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THE  
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FOR LOWER CANADA,

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AND BY J. J. PHELAN, ESQ.,  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, ASSISTANT EDITOR.

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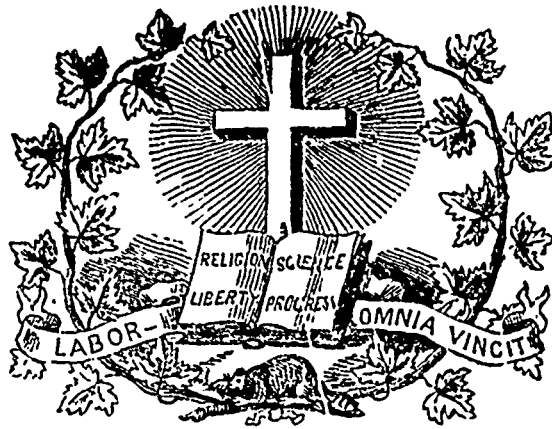
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**SUMMARY.—LITERATURE.—**Poetry: A Choice, by Mrs. Leprohon.—**CANADIAN HISTORY:** Jumonville and Washington.—**EDUCATION:** The Advantages of Scientific Training, by J. Langton, Esquire.—Bad and Good Spelling.—The Natural Sciences in Common Schools.—**OFFICIAL NOTICES.—**Appointments: Examiners.—School Commissioners.—Trustees of Dissident Schools.—Diplomas Granted by the Laval Normal School, and by the Boards of Examiners.—Donations to the Library of the Department.—**EDITORIAL:** Agricultural Education.—The Educational Almanac.—The Old and the New Year, 1863-1864.—The New Year's Gift in England.—The European Crisis.—The Cawnpore Memorial.—Extracts from Reports of School Inspectors, for 1861-1862 (continued).—**NOTICES OF BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS:** Drapeau—*Etudes sur la Colonisation du Bas-Canada.*—*Les Beaux-Arts.*—*La Semaine.*—*The Canadian Patriot.*—**MONTHLY SUMMARY:** Scientific Intelligence.—Literary Intelligence.—Necrological Intelligence.—**ADVERTISEMENTS:** *Journal of Education and Journal de l'Instruction Publique.*—*The Scientific American.*

## LITERATURE.

### POETRY:

(Written for the Journal of Education.)

#### A CHOICE.

By Mrs. LEPROHON.

By the side of a silvery streamlet  
That flowed through meadows green,  
Lay a youth on the verge of manhood  
And a boy of fair sixteen,  
And the elder spake of the future,  
That bright before them lay,  
With its hopes full of golden promise,  
For some sure, distant day.

—And he vowed whilst his dark eye kindled,  
He would climb the heights of fame,  
And conquer with mind or weapon,  
A proud undying name.  
On the darling theme long dwelling,  
Bright fabrics did he build,  
Which the hope in his ardent bosom,  
With splendour helped to gild.

At length he paused, then questioned,  
"Brother, thou dost not speak.  
In the vague bright page of the future  
To read, dost thou ne'er seek?"  
Then the other, with smile soft, tranquil—  
"Of that am I thinking now,  
And the crown which I too am striving  
To win my ambitious brows."

"What,—a crown? Thou hast spirit, brother,  
Say, of Laurels will it be?  
Thy choice, the life of a soldier,  
Th'un daunted, joyous, free.

Though by wind and sun undarkened  
Is thy blooming, boyish face,  
To thy choice thou'lt do all honour,  
For tis worthy of thy race.

Am I wrong? Well, 'tis more likely,  
With thy love of ancient lore,  
Thou would'st choose the scholar's garland.  
Not laurels wet with gore,  
I will not chide—'tis surely, noble,  
By simple might of pen,  
To win thyself a master power  
O'er minds of thy fellow men."

But still shook his head, the younger,  
"What unguessed thy secret yet?  
Ha! I know now, what thou seekest,  
To deck thy curls of jet,  
These buds, and he laughing scattered,  
Blossoms on brow and cheek,  
Pleasure's wreath of smiling flowers,  
Is the crown that thou dost seek."

"Not so—of all, that were vainest,  
'Tis a crown, immortal—rare—  
Here, on earth, I must strive to win it,  
But brother, I'll wear it *there*,"  
And he raised to the blue sky o'er him,  
Eyes filled with tender thought,—  
Who shall doubt that to him was given,  
The glorious crown he sought?"

## CANADIAN HISTORY.

### Jumonville and Washington.

It is somewhat curious to have, at this day, an examination of Washington's culpabilities in the Jumonville affair from a member of the French officers's family. In the recently published work, *Les Anciens Canadiens*, of Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, p. 396, is the following:

Colonel Malcom Fraser, during Wolfe's invasion of Canada, was in a detachment which burnt the houses of the Canadians from Rivière Ouelle to the Rivière des trois Saumons. Having become, after the conquest the intimate friend of my family, he replied to my grandfather's complaints about this act of vandalism: "How could we help it, my dear friend: *à la guerre comme à la guerre.* Your Frenchmen, in ambush in the woods, killed two of our men when we landed at Rivière Ouelle." "You should, at least," said my grandfather, "have spared my flour-mill, my poor tenants would not then have been reduced so low as to eat their corn in sagamity like Indians." "In war as in war," added my grand-

mother; "I admit your maxim, but was it fair war to kill my brother, Villiers de Jumonville, as Washington, your countryman, did at Fort Necessity." "Ah Madam!" replied Col. Fraser, "for mercy's sake do not, for the honor of the English, ever again mention that atrocious murder."

Once slightly reproached our celebrated historian, Mr. Garneau, with passing lightly over that horrible assassination. He replied that it was a delicate subject, that the great shade of Washington hovered over the writer, or something of the kind.

This may be, but it is incumbent on me to clear the memory of my great uncle, whom Washington in his works sought to blacken in order to justify his assassination.

The tradition in my family is that Jumonville presented himself as bearer of a summons requiring Major Washington, Commandant of Fort Necessity, to evacuate that post erected on French territory, that he raised a flag of truce, showed his despatches, and that, nevertheless, the English commander ordered his men to fire on him and his small escort, and that Jumonville fell dead with a part of those who accompanied him.

There is a discrepancy, easily explained, between the tradition of my family and the truth of history. Moreover, this discrepancy has no bearing on the murder of the bearer of the flag of truce, whose mission was to summon the English to evacuate the French possession and not Fort Necessity, which was not thrown up till after the event. (After citing Contre-cœur's instructions to Coulon de Villiers, and the capitulation signed by Washington, he proceeds :) Now no one is more disposed than myself to render justice to the great qualities of the American hero; when in my family the conversation turned on the cruel and premature death of our noble kinsman, assassinated in the onset of what promised to be a brilliant career, I used to seek to excuse Washington on account of youth, as he was then but twenty. I expatiate on his virtues, his humanity, when twenty-two years afterwards he directed the cause of his countrymen and created a great and independent nation.

I never, indeed, should have thought of drawing from oblivion this deplorable event, had not Washington himself made it necessary by seeking, in order to clear himself, to blacken the reputation of my great uncle Jumonville in the memoir which he published several years after the catastrophe.

"We were informed," said he, "that Jumonville, disguised as an Indian, was prowling for several days around our posts, and I had to consider him as a spy."

This excuse has no probability, because Washington could not but know that, not only the soldiers but also the officers of the French army, when fighting in the woods, adopted the Indian dress, a short coat, leggings, breech cloth, and moccasins. This light and easy dress gave them a great advantage over enemies always dressed in European style. Nor could Jumonville, without culpable temerity, proceed directly to the English posts without taking great precautions, the wood being infested with hostile Indians, who acting on a first impulse, would show no great respect to a flag of truce.

After disposing of this accusation of his being a spy, of which Washington did not think till years after the murder when writing his memoir, let us see what he says in justification in his despatches to his government immediately after the affair. It is necessary to observe here that the crowns of France and England were then at peace, that war was declared by Louis XV. only after that event; that the only hostilities committed were the invasion of French territory by the English, and that it was against this very act that Jumonville was sent to protest.

But let us return to Washington's justification in his despatches. He says, that "he regarded the frontier of New England as invaded by the French, that war seemed to him to exist, &c.; that the French in his sight ran to arms, and then he ordered his men to fire, that the action lasted a quarter of an hour, in which the French had ten men killed, and one wounded, and twenty-one prisoners; and the English one killed and three wounded; that it was false that Jumonville read a summons, &c.; that there had been no ambush, but surprise and skirmish which is lawful war."

Lawful war indeed for a strong detachment to attack suddenly a handful of men in full peace. It was not getting badly out of it for a Major of twenty; some Generals of the Northern American Army, who pique themselves on address, would not do better to-day. The phrases "that war seemed to him to exist," "that the French in his sight ran to arms," are of admirable simplicity. These French dogs forgot, apparently, that it was more Christian to allow themselves to be killed like sheep.

If we accept Washington's assertion how can we explain the cry of horror and indignation that resounded through all Canada and even

Europe? Yet the French have never been reproached with bowailing like women the loss of even their best generals or a signal defeat, why then their indignation, their fury at the tidings of the death of that young man, who was, so to speak, making his first apprenticeship in arms, if he perished in an action fought according to the rules of civilized nations? All the French prisoners, and Manceau, who alone escaped the massacre, the very Indian allies of the English declare that Jumonville waved his handkerchief over his head, invited the English, by an interpreter, to stop, having something to read them, that the firing ceased, and that while an interpreter was reading it he was shot through the head, and that but for the interposition of the Indians the whole party would have been massacred. \* \* \* Washington should never have signed a capitulation where the words assassin and assassination are thrown in his face.

The reader must judge whether I have rescued my grand uncle's memory from the accusation of being a spy. Had Jumonville acted the vile part his enemy attributes to him, to justify a shameful assassination, the French would never have shed so many tears on the victim's grave.—*N. Y. Historical Magazine.*

## EDUCATION.

### The Advantages of a Scientific Training.

(Extract from the inaugural speech of John Langton, Esq., President of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society)

I never pass the Jesuits' Barracks in our city without some feeling of shame, in the comparison between the enterprise of our predecessors, and our own apathy in this respect. We boast of the superior energy of the Anglo-Saxon race; but what have we done during our hundred years' occupation of the country towards its intellectual advancement, which can compare with the foundations which they had laid, when for the most part it was an untrodden wilderness?

We can hardly with justice say that the merits of scientific studies are not appreciated in Canada. It is rather the fashion to give a general and theoretical assent to their importance, but it is but a barren admission after all. *Laudatur et alget*—the claims of science are acknowledged, but any active co-operation is withheld. With the exception of some trifling grants to societies like our own, the withdrawal of which is annually threatened, the only scientific works which our Government directly patronizes are the Geological Survey and the Magnetic Observatory at Toronto. I am no advocate for too much reliance upon the central authority for objects which may be attained by individual enterprise; but it is discouraging to perceive the precarious tenure by which we hold those two great establishments, which are the only ones by which Europe recognizes the existence of science in Canada at all, and which, if not supported by Government, must of necessity be abandoned. The public voice, as expressed in Parliament, is constantly inquiring what is the practical use of them, and it desires to see our profit from them reduced to the tangible test of pounds, shillings and pence. It is vain to speak of our increasing knowledge of the laws which regulate those complex phenomena which are included in the single word weather, which are deduced, not indeed from the observations made at Toronto, but from the comparison of them with those made at observatories which have been established by almost all other Governments; and to point out the advantages, still in their infancy, which will result to the agriculturist, and to the mariner who conveys our merchandize, from their further prosecution. The utility of a harbour of refuge is something tangible, and readily admitted, whilst the expenditure of a tithe of the money, which the harbour would cost is grudged towards establishing the law of storms, which is as essential for the safety of navigation. It is in vain that you may point out the direct profit which arises from indicating the localities where minerals of economic value exist, or are likely to be found; and the saving of useless expenditure, by determining the conditions under which we cannot expect to find them. You may appeal to the calculation of Mr. James Hall, who shews that upwards of a million of dollars had been thrown away in the State of New York alone in fruitless searches for coal, before their geological survey proved that all such searches must be useless. The public still calls for more practical results, and attaches more importance to the accidental discovery of one workable copper mine, than to the researches which point out the large areas, in which the individuals interested may make a profitable search for the ore. The laborious

tracing out of the folds and undulations of an apparently unimportant stratum, and the minute examination of fossils, are still looked upon as of no practical use. Men cannot perceive, that the one gives the only means of inferring, from what is laid bare to our sight, in a limited space, the nature of the rock existing in other parts, which we cannot examine; and that fossils, totally independently of their interest to the Naturalist as links in the great chain of creation, are often the only means we have of distinguishing between rocks which are lithologically similar, but belonging to very different formations. Without a knowledge of fossils we should still be searching for coal in the Silurian rocks of the Oneida group, and for lead in the Niagara limestone. Our people at large have not yet recognized the fact, that there is hardly a walk in life that is not more or less affected by every advance in science; hardly a trade or manufacture, which does not owe its greatest triumphs to some application of what, in its day, has been looked upon as learned trifling—and our politicians are slow to perceive that, looking upon it merely as a money investment, the providing for the country a sound scientific culture is the surest way of enabling it to respond to the demands of the Finance Minister.

