so many needles, they fasten upon every object, not a look or a gesture escribes them, not a transient change of countenance, not a fitting emotion is unobserved. They scan the innermost thought and they are particularly acute in discerning any, even the slightest, inconsistency between one's teaching and his practice. An idle word which is unremembered by the speaker at the next moment leaves its impression on a soft clay which forthwith indurates and becomes rock. An unquarded look is retained for years. Hence becomes rock. An unguarded look is retained for years. Hence the necessity of strict propriety in the teacher's deportment. Not only his morals but his manners are contagious; if he is boorish, his pupils are clownish; if he is courteous, they are respectful; if he is should not be lumbered with a multitude of heterogeneous materials, industrious and attentive they are studious; if he is indifferent, they hastily and promiscously thrown in packages and parcels, bales and are listless; if he is affable, they are civil; if his language is choice jewels with rubbish mixed. In such case when the reason comes and select, theirs is proper, or at least well intended; if his conver-

sation is loose and unrefined, theirs is vulgar-beastly. His moral conduct and conversation must be guarded and irreproachable; he must live and act what he professes and teaches. If he gives license to his appetites or passions or evil propensities of any kind, he becomes responsible for the most fearful consequences. If the immaculate sins, those under his tuition become sceptical of good; if he falls, he unconsciously drags many into the way of ruin. Regarded as the great exemplar and model of good conduct, if he takes a slight liberty those under his guidance will take a broad license; if his lips, the vehicles of truth and pure instruction, are polluted with indecency and immorality, his school becomes at once a seminary of vice and infidelity; its atmosphere becomes impure, againted, contarging and infectious it becomes a very less house. tainted, contaminated and infectuous; it becomes a very lasar house of putrid and obscene sensuality, and its foul associations become a very Nessean cloak which clings to the vitals and marrow of the wearer, and which no efforts in after life can radically remove. The school teacher cannot too often recall the remembrance of that great and good teacher of old whose name must be ever spoken with reverence, whom little children might be suffered to approach without fear of contamination, and whose whole life was the embodiment and realization of his simple and divine teachings. The school teacher has need of such a heavenly remembrance, for his position is at all times in this sense one of awful responsibility. It would seem impossible that any professional school teacher could undertake the work of forming the tastes, regulating the studies, in short of shaping the destiny present and eternal, not of one, but of hundreds of human beings, without an overwhelming sense of the responsibility thereby incurred. For the efficient and conscientious discharge of his trust he is responsible to the parents, who have so confidingly placed in his charge their most precious treasures—to the children whom he is unconsciously to themselves moulding into vessels of honor or of dishonor-to society, which annually receives from the common schools, the academies, and colleges, an infusion of new blood, which goes to disorganize or to strengthen its constitution—to his maker who will rigorously exact a strict account of his cure and stewardship of immortal souls. Yet it is to be feared that many enter your vocation with no other end than pecuniary profit, and regardless of the means by which that end is attained; whose only care is to hasten the flight of time until their task is completed and their reward secured. Some urge that the duties of the school teacher are confined to educating and forming the intellectual contained to the school teacher are confined to the schoo lect exclusively, and that during certain fixed hours assigned to the purpose—and that all further care and responsibility concerning the purpl devolves upon others. To my mind this is far from being a just and comprehensive statement of the case, but as it involves a very important part of the teacher's work, it will not be deemed amiss in me to make a few suggestions of what should be avoided and what should be practiced in the process of developing and feeding the human intellect. The sentient principle in man being a second in the process of the sentence which cannot be weighted or something imperceptible to the senses, which cannot be weighed or measured, seen or felt, we are frequently compelled in speaking of operations to compare them to things of which we can take actual cognizance and in fact, upon observation we do find strong analogies to certain physical processes with which we are quite familiar: for example, we often speak of administering food to the mind, by which we mean the storeing it with knowledge, and we convey a meaning similar to what is implied by administering food to the body—and by tracing the analogy farther, we shall discover striking similarities between the physical processes of digestion, assimilation and absorption, and the corresponding mental processes. Strong meat is said to be suitable to men, and milk to babes. This principle should be constantly regarded by the teacher in prescribing his courses of study. Indigestable food in the stomach deranges the whole system and returns it no nutriment.—Studies above the pupil's comprehension perplex and discourage him and occasion a great expenditure of vital energy to no purpose.—The teacher should have particular reference to the pupil's age, proficiency and aptitude before putting the text-book into his hand.—Again, over-feeding impairs the digestion and clogs the system with useless matter. No more food about the pupil age to should be taken than can be properly digested and assimilated. No error is more frequently practiced in the management of schools than that of over-feeding the young mind. Such a course encumbers the memory, confuses the reason, and in no way aids the growth and development of the intellect. The memory is not inaptly compared to a store house in which the various merchandise of known ledge is deposited and assorted, and to which the reason repairs for material with which to carry on its operations. This store house should not be lumbered with a multitude of heterogeneous materials, search, or if successful, after much labor and perplexity, finds it perchance crushed or mutilated and unfit for use. Nothing should be introduced into this important receptacle, except it be properly marked and labelled, and methodically placed upon its appropriate shelf. It is a great mistake in teaching to attempt too much. A thorough and accurate knowledge of a few things is far more valuable

than an imperfect knowledge of many.

No branch of study should be abandoned until it is perfectly mastered. No new branches should be attempted until the mind is fully possessed of the preceding. A deep and sure foundation is preferable to an ill-constructed edifice. Opportunities in after life may complete the one, but no future care, remedy the defects in the other. The race is not always to the swift, and injudicious trainers not unfrequently ruin the wind and limbs of their young coursers by overtasking, overfeeding, and over-stimulating. Here I may observe that the ambition of teachers very often defeats its own ends. The temporary engagements of teachers renders it necessary, as they conceive to exhibit the greatest possible advancement in their scholars in the least possible time. Hence they are too apt, without particular examination upon or revision of past studies, to hurry the pupil on from the point at which he was left by the former to some more advanced stage in his progress. While this practice tends to impress the pupil and his friends with a sufficient sense of his own smartness and proficiency, and redounds greatly to the reputation of the teacher, it is too often at the expense of all the substantial advantages to be derived from study. Whatever is the substantial advantages to be derived from study. Whatever is worth knowing is worth knowing thoroughly, and no thorough and lasting knowledge of any important study can be indelibly fixed in the young mind without frequent and careful reviewing. The laborious and pains-taking teacher cannot at the expiration of a single term, or a single year, exhibit any very shining and commetteus proof of his care, but the enduring monuments of his useful labors are witnessed in the deeper insight, broader range, more lively and real apprehensions, of which the fruits are only seen in after

While it is generally understood that Education consists not only in the inculcation of knowledge, but also in developing and strengthening the powers and faculties of the mind, as the physical powers and capabilities are strengthened and developed by proper exercise, it is to be feared that the memory is too frequently cultivated to the neglect of other equally important and associate faculties. That the teacher's approbation is too often bestowed upon mere flippancy of recitation.—The system of learning by rote, although repudiated in theory, is not altogether discarded in practice, and its natural and inevitable effect is to dwarf the intellect and deform its proportions by giving an undue prominence to one of its functions—a mere

verbal memory.

The scholar who satisfies the requirements of his teacher (and few scholars are higher than this) by barely committing to memory the words of his text, is in a like unfortunate condition to that of an apprentice builder who is kept during his apprenticeship at carrying brick and mortar to the masons. Neither is instructed in the higher mysteries of his study—neither understands the application of the materials he transports. In the discharge of their unprofitable labor, both are drudges rather than intelligent scholars. Nothing to me is more contemptible than that capability which is so much prized by many, the most verbal memory. It is compatible with the meanest intellect. It may spring up to a marvellous growth in the most barren soil.—The understanding, the reason, have very little to do with it, and are very little improved by it. It is akin to the senseless articulation of the parrot. Yet this absurd facility is unconsciously promoted and the memory companyed with a superfluit. consciously promoted and the memory cumbered with a superfluity of useless details by unreflecting teachers who fail to distinguish between it and that higher order of memory, which is retentive of principles and essential to all profitable mental operations.

The comprehension of a principle contributes more not only to the growth but the information of the mind than that of a thousand instances which are deducted from that principle. Hence the judicious teacher will never fail to enforce those elementary rules and principles which underlie every branch of knowledge, by clear explanations and illustrations suited to the scholar's capacity and attainments—and will not suffer a familiarity with examples and an apparent understanding of their significance, to conceal ignorance of their essentials, which are the ground work of all.

But, gentlemen, I am trespassing upon your valuable time too long. If I have ventured to treat of matters with which you are more familiar than myself, it has not been with a view to impart information so much as by reminding you of those qualities which are essential in your profession, to impress your minds more deeply with a sense of its importance, its responsibilities, its dignity, and

highest excellence. I have shown, or endeavored to show, that the true teacher must possess in an eminent degree the virtues of industry, patience and forbearance, that he must temper the exercise of authority with gentleness and love, that he must be courteous and affable in his manners, that he must be examplary in his daily life and moral deportment, that he must thoroughly understand the various branches which he professes to teach, and which embrace a broader range than was opened to the vision of the wisest of ancient philosophers, that he must possess a happy faculty of imparting this knowledge. Who would withhold from a man furnished with such qualities and acquirements his deepest respect? Who would venture to assert that a profession which calls into requisi-tion such qualities and acquirements in their highest degree and which is constantly employed in elevating the character of our race and shaping the destinies of future generations, is not preeminently an important, a responsible, a dignified profession? Other spheres of action are better calculated to draw out the brilliant qualities of the mind. The pulpit, the bar, the senate and the higher walks of literature and art afford more pleasing fields to those ambitious of distinction, and perhaps return more abundant harvest of wealth and popularity, but I can conceive of no vocation which affords more ample employment to the solid and sterling qualities of the mind, and in which the faithful discharge of duty affords a more permanent satisfaction to an upright and conscientious man than yours. It behooved you then to cultivate in yourselves those qualtites of head and heart which are essential to usefulness in your pursuits. Your presence here to-day in your second annual convention is a proof that you are not negligent in this regard. That your deliberations and discussions may be a source of profit to your selves and through you to the hundreds of young minds under your tuition, is the wish of all who are acquainted with the object of your meetings.

#### The Monetary Crisis.

#### A WARNING TO MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS.

No thinking woman can have heard of the late monetary crisis, both in America and in our own country, without taking the subject into serious consideration, and making a personal application of it

to herself and her own conduct.