If on the one hand we lament that the people undervalue all scientific investigations, which do not evidently and immediately lead to some practical use, on the other hand I am afraid that in many of our higher educational institutions there is a tendency to underrate the physical sciences for an opposite reason. From their practical value it is thought that they may safely be left to take care of themselves, whilst as a means of mental training they are considered inferior to the old time-honored subjects of academical education, the moral and mental sciences, and the study of the ancient languages—Mathematics forming a sort of debatable land, between the two systems, being a purely mental operation on the one hand and of inexhaustible practical application on the other. As we are not an institution whose proper business is education, it may appear superfluous in me to interfere upon the present occasion in the vexed question of the relative merits of the two systems, but as one of the main objects of our society is the advancement of the sciences, it will not be altogether out of place if I say a few words upon that most obvious way of promoting them—the making them prominent subjects of study in our higher Seminaries of learning.

As to the mental sciences I will say nothing. I do not feel competent to speak of their merits as a means of mental training, and I should lay myself open to the same censure which I have applied to others, if I undervalued what I am myself unable to appreciate. Their advocates, however, will admit that they are not very progressive branches of learning, (which may indeed arise from their having, unlike all other human things, already arrived at perfection); but whilst the physical sciences have been advancing with such giant strides that it is almost impossible to keep pace with their progress, the mental sciences, after engaging the acutest intellects for centuries, remain substantially where they were two thousand years ago. I hope I shall not very much shock any metaphysician present, if I say that, as in the case of the celebrated combat between Gymnast and Captain Tripet, I am very much of Corporal Trim's opinion, that one good home-thrust of a bayonet is worth the whole of it.

Far be it from me to disparage in the slightest degree the cultivation of the languages of Greece and Rome. I cannot imagine a more interesting, or more appropriate study for man, than that of the laws of language, which principally distinguishes him from the brute creation, and the laws of thought as evidenced and tangibly embodied in its structure; and totally apart from the merits of the literature, an ancient language is the best, and indeed the only basis, upon which the study can be properly founded. Greek and Latin contain moreover a literature of such value and beauty, and the languages themselves are capable of such a felicity of expression, that they ever have been, and ever will be, considered an essential portion of a liberal education. So many of their words also are embodied, either by direct adoption or by the intervention of other languages in one element of our own mother tongue, and they are so closely related collaterally to the other element, that no man can be said to be thoroughly master of his English who has not a competent knowledge of Greek and Latin; and the structure of our whole scientific nomenclature having the same origin, is another reason for becoming familiar with them. But these are the useful results of the knowledge when acquired, whereas the argument in their favor is on account of the intellectual training from the manner in which they are studied. It is impossible entirely to dissociate the two views, although, as in most controversies, the ablest advocates of one course are apt to ignore

the possible value of the other. As the Volunteer movement is becoming popular amongst us, I may be allowed to take an illustration from military matters. One of the objects of drill is to teach habits of punctuality, order, quickness, and precision of movement, and the abstraction of the mind from everything except attention to the commands which may be received, so that the officer may be able to depend upon handling his men with as much accuracy and certainty, as if they formed a machine; but this might be attained by a system of drill having no relation to the soldiers' future duties. This, however, is not all the object. It is required at the same time, so to habituate them to the actual operations they have to perform, that in moments of emergency, they may go through them with precision, as by an artificially induced instinct. So it is in education: we wish to teach habits of thought which will be of useful application in after life; but we also wish to practice the students in the application of those habits to the purposes for which they are to be exercised. The Utilitarians and the Disciplinarians are both right, but both are mistaken if they think they can stand alone, and both in practice really act upon the doctrine of the other. Mr. Marsh, who in his late work on the English language takes the purely Utilitarian view, says that "the student of language, who ends with the linguistics of Bopp and Grimm, had better never have begun; for grammar has but a value, not a worth; it is a means not an end, it teaches but half-truths, and except as an introduction to literature and that which literature embodies, it is a melancholy heap of leached ashes, marrowless bones, and empty oyster-shells." But Mr. Marsh shows infinite diligence in collecting and illustrating the bones and oyster-shells which he affects to despise; and the Disciplinarian, who considers the literature as a secondary consideration to the mental training, is yet influenced by the literature in selecting the language to form the basis of the study. Had it been otherwise, there is no doubt, that it would not have been Latin and Greek, but Sanscrit, which would have formed the text of academical lectures. It is their literary merits, and their intimate association with the daily business of our lives, with our habits of thought and forms of expression, and the constant allusions to, and illustrations from them, occurring in our own literature, which causes the former to maintain their position.

So far then the classical languages and the physical sciences are upon a par, and both are brought to the test of the practical utility of the substance which we acquire. If we look simply to the beneficial effects of the *method* of acquisition, I am unable to see any marked superiority in either. The mental processes appear to be much the same. It must be highly instructive, under able guidance, to follow the gradual development of language, and to trace back the later words and terminations to their rudimentary forms; to watch the transfusions of the same element as it appears in cognate languages, and to determine the laws which guide all these changes. But there are closely analogous points to which the scientific botanist and the comparative physiologist call the attention of his pupils. There too we trace a gradual development, a constant transformation and modification of parts as they appear in species more or less allied, till by successive steps you can follow an organ through all its metamorphisms, and detect its identity after it has entirely changed its outward appearance, and the character of the functions which it performs; just as in two languages, you recognize the same word, though there may not be a single letter in common, and the meaning of it may have greatly changed. Nay, if you investigate one class of facts to the exclusion of the other, you miss the full force of the crowning lesson—that not only in the material universe, but even in the realms of thought and in the modes of expressing it, one system pervades the whole creation—everywhere constant change and development with the preservation of the same typical analogies; everywhere infinite variety and complexity in the detail, with uniformity and simplicity in the plan; everywhere endless differences, but one law, and one lawgiver.

The habits of mind which are engendered in either case are the same, whether the study be that of a language or of a physical science—patient analysis of the facts as they present themselves; an aptitude to detect resemblances and to distinguish differences; caution in forming a judgment, not taking a thing for granted from the first plausible suggestion to your mind, but tracing it through all its analogies and relationships; and the power of generalizing the facts thus carefully ascertained, of separating them into groups, and binding them together by general laws. I will even go a step farther, and without assigning any superiority to the one study over the other, I will maintain, that in these important qualities the sciences had the precedence in point of time. The study of language has followed in the footsteps of that of the material world.

It is only because, within the last 50 years, language has been subjected to the process of analysis and induction, a method devised and perfected for, and illustrated by the pursuit of physical investigations, that its study has been raised from a mere acquisition of words and arbitrary rules, to the dignity of a science, and that it is entitled to the high rank which it undoubtedly occupies as an instrument of mental training.

The truth appears to me to be, that language, mathematics, and physical science, and mental science, probably, also, may, in skilful hands, be equally well employed as the basis for disciplining the mind. There will be some difference in the special tendencies of each, and in their adaptation for different degrees of maturity in the intellect to be dealt with, and to some extent in the peculiar qualities of individual intellects most likely to be benefited by them. Each of these studies has at the same time a practical use from the knowledge acquired, irrespective of the process of acquisition. Here too, there is much diversity in the universality of the application of the knowledge, and different men will attach varying degrees of importance to each, according to their several tastes and professional pursuits. There can be little doubt that the most perfect education would result from the union of them all; but the great danger lies in the extent of the field, and in the fear, lest by attempting too much, we should give a mere superficial knowledge without a thorough training in any one branch. In schools, where a uniformity of system is essential, I believe that the languages and the natural sciences will be found better adapted to the immature intellect of the boy, than either mathematical or metaphysical studies. But in the higher educational institutions, where a certain latitude of selection may be left to the students themselves, according to their several tastes and their ultimate destinations, there ought to be provision for the proper study of them all. The embryo lawyer, whose after life is to be engaged in logomachies of another kind, may find profit from being versed in the subtleties of the metaphysician, the future engineer will probably prefer mathematics, and the medical student some of the sciences, whilst all will do well to complete their training in the study of language.

I should perhaps apologize for having wandered so far from my main subject, but the importance of the question justifies the digression. To return to our own special field—if in the pursuit of most of the sciences we labour under disadvantages from want of opportunities, there are some branches where we have peculiar facilities. The Geology and Natural History of our country must be studied on the spot, and the world of science may fairly expect that we who have the opportunity, should supply some of the facts. These are exactly the kind of subjects in which such societies as ours are found to be most efficient, as they afford the means of bringing up under notice, and placing on record, detached facts which could be made public in no other way. To these subjects our Museum also ought to be mainly if not entirely devoted, and it would be quite within our means to make it complete in these departments.

The time has indeed gone by when a Museum was a mere collection of curiosities, or as it was defined by Horace Walpole, a "hospital for everything that is singular—whether the thing has acquired singularity from having escaped the rage of time, or from any natural oddness—or from being so insignificant that nobody thought it worth while to produce any more of the same." But the legitimate field of a museum, as illustrative of useful studies, is so extensive, that a general collection with our limited means would from its incompleteness be of comparatively little value. We ought therefore to limit ourselves to some special object, and the most appropriate one would be the illustration of the natural productions and of the history of Canada.

There is also another branch of inquiry, in which it is quite within our power to assist in supplying Canada's contribution towards the general stock of knowledge. The social sciences are daily becoming more important, and they, like all sciences, must be founded upon a wide basis of well established and carefully digested facts. To this foundation Canada has as yet hardly contributed anything, and yet there are some points in which the very youth of the country might make a collection of its statistics peculiarly valuable. It is not very certain that all deductions, founded upon the state of society in Europe are strictly applicable to a country where the conditions are so different as they are here, and for our own sakes it would be well if we could investigate these questions from our own point of view, instead of accepting without examination the European versions of them. Moreover, for the sake of establishing the principles of the sciences themselves, a social condition, just arranging itself into order, may bring to light tendencies, which are altogether concealed in the complicated and stereotyped relations of long established communities; just as the chemist may seize a substance in its nascent state, which in

its permanent compounds is too stubborn to yield itself to his analysis. Towards all this, or to whatever of it may be practicable, we have done nothing. There is hardly a civilized community anywhere which has furnished so little statistical information as Canada, and what we have done as been imperfect, and what is worse, it has often been incorrect. Now individuals may do much in this line, and Societies may press upon Government the importance of the subject, and point out the particular branches in which the collection of facts is most required. It is to the zeal of Societies in Europe that we are principally indebted for the recognition by their Governments of the utility of statistical information, and I point this out as one of the ways in which we also may do something towards furthering the objects for which we were established.

### Bad and good Spelling.

To teach spelling, the habit of constantly writing passages either of prose or poetry is absolutely necessary, in order that the eye may be trained to distinguish the correct forms of words. The majority of persons find, by experience, that when they are asked to spell a word aloud, they are in doubt, and are apt to make a mistake; but if they write the word their eye at once guides them to the proper method of spelling it. The inference, from this is plain, namely, that the eye is as much concerned in the spelling of words as the ear. Children should therefore be early accustomed to copy passages correctly from their reading-book. This exercise, which I call "transcribing," should be confined to the junior classes in schools, and be a preparatory step to the dictation which they will practise when they get into the senior classes. Transcribing teaches spelling; while dictation (leaving, as it does, the pupil without the aid of a book to copy from) must be regarded properly as a test of spelling.

The correcting of written exercises is always a tedious part of school-work, and sufficient time should be allowed for it in the general time-table of the school. There is one method of correction which is attended with little loss of time; but whether it can always be depended upon, is a question which I must leave the reader of this letter to determine. The method is as follows: After a passage has either been transcribed from books or written from dictation (and so of course without the aid of books), a monitor or pupil-teacher, taking a book, should slowly spell aloud each word *large and small*, in the passage which has been written. While he does this, each scholar should carefully look at his own slate, and if he finds a word which he has not spelt as it is spelt in the book, and as the monitor spells it, he should put out his hand as a signal for the monitor to wait until he has put it down correctly. In fact, the scholars should correct their own errors, with the view of impressing good spelling upon their minds.

There is an interesting way of teaching spelling by the aid of the black-board, which I will describe. Let a black-board be placed on an easel before a class; then let the second boy propose a word, which the first boy should go up and write in large letters on the board. If he cannot write it correctly, let the second boy do so; and if he cannot, let the third; and so on: the boy who is right being allowed to go before those who are wrong. The teacher should stand by to see fair play, and to prevent long words, such as Constantinople and Mesopotamia, from being proposed. The scholars should confine themselves mainly to small words, especially those in which *ei* and *ie* occur, or in which letters are to be doubled, or a letter is to be omitted.—J. F. in *English National Society Monthly Paper*.