Have those of us whose daughters have completed their course of home training, and entered upon the duties of married life, the satisfaction of knowing that they have been prepared to become helpmeets for their husbands in the day of adversity? We would ask whether they have been taught the uncertainty of wordly prosperity in a commercial country like ours, and been led to regard it as not all essential to domestic happiness? Have they the cheerful, faithful spirit, that can bow to the storm, and raise again with renewed energy? Is the careworm husband cheered by the quiet smile and affectionate welcome of the wife? And does he find that the hands which have guided with taste the per il or the pen, and touched with skill more than one musical instrument, can be as cleverly employed in preparing the now frugal meal, and arranging the simple menage? Does the anxious husband find that his wants are as carefully supplied now that there is little or no domestic help, as when he had servants to wait upon him; and that his children are being encouraged to display their infantile skill in waiting upon themselves and each other, and in helping to make all neat for the general comfort?

Many such instances could be found at this hour we doubt not; but, alas, there must, we fear, be many others of a directly opposite description, where the husband's business anxieties are greatly increased by the consciousness that there is one at home who is all unused to toil-unprepared for trial-unfitted for a life-struggle

with this work-day world.

An important consideration should be suggested to the minds of the mothers of the rising generation connected with this crisis. Is the present system of home-training calculated to prepare our young people for the real, practical life that lies before them? If children are not taught when young to dress, and wait upon themselves; to use the needle for useful purposes; to be neat and orderly, not only in their own little affairs, but in all that concerns the general comfort of the household, it will be no easy matter to form such habits afterwards. This difficulty is increased if daughters are sent early from home to be educated. The conscientious teacher knows that it is the intellectual and moral training of the young lady to which she is expected to attend; and that the progress made in important studies and elegant accomplishments, and in the formation of ladywith a sense of its importance, its responsibilities, its dignity, and like manners and an amiable disposition, will be carefully watched thereby to inspire you with a stronger determination to aim at the by the anxious parents. But the teacher knows full well, that in

the majority of cases, it would give great offence both to parents and children, were she to attempt practically to instruct them in those lighter domestic duties, on the performance of which so much of the happiness and brightness of home depends. It is quite as much as she can venture upon to ask a young lady to group a few flowers—she must know well the character of her pupil before she can request her to dust the vases in which they are to be arranged.

But there are sensible mothers who are constantly striving to com-

These hasty observations are penned with an carnest desire to assist mothers in turning the events which have lately transpired, and are still progressing, to good account in the education of their daughters. We hope, too, that they may be read by some, who will remember past efforts that have been made to rouse them to a sense of their individual responsibility, both towards their families and society at large.—British Mother's Journal.

When commed in a box they would eat meat.

The use of the extraordinary appendage at the end of the nose is not known with certainty. It is only barely probable that as the animal subsists by groping about under the ground in search of worms and other small prey, the ornament on his muzzle may assist it in the search.

#### SCIENCE.

#### Notes on the Natural History of Canada.

The Star-Nosed Mole.—Genus, CONDYLURA. (Illiger.)

DENTAL FORMULA.

Incisive 214; Canine 111-111; Molar 817-817=40.

Generic Characters:—Body thick, furry; muzzle much elongated, bordered with membranous crests, disposed star-like round the opening of the nostrils; no ears; eyes small; feet five-toed, nails formed for digging; those behind slender and weak. The generic name is from the Greek (kondule) a swelling, and (ourc) a tail, in allusion to the swollen state of the tail of this animal ference whatever of sufficient importance to justify the separation

CONDYLURA CRISTATA. (Linn.)

Synonymes.

SONERE CRISTATA, Linn, Ed. 12, p. 73.
TALPA LONGICAUDATA. Pennant's Hist. Quad., Vol. 2, p. 232.
CONDYLURA LONGICAUDATA. Richardson, Fauna, p. 13. MACROURA. '' id. p. 234. CRISTATA. Audubon & Bachman, Vol. 2, p. 139. MACROURA.



The length of the star-nosed mole from the point of the nose to the root of the tail is about 5 inches, length of tail three inches, the root of the tail is about 5 inches, length of tail three inches, from heel to end of claw 7 of an inch, breadth of palm 678. The head is long pointed and terminated in a snout which, at its extremity is surrounded by a fringe of about twenty cartilaginous points. The body is cylindrical, the neck short, and the eyes small. The moustaches are few and short. There is an orifice in place of an external ear, which does not project through the skin. The fore feet are longer than those of the common American shrew mole, the palms destitute of hairs, but covered with scales; claws, flattened, sharp, channelled beneath; hind extremities longer than those of the common American shrew the fore ones, placed far back; feet nearly naked, scaly; tail subcylindrical, sparingly covered with coarse hair. The fur is brownish lollow of a tree, or in a hole dug by the marmot, or skunk. cylindrical, sparingly covered with coarse hair. The fur is brownish black; some of the specimens have dark brown feet, others pale ashy brown or even white.

to advance a step without breaking down their galleries. The excavations which are most continuous, and appear to be most frequented, are placed at a short distance below the roots of the grass on the banks of small streams; these are to be traced along their margins, following every inflexion, and making frequent cir cuits in order to pass large stones or roots of trees, to regain their usual proximity to the surface nearest the water." Addubon says that the burrows are deeper than those described by Godman, and bat the natural tendency of young people to love ease and pleasure in preference to useful occupation, and an improving course of study. All honor be to them who thus labor, and may that labor be crowned with the Divine blessing.

that the chamber of habitation at the end is spacious, with a comfortable nest of withered leaves and dry grass. Out of one of these he took three young ones about a week old, and found that the radiations of the nose were then so slightly developed that the animal content in the chamber of habitation at the end is spacious, with a comfortable nest of withered leaves and dry grass. Out of one of these radiations of the nose were then so slightly developed that the animal content in the chamber of habitation at the end is spacious, with a comfortable nest of withered leaves and dry grass. mals might have been mistaken for the young of the common molo. When confined in a box they would eat meat.

At certain seasons it is observed that the tail of the star-nosed mole is much swollen, and hence the mistake of Dr. Harlow, who, upon a specimen taken in this condition, made a new species with the name macroura, or long tailed mole. This species is found in Canada but rarely, although it appears to be distributed all over the province. In the United states it occu in all the northern and eastern portions and as far south as the borders of South Carolina.

The Common Weasel. (Putorius erminea.)

PUTORIUS ERMINEA. - Linn.

WHITE WEASEL.—STOAT.

sometimes observed. Only one species of this remarkable genus of the American from the European or Asiatic Ermine. Its geo-is known, which is the following:—

of the American from the European or Asiatic Ermine. Its geo-graphical range therefore is enormous, being nearly the whole of the northern part of the world as far south as latitude 40°

The length of the ermine from the point of the nose to the root of the tail is about ten inches, length of tail five inches and a-half. The color is pure white or yellowish-white in winter, and in summer reddish-brown above and white beneath. The tip of the tail is always black. The body is slender, legs short, five toes on each foot, inner toe the shortest, ears broad and rounded, the fur soft

and short, and the tail somewhat bushy at the end.

Audubon describes the Weasel as "fierce and bloodthirsty, possessing an intuitive propensity to destroy every animal and bird



within its reach, some of which, such as the American rabbit, the hollow of a tree, or in a hole dug by the marmot, or skunk. Thither it was pursued by the Ermine, and destroyed, the skin and other remains at the mouth of the burrow bearing evidence of the This animal is a harmless little creature, subsisting on insects, fact. We observed an Ermine, after having captured a hare of the worms and larvæ of various kinds. According to Dr. Godman it above species, first behead it and then drag the body some twenty prefers the banks of small streams or swampy land, where in many yards over the fresh fallen snow, beneath which it was concealed, places the burrows are so numerous that "it is scarcely possible and the snow tightly pressed over it; the little prowler displaying

thereby a habit of which we became aware for the first time on that occasion. To avoid a dog that was in close pursuit it mounted a tree and laid itself flat on a limb about twenty feet from the ground, from which it was finally shot. We have ascertained by successful experiments, repeated more than a hundred times, that the Ermine can be employed, in the manner of the ferret of Europe, in driving our American rabbit from the burrow into which it has retreated. In one instance, the Ermine employed had been captured only a few days before, and its canine teeth were filed in order to prevent its destroying the rabbit; a cord was placed around its neck to secure its return. It pursued the hare through all the windings of its burrow and forced it to the mouth, where it could be taken in a net, or by the hand. In winter, after a snow stonn, the ruffed grouse has a habit of plunging into the loose snow, where it remains at times for one or two days. In this passive state the Ermine sometimes detects and destroys it. In an unsuccessful attempt at domesticating this grouse by fastening its feet to a board in the mode adopted with the stool pigeon, and placing it high on a shelf, an Ermine which we had kept as a pet, found its way by the curtains of the window and put an end to our experiment by eating off the head of our grouse."

"Nothwithstanding all these mischievous and destructive habits, it is doubtful whether the Ermine is not rather a benefactor than an enemy to the farmer, ridding his granaries and fields of muny depredators on the product of his labour, that would devour ten times the value of the poultry and eggs which, at long and uncertain intervals, it occasionally destroys. A mission appears to have been assigned it by Previdence to lessen the rapidly multiplying number of mice of various species and the smaller rodentia."

"The white-footed mouse is destructive to the grains in the wheat fields and in the stacks, as well as the nurseries of fruit trees. LeConte's pine-mouse is injurious to the Irish and sweet potato crops, causing more to rot by nibbling holes into them that it consumes, and Wilson's meadow mouse lessens our annual product of hay by feeding on the grasses, and by its long and tortuous gal-

leries among their roots.

"Wherever an Ermine has taken up his residence, the mice in its vicinity for half a mile round have been found rapidly to diminish in number. Their active little enemy is able to force its thin vermiform body into the burrows, it follows them to the end of their galleries, and destroys whole families. We have on several occasions, after a light snow, followed the trail of a weasel through fields and meadows, and witnessed the immense destruction which it occasioned in a single night. It enters every hole under stump, logs, stone heaps and fences, and evidence of its bloody deeds are seen in the mutilated remains of the mice scattered on the snow. The little chipping or ground squirrel, Tamias Lysteri, takes up its residence in the vicinity of the grain fields, and is known to carry off in its cheek pouches vast quantities of wheat and buck-wheat, to serve as winter stores. The Ermine instinctively discovers these snug retreats, and in the space of a few minutes destroys a whole family of these beautiful little Tamie; without even resting awhile until it has consumed its now abundant food, its appetite craving for more blood, as if impelled by an irresistible destiny, it proceeds in search of other objects on which it may glut its insatiable vampire-like thirst. The Norway rat, and the common house-mouse take possession of our barns, wheat stacks, and granaries, and destroy vast quantities of grain. In some instances the farmer is reluctanty compelled to pay even more than a tithe in contributions towards the support of these pests. Let however an Ermine find its way into these barns and granaries, and there take up its winter residence, and the havor which is made among the rats and mice will soon be observable. The Ermine pursues them to their farthest retreats, and in a few weeks the premises are intirely free from their depradations. We once placed a half domesticated Ermine in an outhouse infested with rats, shutting up the holes on the outside to prevent their escape. The little animal soon commenced his work of destruction. The squeaking of the rats was heard throughout the day. In the evening, it came out licking its mouth, and seeming like a hound after a long chase, much fatigued. A board of the floor was raised to enable us to ascertain the result of our experiment, and an immense number of rats were observed, which although they had been killed on different parts of the building, had been dragged together, forming a compact heap."