### The Natural Sciences in Common Schools.

In the fast ago in which we live, when new plans in every department of life find ready advocates, we often fail to discriminate between novelty and improvement. Not many years ago the most essential qualifications of the school-room were to read, write, cipher and *make pens*. But many now, as we believe, quite in advance of the age, insist that in addition to these branches, music, painting, and the whole circle of natural science should find a place in our common schools. But this opinion is advocated chiefly by those who have had little or no practical experience, and no argument could better convince them of its utter impracticability than an attempt to reduce their system to practice. No new theory should be adopted because it is new, and yet we should, of course, accept whatever is known to be an improvement.

The great object in teaching is not to crowd the mind with as many facts as possible, but to educate, to lead forth and strengthen the mental powers, by presenting objects that will awaken thought.



It must be confessed that many of our text-books are prepared with little reference to this prime object of study, and teachers, too, are apt to feel that their work is completed when the last lesson is recited. The teacher's mind should be well stored with knowledge derived from every department of science. There are opportunities constantly recurring when an explanation or anecdote, suggested by some topic under consideration, will awaken an interest which could with difficulty be secured in any other way.

Geology, mineralogy and astronomy afford an inexhaustible source from which a skilful teacher can draw at pleasure. The unreflecting school-boy looks upon the stones as fit only for wall or pavement, but in the light of science he reads in them the history of the earth indelibly written in solid rock. The twinkling stars, made, as he thinks, only to give light when there is no moon, became worlds like our own, perchance, but infinite in number and distance; and as he extends his imagination to grasp what lies beyond our vision, he is enabled to form some conception of the infinite and eternal.

Geography may be made doubly interesting, if among its dry questions some brief description be given of the customs, manners, language, or general characteristics of the people who inhabit the countries and cities whose crooked names are so formidable to the beginner.

The young and tender mind can be disabused of the superstitious notions so prevalent even in our own age without worrying through the intricate problems of astronomy or committing the dry facts of physical geography.

It may be said that these suggestions savor of superficialness. By no means. We consider the great object of our common schools to be to secure to every scholar a knowledge of the elements or first principles of an education,—the foundation *only* upon which the superstructure is afterwards to be reared. Would we have the foundation perfect in every part, we must give it our chief care, yet we should shape every stone with reference to the edifice which is to rest upon it. So in educating the mind, first principles must be established upon a secure basis, while superstitious prejudices may be removed, and by simple means direction given to the thoughts which will have an important bearing upon the future development of mind.—H. M. in *Rhode Island Schoolmaster*.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES.



### APPOINTMENTS. EXAMINERS.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council was pleased, on the 15th ult., to appoint Sévère Dumoulin, Esquire, a Member of the Board of Examiners of Three Rivers, in the room of John Whithford, Esquire, absent.

### SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council was pleased, on the 15th ult., to approve of the following appointments of School Commissioners:

County of Charlevoix.—Petite Rivière: Messrs. Ismaël Lavoie, Téléphore Lavoie, Léon Lavoie, François Simard, and Elzéar Tremblay.

County of Ottawa.—Hull: Mr. John Ferris

County of Richelieu.—Parish of Sorel: Mr. Augustin Lavallée.

County of Temiscouata.—St. George de Cacoua: Mr. Célestin Saindon.

County of St. Maurice.—St. Etienne: J. B. Beauchemin, Esquire.

### TRUSTEES OF DISSIDENT SCHOOLS.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council was pleased, on the 15th ult., to approve of the following appointments of School Trustees: County of Napierreville.—St. Michel Archange: Messrs. David Forrester, William Forrester, and John Forrester.

County of Two Mountains.—St. Joseph.—Messrs. Robert Walker, James Walker, and Hugh McCole.

### DIPLOMAS GRANTED.

#### LAVAL NORMAL SCHOOL.

*Model School (F. and E.)*—Messrs. Pierre Giroux, and Elzéar Octave Ouellet.

*Elementary School (F. and E.)*—Miss Carolino Dufresne.  
(Issued since July, 1863.)

#### CATHOLIC BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.

*2nd Class Elementary (F.)*—Miss Marie José Marier.  
Aug. 4, 1863.

*1st Class Elementary (F.)*—Mr. Louis Napoléon Ledoux.  
Aug. 6, 1863.

F. X. VALADE,  
Secretary

#### PROTESTANT BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF MONTREAL.

*1st Class Academy (E.)*—Messrs. John J. MacLaren, and J. C. Edward Roberts.

*1st Class Model School (E.)*—Messrs. William Cairns, James McGregor, John Rollit, and Isaac W. Wallace.

*2nd Class Model School (E.)*—Mr. Andrew J. Kay.

*1st Class Elementary (F.)*—Mr. Edouard Roy.

*1st Class Elementary (E.)*—Messrs. James Crothers, John Long; Misses Margaret Crothers, and Martha McMartin.

*2nd Class Elementary (E.)*—Mr. Thomas Burton, Misses Sarah Ann Brown, Catharine C. Clarke, Marion R. Dalgleish, Sarah Dalgleish, Ann Gibson, Eliza Holland, Jessie Heme, Mary Ann McGarric, Anne A. McLean, and Isabella Mathieson.

Nov. 7, 1863, (adjourned meeting).

T. A. GIBSON,  
Secretary.

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

*1st Class Elementary (F.), and 2nd Class Elementary (E.)*—Miss Justine Gagnon.

*2nd Class Elementary (F.)*—Misses Marie Justine Letellier, and Céline St. Onge.

Nov. 3, 1863.

P. DUMAIS,  
Secretary.

#### CATHOLIC BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF QUEBEC.

*2nd Class Elementary (F.)*—Mr. Edmond Bernard, and Miss Marie Céline Canac dite Marquis.

*2nd Class Elementary (E.)*—Miss Mary Ann Fahey.

Dec. 1, (adjourned meeting).

N. LACASSE,  
Secretary.

#### BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PONTIAC.

*1st Class Elementary (E.)*—Messrs. Archibald Carson, and Joseph Totton.

*2nd Class Elementary (E.)*—Messrs. Charles Campbell, Thomas Donaldson, and George Hodgins.

Nov. 17, 1863, (adjourned meeting).

OVIDE LEBLANC,  
Secretary.

#### DONATION TO THE LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The Superintendent of Education acknowledges with thanks the following donation:

From Messrs. Dawson Bros., Montreal: A Practical Grammar of the French Language. By William J. Knapp, A. M., 1 vol.

## JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

MONTREAL (LOWER CANADA), JANUARY, 1864.

### Agricultural Education.

The measure recently adopted by the Lower Canada Board of Agriculture for the promotion of Agricultural Education is decidedly the most important step taken in the right direction since the establishment of the Schools of St.



Ann and Ste. Therese. Agricultural Schools can only be maintained by means of bursaries—even the celebrated institution at Crignon is no exception to the rule, its attendance, besides strangers coming from all parts of Europe and America, consisting almost exclusively of its bursars.

The Board of Agriculture is now engaged in drawing up programmes for the examination of candidates for Professorships of Agriculture, and the Executive has adopted a rule by which Agricultural Schools whose professors do not hold certificates shall be excluded from any participation in the benefit of a public grant.

We would particularly call the attention of school authorities and teachers to the following details, which we translate from the *Gazette des Campagnes*, adding, however, that the number of scholarships has since been increased to twenty, corresponding to the exact number of judicial districts:

“ Since the opening of the Agricultural Schools all who entered them had been left to their own resources. Having overcome the opposition of relatives and friends, a serious obstacle still presented itself in the shape of the expense attending a sojourn at the School. The Board of Agriculture has now in a great measure removed this obstacle.

“ At its meeting held on the 16th December, at Montreal, the sum of \$950 was appropriated to the founding of nineteen bursaries of \$50 each (one for each judicial district) in favor of young men desirous of obtaining an agricultural training with a view to fitting themselves for the duties of practical agriculturists. Ten of these bursaries were allotted to the school at Ste. Anne and nine to that of Ste. Therese. The candidates to choose the school they shall enter.

“ The selection of the candidates is left to the Presidents of the local District Societies of Agriculture, and if on the 15th May next, any appointment remain still unreported, the Board of Agriculture shall itself fill the vacancy before the 1st of July.

“ Thus, there is no time to be lost by intending candidates, who ought to apply to the Presidents of the Agricultural Societies of their respective counties, stating their ages, previous instruction, and especially what means they possess of applying the knowledge they shall obtain at the School to a practical purpose, either by cultivating on their own account or by the assurance of the use of a well stocked farm, as, unless put into effect without delay, much of the advantage of a scientific training would be lost.

“ The Board of Agriculture has not yet determined what conditions candidates shall be called upon to fulfil; and probably it has been deemed sufficient for the present to require nothing beyond a compliance with the usual conditions as formulated by each school.

“ The School at St. Ann requires that a candidate shall possess a correct and grammatical acquaintance with the French language, the first principles of arithmetic, simple and compound fractions, and proportion. The age on admission is fixed at not less than sixteen years; but if the candidate is otherwise eligible, this condition is not always strictly enforced.

“ We believe the Board is not opposed to the division of a scholarship between two candidates. The bursaries are only held during good conduct; and the Board will no doubt make a formal rule to this effect.

“ Since each of the judicial districts has a bursary at its disposal there is no parish so small and isolated, nor village so poor and far removed from the great centres, as to be without a chance of sending a representative to one of those schools. The Board of Agriculture, itself representing the agricultural interests of the whole of Lower Canada, could not possibly have adopted a more equitable measure, since it offers an equal chance to the entire population, without distinction of origin or as to locality.”

#### The Educational Almanac.

In presenting our readers with the accompanying sheet Almanac for the new year, we would, according to the long established custom, give expression to the hearty wishes we entertain for their future welfare and prosperity. The Almanac has been considerably enlarged, and much information, having reference to the Boards of Examiners, Normal Schools, etc., has been added. The Table of contents for 1863 also accompanies the present number. The Almanac will be found very useful to persons charged with the execution of the School Acts, or having a direct interest in the working of the educational system. A glance in time at the matter it contains may prove the means of avoiding trouble and annoyance and prevent the incurring of much useless expense.

#### The Old and the New Year--1863-1864.

All the difficulties, quarrels and wars inherited from its predecessor, together with many new elements of discord, seem to have been handed over as a frightful legacy by the old year to the new. The great contest between the Northern and Southern States of America, which it was boasted at the outset, would not last more than six months, does not, although it has been raging for almost three years, appear to be much nearer its termination. England has wars on hand in China, Japan, India, New Zealand—everywhere almost; Italy is on the eve of a new outbreak; Poland is agonizing in an ocean of the noblest blood of Europe, while Denmark and the German powers are almost irretrievably committed to a most sanguinary contest, the consequence of which may be a general war.

The old year has also witnessed the death of a great many illustrious men, as may be seen by the numerous necrological notices contained in our preceding and the present issues. England seems to have furnished more than her usual share to the list. Lord Lansdowne, Lord Clyde, Sir James Outram, Lord Normanby, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Elgin, Archbishop Wateley, Mrs. Trollope, Thackeray, and a great many other distinguished persons in Great Britain have departed with the year 1863.

The deepest sensation was created in Canada by the announcement of the death of Lord Elgin, which happened so soon after that of his brother, General Bruce. Lord

Elgin weathered a storm in this country which few men would have stood with an equal degree of firmness and forbearance. He, however, carried the day, and before his departure, saw the very leader of the party who denounced him in the most severe terms, moving a flattering address to him in Parliament.

It may be truly said that Lord Elgin established responsible or self-government in Canada, and we may add that he in a great measure founded the Upper Canadian system of public instruction. In many of his speeches and dispatches he has shown in no equivocal terms his warm sympathy for the education of the masses, both here and in England, and his name deserves to be placed among those of the benefactors of mankind.

The sad forebodings of the political world and the shadow cast on the last days of 1863 by the death of our former Governor General found a kind of compensation in the birth of a son to the Prince of Wales. This happy event filled the whole empire with joy, and counteracted in a measure the painful effects of the ill tidings received by successive arrivals.

The following extracts from English newspapers on the several topics above alluded to will, we have no doubt, prove equally interesting and instructive to our readers.