"The Ermine is then of immense benefit to the farmer. We are of the opinion that it has been over-hated and too indiscriminately persecuted. If detected in the poultry house, there is some excuse for destroying it, as, like the dog that has once been caught in the sheepfold, it may return to commit further depredations;

suffering it to remain, as by thus inviting it to a home, it will probably destroy more formidable enemies, relieve him from many

petty annoyances, and save him many a bushel of grain."

The Ermine brings forth its young from four to seven at a litter in the months of April and May, and it is said that the family usually remain in the same locality until autum. With respect to usually remain in the same locality until autum. With respect to the change of colour, Audubon is of opinion that it is effected by shedding the hair, the new coat coming out in a different color. On the other hand, an European naturalist, Mr. Bell, thinks that the hair changes colour. Up in this subject, and also upon the habits of the species in Britain, we make the following extract from Knight's English Cyclopædia, page 1006:—

With regard to the mode in which this alteration is brought

about, Mr. Bell expresses his belief that the winter change is effected not by the loss of the summer coat and the subcritution of a new one, but by the actual change of colour in the existing fur; and he cites, in proof of this view of the subject, the case of the Hudson's Bay Lemming, which in Captain Sir John Ross's first Polar Expedition was axposed in its summer cost on the dealt to Polar Expedition was exposed in its summer coat on the deck to a temperature of 30° below zero, and the next morning the fur on the cheeks and a patch on each shoulder had become perfectly white. Next day the shoulder-patches had considerably extended, and the posterior part of the body and flanks had turned to a dirty white. At the end of a week the winter change was complete, with the exception of a dark band across the shoulders prolonged down to the middle of the back.

That change of temperature, and not merely change of season is necessary to effect the alteration of colour is evident from Mr. Hogg's observations. (5th vol. of London's 'Magazine of Nat. Hist.;' Bell, 'British Quadrupeds')

Mr. Hogg, whose temarks appear to have been made in the county of Durham, states that within the last nine years from the date of his communication he had met with two Ermines alive, and in the most different winters that had occured for many years. One was observed in the extremely severe winter (January to March) of 1823; the other in the extremely mild January of 1832.

"In consequence of the months of December, 1831, and January, 1832, having been so extremely mild, I was," says Mr. Hogg, "greatly surprised to find this stoat clothed in his winter fur; and the more so, because I had seen about three weeks or a month before, a stoat in its summer coat or brown fur. I was therefore naturally led to consider whether the respective situations which the brown and white stoats seen by me this warm winter inhabited, could alone account for the difference of the colour of their fur, in any clear and satisfactory manner. The situation then where the Brown Stoat was seen, is in nearly 54 - 32' N. lat., 1° 19' W. long, upon a plain elevated a very few feet above the level of the river Tees, in the county of Dutham. And ain, the place where I met with the Ermine, or White Stoat, on the 23rd of January, 1832, is in the North Riding of Yorkshire, in nearly 54° 12' N. lat., 1° 13' W. long.; it is situated at a very considerable elevation, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the lofty moorlands called the Hamble-don Hills. These constitute the south-western range of the Clevedon Hills. land Hills, which rise in height from 1100 feet to 1200 feet above the sca. At the time, the Ermine was making his way towards the hills, where, no doubt, he lived, or frequently haunted; and consequently the great coldness of the atmosphere, even in so mild a winter, upon so elevated and bleak a spot as that moorland, would satisfactorily account for the appearance of the animal in its white fur; although the place is, in a direct line, more than 23 miles distant to the south of the fields near the Tees, inhabited by the Brown Stoat."

The Ermine-Weasel, the length of whose head and body is 9 inches 10 lines, the tail being 4 inches 8 lines, is the Carlwm of the Welsh; Stoat, Stout, and greater Weasel of the English; L'Hermine and Le Roselet of the French; Armelino of the Italians; Armino and Armelina of the Spanish; Hermelin of the Germans; Hermelin and Lekatt of the Swedes; Hermilyn of the Dutch; Kermelin and Lekat of the Danes; Seegoos and Shacooshew of the Cree Indians; and Terreeya of the Esquimaux.

The Ermine is found generally in temperate Europe, but common only in the north. The finest, that is, those with the longest and thickest fur, and of the purest and brightest colour, are imported from the high latitudes. Russia, Norway, Sweden, Siberia, and Lapland, furnish them abundantly. The British importation, in 1833, was 105,139; and 187,000. In America it is found from the most northern line to the middle districts of the United States. Ermine-skins formed part of the Canada exports in the time of Charlevoix; but they have so sunk in value, that they are said not but when it has taken up its residence under stone heaps and fences, to repay the Hudson's Bay Company the expense of collecting them, in his fields, or his barns, the farmer would consult his interest by and very few are brought to this country from that quarter.

"It appears that in England generally," says Mr. McGillivray, " the Ermine is less common than the Weasel; but in Scotland, even to the south of the Frith of Forth, it is certainly of more frequent occurence than that species; and for one Weasel I have seen at least five or six Ermines. It frequents stoney places and thickests, among which it finds a secure retreat, as its agility enables it to outstrip even a deg in a short race, and the slimness of its body allows it to enter a very small aperture. Patches of furze, in particular, afford it perfect security, and it sometimes takes possession of a rabbit's burrow. It preys on game and other birds, from the grouse and ptarmigan downwards, sometimes attacks poultry or sucks their eggs, and is a determined enemy to rats and moles. Young rabits and hares frequently become victims to its rapacity, and even full-grown individuals are sometimes destroyed by it. Although in general it does not appear to hunt by scent, yet it has been seen to trace its prey like a dog, following its track with certainty. Its motions are elegant, and its appearance extremely animated. It moves by leaping or bounding, and is capable of running with great speed, although it seldom trusts itself beyond the immediate vicinity of cover. Under the excitement of pursuit however its courage is surprising, for it will attack, seize by the throat, and cling to a grouse, hare, or other animal, strong enough to carry it off, and it does not hesitate an occasion to betake itself to the water. Sometimes when met with in a thicket or stoney place, it will stand and gaze upon the intruder, as if conscious of security; and, although its boldness has been exaggerated in the popular stories which have made their way into books of natural history, it cannot be denied that, in proportion to its size, it is at least as courageous as the tiger or the lion."

Mr. Bell was informed by the Rev. F. W. Hope that the latter, while shooting in Shropshire, was attracted by the loud shrill scream of a hare which he thought had been just caught in a poacher's snare. He ran towards the spot, and there saw a hare limping off, apparently in great distress, with something attached to the side of the throat. This proved to be a stoat, and the stricken hare made its way into the brushwood with its enemy still holding on. In England it takes advantage of the galleries of the mole for its

winter retreat, as well as the rabbit burrow.

Captain Lyon, R. N., saw the Ermine hunting the footsteps of mice in the North as a hound would hunt a fox, and observed their burrows in the snow, which were pushed up in the same manner as the tracks of moles in Britain. These passages ran in a serpentine direction, and near the hole or dwelling-place the circles were multiplied as if to render the approach more intricate.

The same graphic voyager gives a lively description of a captive Ermine:—" He was a fierce little fellow, and the instant he obtained day light in his new dwelling, he flew at the bars, and shook them with the greatest fury, uttering a very shrill passionate cry, and emitting the strong musky smell which I formerly noticed. No threats or teasing could induce him to retire to the sleeping-place, and whenever he did so of his own accord, the slightest rubbing on the bars was sufficient to bring him out to the attack of his formentors. He soon took food from the hand, but not until he had first used every exertion to reach and bite the fingers which conveyed it. This boldness gave me great hopes of being able to keep my little captive alive through the winter, but he was killed by an accident."

Sir John Richardson states that the Ermine is a bold animal, and often domesticates itself in the habitations of the fur-traders, where it may be heard the live-long night pursuing the whitefooted mouse (Mus leucopus). He remarks that, according to Indian report, this species brings forth ten or twelve young at a time. In this country it produces about five in April or May.

n Siberia, Ermines are taken in traps baited with flesh; and in Norway they are either shot with blunt arrows, or taken in traps made of two flat stones, one being propped up with a stick, to which is fastened a baited string. This the animal nibbles, when the stone falls and crushes it. Two logs of wood are used for the same purpose and in the same manner in Lapland.

#### On the Pine Marten. (Mustela marles.)

The Marten, also called the Pine Marten, is larger than the ink, and almost always of a lighter colour. The body is slender, mink, and almost always of a lighter colour. The body is slender, the head long and pointed, cars broad and obtusely pointed, legs stout, eyes small and black, and the toes with long, slender and compressed nails concealed by hair; tail bushy and cylindrical. compressed nails concealed by hair; tail bushy and cylindrical. Messrs. John Meigs and William L. Thompson, to be members of the Hair of two kinds, the outer long and rigid, the inner soft and above board, in lieu of Messrs. Bienvenu and Tomkins, who no longer somewhat wooly. The length from point of nose to root of tail is reside in the district.

about eighteen inches, length of tail seven inches.

The colour varies a good deal in different individuals, but it is generally yellowish, shaded with more or less black,—the throat is yellow. The Marten is an exceedingly active and destructive little animal,—but as its habits confine it to the depths of the forest, it seldom visits the farm-yard, and consequently is no annoyance to man. Its food consists of birds, mice, squirrels, and other small animals, and its activity is such that it climbs trees with great



facility. The female brings forth six or eight young at a litter, in a burrow under ground, a hollow tree, or in some warm nest constructed in a crevice among the rocks. The species is found in the Northern and Eastern States, throughout Canada, and in all the wooded districts of the Hudsons Bay Company's Territories. It ranges across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and is supposed to be identical with the species of Northern Europe. Sir John Richardson, the celebrated Northern traveller, in the North West, says that particular districts produce different varieties of this animal, the fur of some of the varieties being of more value than that of others. It is easily caught with traps. "A partridge's head with the feathers is the best bait for the log traps in which it is caught. It does not reject carrion, and often destroys the hoards of meat and fish laid up by the natives, when they have accidentally left a crevice by which it can enter. When its retreat is cut off it shows its teeth, sets up its hair, arches its back, and hisses like a cat. It will seize a dog by the nose and bites so hard, that unless the latter is well used to the combat it escapes. Easily tamed it soon becomes attached to its master, but is not docile. The flesh is occasionally eaten, but not prized by the Indians. The females are smaller than the males, go with young about six weeks, and produce from four to seven at a time, about the end of April. When caught in traps this species is often devoured by its near relation the Fisher. Pennants marten (Mustela Canadensis.)