#### The New Year's Gift to England.

On Friday evening last, a minute or two before nine o'clock, her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales gave birth to a son. The Princess had been present during the day with a party of ladies and gentlemen (many of the latter being members of the London Skating Club), who met the Prince and Princess for diversion on the ice at Virginia Water. Her Royal Highness, who is said to be an excellent skater, did not, of course, take part in that exercise, but was occasionally driven about in a sledge. She watched with much interest the game of hockey which was played upon the ice by the Prince of Wales and his companions, and did not leave for Frogmore Lodge until near four o'clock. The health of the Princess must, therefore, have been vigorous up to the hour of her confinement, and the successive bulletins which followed the first announcement of the auspicious event have been of most satisfactory character as regards both the Royal mother and her babe. The news was conveyed within an hour of the accouchement to her Majesty at Osborne, who started betimes on Saturday morning for Windsor, at the station of which town she was met by the Prince of Wales, who accompanied her forthwith to Frogmore, where she also passed the afternoon of Sunday.

It were superfluous to remark that the announcement was received by the British public with the liveliest joy. Never was foreign Princess adopted into the great English family with more hearty or unreserved enthusiasm than the Princess Alexandra of Denmark; and, since the memorable day of her entry into London, she has not only preserved unimpaired, but, by the graciousness of her bearing, has, if possible, improved, her hold upon the loyal sympathies of all her Majesty's subjects. The movements of the Royal couple have been watched from that day to this with unabated interest, and no incident has occurred tending to chill in the slightest degree the warmth of popular affection. The birth of a son, and an heir to the throne in the second degree, is welcomed by the people of those realms with something of the pleasing excitement of a household event, and there were probably but few families within the four seas which engirdle these islands to whom the news did not impart a thrill of gladness—gladness for the sake of the Princess herself, of her husband, of the Queen, and of Old England, who now sees three generations of Sovereigns in a direct line, and who indulges in the hope that the Royal virtues as well as dignities will be hereditary.

The news is, assuredly, none the less acceptable in that it is

the first break, since the beginning of the new year, in the monotonous succession of sinister forebodings which the last few days have thrust under our notice. The grandsire, on the mother's side, of the infant destined, in the natural course of things, to ascend the throne of an empire second to no other in the world, has but recently succeeded to a position of Royalty; and one of his uncles, who has hardly yet attained to manhood, has received the insignia of sovereignty over a little kingdom created but thirty years ago by European diplomacy, convulsed two or three times by revolution, and still disturbed throughout its narrow area by political factions. In neither instance has elevation to supreme rule brought increase of happiness, and time alone will show whether it may be recognised as a starting-point of distinguished and successful service. King Christian IX. of Denmark, exalted to his post by a treaty not yet twelve years old—the binding obligations of which upon one of the parties interested is denied—is already doomed to choose between having the better half of his kingdom wrenched from him or plunging into a war which will probably involve all the Powers of Europe. The German people, possessed by an idea over which they have brooded for years, and stimulated by petty Princes who appear to have looked upon a foreign and popular war as offering a more convenient chance for organising a united Germany than could be found in discussion which might possibly compromise their own anomalous position, exhibit the headstrong impetuosity of an ordinarily slow and docile but stubborn-tempered horse which has got the bit between his teeth and runs away with his rider. The Confederate Diet, unable even if it would, and possibly unwilling even if it could, to control the national will, having pushed its legal rights to an extreme in the military occupation of Holstein, which is indisputably a German duchy, and connived at a revolution effected under the protection of its own troops to set aside a succession settled in 1852 by the great Powers, Prussia and Austria included, is evidently intent upon invading Schleswig also, which is a Danish duchy, on the pretext that Schleswig and Holstein are inseparably united and must be ruled by one and the same authority. This invasion the King of Denmark will resist by force of arms if necessary, and Earl Russell has warned the Diet that, should it take place, Great Britain will be unable to refuse the claim of Denmark to assistance.

It is at such a moment of suspense that the infant Prince, in whose veins German and Danish blood is commingled, has been brought into the world. A quarrel of races over a dynastic arrangement which can hardly affect, either way, the substantial well-being of a hundred households, bids fair to array one half of Europe against the other, and to involve the effusion of rivers of blood and the expenditure of treasure to an amount beyond all calculation. Unhappily, moreover, antagonistic sympathies threaten to divide the unity of the Royal Family; and the sister to whose affectionate tact the Prince of Wales is understood to have owed his bride is naturally German in her sympathies; whilst her brother and her brother's wife are not less naturally nor decidedly Danish. It seems to us Englishmen a senseless feud, as it is unquestionably a sad one. We should hope that it will not disturb the personal relations of the members of our beloved Queen's family one to another; and we take for granted that no personal considerations will bias the international policy of this country. But we cannot but regard as an additional cause of grief to the English people the fact that besides having before them the prospect of an unreasonable and sanguinary war, they may be destined to witness a conflict of interests, views, sympathies, and hopes in respect of that war, forced into the hitherto charmed circle of which Queen Victoria is the centre. The danger seems so imminent that we can entertain but faint hope of its being averted. From the beginning of the year every day has brought it nearer and nearer, every telegram has been more discouraging than the last. The birth of the Prince will not alter the position of affairs; but the event is hailed as the appearance of a bright star in the midst of a dark and stormy night.

We do but express the universal wish of our fellow-countrymen when we pray that the princely babe may be a harbinger of peace. Blessings, as well as trials, often come in clusters. If, in like manner as the severity of winter, by a happy coincidence, gave way at the birth of this child to more genial weather, the clouds which now overhang Europe, threatening it with the disasters and desolations of war, should show an opening to the clear sky, and ultimately disperse without laying waste the nations, January 8, 1864, will be a memorable day with this generation of Englishmen. Should the event, also, which seems more likely, chase from the heart of her most gracious Majesty the gloom and shadows of her widowhood, and, by attracting her thoughts and affections from the irrevocable past to the present, shed a mellow sunshine

upon her bosom, and reconcile her once again to public life, her people will see in it more than a fortunate concurrence of pleasing circumstances, and, tracing in it a connection of cause and effect, will throw increased warmth into their congratulations and good wishes. Come what may, however, the yet unnamed little one is greeted with welcomes. May he grow up to be the pride of the coming generation, as his father and his father's father have been of this! May he inherit all the virtues which have ennobled the names, or embalmed the memory, of those who preceded him! And may it be reserved to our children's children to do homage to him as a wise and beneficent Sovereign, swaying the sceptre over a peaceful, prosperous, and happy people!—*Illustrated News.*

### The European Crisis.

Sir Archibald Alison has expressed himself strongly in favor of restoring the Poles to their place among the nations. Such a restoration he regards as a great political necessity. Writing in 1854, he says:—"In the very front rank of the great league of the Western Powers, which can alone preserve Europe from Russian subjugation, must be placed the *restoration of Poland*. The extension of Austria to the mouth of the Danube, and her acquisition of Moldavia and Wallachia, under the burden of the stipulated payment to the Porte, is the obvious mode, without doing injustice to any one, of winning her consent to the cession of Galicia. If Prussia casts in her lot with the Muscovites, she cannot complain if she undergoes the fate which she herself imposed on Saxony when its sovereign adhered to Napoleon in 1814." The importance of restoring Poland to independence is as great now as it was when these words were written: but the position of Europe has changed since then, and the task of restoring Poland has become surrounded by new difficulties. Italy claims Venetia from Austria more vehemently than the Poles desire Galicia; the Hungarians refuse to unite with the other populations of Austria; and more embarrassing than all, it is now notorious that the Emperor of the French is bent upon destroying the Treaties of 1815, and extending the frontiers of France. England cannot afford to overlook the fact that Prussia's extremity is France's opportunity; and that Napoleon will never join in a war for the restoration of Poland except for the purpose of weakening Germany and seizing the provinces of the Rhine. The most that a successful intervention is likely to accomplish, would be to establish an independent kingdom of Poland, which would include part of the Prussian province of Posen and the Austrian province of Galicia—France paying herself for her exertions by advancing her frontier to the Rhine. What would then be the position? Would not the ascendancy of France be immensely increased, at the expense of those powers which at present keep her in check? Germany would lose provinces on both her eastern and western frontiers; while France would receive new power from the frontier and fortresses of the Rhine, and would find in the restored kingdom of Poland a new ally. To defeated Russia France would at the same time offer aid in pushing her conquests in Asia, where she comes into contact with England. These are considerations which may well make us pause before we give way to our natural sympathies in favor of Poland. We wish well to the Poles. We cannot regard with indifference the threatened extinction of a nationality. We cannot be spectators of their gallant and desperate struggles for independence without believing that they deserve to be successful. With Sir Archibald Alison, also, we believe that, if Poland become fairly merged in Russia, the power of that colossal empire will ere long overshadow the continent. But of what use these sympathies and opinions if circumstances deny to us the opportunity to act upon them?

The grand difficulty in the Polish question is neither Russia, Prussia, nor Austria. Let us say it plainly—it is the Emperor Napoleon. If he were the upholder of treaties, as he presented himself when he assumed the purple, or the disinterested champion of national rights, as he announced when commencing the Italian war—the Polish question would be easily settled. Austria, we believe, would be as ready to cede Galicia now as she was in 1815, simply for the sake of getting rid of an internal difficulty, and of erecting in an independent Poland an external shield against the power of her colossal neighbour, Russia. England would have nothing to seek, because nothing to gain, but the restoration of Poland. And if Napoleon were equally disinterested, an alliance between England, France, and Austria would ere this have been concluded, and the restoration of Poland would have become a matter of certainty. But Napoleon, as both Austria and England now know, is not disinterested. Neither as an ally is he reliable. England knows how he closed the Crimean war—Italy knows how he acted at Villa-

franca. And so does Austria—for in that interview he offered to give back Lombardy if the Austrian Emperor would permit him to attack Prussia on the Rhine. He has got Savoy and Nice; but in order to complete his "mission," he must extend the boundaries of France to the Rhine. If he can accomplish this, his dynasty is secure. Internal freedom may be safely granted to his subjects, when their external ambition has been satisfied; and France would then cease from her revolutions, and settle down into the normal condition of nations, under the dynasty of Napoleon. These are great objects, so far as regards France and himself. But if tried at the bar of Europe, they must be condemned. He cannot expect other nations to sacrifice their rights in order that the ambition of France may be satisfied and his dynasty secured. It is these objects—it is this ambition of Napoleon—we repeat, that forms the grand obstacle to the settlement of the Polish question. It forces Austria and England to mistrust and keep aloof from him, and threatens to divide Governments which ought to ally themselves on this question into opposite camps.

We have no desire to judge harshly of the Emperor Napoleon. He is a great and sagacious monarch, who has benefited France, and in whose policy towards the rest of Europe evil and good are intermingled. Like every one else, he has his own game to play, and he must play it to the best advantage. His policy requires that he shall aggrandise France at the expense of other states; but even as a matter of expediency, he must seek to minimise the hostility which such an aggrandisement must create by rendering to Europe all the benefits which he possibly can compatibly with the prosecution of his own ends. He is an enlightened monarch, who would fain be a benefactor of Europe as well as of his own country. But he is the Emperor of the French, and must attend to their interests and aspirations first; and with the realisation of these are bound up the success of his dynasty. He is now in a position alike of difficulty and of hope. If the present European crisis places him in the gravest embarrassment, he knows also—he has known all along—that without the occurrence of such a crisis his most brilliant hopes would remain unfulfilled. He has foreseen some such crisis as this from the first; he has framed his policy upon the wants of France and the exigencies of Europe. Availing himself of these exigencies, he has already won laurels for himself and aggrandisement for France. But the crisis with which he is now face to face is far grander and graver—presents alike more risks and more advantages—than any with which he has grappled in the past. It is the crisis of his dynasty. It is the crucial test of his ability to carry out his policy. He must now gather up his full strength to cope with the enterprise.

The intervention in Mexico has been called the greatest blunder which Napoleon III. has committed. We see no reason so to regard it. It may prove a failure; but it has not done so yet. If it succeed, it will prove a glory and an advantage to France, and promises only benefit to the rest of the world. It would redeem the rich and beautiful country of Mexico from chronic anarchy and suffering—from the political and commercial annihilation which has for a generation rendered it a blank spot in the world. It would give an outlet for the redundant portion of the energies and population of France; and by so doing would lessen the political restlessness at home, and, by allowing the now stagnant population to increase in numbers, would produce a healthier social condition among the people. Despite the present crisis in Europe, which requires the Emperor to concentrate his forces, this Mexican enterprise may yet be carried to a successful end. But already it has not been without its advantages for the Emperor. It has cost a few millions, indeed, but these may be repaid; and, meanwhile, it has distracted the thoughts of the restless French from the affairs of their own Continent at a time when these affairs presented no favourable opportunity for the prosecution of the Napoleonic ideas. The Mexican expedition, therefore,—whatever be its ultimate fate—has shielded the Emperor from impatient pressure on the part of his people and has enabled him to bide his time. But it is easy to see that this shield will not be much longer available; nor can the Emperor desire that it should be. It is upon the affairs of Europe that the thoughts and ambitious aspirations of the French people are fixed. "Perish ten Mexicos," would be their words, "rather than Poland should perish." With this Polish affair is bound up this hope of winning the frontier of the Rhine. And the Emperor knows that, if he can attain this latter object, his people will be quite content that their "grand idea" on behalf of Poland be sadly shorn of its fair proportions.