As an article of commerce and of luxurious and ornamental dress, the fur of this animal is well known. It is said that 100,000 skins are annually taken to Britain. Yet as the species is very prolific, it is still a common animal in the large forests. In the settlements, however, it soon becomes exterminated. The fox lingers around among the agriculturists, and pays his attentions to the farm-yard long after the marten has left the scene of advancing civilization.—(Canadian Naturalist.)

#### OFFICIAL NOTICES.



#### APPOINTMENTS.

His Excellency, the Governor General, has been pleased to approve of the following appointments:

#### JACQUES CARTIER NORMAL SCHOOL.

M. François Joseph Victor Regnaud, Batchelor of arts in the University of France, heretofore Principal of the Primary Normal School at Monbrison, and of the Lower Canada Normal School, to be an associate professor. To Mr. Regnaud is assigned instruction in the art of teaching, and mathematics.

#### BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF STANSTEAD.

#### SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS AND TRUSTEES.

County of Portneuf .- Cap Rouge: M. Louis Frechette.

County of Bonaventure.—Ristigouche: Messrs Dumontier, Francis Mann, François Marchand, Remi Sorel and Joseph Jonchim.

County of Levi.—St. Joseph de la Pointe Levi: Mr. Charles Bourget.

County of St. Jean.—St. Jean (dissentients): Mr. Michael Whelan.

#### ANNEXATION TO SCHOOL MUNICIPALITY.

His Excellency, the Governor General, has been pleased to approve of the annexation of the school municipality of Coteau Landing, County of Soulanges, to that of St Zotique, from which it was heretofore dismem-

#### BOARD OF EXAMINERS, DISTRICT OF STANSTEAD.

Mr. Wright Henry, Misses Elizabeth Jane Henry, Helen White, Mr. James White, Misses Emily A. Elliott, Roxana Kezar, Josephine Bean, Sarah Jane Little, Maria L. Johnson, Mr. John W. McConnell, Misses Loellah A. Kirmey, Adeline K. Kilburn, Messrs. William Burpee, Osmond Roynton, William L. Ayer, E. R. Johnson, Sullivan Taylor, Misses Harriet Benton, and Mr. Willard Miller, have obtained diplomas authorizing them to teach in primary schools.

#### SITUATION AS TEACHER WANTED,

By Mr. Alexis Soulard, Canadian by birth, married, and possessing a diploma for an elementary school. Address: Cap St. Ignace, County of

#### DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The Superintendent of Education acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the undermentioned donations:

From Messrs Augustin Côté & Co., Quebec: Elemens de la Grammaire Française de Lhomond, revus et complétés, by B. Julien, 1 vol. in-12e: Questions et Exercices sur la Grammaire Française de Lhomond,

12c; Questions et Exercices sur la Grammaire Française de Linomond, by the same, 1 vol. in-12o.

From Messrs. Beauchemin & Payette, booksellers, Montreal: Dictionnaire Infernal, by J. Collin de Plancy, 1 vol. in-8o; Histoire de l'Eglise, by Doëllinger, translated by Charles Bernard, 2 vols. in-8o: Les Chrétiens sous Néron, by Mlle Antonine Leclerc, 1 vol. in-8o; l'Encade de Virgile, translated into verse by l'abbé Delille, 1 vol. in-16o; les Géorgiques de Virgile, translated into verse by the same, 1 vol. in-16o; les Bucoliques de Virgile, translated into verse by le Chevalier de Langenc, 1 vol. in-16o. vol. in-160.

From Mr. V. Botta, Professor of Italian Literature in the University of New York: An account of the system of Education and of the Institu-tions of Science and Art in the Kingdom of Sardinia, 1 pamphlet in-12o. From Major Lachlan, Cincinnati: Remarks on the State of Education

in the Province of Canada, 1 pamphlet in-120, (four copies).

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

MONTREAL, (LOWER CANADA) JANUARY, 1858.

#### SUPERIOR EDUCATION.

We publish on another page of this paper, the tables of the distribution of the annual grants for the above object, for the year 1857. The allocations are generally the same as those for last year, with the exception, that, the whole of the provision for the Normal Schools, out of the Superior Education fund, having been required this year, and the total amount available for distribution, having been thereby reduced, it became impossible to grant any supplementary aid, either towards the erection of buildings, or towards the payment of debts. The only considerable increase in the anmual grants, is, that made in favor of the McGill University, which, is raised from £500, to £700.

found in the lists of annual grants to academies, these have however, been made with a view to apportion the amount

more correctly, with reference to the number of pupils in each institution.

As there are already a sufficient number of classical colleges in the old settled districts of the country, there has been no grant made to any new institution of that class.

#### Laval Normal School.

His Holiness, the Pope, having clevated the Revd. Mr. Horan to the Episcopacy, by nominating him to the Bishoprick of Kingston, Upper Canada, the Laval Normal School will be deprived of its able and enterprising Principal.

While we cannot but feel gratified at an event, as honorable to the Laval Normal School, and to the whole profession of teachers, as it must ultimately prove beneficial to the diocese over which he has been called upon to preside,—we profoundly regret, that he, who, we are bound to admit, was its real and energetic founder, should be so suddenly removed from this new Institution.

It would be impossible to describe the zeal and capacity evinced by Mr. Horan, in organising and putting into active operation, in so short a time, the two boarding establishments, male and female, in connection with the Lat il Normal School; but we feel assured that those who are aware of the difficulties to be encountered in establishing institutions of this kind, will easily estimate the value of Mr. Horan's services heretofore, and the loss to which the district of Quebec, and public instruction generally, must be subjected in consequence of his removal.

Our most sincere wishes, as well as those of the whole profession, for the welfare of Monseigneur Horan, will accompany him to the high and difficult mission to which he has been called, in place of, or rather, we would say, in interruption of that, to which he hitherto devoted himself with so much talent, and with such eminent

success.

#### Public Lectures at the Jacques Cartier Normal School.

The staff of professors for this school, has just been filled up, by the appointment of Mr. Regnaud as an associate Professor. The position which this gentleman held in France and in this country, would recommend him for this office more than any thing we could say in his favor, but we must add, that his appointment is nothing more than an act of public justice, more particularly, when it is to be remembered, that it was on the especial demand of the Government of Lower Canada, that he came to this country for the purpose of establishing a Normal School. We have it in our power to state that Mr. Regnaud would have been, at once, included in the staff of the Jacques Cartier Normal school, at the time of its coming into operation, had not his other occupations prevented him from accepting the offers then submitted for his acceptance.

Our readers will, we have no doubt, be pleased to learn, that the promise held out in the prospectus of this school, with reference to public lectures, is now being carried into effect. Thanks to the timely assistance of two Professors, members of two of the first Educational Institutions in this country, the Principal has been enabled to organise a series of lectures, of which the following is a programme. Each course will be composed of, from six to twelve

lectures :

Course of Literature-By the Honorable Pierre Chauveau, Superin-

tendent of Education.

Course of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry and Astronomy, (with experiments)—By the Revd. Pere Schneider, of St. Mary's college.

Course of General History—By the Revd. Mr. Desmazures, of the seminary of St. Sulpice.

Course on the History of Canada—By the Revd. Mr. Verreau,

Principal of the Jacques Cartier Normal school.

on the Art of Teaching, and co Mathematics-By Mr. Regnaud, associate Professor, Jacques Cartier Normal Course school.

Course on the French Grammar and on Philology-By Mr. Devisme, ordinary Professor, Jacques Cartier Normal school.

Course of English Literature (in English)—By Mr. Delaney, associzte Professor of the Normal school.

The course of Literature, will commence on Monday, the 1st February next, at 7 P. M., in the public Hall of the Jacques There are trifling increases, and trifling diminutions to be Cantier Normal school, and the course of general History, on Thursday, the fourth, at the same hour. These two courses will be continued on every Monday and Thursday.

It would have been considered desirable to admit the public

gratis to these lectures—but, the smallness of the hall, and the absolute necessity of providing for the expenses, however small, obliged the department to exact an admission fee, which, however, is scarcely more than nominal, as one ticket, for which only half a dollar is charged, will admit a gentleman and lady to all the different courses during the session.

As the pupils of the Normal school will be present at all these

lectures, and will be required to give a written synopsis of them to their respective professors, it is requested that no mark, either of approbation or disapprobation, which may divert their attention,

will be expressed by the audience.

Admission tickets can be obtained at the Education Office. Each professor will be enabled to dispose of a few gratuitously, as this will be the only remuneration he will receive for his services. Beyond these, no complimentary tickets will be given.

# Teachers' Association in connexion with McGill Normal School.

We are gratified in having it in our power to offer to our readers for perusal, the first annual report of the "Teachers' Association in connection with the McGill Normal School" and we are happy to find that the exertions of the Committees and of the Meinbers of the Association, notwithstanding the difficulties they have had to contend with, have met with such marked success.

#### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

The time has now arrived when the Committee are authorized to lay before the Association their first Annual Report. They therefore, beg to submit the following statement of its affairs for the year ending 1st November 1857

The Association, unlike many others existing amongst us, is composed of semale as well as male teachers, and it is well known to you that their attendance at the general monthly and special meetings, has been as regular as that of the male portion of the members, and their interest in its proceedings quite as lively. This pleasant feature has, in a considerable degree, stimulated the Committee to persevere during the year in its efforts to establish the Association on a firm and lasting basis; and it is for you to say, after carefully reading the Report, whether they have succeeded, in so desirable a work, to your satisfaction.

In regard to the number of Members admitted during the year, the Committee would have you bear in mind, that school teachers, as a class, are less numerous, in proportion to the entire community, than the members of other professions or trades; and as the means placed at their disposal during their period of office, has been necessarily limited, they regret to say that they have been unable to adopt measures for bringing into the association, these teachers who reside at any considerable distance from Montreal. Before the end of another year, however, it is fully expected that the greater number of country teachers will have been induced to become members, as a knowledge of the advantages of so doing will, in a very short time, be circulated more extensively in the country parts.

A few words in reference to the financial affairs of the Association will be sufficient, seeing that the amount received by the Treasurer, has been, in comparison with the receipts of many other societies, so extremely

smail, that very little could be effected by the committee in the purchase of that indispensable article—a Library; and for other purposes so essential to the existence and well-being of the association.

Nothing would have pleased them more than to be able to report that so desirable an object, and one which your Committee has always kept most prominently in view, had been accomplished, viz, the acquisition of a Library suitable to the wants of the society. At the time the association most prominently in view, had been accompushed, viz, the acquisition of a Library suitable to the wants of the society. At the time the association was formed, it was thought advisable to fix the yearly subscription as low as possible, with the view of enabling country teachers to become members, being fully pursuaded that with the small salaries received by the majority of those teachers, it would be a great hardship, and just cause of complaint to them to place the amount too high. The small sum, therefore, of two shillings and six pence per annum, was named as the subscription of each teacher, while assistants were admitted free.