The probable issue for the Emperor, we believe, from his present difficulty—a difficulty not altogether unwelcome—is through the portals of war. War, short if possible, and closed by compromises; but still war. One ally at least is already at his bidding. The Ita-

lian Government is eager for the fray. It cannot get Venetia, no more than Napoleon can get the Rhine frontier, without a war; and a favourable opportunity for such a war can only be found during the turmoil of a great crisis. In 1859 the King of Sardinia had an army which was "eating its head off." The King of Italy is in the same position now. He has been elaborating the military strength of his kingdom with a view to the conquest of Venetia; and if the struggle do not come soon, Italy must collapse under the weight of her preparations. Like a pugilist who has gone into training, Italy knows that if the fight for the prize do not come off at once, the splendor of her condition will lead to a break-down. Diplomatic "missions" have recommenced between Turin and Paris; and in the movements of Italian statesmen we can read the auguries fully better than in the flight of birds. But we are persuaded, if the Italian Government does not take special care in the contest which it desires, it will be sold by its Imperial ally more seriously even than it has been already. Italy is too eager to count the risks. Napoleon eminently cautious. He only fights when he has seventy-five chances out of a hundred in his favour. At present the odds are by no means so propitious; but will any one venture to say that they will not become so within three months? The Emperor cannot continue in his present position—nor can he recede. In France the Opposition have gained ground immensely: in the election, this year they have polled 2,000,000 votes, instead of the 500,000 recorded in their favour in 1857; and the old alternative is more and more pressed upon the Emperor—Liberty at home or war abroad. The Emperor, on his part, cannot as yet confer political liberty upon his subjects, and his recent acts prove that he does not intend to do so. He must do something abroad, and the state of Europe is becoming favourable to such an enterprise. Both the Notes and the Congress have failed; but the proposal of a Congress gives him time to mature his plans, and will be kept dangling in public view until the hour for decision strikes.

As if Europe had not already enough on her hands—as if there were not difficulties and embarrassments more than sufficient to tax the ample skill of statesmen, and ere long, probably, to exhaust the strength of nations—the Germans are creating one embarrassment more, heedless though it should prove the spark which is to set all Europe in a blaze of war. With all our love for the Germans, there is no nation that more tries one's patience, and needlessly exhaust our sympathy. They have no *splendida vitia*, like their Gallic neighbours; but they are so maladroit and unpractical, that their faults do as much harm as the more criminal ambition of able monarchs. In the present case their policy is unjust and dishonest, as well as embarrassing for Europe. The legal part of their claim is advanced merely as a stepping-stone to an act of high-handed injustice. And even the legal basis of their claim is a curious one. At a time when the most solemn treaties which Europe ever ratified are thought to have become nullified by the lapse of less than fifty years, the Germans go back to the middle ages, and to facts which Europe had forgotten—if indeed Europe ever took cognisance of them. In the remote times to which this German claim goes back, the modern principle of nationality was unknown, and populations readily united or parted according to any changes in the persons or fortunes of their rulers. So it happened that the duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg peopled by Germans, and the duchy of Schleswig inhabited by Danes, at one time had the same duke for ruler, although each had an autonomy of its own. But about four centuries ago, the duchies became part of the kingdom of Denmark: their new sovereign becoming a duke of the German empire in virtue of his possession of Holstein. When the present Germanic Confederation was formed, the King of Denmark became a member of it upon the same title. Meanwhile the Danish kings had allowed the provinces of Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg to maintain their old "Estates." But as this administrative arrangement was exceedingly cumbrous, embarrassing, and antiquated, the Danish Government of late years has desired to replace it (as Austria has recently done with her provinces, and as our nation did long ago) by one national parliament, in which all parts of the kingdom should be fairly represented. At the same time the old Estates of the duchies were to be maintained as local institutions. But when this measure was proposed, the Germanic Confederation interposed. They maintained that this was not a domestic question which the population of the kingdom of Denmark could settle for themselves, inasmuch as Holstein and Lauenburg, though part of Denmark, were also members of the Germanic Confederacy. They insisted that these provinces should not only maintain their separate "Estates," whatever might be the inconvenience and danger of such an arrangement for the kingdom of Denmark, but also that their governing power should not be merged in a national parliament, but that they should be allowed to exercise a veto on the

imperial legislation. They demand, in fact, that Holstein, Lauenburg, Schleswig, and Denmark Proper, should each have an independent parliament of its own, and an equal vote in the administration, of the kingdom. It is needless to show that such an arrangement would never work; but the injustice of the demand is evidenced by the fact that, under such a constitution, the petty province of Lauenburg, with a population of only 50,000, would have an equal vote with Denmark Proper, which has a population fully thirty times greater. Holstein, with a population of 500,000, and Schleswig, with 400,000, would likewise each possess a veto upon the imperial legislation of the Danish kingdom. Under such a constitution, accordingly, Denmark would become a dependency of the Germanic Confederation.

For the sake of peace, and as "a sacrifice extorted by the force of circumstances," the Danish Government a year ago cancelled the act by which Holstein was to be represented in the Danish Parliament, and allowed the Estates of that province to exercise a legislative and supply-granting power, in conformity with the decrees of the Germanic Diet of 4th March 1860, and 7th February 1861. But this would not content the Diet. Several centuries ago (in 1460!), a declaration was made by a king of Denmark to the effect that the duchies of Holstein and Schleswig should never be separated; and the Diet now maintains that this means they shall never be differently treated—and that as Holstein must have an independent parliament, Schleswig must also have one? The Diet, be it observed, has no pretext of any kind to interfere directly with Schleswig, which never, either with the old Germanic empire, or with the present Germanic Confederacy, was connected; but, say they, "we have a right to interfere in the affairs of Holstein, and as Schleswig and Holstein were never to be separated, we deny that any change can be made in the constitution of the one more than of the other." This is obviously an attempt "to paralyse the Danish monarchy." This was the language of Lord Russell himself when writing to Lord Cowley in February 1861, before his lordship lost his wits a year ago, and to which happily he is returning again now. The object of this attempt on the part of the Germans is transparent. They desire to wrench Holstein from Denmark, for the double reason that the Holsteiners are Germans, and that the Confederacy wants the splendid harbour of Kiel as a station for the German fleet that is to be. Moreover, as German settlers have immigrated into Schleswig in such numbers that they now constitute one-half of the population, the Confederacy desires to keep Schleswig also apart from Denmark, in order that they may likewise get possession of it.

This, in brief, was the Danish question. But since the death of the late King of Denmark, a new element has been imported into it. The late King had no offspring or near relatives to succeed to his throne; and in order to obviate a war of succession, and also to maintain the integrity of the Danish kingdom, the great Powers, with the concurrence of the late King, concluded the Treaty of London in 1852, settling the succession upon Prince Christian of Holstein-Sonderburg (now Christian IX.), subject to the approval of the Danish people. Austria and Prussia were among the contracting parties to this Act, and therefore are bound by it. But the Germans now repudiate the Act. They say that Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg is the heir to the dukedom of Schleswig-Holstein, and that therefore these provinces ought to be separated from Denmark, and made an independent dukedom under Prince Frederick. "We do not care who is to be King of Denmark," they say, "but Christian IX. is not to be ruler over Schleswig and Holstein; these provinces must be assigned to Prince Frederick of Augustenburg, and consequently become integral parts of the Germanic Confederation." On this plea (which is in direct opposition to the Treaty of 1852), the Germans now think they have a good pretext for accomplishing their long-cherished ambition of wresting these provinces from Denmark. At a meeting at Nuremberg, on the 6th December, of representatives from the various Diets of Germany, it was unanimously resolved—"To declare Schleswig and Holstein inseparable; that the Duchies are independent, and must be separated from Denmark; and that Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg is the lawful Duke of Schleswig-Holstein." Such is the popular programme. In justice to the two leading Governments of Germany, we are bound to say that they do not adopt it. On the contrary, they oppose it as far as they find it safe to do so. But they are in a difficult position. The Prussian Government—not entirely by its own fault, for the Chamber of Deputies is still more to blame—has of late become unpopular at home, and it is naturally reluctant to make itself still more unpopular by opposing the general ferment on the Danish question. It also knows that the best means of regaining its popularity, and so diverting the thoughts of its people

from the recent discord between the Chamber of Deputies and the Government, would be by taking the lead in this aggressive movement against Denmark. Nevertheless it holds back as much as it prudently can. Better than its own subjects, the Prussian Government discerns the danger to which Germany will expose herself by commencing at the present juncture an undefensible war. The Austrian Government is in a position not less embarrassing. It has difficulties enough of its own, irrespective of the new quarrel into which the excitement of the Germans now threatens to drag it. But the popular programme finds favor with the Austrian Reichsrath as well as in the Chambers at Berlin. The Austrian and Prussian Governments, therefore, have to look to both sides of the question. Both Governments would give great offence to their subjects if they were wholly to oppose the clamour for intervention on behalf (or on pretext) of the Duchies; and moreover such an opposition on their part would create a general dissension throughout Germany, hardly less menacing to the safety of the Fatherland than the consequence of the crusade which they desire to prevent. Accordingly they have taken a middle course. By exerting to the utmost their influence in the Germanic Diet, they have induced that body, by a majority of one (several of the members refusing to vote rather than support the Austro-Prussian proposal,) to decree only a Federal "execution" in Holstein (instead of the "occupation" which they mean to order), and to postpone any decision on the question of succession. In their circumstances, we believe the Austrian and Prussian Governments could do no more. To have held back altogether, would only have been to put the leadership of the movement into the hands of the ultra party; and unquestionably the Austrian and Prussian Governments regard the "execution" as a means of interposing the regular troops between the Danes and the "free corps" who are eager to attack Denmark in the name of the Pretender to the sovereignty of Schleswig-Holstein.

The Germans are in a fair way to get themselves into a trap. It is natural that they should desire to have the province of Holstein, with its purely German population, united to the territories of the Confederation, but to seize it would be a violation of international rights. As to Schleswig, it was never in connection with Germany, and even on the principle of nationality they have no claim to it. Denmark is a small State, quite unable of itself to cope with the Confederation; but if the Germans think they shall have to deal with Denmark alone, they are wholly mistaken; and the mistake, is likely to be a fatal one for themselves. At the close of last session, in reply to a question put to him by Mr. Fitzgerald, Lord Palmerston declared "that it is the bounden duty of this country to uphold the independence of Denmark; and that if the German Powers persevered in the course which he was sorry to see they were adopting, they would find that they would not have to deal with Denmark alone, but that there were other and greater Powers than Denmark with which the question was to be settled." But it is not the intervention of England that the Germans have to fear; for that intervention, were it to take place, would have for its object simply to shield Denmark. The danger to which they expose themselves lies in another quarter; and it is to be hoped that the influence of diplomacy, and the moderation of the Prussian and Austrian Governments, will yet suffice to avert it. The sudden announcement, on 11th December, that Sweden had withdrawn from the alliance with Denmark, instead of being an encouragement to the Germans to proceed in their aggression, ought to put them on their guard. In homely phrase, they ought to smell a rat. The Swedish Government cannot really separate itself from the cause of Denmark in this question. Depend upon it, the withdrawal is merely a show, designed to postpone a crisis, by inducing Denmark not to cross swords at once with the invaders,—perhaps, also, to tempt the Germans onwards, and commit them irretrievably to a conflict in which, King Charles XV. has been appraised, a certain potentate with whom he is in confidential terms is desirous to take part. Would not a war with Germany in defence of Denmark, with Italy and Sweden for allies, and England favourable to the cause, be just such an opportunity as the Emperor of the French is waiting for? If Russia can be kept off by friendly overtures, and by the task of pacifying Poland,—such a game might be neatly played by Napoleon, and the Rhine frontier won with less risk than by any other way.

Meanwhile the Poles fight on. They make no progress—the insurrection even wanes; but still they fight on. They knew from the first that they could not cope singlehanded with the colossal power of Russia. From the first they have placed their hopes in foreign aid. And that aid may yet come. They have nothing to hope for from Russia now. This is the second time they have risen in fierce revolt. They know the iron despotism that followed

the suppression of their first rebellion; they can be at no loss to understand their fate after a failure of the second. Russia will not allow herself to be embarrassed by the continued existence of so rebellious a nationality. Humane as the Russian Emperor unquestionably is, he cannot allow his empire to be placed in jeopardy by a repetition of such revolts. If the Poles find that movements are on foot which will bring them the expected aid by-and-by, the insurrection may sink into its embers, and await the breath that is to arouse them again into fire. But if they have no such hope, they may be expected to play the part of desperate men more desperately than ever, and to court a struggle with their oppressors of so sanguinary a character as to compel the active intervention of other Powers. We are a staid people,—and all the good sense of England is arrayed in favour of non-intervention in the quarrels of the Continent. But, even with us, there are gusts of national excitement which bear down everything before them. The affair of Snopce decided the question of the late war with Russia. And among the contingencies of the future, there are some which would gravely affect our interests, and others which would passionately excite our sympathies. Despite the decisive *No* with which our Government has met his proposals for co-operation, the Emperor Napoleon does not yet despair of winning our support,—even though, he knows that to some of the objects of his policy, if revealed, England will be unanimously opposed. The European crisis seems only to deepen, and it is not without anxiety, though without alarm, that we look forward to the events of the year.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

### The Earl of Elgin and Kircardine.

*From the London Times.*

The public will learn with the deepest sorrow and anxiety that news of the death of Lord Elgin has been received. The public must therefore be prepared for the loss of one of the most able public servants that the country possesses.

Lord Elgin, who left us but the other day to relieve the dying Lord Canning, as the latter relieved the dying Lord Dalhousie, will in all probability never again see the land of his birth, or enjoy the honors and rest which should be the recompense of his great services. It is, indeed, a dreadful price that we pay for an Asiatic Empire. Whether the constitutions of men in these days, or their previous habits of life are less fitted to a tropical climate, or whether it be that the work and the responsibility are more oppressive than of yore, there has certainly been a mortality among the chiefs of the Indian Administration which is enough to deter men of eminence from attempting it. Every mail brings us the tidings of some one breaking down; of some one retiring for a time, or resigning altogether, on the ground of ill health; and besides the two former Governors-General whom we have mentioned, there is also Lord Elphinstone, who, in scarcely lower posts at Madras and Bombay, showed great administrative abilities, and was snatched away in the full vigor of youth.

The country has thus lost the third of a remarkable list of men, who, after having governed India with transcendent brilliancy and success, have been removed without having an interval granted them to repose in the greatness they have achieved. Lords Dalhousie, Canning and Elgin, were almost of an age; they were all at Christ Church together, and entered public life about the same time. Lord Dalhousie, at an unusually early age, was placed at the head of the Indian Empire, and governed with an ability and spirit which must be acknowledged even by those who look upon some of his measures as unjust and in their result calamitous. He returned home to hunger and die, and was succeeded by Lord Canning, who, going to India with the hope of passing his term of service in the furtherance of peaceful prosperity, found himself engaged during the greater part of his reign in suppressing the most formidable insurrection in modern annals. Lord Elgin succeeded him with the general approbation of the country, founded on his able services in other departments. In 1842 he was made Governor of Jamaica, and was promoted in 1846 to the Governor Generalship of British North America, where he carried through the well known reciprocity treaty with the United States, which has been the source of such benefits to Canada. Lord Elgin's services during his missions to China are so recent and so well known that we need hardly recall them to the memory of our readers. In the spring of 1857 he was sent to the East, and though the Indian mutiny delayed operations for a time, he did not leave China until he had not only signed a treaty with the Imperial Commissioners at Tientsin, but had also broken the spell of Jap-



anese Isolation, and, entering the harbour of Jeddo, surprised the Government into consenting to intercourse with the European world. His second embassy to China was as successful as the first; the capture of Peking was followed by the treaty of October, 14, 1862, and the way opened to that extended commerce which promises to bring the Chinese Empire under the influence of European civilization.

These eminent services pointed out Lord Elgin for the most splendid vicerealty under the Crown, and he proceeded to the East for the third time, to relieve Lord Canning as Governor-General of India. We believe he had suffered from heart-complaint; and though he took great care of his health, particularly avoiding the heat of the sun, it was this malady which, assuming an acute form, prostrated him with the illness which has ended fatally. The Governor-General was in the North-West Provinces; he had passed the hot season at Simla, had lately been traversing some elevated tracks in the Himalayas, and had, it is said, a few days before his illness ascended to a point 13,000 feet high. It may be that this exertion was too much for a constitution which, though apparently good, had suffered somewhat from repeated residence in hot climates. Lord Elgin, who was to meet Sir Hugh Rose at Lahore, was taken, it appears, suddenly and dangerously ill, and breathed his last on the 20 ult.

So falls another of the able and patriotic men by whom the empire of England has been founded and maintained. It may be some consolation to a man to know that he dies serving his country; but, on the other hand, it is bitter for him to feel that he is cut off when only in middle age, with his work half undone, and the happy prospects of public prosperity and private honor clouded for ever. Lord Elgin was not destined to see the full consequences of his courage and ability in China, nor the development of Indian prosperity under his peaceful rule.—To successors we must leave the carrying out of the changes which he began, and there can be no greater disappointments to an active and ambitious spirit. It is strange to reflect that not a single Governor-General remains alive, except Lord Ellenborough, who went out two-and-twenty years ago. Lord Auckland has been long since dead, Lord Hardinge is dead, the Marquis of Dalhousie and Lord Canning have both been carried to early graves. Lord Elgin follows them at the age of 52, leaving the great but fatal prize of the official world once more in the gift of the Premier, who has seen so many recipients of it pass away.

### The Cawnpore Memorial.

During the visit of our former governor general, Lord Elgin, early in the year to the North West Provinces of India, he performed a sad yet interesting ceremony at Cawnpore. From a *Times* correspondence we make the following extracts, giving an account of the proceedings:—

After visiting Allahabad, Lord Elgin reached Cawnpore. It is no mere fancy, no result of horror at the events with which the place is ever associated, that makes men speak of this station as "accursed." It has always looked so, with its filthy mudhouses and mean shops, containing a population 70,000 people, with half-sandy, half-loamy hillocks all around, with clouds of dust sweeping along every road and eternally resting over the place. It has always been a hated station, and now more so than ever. Let me recall the dates, and outline the events of 1857. On the 6th of June of that year the siege fairly began of the small garrison who, under General Wheeler, were defended by a mud wall and ditch, the former only 4ft. high and at the whole such as the worst ruler could take at an easy leap. No less than 100,000 natives filled the city and military bazaars; guns and ammunition abounded; Mussulmans served the former as well as our own artillerymen, who had trained them, and yet, after 20 days' siege, Nana Sahib and his cowards could take the place only by the fondest stratagem. Those who perished in these 20 days were buried in a well close to the intrenchment, where, when I last saw it, there were only a few simple crosses erected by the pious hands of comrades of the soldiers who had fallen. Over it has now been erected a massive Ionic cross, on an appropriate basement. On the face of the cross is inscribed:—

"In a well under this cross were laid, by the hands of their fellows in suffering, the bodies of men, women, and children who died hard by, during the heroic defence of Wheeler's intrenchment when beleaguered by the Rebel Nana, June 6 to 27, 1857."

On the face of the pedestal of the cross is written:—

"Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one

cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth; but our eyes are unto Thee, O God, the Lord."—Psalm cxti.

This well was consecrated by the Bishop of Calcutta on Friday, the 13th of February.

But the most solemn service at which the Viceroy was present was two days before at the Slaughter-house Well, where from 120 to 130 of our women and children were mercilessly butchered. On Saturday, the 27th of June, 1857, the doomed garrison, under promise of protection, made over their guns and treasure to the Nana, and at sunrise began their march to the Sutte Chowra Ghat on the Ganges, about a mile off, where the previous day three of their number had seen and approved 24 boats prepared for their reception. The Ghat was surrounded by guns concealed, and parties of Sepoys with loaded muskets. You know the story. While a quarter of a mile away, the obese Nana, with an anxiety unlike his passive race and contrasting with his foul corpulency, was hastily pacing up and down waiting for the issue; a bugle sounded, grape and shot poured into the boats, which the false crews also set on fire, and only after an hour's massacre, from 9 to 10 in the morning, did the Nana give the order to spare the women and children who yet survived. To them were afterwards added the ladies and three of the officers of the party from Futteghur, and all were confined for a day or two in one house, and then removed to the Beebeeghur, as it was called, a slaughter-house which we afterwards levelled with the ground. Here, with clothes received from the native washermen, and fed at first on native food, but subsequently allowed meat and milk, the miserable captives spent another fortnight, till the 15th of July, when five surviving men were shot, and from 6 to dark five men were sent in by the Nana, who was in the next house, now an hotel, and ended their misery. Not ended, for next morning, when these butchers went with some sweepers to throw the bodies into the well, three or four ladies were yet alive, and two or three children ran round the well to escap: the fiends, while thousands looked on and never raised a finger to save. The facts were all vouched for at the investigation conducted by Government, and are to be found in hideous detail in the "Synopsis of the Evidence taken at Cawnpore regarding the Revolt at that Station in June and July, 1857." In these months, no less than 1,000 Christians perished in Cawnpore. Only seven Englishmen and East Indians, twelve East Indian women, and six loyal natives, who were in the intrenchment, escaped the fate that overtook the rest. Remembering this, how solemn were the memories which crowded on the Christians who took part in the consecration service at sunset on the 11th of February. What was a barren desolation when I saw it, is now a smiling garden—almost a pleasure ground—in the midst of surrounding sterility. No one of the thousands of natives who crowded to witness the scene was admitted within the enclosure. Lord Elgin stood on the steps of the platform erected round the well. The monument consists of an octagonal Gothic screen, designed by Colonel Yule when Public Works Secretary, on a platform which encircles the well. The well itself within is vaulted over, and covered with a pedestal which awaits the statue Lord Canning promised to order from Baron Marochetti. Round the rim of the well and within the screen is written—

"Sacred to the perpetual memory of a great company of Christian people, chiefly women and children, who near this spot were cruelly massacred by the followers of the rebel Nana Dhoondopunt, of Bithoor, and cast, the dying with the dead, into the well below, on the 15th of July, 1857."

Beside the Viceroy stood the Command-in-Chief, and around were all the high officials of Oude and the North-Western Provinces. The event, like the sorrow, was a national one, and "on the part of the Viceroy and the Christian subjects of Her Majesty Queen Victoria." Mr. Thornhill, commissioner of Allahabad, whose brother's bones lay below, and who, with the skull of a born architect and the zeal of pious love, has devoted his whole energies to make the monument and grounds what they are, read Lord Elgin's memorial to the Lord Bishop, as follows:—

"Showeth,—That the present Memorial building, erected over the well into which were cast the remains of a great company of Christian people, cruelly put to death near this place on the 15th day of July, in the year of our Lord and Saviour 1857, together with two enclosures containing the graves of soldiers who died in the same year, the one situated at the distance of 60 yards to the south-west of the said Memorial building, containing a little more than half an acre of ground, and the other situated at the distance of 45 yards to the south-east of the Memorial building aforesaid, have not been consecrated. Wherefore it is desired that your Lordship should now, by virtue of your pastoral and episcopal office, assign

and consecrate the said Memorial building, and the said enclosed burial-places, and separate them from all profane and common uses.

"ELGIN AND KINGARDINE."

The Bishop, his chaplain, the Archdeacon, the chaplain of Cawnpore, and others, followed by the Viceroy and all the Christians present, thereupon proceeded round the grounds, chanting that service which, always solemn, seemed clothed with a sublimity unusual when performed amid such associations. None who took part in it will ever forget it, as the full soldiers' voices rolled out the 90th Psalm in the metrical version. The Bishop's address befitted the occasion, and suggests many a reflection on the present prosperous state of our empire five years after an occurrence intended to sweep us from Asia.

**Extracts from the Reports of the School Inspectors, for the years 1861 and 1862.**

(Translated by order of the Legislative Assembly).

Extract from the Report of Mr. Inspector MEAGHER.

COUNTY OF BONAVENTURE.

In my inspection district there are only 27 schools, instead of 30 which it contained last year; the number of pupils attending these 27 schools is, however, greater than heretofore.

I subjoin a summary of my visits to each of these schools.

1. *Port Daniel*.—Three schools, well attended. Two of the teachers hold diplomas. The results of the examination were satisfactory.

2. *Hope*.—Two schools, well attended and conducted by competent teachers. A good examination.

3. *Cox*.—Three schools, two of which, those in sections Nos. 2 and 4, are well attended; that in section No. 3 has only 16 pupils. Progress has been rapid.

4. *Hamilton*.—Two schools in operation, kept by female teachers and both making satisfactory progress. These two schools are well attended.

5. *New Richmond*.—There is no school here under the control of the Commissioners. They hope to be able to re-establish some in the early part of next year. The three schools in operation are dissentient schools. The houses belonging to the Commissioners are in very bad condition, and they are much to be blamed for their negligence in this respect.

6. *Maria*.—At the time of my visit there were four schools, two of which were kept by male, and two by female teachers; all four are well attended and show satisfactory results, but the progress would be much more rapid if each pupil was provided with the necessary books.