Your Committee would recommend that this amount be increased to five shillings to teachers, and two shillings and six pence to assistants.

Encouraged by the Reports of the Superintendent of Education and several of the school Inspectors, urging the government to render aid in the formation and support of teachers' associations and conferences, as a the formation and support of teachers' associations and conferences, as a means of materially advancing the cause of education, the Gommittee applied to Parliament at its last session, for assistance in procuring a suitable Library; but in the face of recommendations from officers appointed by the government to investigate and report on the educational wants of the country, and who, from their extensive experience in such matters, are so well qualified to judge, more especially in regard to the teacher, with whose wants and necessities they leve frequent, may constant opportunities of becoming familiar, their memorial, for some unactival opportunities of becoming familiar, their memorial, for some unacstant, opportunities of becoming familiar, their memorial, for some unaccountable reason, did not meet with that favorable consideration which the memorialists fairly anticipated, and which they conceived they had a right to expect. This naturally occasioned the greatest disappointment to the Committee, who were thus restrained from putting into effect many

measures they had in contemplation for extending the sphere of usefulness of the association.

Your Committee would, however, strongly urge their successors to renew the application as soon as Parliament again assembles; and let not one failure to obtain a share of government and, discourage them from persevering; for, in time, their efforts must be attended with success, as justice demands it, and public opinion will certainly sanction the demand. A precedent has also been set in the case of the Teachers' Association at A precedent has also been set in the case of the Teachers' Association at Quebec, which has been allowed government assistance for many years past. Your committee now come to the most pleasing feature of the Report in connexion with the year's proceedings; viz., the subject of the monthly Essays or papers, which have been so ably prepared, read, and discussed by the members. Nothing more need be said on this head, than merely to mention the subject of each Paper. They would, however, take the liberty of expressing their earnest desire that the efforts of their successors may be continued in securing to the members of the association, the great privilege of reading and listening to good essays on subjects tending to interest and improve the mind of the Teacher.

The following are the Essays read and discussed during the year.

The following are the Essays read and discussed during the year: 1st. By Mr. Hicks, subject—"The necessity and utility of a Journal de-

voted to Educational purposes."

2d. By Mr. Arnold, subject—"The present condition of the Common School Teachers of Lower Canada."

3rd. By Mr. Maxwell, subject,—"The advantages of commerce in its bearings on Education."

bearings on Education."

4th. By Mr. Burns, subject—" Geometry."

5th. By Mr. Godfrey, subject—" Elementary Education."

6th. By Mr. Brown, subject—" Elementary Education."

7th. By Mr. Brown, subject—" Education in general."

8th By Mr. Robertson, subject—" Home preparation for School."

9th. By Mr. Pope, subject—" The Pupil Teacher System, ir England."

In February last, at a special meeting called for the purpose, it was decided to change the name of the association from "The Lower Canada Teachers' Association" to "The Teacher's Association in connexion with McGill Normal School". The advantages of such connexion, consist in the following privileges being concerted on the association. the following privileges being concerred on the association.

1st. That the meetings of the association be held in the Normal School

building.

2d .That the members of the Association have access to the Lectures at the Normal School.

3rd. That the members of the Association be allowed to consult the library of the Normal School; and also have accommodation for their own library in the Normal School building.

The Committee has in contemplation, a scheme for making the association a medium for obtaining situation for teachers out of employment; as also the securing teachers for vacant schools; but for want of funds they have not been fully able to put it into effect; a short time, however, they trust will be sufficient to carry out so important a measure-important alike to teacher and people.

The Committee cannot conclude this Report without mentioning with pleasure and gratitude, the readiness with which our worthy and efficient Superintendent, the Honorable P. J. O. Chauveau, has on every occasion when applied to, given all the advice and assistance in his power, in order to further the interests of the association. The thanks of the Association are also due to the proprietors of the Montreal Herald, for allowing reports to be taken of the proceedings at its meetings, and publishing

them, with many of the essays, in that excellent paper.

On the whole, then, the Committee consider that they have every reason to congratulate the members in the past years work; and they flatter themselves that a considerable amount of good has been done through the agency of the association during its first year's existence; for it is scarcely possible that from thirty to forty Teachers (the average attendance at the monthly meetings), could be assembled together every month, for the purpose of reading essays and discussing topics relative to their profession, without some good fruits being produced. The association, therefore, has much cause to be thankful to him, Who has ordered all its doings to His Divine will; and His blessing is humbly asked on the future labours of the association.

WM. HICKS, Chairman, ALEX. ROBERTSON, Sect.

Montreal, Dec. 1857.

## Educational Convention at Sherbrooke.

Pursuant to notice given by the District Inspector, a meeting was held at the court-house in Sherbrooke, for the purpose of forming a Teachers' Association for the District of St. Francis. The meeting was opened by Mr. Child, who explained, in a few appropriate remarks, the object for which he had called the meeting. H. Hubbard, of Barnston, then addressed the meeting, as a representative from the Eastern Townships' Educational Association, giving a brief history of the origin of that association, and claiming a recognition of it from this convention. After some deliberation, a committee, consisting of Revd. E. Gleveland, H. Hublard and C. Burus, was appointed to consult and arrange business for the afternoon; after which the meeting adjourned until two o'clock, P. M.

At two P. M., the Convention assembled; when the following resolutions, as reported by the committee, were adopted.

1st. Resolved, That it is expedient that a Teachers' Association should exist in the District of St. Francis.

2nd. Resolved, That as there is an association within its limits, and as it is unadvisable to divide our educational interests, we adopt their constitution, with a few alterations.

The constitution, as amended, was adopted as follows:

Art. 1st.—This Association shall be styled the "Teachers' Association of the District of St. Francis.

Art. 2nd.—The object sought by this Association shall be, to devise

methods for promoting the interests of education in the District.

Art. 3rd —Its officers shall be, a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, two Assistant Recording Secretaries, and a Treasurer, and these, together as such others as the Association may appoint, not exceeding five, shall constitute a Board of Directors.

Art. 4th.--The Association shall meet quarterly, at such time and place as the Board of Directors may appoint, provided that the annual meeting be held in Sherbrooke during the month of December or January,—and notice of such meetings shall be given in the great papers, at least three weeks before the time of meeting.

Art. 6th.—The exercises of the meetings shall be, lectures, essays, discussions, or such other business as may be deemed appropriate.

Art. 7th.—Any person, approved by one of the Directors, may become a member of the Association, by paying to the Treasurer twenty-five cents,-females to be admitted free of charge,-said fees to be used in defraying the expenses of the Association.

Arth. 8th.—This Constitution may be amended by a majority of members present at any annual meeting.

bers present at any annual meeting.

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the present year:

President, Revd. E. Cleveland, Richmond; Vice-Presidents, D. Gage,
jr., Stanstead, G. Bottom, Sherbrooke; Corresponding Secretary, H. Hubbard, Barnston; Recording Secretary and Treasurer, H. H. Pierce, Sherbrooke; Assistants, N. Trenholm, Richmond, E. Wadleigh Hattey; Additional Directors, M. Child and J. S. Watton, Esqrs., Revds. Messrs. A.

J. Parker, C. P. Reed, E. J. Sherrill. Adjourned, sine die.

Couled from minutes of proceedings by Corresponding Secretary.

Copied from minutes of proceedings by Corresponding Secretary.

Barnston, June 9, 1859.

#### Eastern Townships' Educational Association.

In accordance with the appointment of the Executive Committee, the Association met at Stanstead, June 1st. The meeting was opened with a few remarks by the President. D. Gage, jr., and the Secretary being absent, H. Hubbard, of Barnston, was appointed Secretary pro tem. Prayer was then offered by Revd. M. McDonald, after which the follow-

ing resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That a delegation of three members be appointed to represent this Association at the meeting called by the District Inspector, to be held at Sherbrooke the 9th instant.

After remarks from several gentlemen, it was thought best, as the audience was somewhat thin, owing to the exceedingly unfavorable state of

the weather, to adjourn the meeting till evening.

At the evening session a respectable number were present. Prayer was offered by Revd. Mr. Campbell. The President read a paper from the Superintendent of Education, stating causes which had rendered it

impracticable for him to attend the meeting, as he had hoped to do.

The Convention then listened to an Address from Mr. Gage, subject—
"The Successful Teacher." Next followed an essay from H. Hubbard, subject—"How should Arithmetic be taught?"—after which the meeting was addressed by C. C. Colby, Esq., of Stanstead, on the general interests of education.

The following gentlemen were then appointed as delegates to the meeting at Sherbrooke, viz.: C. C. Colby, D. Gage, Jr., H. Hubbard.

Onicers for the coming year were elected as follows:—President, D. Gage, jr., Stanstead; Vice-President, C. C. Colby, Esq.; Corresponding Secretary, H. Hubbard, Barnston; Recording Secretary, H. H. Pierce, Sherbrooke; Treasurer, H. Shery, Barnston.

After some further business and discussion on various topics, the As-

seciation adjourned.

H. HUBBARD, Secretary pro tem.

#### First Conference of the Teachers residing within the District of Inspection of Mr. Inspector Archambault.

This conference was held at the village of St. Marc. Mr. J. E. Labonte was elected president; Mr. J. Auge, vice-president; Mr. Caisse, secretary, and Mr. Martineau, treasurer: Mr. Inspector Archambault, and the president, delivered speeches, on the benefits to be obtained by the institution of teachers associations. The preference to be given to the different treatises on grammar and anth-metic now in common use, was then discussed. St. Marc was then chosen as the chief place (chef lieu) of the section.

#### The Lower Canada Educational Almanach.

We offer to our readers with this number of the Journal, an Educational Almanach, which we trust will be found very useful to inspectors, school commissioners, teachers and other persons connected with the administration of the school laws. We have added the principal ephemeris, particularly those in America; also, the names of the officers of the Department, the school inspectors, and the professors in the three Normal schools. This Almanach being of the same size as the Journal, can easily be bound up with it, but care has been taken to leave two blank pages, so that if required, it can be pasted on board and hung up in an office as a general school reference.

## MONTHLY SUMMARY.

#### EDUCATIONAL INTRILIGENCE.

The Rhode Island State Normal School was removed from Province and opened in Bristol in September last. The people of Bristol, dence and opened in Bristol in September last. The people of Bristol, with commendable liberality, have furnished and fitted up very pleasant and commodious rooms for the free use of the schools.