7. *Carleton*.—Three schools; that in No. 1 is a model school, conducted by Mr. Hamel, an able and zealous teacher; it is attended by 60 pupils, and gives entire satisfaction to all. The schools in Nos. 2 and 3 show little progress, and the Commissioners are about to engage other teachers.

8. *La Nouvelle*.—The school in No. 1, kept by Mr. Joseph Gauthier, is attended by 48 children who are making rapid progress. That in No. 2, conducted by Mr. James Wood, is attended by only 18 pupils; little progress. The schools in Nos. 3 and 4 are closed; that in No. 5 has only been opened a few days.

9. *Shoolbred*.—There is only one school here properly speaking, for the three others have only been in operation a short time, and will be mentioned in my next report. The progress in this school is good; the teacher is Mr. James Langton.

10. *Mann*.—A few days previous to my visit to this municipality, a difficulty arose between the Commissioners and the teacher, in consequence of which the latter left the place. He has been lately replaced. The building of a new school-house has been commenced, and a teacher will be engaged as soon as it is completed.

11. *Indian Mission*.—This school is entrusted to Mr. Joseph Dorion, a young teacher from Prince Edward's Island; he is very competent, and his pupils make rapid progress. This school, which is regularly attended by 67 young Indians of both sexes, is under the superintendence of the Reverend Mr. Saucier, who often visits it and encourages it by every means in his power.

12. *Ristigouche and Matapedia*.—There were no schools in operation at the time of my visit; they had been closed a month. The Commissioners have engaged other teachers.

Extracts from the Reports of Mr. Inspector V. MARTIN.

COUNTY OF CHICOUTIMI.

By comparing the tables of last year with those of the year just expired, you will at once perceive that in most of the municipalities great efforts have been made to promote the advancement of education. It is right to add besides that, but for the bad harvest of last year, the progress would have been much more considerable. In some places the heads of families have become discouraged, and the Commissioners, either through timidity or incompetency, have not held their ground by insisting that the ratepayers should do their duty, and in consequence some of the schools have been closed. Perhaps had great severity been displayed, it would have made the schools odious to a great number of persons.

1. The Township of *Chicoutimi* seems to me to be an instance of this, having begun the year well to end it miserably. However this municipality has given instruction to 177 children.

2. I have nothing but praise to bestow upon the Commissioners of the *Village of Chicoutimi* for their zeal and success. The affairs of this municipality are kept in good order by the Secretary-Treasurer. A splendid house forty feet by sixty, two stories high, is in course of construction. The Commissioners, desirous of ensuring to the children an elevated standard of education for the future, have not hesitated to raise a loan of sixteen hundred dollars for this purpose. The schools are attended by 142 children.

3. The *Bagot Model School* has been perfectly kept for three years. The present house being too small to suffice for the requirements of the numerous pupils, the Commissioners have decided to erect a larger and more commodious building. There are three other schools in the municipality, and a house is to be erected in one of the sections, besides the one destined for the Model School. 154 pupils.

4. *Bagotville* contains seven schools, of which six are taught by female teachers holding diplomas. These schools are attended by 251 children, and are destined to yield great results in the municipality.

5. *Laterrière* has three schools, kept by female teachers who hold diplomas. Two of them do themselves honor. 154 children attend the schools.

6. *St. Joseph* contains two schools, taught by a male and a female teacher, both of whom hold diplomas; these schools are satisfactory, especially that kept by the female teacher. Number of children attending these schools, 99.

7. The municipality of *Harvey* has only one school, attended by 38 children; it is taught by a mistress, who holds a diploma and is very competent.

8. In *Notre Dame d'Hebertville* 34 children receive instruction at two schools, one of which is conducted by a mistress who has a diploma. These two schools are of medium quality.

9. *Quiatouan* has displayed extraordinary courage in establishing within its limits two excellent elementary schools, taught by very competent female teachers. I must in justice recommend this young and interesting settlement to your notice. To the zeal of the missionary, the Reverend Mr. A. Bernier, must be attributed the good state of affairs in this place. The schools are attended by 53 children.

10. *St. Jean* has a very good school attended by 53 children. Great zeal is exhibited by this little municipality, and the teacher, who holds a diploma, enjoys a degree of consideration which, I believe, she deserves.

I will venture to make some observations which will shew the reasons of the success which has been attained in my inspection district in the course of six years.

When I was appointed Inspector for the County of Chicoutimi, I found, with the exception of a few well-disposed persons, a population strongly averse to the sacrifices which it was necessary to make to secure the education of their children; and my first report, made in 1856, made mention of only 230 children attending the schools. In order to work with some success among a population so strongly opposed to the working of the Education Act, I thought proper, whilst awaiting a more favorable state of affairs, to use persuasion at the time, until I should be able to substitute for it the law with all its severity. This was at least a plausible method of inducing the people to yield quietly, and of gaining ground gradually over the almost general indifference. More than once it was necessary to pass over the irregularities which were committed. Gradually the schools began to advance more regularly, and increased in number with tolerable rapidity. As a consequence of adopting this line of action, at the same time seizing every opportunity of following the legal course, I saw the number of pupils increase to 1164. The intention of the law is to instruct the child-



ren, and the particular means which I employed seeming to me the most natural and the most effectual, and I thought it my duty not to neglect them entirely. Thus the intention of the law was carried out in many cases. Now that the inhabitants of the county have, in great measure, fallen into the habit of sending their children to school, I think it is time to adopt measures more in accordance with the letter of the School Law, and to this end I shall direct my efforts for the future, hoping to receive sufficient support to close the lips of any malcontents with whom I may yet meet.

Extract from the Report of Mr. Inspector TANGUAY.

COUNTIES OF KAMOURASKA, RIMOUSKI AND TEMISCOUATA.

If the progress is not everywhere so great as it should be, still the whole shows considerable improvement, both in the number of pupils who attend the schools and in the management of the latter.

According to the last census, my Inspection district contains a population of 60,473 souls. By the summary of my last visit, it will appear that there were 8195 children entered upon the school journals, or who had received some instruction during the six months. To this number may be added at least 150 children attending schools beyond the limits of the district, giving 8345 or 1 of every  $7\frac{1}{2}$  of the whole population. Taking the three counties which form my Inspection district, separately, we have the following results:—Kamouraska, out of a population of 21,058 souls, sends 3,664 children to school, that is 1 of every  $5\frac{1}{2}$  of the population; Temiscouata sends 2,497 pupils out of a population of 18,561, or 1 out of every  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , and lastly, Rimouski gives 2227 pupils out of a population of 20,854; thus the proportion is 1 out of every 9.

When the new settlements which form the whole of the eastern part of the County of Rimouski contain a more dense population, and one consequently more in a position to profit by the established schools, it will be seen that this county will not be behind those which adjoin it, and that the parents residing there have as great if not a greater desire as exists elsewhere to obtain education for their children.

There are, in my inspection district, 32 municipalities in which the law is in operation, and two in which it will be in operation in the course of next year, viz., St. Ephrem and Notre Dame de l'Assomption.

154 elementary schools, attended by 6241 pupils.	
10 models schools,	do 647 do
2 girls' sup. schools,	do 116 do
2 academies,	do 208 do
6 convent schools,	do 571 do
2 colleges,	do 524 do
3 independent schools,	do 85 do

Total 179 schools, &c., do 8195 do

The average attendance at the schools during the half-year has been 5,531. Thus, there were absent daily 2,564 children, or nearly one-third!

Not including the pupils at the colleges, convents, and independent schools, it will be found that the average cost of educating each child attending the schools in this district, is \$2.74, besides the school material, which may be valued at \$0.60 for each child. This gives an approximate total of \$3.34.\*

Extract from the Report of Mr. Inspector BOIVIN.

COUNTIES OF CHARLEVOIX AND SAGUENAY.

I am happy to be able to show by this report, that the district committed to my inspection has the same claim as the other districts have, to merit for the progress of education in Canada for some years past. Moreover, the statistical tables which are annexed to this report, exhibit a very great increase in the number of children attending the schools. In 1859, the number of children attending the schools in the eleven municipalities of which my district was then composed, was 1,777; now there are twelve municipalities and 2,078 scholars, shewing an increase of 301 scholars in two years.

\* In this report, as in a few others, there are apparent differences between the figures given and those in the tables of statistics. This is owing to the fact that the tables are not made at the same time as the reports, and also to their being compiled from information obtained elsewhere. In this case the report contains the higher figures, a circumstance which very rarely occurs.

At the same date there were, in my district, only two superior schools, and one of these was only superior to the elementary schools in being called a model school; at present I can count six, which, in view of the benefit they extend, each one in its particular locality and their skilful management, may be classed among the best institutions of this nature.

I remark also, with satisfaction, more zeal on the part of the Commissioners in collecting the school rates, and consequently more punctuality in the payment of the teachers. Of eight municipalities, which in 1859 owed considerable amounts, only one remains in debt, and, thanks to the praiseworthy diligence displayed by the Commissioners of this municipality in following my advice, measures have been taken to extinguish them.

The branches of instruction in which the greatest progress appears to have been made, are reading and grammar.

In many schools, we no longer observe, when the children are made to read, a drawing, embarrassed, and often nasal tone; and the natural voice has taken the place of that tone so forced, and often so disagreeable to the ear; the stops are also observed. Grammar is no longer a book only to be learnt by heart, and teachers are more practised, and to make them understood; parsing is more practised, and, in three-fourths of the schools, children are found who are able to spell.

On the whole, matters have assumed a more cheerful aspect and are making more direct progress; but I do not allow myself to be deceived, and am far from believing the progress to be such as to leave nothing to do but to fold one's arms and allow things to go on as they are.

COUNTY OF SAGUENAY.

11. Tadoussac.—I have succeeded at last, during the past summer, in establishing a school in this municipality; and although the coercive system is not in force, the majority of the settlers being still too poor to be assessed, those of them who are in more easy circumstances have subscribed a sum which, with the assistance granted by the Government, suffices to sustain their school.

12. Escoumains.—This little municipality, although inhabited by families who derive their subsistence entirely from lumbering, continues to make the most generous sacrifices to sustain a good school. The Commissioners, who are presided over by educated and zealous men, leave nothing undone which can promote education. They have this year engaged a female teacher who holds a model school diploma, and was educated at the Laval Normal School, and to whom they pay a pretty high salary.

Extract from the Report of Mr. Inspector HUME.

COUNTY OF MEGANTIC, AND PART OF THE COUNTIES OF DORCHESTER AND BEAUCE

In reporting upon the progress of education in my district of inspection during the past year, it affords me much pleasure to be able to state that considerable improvement has been made, during that period, in many of the municipalities.

The number of children who have attended school will be found to be much larger than in any preceeding year; the increase, as compared with 1856, being upwards of 500, and there has also been an increase in the amount of local contributions. There are, also, a greater number of qualified teachers than formerly, although in some municipalities, in consequence of the difficulty the Commissioners had in finding teachers with diplomas, they were obliged to employ those who had none. There are five female teachers in my district with diplomas from the Normal Schools, three of whom have model school diplomas. The gradual introduction of teachers from those schools cannot fail to be attended with beneficial effects in those municipalities where they are employed; and as a general desire is felt to procure their services, I have no doubt that in a few years, one or more will be found in nearly every municipality.

It is still a matter of regret that the salaries given to teachers are too low. The highest salary paid in my district of inspection is to the model school teacher in Leeds, who has \$240 per annum.

Although there has been a general improvement in many of the municipalities in my district, there are still some in which there is room for much more. I cannot say that there exists anything which could be called opposition to the school laws, but there is, in some places, indifference and carelessness in not sending their children regularly to school.

I am happy to say that the prejudices which existed some years ago in many of the municipalities of my district, against assessment for school purposes, are gradually diminishing. One muni-

unicipality after another is adopting the principle of assessment, and I trust that ere long there will not be a single one where it will not be in force.

I will now proceed to give a brief statement of the state of education in the different municipalities of my district.

#### COUNTY OF BEAUCE.

1. *St. Victor de Tring*.—Some improvement has been made in this municipality during the last year, more especially in the principal school, in which there is now a good teacher. There are four schools in operation. The inhabitants of this municipality have always been well disposed in favor of education.

2. *St. Ephrem de Tring*.—In this municipality there are three schools in operation; and, although none of the pupils are much advanced, some progress has been made. In consequence of a temporary interruption to the schools last year, the assessments were not regularly paid, and the Commissioners are considerably indebted, which arises from the circumstance that since St. Ephrem became a separate municipality, three new school-houses had to be built. The inhabitants are extremely poor, but they manifest a laudable desire to have their children educated.

3. *Forsyth*.—This municipality remains, in a great measure stationary; and, if it were not that the Rev. Mr. Bérubé, the Curé of the parish, takes a deep interest in education, the majority of the inhabitants would allow the schools to remain vacant. There were two in operation at the time of my last visit; a few of the pupils had made very good progress, but in general, the attendance appeared to have been very irregular.