We extract the following remarks from the speeches made at the dedication ceremony. Governor Dyer said:

"This meeting to-night is one of a peculiar character. It is not for the purpose of dedicating these rooms to the uses of a common school. But it is to open them, in this pleasant and healthful locality, as the place where you are to learn how to teach. This is not an easy task. All of us have at some time experienced the difficulty of communicating our thoughts and knowledge to our equals in age and information. How much greater the effort when we come in contact with the unformed mind of childhood. Could you bring to your aid the experience of paternal care, know the active sympathies of the child's mind, its hopes, its fears, its yearnings and its pleasures, your task would be more easily accomplished. But to you, most probably, this knowledge is theoretical. The delicate mysteriousness of this part of our nature is to you unknown. But remember always that you are in contact with the soul. Immortality is its destiny, and you cannot too keenly feel that its happiness or woe may be closely connected with your influence and favor. Let, then, your first effort as a teacher, be self-control. Let your life and teaching harmonize. Prove to your pupils the beauty of consistency. Cultivate in them, as well as in yourself, the better feelings of humanity. Enter the school-room as if in anticipation of pleasure, not toil or pain. I know it is hard to have a joyous face with a mournful heart. But you must make the effort. Bid your children welcome; wish them a happy day. Begin school with a song. Woo and win them by love. Obedience and respect will follow. Be cautious in resorting to severe discipline. Make it the exception not the rule of your government. Advance the moral as well as the intellectual faculties of your scholars. Make them to understand and appreciate the elevation of the mind and character. Teach them distinctly to know that the highest dignity is in virtue, the lowest degradation is in vice, and when you retire from these your labors, self congratulations will attend you, as the reward of a conscientious discharge of duty."

John Kingsbury, Esquire, the Commissioner of public schools, made

the following remarks:
"In behalt of the public schools of the State, which I have the honor to represent on this occasion, permit me, sir, to tender to you, and through you, to the committee and citizens of Bristol, sincere thanks for this timeyact of beneficence. Let me assure you that this liberality on your part will not only verify the language of Scripture, "that it is more blessed to give than to receive," but also confer a double blessing: a blessing in

to give than to receive," but also comer a double blessing in giving, and in the rich fruits of this school, a blessing in receiving, "I am reminded however, by this crowded room that we have met for something more than the mere formality of giving and receiving keys. It is to dedicate, to set apart these rooms to Normal Instruction. It need not be said that Normal Schools are a modern instrumentality for the advancement of popular education. To prove that they answer this end, it is only necessary to refer to the State of Massachusetts. Soon after it is only necessary to refer to the State of Massachusetts. Soon after the revival of common schools in that State, a Board of Education was formed, with the Hon. Horace Mann as Secretary. It was soon discovered, however, that something more was needed, before their fond aspirations could be realized. It was at this time that Edmund Dwight, a name identified with the schools of Massachusetts as a great public benefits. identified with the schools of Massachusetts as a great public benefactor, although pledged to pay from his own purse, \$500 annually, in addition to what was given by the State, to secure the services of Mr. Mann, proposed to give \$10,000 on condition that the State would appropriate an equal amount, for the purpose of establishing Normal Schools. He afterwards proposed to give or raise \$5,000 more, provided the State would give the same amount, for the purpose of erecting two buildings for the Normal School. The result has justified the wisdom and sagacity of this noble hearted man. There are now in Massachusetts four of these State schools, besides one sustained by the city of Boston. Massachusetts State schools, besides one sustained by the city of Boston. Massachusetts now stands at the head of these United States in public schools; and the Normal schools have been an important instrumentality in producing this

What these schools are to Massachusetts, this school ought to be to this State, and it will be, if the friends of education and the guardians of the public welfare give it their cordial support.

-The Congrès International de Bienfaisance, which met for the first time last year in Brussels, was convened in September last at Frankfort on the Mein, under the presidency of Mr. Bethman-Holweg. Public Charity, Education and Penitentiary Reform were the several heads of debate. A long and a imated discussion on the best principle of State Education, ended in a vote favorable to a compulsory system and adverse to the gratuitous or free school system.

—The several great municipal bodies of France have, this year, passed resolutions in favour of an increase in the salaries of primary school teachers, and also to the effect that a piece of ground for a garden near the school house should be given free to each teacher.

-Cardinal Patrizi has made in the name of His Holiness the Pope, a great distribution of books and clothes, as prizes to the pupils of the evening classes for mechanics in Rome.

#### LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

-Macaulay, it is said, has given up the idea of continuing his "History of England down to a period within the memory of living men," as at first announced. If such is the case, it is great wisdom in the able historian. "Memoirs of my own time" will do very well; but "history" must be that of another age.

-Mr. Alexandre, Inspector-General of the University of France, has been elected to replace the late Mr. Boissonade in the "Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres."

—The first volume of the great historical dictionary of the French language, which has been so long preparing and was the text of so many plaisanteries against the Académic Française, is about to be published. The first part of it will contain 400 pages in-40, and will not be onefortieth of the letter A!!

#### SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—The Victoria Bridge has been, not inappropriately, designated the greatest engineering work of modern times. It is tubular, and is built on the principle of the Britannia Bridge, which spans the Menai Straits, near Bangor.

It will, we believe, be, when finished, the longest bridge in the world —its length from bank to bank being only 176 feet less than two miles. The Menai Bridge is 1,880 feet long. The Victoria Bridge is, therefore, nearly five and a half times longer; or to illustrate its length by an example familiar to most English persons—Waterloo Bridge, London: This structure is 1,362 feet long. It would, consequently, require a little more than seven and a half times its length to measure distance with its Canadian brother.

The place where it crosses the St. Lawrence is about half a mile to the westward of Montreal, a short distance below the "Lachine" Rapids, and about nine (\*) miles from St. Anne's, the place immortalised in Moore's

Canadian Boat Song.

There will be twenty-four piers, which, with the two abutments, will leave twenty-five spaces or spans for the tubes. The centre span will be 330 feet wide, and each of the other spans will be 242 feet. The width of each of the piers, except the two at the centre, will be lifteen feet. The two centre piers will each be eighteen feet wide. This difference is very evident in the beautiful model of the bridge, which now forms a prominent Sydenham. This model (the length of which is thirty-two feet) has been made in every part exactly to scale; it is, therefore, a truthful representation, in miniature, of the actual structure.

tation, in ministure, of the actual structure.

The western faces of the piers—that is, those towards the current (which flows here at a rate varying from seven to ten miles an hour)—terminate in a sharp-pointed edge, and the fore-part of each pier presents two beautifully smooth bevelled-off surfaces. They are so shaped in order that the least possible resistance may be offered to the avalanches of ice that come along at the departure of winter, and that would hurl away every impediment, less solid than massive rock, that might be opposed to their progress. For it should be remembered that, not only is the whole length of the St. Lawrence, from its first receipt of lake water at Kingston to tidal water at Quebee—a distance of 360 miles water at Kingston to tidal water at Quebec—a distance of 360 miles—solidly frozen over in winter; but the 2,000 miles of Lake and upper river, together with the tributaries of the St. Lawrence (one of which river, together with the tributaries of the St. Lawrence (one of which—the Ottawa—has herself tributaries, several of which exceed the Thames in length, depth, and in volume of water), likewise send down their defiant masses, all to aggregate in the immediate vicinity of Montreal. The "piling" of the ice is sometimes as high as thirty, forty, and even fifty feet, and on several occasions great damage has been done by it to the massive stone buildings which line the quays, and form the noble interferent for this thick this extra is calchested. river front for which this city is celebrated.

The stone used in the construction of the piers and abutments is a dense blue limestone, partly obtained from a quarry at Pointe Cleire, fifteen miles above Montreal, and partly on the borders of Vermont, United States, about forty miles from Montreal. The piers close

to the abutments will each contain about 6,000 tons of masonry. Those to support the centre tube will contain about 8,000 tons each.

The total amount of masonry in the bridge will be about 3,000,000 cubic

feet, which, at thirteen and a half feet to the ton, gives a total weight of about 222,000 tons.

Scarcely a block of stone used in the piers is less than seven tons weight, and many of these exposed to the force of the breaking-up ice weigh fully ten tons. The blocks are bound together, not only by the use of the bost water cement, but each stone is clamped to its neighbours, in several places, by massive iron rivets, bored several inches into each block, and the interstices between the rivet and the block are made one solid mass by means of molten lead.

At the present time fourteen of the piers are completed; eight (including the two centre ones) will be finished next year, leaving only two to

The piers hitherto constructed have stood firm as a rock." Had it been otherwise, and that the mighty St. Lawrence had conquered the combined appliances above stated, there would then, indeed, have been an end to all mechanical resistances.

Each of the abutments is 242 feet long and ninety feet wide. The north shore of the St. Lawrence is connected with the northern abutment by an embanked causeway, faced with solid masonry towards the current, 1,400 feet in length. The causeway, from the south bank of the river to the southern abutment, will be 700 feet long. The distance between this outer or river end of one abutment to the outer end of the other is 8,000

The clear height of the ordinary summer level of the St. Lawrence above the undersurface of the centre tube will be sixty fect, and the 8th will diminish towards either side with a gradient at the rate of 1 in 130,

or forty feet in the mile, so that at the outer or river edge of each abutment the height will be only thirty-six feet above the summer level.

The navigation of the river through the Lachine Rapids is limited to steam vessels only, and they will pass exclusively between the two centre piers, as the river is unsuited for navigation at the site of the bridge, except between these two points.

The tubes will be nineteen feet high at each end, whence they will gradually increase to twenty-two feet six inches in the centre. The width of each tube is to be sixteen feet, or nine feet six inches wider than the rail track, which is five feet six inches—the national railway gauge of Canada.

The total weight of iron in the tubes will be 10,400 tons. They will be bound and riveted together precise in the same manner and with the same machinery as at the Britannia Bridge. The tube connecting the northern abutment with pier No. 1 is now completed. The material for the second tube has reached Canada, and preparations are in progress for the despatch, from England, of eight more tubes early next year, so as to insure their erection during the summer.

Mr. Robert Stephenson and Mr. A. M. Ross are the engineers of this

great work. The latter gentleman, having completed his duty as Engineer-in-Chief of the Grand Trunk Railway, now directs his skill and attention

exclusively to this structure. The contractors are Messrs. Peto, Brassey, and Betts. The bridge will cost about 1,250,000l.

As regards the commercial importance of the Victoria Bridge, Mr. Robert Stephenson, in a report addressed to the directors in May, 1854,

"The great object, however, of the Canadian system of railways is not to compete with the River St. Lawrence, which will continue to accommodate a certain portion of the traffic of the country, but to bring those rich provinces into direct and easy connection with all the ports on the east coast of the Atlantic, from Halifax to Boston, and even New York, and consequently through these ports, nearer to Europe.

16 the line of railway communication be permitted to remain severed

If the line of railway communication be permitted to remain severed by the St. Lawrence, it is obvious that the benefits which the system is calculated to confer upon Canada must remain, in a great extent, nuga-

tory and of a local character. The province will be comparatively insulated and cut off from that coast to which her commerce naturally tends; the traffic from the West must either continue to adopt the water communication; or, what is more probable,—nay, I should say certain—it would cross into the United States by those lines nearly completed to Buffalo, crossing the river near Niagara.

There can be no doubt that without the Victoria Bridge the large and comprehensive traffic system involved in the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway could only be partially and, by comparison, ineffectually carried out at a very great cost. Montreal is the terminal point of the ocean navigation, and is connected with the Lower St. Lawrence and the ocean on one side, and with the great Canadian and American lakes -extending 2,000 miles into the heart of the continent-on the other. It is also, the centre from which lines of milway now radiate to Portland, Boston, and New York, and to which lines will converge from the Ottawa and the other rich, though as yet only partially developed districts of Canada. It is, therefore, the conviction of those persons most capable of cannus. It is, therefore, the conviction of those persons most capable of forming a sound judgment on the question, that, great as is the cost of the bridge, by means of it a better, more rapid, and cheaper communication will be afforded for the produce of the magnificent districts of Western Canada and of the North-Western States of America, including Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iow, &c., to the Atlantic seaboard, and for the supply of these districts with imported goods, than by any other route on the American continent .- Canadian News.

—Professor Sontag, Astronomer to the "Grinnell Expedition," in his narrative, says—" As the land adjacent to the Pole is all terra incognita, it is impossible to say what additions to the stores of natural science a visitor to those regions might be able to make. Certain it is however, that a new and wide field would be opened for his investigation. Everything there would be novel; and that circumstance alone would be well calculated to stimulate his attentive faculties. The difficulties which would present themselves to the investigator may be appreciated at home; but they would be greater or less, according to circumstances of which we know nothing. We know not, for example, whether the Pole is covered with open water, or icy sea, or dry land; nor do we know which of these three conditions would be most favorable for investigation. It may be presumed, however, that an open sea would be, in several respects the most disadvantageous. In the first place, it would in all probability be so deep that the ship would be unable to anchor; and the current might be too strong to permit her to keep stationary long enough to make accurate observations. In the second place, if she could not maintain her position steadily at one point, the commander would experience a new embarrassment, as the meridian must extend southwardly, he would be apt to lose that on which he approached the Pole—and consequently he would be at a loss how to shape his course homeward.

The occurrence of this strange difficulty will naturally present itself as one among many novel phenomena which will arrest the adventurer's attention, and the following observations would probably occur to him on the spot. The time of day (to use that phraseology for want of any other that would be more appropriate) would no longer be marked by any apparent change in the altitude of the sun above the horizon; because to a spectator at the pole no such change would appear, except to the small amount of the daily change of declination. Thus, not only to the eye, but also for the practical purpose of obtaining the time by astronomical observations, the sun would appear throughout the twenty-four hours neither to rise nor fall, but to describe a circle round the heavens paralled with the horizon. Therefore, the usual mode of ascertaining the time would utterly fail; and indeed, however startling may be the assertion, it is nevertheless true, that time, or the natural distinction of time, would be no more. This will appear from the consideration that the idea of apparent time refers only to the particular meridian on which an observer happens to be placed; and is marked or determined only by the distance of the sun, or some other heavenly body, from that meridian. Now, as an observer at the pole is on no one meridian, but is stationed at a point where all meridians mere: "ti is evident that "apparent time" for him has no existence.—Canadian Naturalist.

—On Monday evening last, Lieut. Col. Munro, C. B., commanding the 39th Regiment, delivered a lecture on the animals and furs of Canada, to the men of his regiment, in the regimental reading room, in the citadel. The room was crowded to its full extent, and we record with pleasure a feature of those meetings, which we most ungallantly, but most unwittingly, omitted to mention before, proving how much the interest in these lectures is extending—and that feature is the presence of the ladies connected with the officers, and many of the wives of the non-commissioned officers and men. Col. Munro's lecture was listened to with marked attention, and while its effect was highly pleasing and entertaining, we easily ascertained, from after conversation with several of his hearers, that much useful knowledge, many unknown facts, and a great amount of solid information had been communicated. He spoke in a tone of high

feeling with regard to the over-ruling power of God's providence, as manifested in all his works; pointed out the workings of that power, displayed in the care with which the meanest and the smallest, as well as the most important and greatest, insect and animal, were provided all the appliances and instincts calculated to render them thoroughly adapted to each peculiar locality and climate. The Colonel stated that over since he had entered the army, much of his leisure time had been devoted to the study of natural history, and that, as those studies opened up before him field upon field of knowledge and information, he felt a corresponding degree of interest and excitement, until the study became a source of unalloyed enjoyment and increasing pleasure. To illustrate his subject, Col. Munro had provided a great variety of preserved animals peculiar to Canada, which enhanced the value of the leture very much. His description of the various animals was simple and comprehensive, and the history he gave of each was replete with well arranged and extensive information.

The Beaver, especially, received great attention; and with regard to its geographical range he said, that it appeared to have been at one time co-extensive with the whole of North America, from the Arctic Ocean south to the Gulf of Mexico. The progress of civilization had, however, exterminated the animal in nearly all that portion of the continent which constituted the United States, and the settled portions of Canada. North of the Ottawa, and in the head waters of the streams which flow into the St. Lawrence below it, it is still quite abundant. They were also still quite common between Lake Huron and the Ottawa. The only feature which distinguished the American from the European beaver was, that the fur of the latter was lighter in color than that of this continent. It had at one time been an inhabitant of the British Islands. He mentioned also that the remains of an extinct species of beaver, had been discovered in Europe and America, which appeared to have been as large as a sheep. He next gave a most interesting account of the places to which beavers resort; and descanted ably and fully on the construction of their dams, their food, habits, industry, sagacity, and their mode of treating their paresse ex, or idlers—beating, sometimes cutting off part of the tail, and driving out from among them the fellows that won't work—and their consequent easy capture by the trappers; the seasons in which they are found and caught with the fur in good order. Cartwright, he said, had found a beaver weighing 45 pounds, and that they had been caught weighing 61 pounds before being cleaned. Colonel Murro gave an excellent account of the whole system of trapping the beaver, intermingling this portion of his lecture with anecdotes, derived from trappers, of many singular habits of the animal; and concluded by noticing the particularly engaging qualities displayed by it when domesticated. The American, or Black Bear, was also well delineated, and a full detail given of its habits. The manner of hunting it; and its desperate s

TABLE of the apportionment made of the Superior Education fund for the year 1857, under the authority of the act 19th Vic. ch. 54.

LIST No. 1.—UNIVERSITIES.

	1857.		1855.			1856.		1857.
NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of students 1	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual Grant for 1857.
McGill College.  To the same, for one year's salary of the Secretary of the Royal Institution, the salary of the Messenger, and for contingent expenses.  Bishop's College	166	167 15 4	1250	1750 167 15 4 450	500 167 15 4 500	500	1000 167 15 4 500	700 167 15 4 500
	181	1117 15 4	1250	2367 15 4	1167 15 4	500	1167 15 4	1367 15 4

LIST No. 2.—CLASSICAL COLLEGES.

}			1855.			1856.		1857.
NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Students in 1857.	Annual grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the grant.	Annual grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the grant.	Annual grant for 1857.
Nicolet St. Hyacinthe Ste. Thérèse Ste. Anne L'Assomption. Ste. Marie de Montreal High School of McGill College, for the Education of 30 scholars named by the Government High School of Quebec To the same, for the Education of 30 scholars named by the Government St. Francis, Richmond	269 332 151 236 148 176 252 155 75	400 500 400 400 300 300 300 282 282 390	200 1000 300 900 300 500	600 1500 700 1300 600 800 282 282 300	500 500 400 500 400 400 282 282 300	80 400 120 355 120 200	580 900 520 865 520 600 282 282 300	500 500 500 500 40° 40° 282 50 282 300

LIST No. 3.—COMMERCIAL COLLEGES.

NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of students in 1857.	Annual grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the grant.	Annual grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the grant.	Annual grant for 1857.
Joliette Masson Notre-Dame de Lévi St. Michel Laval Chambly Rigaud Ste. Marie de Monnoir Ste. Marie de Beauce St. Germain de Rimouski Lachûte Verchêres Varennes Mascouche Sherbrooke	234 204 240 125 104 90 103 119 124 86 90 167 125 80 46	100 250 250 250 200 100 300 250 100 75 75 75 50	150 300 150 150 100 100 200	100 400 550 350 250 400 350 200 200 75 100 75 75 50	250 250 250 250 250 100 250 250 100 100 100 75 75 75	60 120 60 60 40 40 40 80	250 310 370 310 160 290 590 140 180 100 100 75 75 75	250 250 250 250 250 100 250 250 100 100 100 75 75 75

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LIST No.	4.—ACADEMIES	FOR ROYS.	OR	MIXED.
THE TOTAL	"	TOTE TIOTING	~~	

	1857.		1855.			1856.	_	1857
NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Students in 1857.	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual Grant for 1857.
Aylmer (protestant) Aylmer (catholic) Aubigny André, St., de Kamouraska	39 50 110 78	75 75 75		75 75 75	67 10 67 10 40 40		67 10 67 10 40 40	67 10 67 10 40 40
André, St., d'Argenteuil Abbottsford Beauharnois Bonin, Argenteuil Baie du Febyre	112 57 219 157 136	50 75 50		50 75 50	45 67 10 45		45 67 10 45	25 25 67 10 67 10 45
Barnston	80 27 35 50 28	50 100 50 100 50		50 100 50 100 50	45 90 45 90 45		45 90 45 90 45	45 90 45 90 45
Cap Santé Charleston Clarenceville Clarendon	162 115 76 45	100 100 50		100 100 50	90 90 40 45		90 90 40 45 45	90 90 40 45 45
Cassville Compton Cookshire Cyprien St. Danville	100 58 40 216 75	50 50 50 50 75		50 50 50 50 50 75	45 45 45 45 45 67 10		45 45 45 67 10	45 45 45 67 10
Dudswell	44 101 39 120	50 100 40		50 100 40	45 90 40 40 40		45 90 40 40 40	45 90 40 67 10 60
Farnham (protestant) Freleighsburg Foye, Ste. (catholic) Granby	210 35 60 45 59 42	75 50 100 50		75 50 100 50	97 10 40 45 90 45		67 10 40 45 90 45	67 10 60 45 90 45
Georgeville	110 72 144 288	50 50 100		50 50 100	45 45 100 45		45 45 100 45 90	45 45 100 90 90
Jean, St., Di chester (prot.)  Jean, St., Isle d'Orléans  Knowlton  Kamouraska  Laprairie	72 86 64 60 133			100 50 100 75 50	90 45 90 67 10 45		45 90 67 10 45	45 90 67 10 60
Lotbinière	20 27:2 12:4 12:0 17:0	150 50 75		150 50 75	40 40 135 45 75		40 40 135 45 75	40 75 135 67 10 75
Montreal (acad. com. catho.)  Marthe, Ste  Missisque, Trembles (Montreal, catholic).	104 113 56	50 50 100 50		50 50 100 50	67 10 45 45 45 90 45		67 10 45 45 90 45	67 10 45 45 90 45
Phillipsburg Patton Sherbrooke Sorel (catholic) Sorel (protestant)	42 62 262 36	111 2 : 75		111 2 2 75	100 67 10 40	20	40 100 67 10 40 87 10	40 100 90 40
Stanbridge	54 51 45 150 72	175	50	125 100 75 175 37 10	67 10 90 67 10 157 10 40	20	90 67 10 157 10 40	67 10 90 67 10 157 10 40
Trois-Rivières (catholic). Vaudreuil Yamachiche	51 82 150	50 .50.		50 .50.	40 45 45		40 45 45	90 45 67 10
	15999	3588 12	2 50	3638:12 2	1702 10	0 20	1722 10	11 4095 O

LIST No. 5.—ACADEMIES FOR GIRLS.

	ots.		1855.			1856.		1857.
NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Students. in 1857.	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual grant for 1857.
Anne Ste. Lapérade Ambroise St. de Kildare L'Assomption St. Aimé Baie St. Paul Belæil Boucherville Bernard St.	129 80 172 120 94 116 115	37 10 37 10		37 10 37 10	40 25 40 33 15 33 15 25 25		40 25 40 33 15 33 15 25 40	40 25 40 33 15 25 25 25 25 25
Cèdres Les Chambly Césaire St Croix Ste. Cowansville Charles St. Industrie Chateauguay	76 120 98 70 30 234 84	50 30 50 50 50		50 30 50 50 50 50	25 45 27 45 45 45 45 25		25 45 27 45 45 45 45 25	25 45 37 10 45 45 60 25
Chaneauguay. Clément St. de Beauharnois Denis St	226 115 149 84 45 168 90	50 75 30 50 50		50 75 30 50 50	45 25 67 10 27 45 67 10		45 25 67 10 27 45 67 10	45 25 60 27 45 67 10
Henri St. de Mascouche	106 80 130 142 214	75	150	225	25 67 10 40 40	60	25 127 10 40 40	25 25 25 90 40 40
L'Islet Jean St. Dorchester Jacques St. L'Achigan Joseph St. de Lévi Kamouraska	96 303 126 153 82 138	37 10 50 75 50	200	37 10 50 275 50	40 45 40 67 10 45 45	80	40 45 40 147 10 45 45	40 67 10 60 90 45
Laprairie Longueuil Lin St. Laurent St. Laurent St. Long Point To the same, for the board of 12 deaf mutes	406 158 133 55	50 50		50 50	67 10 25 40 45 120		67 10 25 40 45	25 90 25 60 45 120
Marie Ste. de Monnoir Marie Ste. de Beauce Michel St. de Bellechasse Nicolet Nicolas St.	118 138 89 75 45	50 50 75 25	75 50	50 125 75 75	45 50 67 10 25	8 30 20	53 80 67 10 45	45 50 67 10 25 25
Paul St. de L'Industrie  Pointe Claire  Pointe-aux-Trembles, (Montreal)  (Quebec).  Rivière Ouelle	100				25 25		25 25	25 25 60 60 25
Rimouski Sorel Scholastique Ste  * Sherbrooke	106 260 125 64	50 30		50 30	67 10 45 30		67 10 45 30	67 10 60 30 90
Therese Ste Thomas St. de Pierreville Terrebonne Timothé St. Thomas St. de Montmagny Varennes	133 58 156 108 182 109	50 37 10 75		50 37 10 75	25 45 25 40 67 10		25 45 25 40 67 10	25 45 25 40 67 40
Vaudreuil Yamachiche Youville Waterloo. Ursulines Three Rivers	95 94 84 14 198	50 50		50 50	45 45		45 45	25 45 45 25 67 1
	7528	1490	495	1985	2266 10	198	2464 10	(}

<sup>\*</sup> The asterisk indicates those Institutions which have never before received Government aid.

LIST No. 6.-MODEL SCHOOLS.

	m		1855.		···	1856.		1857.
NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Scholars in 1857.	Annual Grant.	Grant for building and payment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Annual Grant.	Grant for erection of buildings and for psyment of debts.	Total of the Grant.	Total of the grant for 1857.
Colonial Church and School Society National School of Quebec.  """" Society of Education, Quebec. British and Canadian School, Montreal.  """Quebec Society of Education, Three Rivers. St. Andrew's School, Quebec. Girls' School, Indian Village of Lorette. Boys' School, """ Same for year's pens. to teacher Vincent. St. Eusèbe de Stanfold. School, Indian Village, Caughnawaga. School, Indian Village, Caughnawaga. School, Indian Village, St. Francis. Infant School, Upper Town, Quebec. Infant School, Lower Town, Quebec. Ecole de St. Jacques de Montreal. Deschambeault St. Constant. St. Jacques le Mineur. Somerset. Pointe Claire Lachine. Côte des Neiges. L'Avenir St. Antoine de Tilly Rivière des Prairies. St. Edouard. St. Philomène. St. François du Lac. Laprairie Buckingham. Roxton. Lacolle. Côteau St. Louis. Pointe du Lac. Chateauguay. Rivière du Loup. St. Anne de la Pérade. St. Joseph de Lévi. St. Isidore.  "Princeville, (Stansfold).  "St. Charles, (St. Hyacinthe). "St. Charles, (St. Hyacinthe). "St. Charles, (St. Hyacinthe). "St. Charles, (St. Hyacinthe). "St. Henri, Hochelaga. "Reaumont. "St. Sylvestre. "Magog. "West Brome. Cap Santé. To the Catholic Coramissioners of Quebec, for their Model Schools.	1140 145 136 60 260 217 250 77 23 19 20 42 32 90 55 620 92 104 51 90 120 60 31 92 100 31 92 100 94 50 95 217 92 100 66 108 78 85 35 25 130 36 50 153 78 70 61 34 20 500 6419 £	200 111 2 3 111 2 3 280 200 125 100 37 10 25 50 55 11 50 37 10 250 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	100	500 111 2 3 111 2 3 1280 200 200 125 100 37 10 25 50 50 50 37 10 37 10 50 50 37 10 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	111 2 3 3 280 200 125 100 37 10 25 15 50 50 45 33 15 45 45 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	120	320 111 2 3 111 2 3 280 200 200 125 100 37 10 25 15 50 45 50 29 45 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	111 2 3 280 200 125 100 37 10 37 10 25 15 50 55 11 50 250 45 33 15 45 45 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
	U 0210 X	. 2101 10 0	1 300	1 4001 10 0	2020 0		1 2000 3 (	U 2100 0 0

<sup>•</sup> This sign indicates new Institutions.

#### SUPERIOR EDUCATION.

#### Recapitulation of the sums granted for 1857.

		Numb. of scholars.				
List No.	1	181	Universities	£ 1367	15	4
"	2	1794	Classical Colleges	3714	0	0
"	3	1937	Industrial Colleges	2325	0	0
"	4	5999	Boys, or mixed Academies	4095	0	0
"	5	7528	Girls' Academies	2817	0	0
"	6	5917	Model Schools	2795	5	6
Tota	1	23356	Total	£ 17114	0	10

LIST OF THE SUMS UNPAID ON THE FUND OF SUPERIOR EDUCATION FOR 1856.

Academy of Ste. Foye (protestant)	45	0	0
Indian Village of St. Regis	50	0	0
Indian Village of St. Regis	33	15	Ö
St. Norbert d'Arthabaska	20		ŏ
Chicontimi, Diss.	15	-	ŏ
	20	_	ŏ
St. François de Sales		-	-
St. Simon, Bagot	20	0	0
St. Michel.	20	0	0
St. Hilaire	20	0	ō l
Ste. Geneviève	20	0	Õ
m	000	1,5	7
Total	203	15	υį

Statement of monies paid by the Department of Education for Canada East, between the 1st January to 31st December 1857.

On account o	f grant	t to common schools for 2d half of 1856 and for 1st do of 1857	28,550	18	9
44	**	for Superior Education	18,552	0	0
et .	"	for poor Municipalities	673	ŏ	ŏ
**	**	for Normal Schools	8,712	2	1
II.	11	Salaries of school Inspectors	4,352	3	3
££	46	of officers of Department	2,190	Õ	11
41	"	grant for Department library	464	18	4
u	tt	" for Books for prizes	517	11	3
cc .	33	" for Journals of Education	783	10	0
£1	11	Office contingencies	971	2	9
u	66	Parish Libraries	48	10	6
tt	**	Pensions to Teachers	226	15	2
"	**	Schools building fund	27	7	10
		Total	£66,070	10	10

Statement of monies paid by the Department of Education for Canada East, between the 1st to 31st January 1858.

A. (	On accoun	t of grant for Common Schools,	
,		for 1st half year of 1857. \$ 57	54 cts.
	41	" for 2d " " . 26,532	83
R.	**	" for Superior Education 42.488	
e?	<b>es</b>	for Jacques Cartier Normal School. 1,175	76
E.	44	" Laval " . 1,477	79
F.	**	" Journals of Education 292	-10
E, F,	£¢	Contingent Expenses Office of Depart. 787	33
ĭ.	et .	Salaries of School Inspectors 4,312	50
L, M,	"	Grant to poor Municipalities 160	00

Statement of the Correspondence of the Department of Education, between the 1st of January and 31st December 1857.

	January.	Fehruary.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	September.	October.	November.	Décember.	Totals.	Total numb, of letters received and despatched
Letters	778	606	142	482	298	416	1103	525	483	664	433	537	6186	}
Letters &c. des- patched.	719	1210	419	613	273	1839	5454	621	119	413	319	924	13185	19671

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A limited number of copies only being on hand, parties desirous of securing them, will do well to send in their orders immediately.

The terms of subscription to the "Journal de Pinstruction Publique," edited by the Supermiendent of Education and M. Jos. Lenoir, will be Five sunlives per annum and to the "Lower Canada Journal of Education," edited by the Superintendent of Education and Mr. John Radiger, also Five sinlings per annum the two Journals, or, if they choose, two copies of either the one or of the other. Subscriptions are invariably to be paid in advance.

4.000 copies of the "Journal de Pinstruction 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 inscriptions will be received at the Office of the Department Montreal, 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 legitly their names and address and also the post office to which they wish their Journals to be directed.

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