4. *Lambton*.—I am happy to say that in this township there has been very great improvement. The Commissioners have engaged two well-qualified teachers, to whom they pay liberal salaries, and the pupils under them have made satisfactory progress.

5. *Aylmer*.—In this municipality there are three schools in operation, in two of which the attendance has been very irregular, and the progress made has consequently not been as great as it would otherwise have been. The inhabitants of this township are, however, well disposed in favor of education; and, considering their means, few municipalities have contributed more largely than they have done. There is a great amount of arrears of assessment due, but this arises not from any unwillingness on the part of the people to pay, but from the extreme scarcity of money that prevails in nearly all new settlements.

6. *Shenley*.—As this municipality has been erected since my last visit to the municipality in its vicinity, I am unable to say whether anything has yet been done towards the establishment of schools. I intend, however, to visit that part of my district as soon as the state of the roads will permit.

#### COUNTY OF DORCHESTER.

7. *West Frampton*.—In this municipality there are two good schools under the control of the Commissioners, which are very numerously attended, and at which very satisfactory progress has been made by the pupils. These two schools are, however, by no means sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants; but, unfortunately many of them take no interest whatever in the education of their children, and are unwilling to pay for the services of a qualified teacher. One school, formerly in operation, has been closed for the last year, for this reason. In no part of my district does there exist such an aversion to an assessment for school purposes as prevails in Frampton.

The dissentient school, which was in operation for many years in Frampton, was discontinued about two years ago. Another one has, however, been established this year in another part of the municipality, distant two miles from the former, and in a part of the township almost exclusively settled by Protestants. The inhabitants have built a new school-house, and a qualified teacher has been engaged by the trustees.

8. *East Frampton*.—I am happy to say that in this municipality there are now two schools in operation, one under the control of the Commissioners and the other a dissentient, with a prospect of one or two others being soon established. The inhabitants of the district in which this school is situated purchased a building to serve as a school house. Here, as in West Frampton, many of the inhabitants do not take much interest in the cause of education.

9. *Standon*.—Only one school is in operation in this township; it is not very numerously attended, and much progress has not been made. The teacher is sufficiently attentive, but he is rather old for such a task. The inhabitants do not seem disposed to contribute enough to pay for the services of a well-qualified teacher.

10. *Cranbourne*.—No school. On my last visit the Commis-

sioners expressed their determination to have one or more established as soon as they could procure teachers.

#### COUNTY OF MEGANTIC.

11. *Leeds*.—In this township, although as yet there are assessments for school purposes, the inhabitants contribute liberally and cheerfully for the support of schools, and the teachers are generally regularly and well paid. Seven schools under the control of the Commissioners, and one independent school, have been in operation, and very satisfactory progress has been made by the pupils. A reference to the statistical tables which accompany this report will shew that there are more pupils learning the more advanced branches of education in Leeds than in any other Municipality in my district.

A model school was established last year; the teacher has a model school diploma from the McGill Normal School, and possesses high qualifications as a teacher.

12. *Inverness*.—Much credit is due to the school Commissioners of Inverness, for the very energetic manner in which they have carried out the school law during the last year, since an assessment was made for school purposes.

A new division of districts has been made, in order that every part of the township may be accommodated with a school. Seven new school houses are in the course of erection, for which a special assessment was made, and upwards of \$600 has already been paid. Ten schools under the Commissioners, have been in operation; at some of these schools very good progress has been made.

It is the custom, in this township, in many of the schools, to have male teachers for the winter half-year, and female teachers for the summer. This system has, no doubt, its advantages, and is one which is practised in the Eastern Townships and in the United States, but it has also the disadvantage of causing a too frequent change of teachers in the same schools.

The dissentient school is attended by French-Canadian pupils. The teacher is an old man, and does not appear to be very well qualified. The parents of the children are preparing to erect a school-house, and when it is finished it is intended to procure a better qualified teacher.

#### Notices of Books and Recent Publications.

**DRAPEAU.**—*Etudes sur les développements de la colonisation du Bas-Canada depuis dix ans, (1851 à 1861), constatant les progrès des défrichements, de l'ouverture des chemins de colonisation et des développements de la population canadienne-française, par Stanislas Drapeau, agent de colonisation et promoteur des sociétés de secours.* Léger Brousseau, publisher, Quebec, 1864. 593 p., 8vo. with 2 maps.

We have neither the time nor the means of verifying the exactness of the author's statements as to facts; but with this reservation—and in a work of this kind it is an important one—we pronounce this volume eminently important and useful. The method and the quantity and arrangement of the matter are highly commendable, and the author, while avoiding prolixity, is not uninteresting. Besides a general account of the progress of Lower-Canada during the decade ending 1861, we have a separate summary for each county, in which will be found facts and statistics bearing upon agriculture, population, personal property, printing, and religious, literary and social institutions.

**LES BEAUX ARTS.**—This publication enters upon the second year of its existence. It has been considerably improved, and now contains sixteen pages of letter-press and two pages of music. The price of subscription is \$2.

**LA SEMAINE.**—*Revue religieuse, pédagogique, littéraire et scientifique.* Darveau, publisher, Quebec, 1864.

**MESSRS. LAFRANCE, Thibault and Letourneau** are announced as the editors of this new weekly. The first of these names is that of a teacher who has often lectured before the Teachers' Association in Quebec; the second, of a professor at the Laval Normal School, and the last of a former pupil of that institution. Price of subscription \$1 per annum.

**THE CANADIAN PATRIOT.**—Becket, publisher, Montreal; 8vo., 64 p. Price \$1 per annum.

This is a new monthly publication commenced with the present year. It is chiefly devoted to temperance and social reform.

## MONTHLY SUMMARY.

## SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—A newspaper announcement states that the Tea Plant has been discovered by a Chinaman (or, as some say, by an Englishman formerly engaged in the tea culture in Assam), in the United States, "covering a large area of land in the central counties of Pennsylvania;" and that tea of excellent quality and various sorts, green and black, has been made for the market by a company organized for the purpose. We are told that the agent of this company exhibits in this connexion a drawing which is recognized as representing a genuine Tea-Plant.

A specimen of the prepared tea has been shown to us; by which we recognize that this American Tea-Plant is the well-known *Ceanothus Americanus*, the *New Jersey Tea*, the leaves of which were used for this purpose at the beginning of the American revolution. Some one has remarked that the substituted beverage must have tried the patriotism of our great grandmothers; but others report more favourably of its qualities.—PROF. GRAY, in *Silliman's Journal*.

—A Natural History Association has just been established in Ottawa, which we hope will prove active and successful in advancing the interests of Natural History in connection with that interesting region. The following extract appears in one of the Ottawa newspapers:

The public meeting, called for the purpose of organizing a Natural History Association, met, according to adjournment, at the Mechanics' Institute, on Saturday evening last; and after adopting a constitution and code of by-laws, proceeded to the selection of officers, when the following gentlemen were elected for the current year:—President, A. Billings, Jr., Esq.; 1st Vice-President, N. B. Webster, Esq., A.M.; 2nd Vice-President George Hay, Esq.; Secretary, Thomas Austin, Esq.; Curator and Librarian, E. Vancortland, Esq., M.D.; Committee of Management: J. Thorburn, Esq., A.M.; Duncan Thompson, Esq., and Thomas Daniel, Esq.—*Com. Naturalist*.

## LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—Preparations are now making in Montreal for the celebration of the tri-centenary of the birth of Shakespeare. The St. George society has taken the initiative, and a committee is now being formed to decide on the mode and particulars of the celebration. Several propositions have already been discussed, among others those of the erection of a statue and of a competition for a prize-essay on Shakespeare and his times.

The great poet, whom Lord Jeffrey has appropriately designated as the king of English poetry, was born in a humble and lonely cottage in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, on the 23rd April 1564.

Shakespeare wrote according to Malone thirty-five plays in all, viz:—The Comedy of Errors, in 1592; Love's Labours Lost, 1594; Romeo and Juliet, 1596; Henry VI, first part, 1589; Henry VI 2nd part, 1591; Henry VI, 3rd part 1591; Two Gentlemen of Verona, 1591; Richard III, 1593; Richard II, 1593; Merry Wives of Windsor, 1601; Henry IV, first part, 1597; Henry IV, 2nd part, 1599; Henry V, 1599 Merchant of Venice, 1594; Hamlet, 1600; King John, 1596; Midsummer-Night's Dream 1594; Taming of the Shrew, 1596; All's well that ends well 1606; Much Ado About Nothing, 1600; As you like it 1599; Troilus and Cressida 1602; Timon of Athens; 1610; Winter's Tale 1611; Measure for Measure, 1603; King Lear, 1605; Cymbeline, 1609; Macbeth, 1606; Julius Caesar, 1607; Antony and Cleopatra, 1608; Coriolanus, 1610; Tempest, 1611; Twelfth Night, 1607; Henry VIII, 1603; Othello, 1604. Of these, the tragedy of Hamlet is generally acknowledged to be his masterpiece—it is a pure effusion of genius, marked by refinement of thought and sentiment. Of the character Hazlitt, the poet, says: "Hamlet is a name: his speeches and sayings but the idle coinage of the poets brain. But are they not real? They are as real as our own thoughts. Their reality is in the readers mind. It is we who are Hamlet. This play has a prophetic truth, which is above that of history. Whoever has become thoughtful and melancholy through his own mishaps or those of others; whoever has borne about with him the clouded brow of reflection, and thought himself 'too much i' th'sun' whoever has seen the golden lamp of day dimmed by envious mists rising in his own breast, and could find in the world before him only a dull blank, with nothing left, remarkable in it; whoever has known 'the pangs of despised love, the insolence of office, or the spurns which patient merit of the unworthy takes? he who has felt his mind sink within him, and sadness cling to his heart like a maldy; who has had his hopes blighted, and his youth staggered by the apparitions of strange things; who cannot be well at ease, while he sees evil hovering near him like a spectre; whose powers of action have been eaten up by thought; he to whom the universe seems infinite, and himself nothing; whose bitterness of soul makes him careless of consequences and who goes to a play, as his best resource to shove off, to a second remove, the evils of life, by a mock-representation of them. This is the true Hamlet.

## NECROLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—William Makepeace Thackeray was born in Calcutta in 1811, while his father was engaged in the civil service of the East India Company.

He was sent to England in his 7th year, had a view of Napoleon at St. Helena on his way, and was placed at the Charterhouse school in London. From the Charterhouse he went to the university of Cambridge, but he did not take his degree; inherited a fortune of £20,000 on coming of age; chose art for his profession; and travelled and studied for several years in France, Italy and Germany. In 1830-31 he lived at Weimar, saw Goethe, purchased Schiller's sword, and delighted in making caricatures for children, some of which he found still preserved on revisiting the place in 1853. Reminiscences of his early art studies are interwoven into his fictions, many of which are illustrated by his own pencil; but he abandoned the project of becoming a professional artist soon after his return to England. His fortune was greatly reduced by losses and unsuccessful speculations, and before his 30th year he had set himself resolutely to literature as his vocation. His progress to general recognition was slow, though from the first he gave signs of his peculiar powers. He is understood to have written for the *Times* while it was edited by Barnes, and was certainly connected with other London journals. He contributed to *Fraser's Magazine* under the pseudonyme of Michael Angelo Titmarsh, a variety of tales, criticisms, descriptive sketches, and verses, which proved his knowledge of the world, delicate irony, and mastery of a playful yet vigorous style. In this periodical appeared "The Great Hoggarty Diamond" in 1841, a thoroughly genial satire, with a tone at once of ridicule and of pathos. The establishment of "*Punch*" in 1841 opened to him a new field, and his papers in this periodical speedily acquired peculiar distinction. His first series under the signature of "The Fat Contributor," were followed by "Jeames's Diary," in which he looks at society from the footman's point of view, and "The Snob Papers," which gave to him an independent reputation as a social satirist, while they added to the success and dignity of "*Punch*." Meanwhile "*Vanity Fair*," illustrated by himself, was published in numbers (1846-48). When it began, his name was still generally unknown, but its popularity increased with every number, and at its close he was universally accounted with Dickens and Bulwer among the first British novelists. It is more strongly marked by special and peculiar genius than any other of his works, and is preeminent also in the delineation of character. Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley, one of the impersonations of intellect without affection, and the other of affection without intellect, are original characters, thoroughly and sagaciously drawn. He had already begun another monthly serial, "The History of Penderennis, his Fortunes and Misfortunes, his Friends and his Greatest Enemy, with illustrations by the Author." He aimed in this, his second great work, to describe the gentlemen of the present age, "no better nor worse than most educated men." A higher moral tone appears in the characters of Warrington and Laura. "Peudennis" was concluded in 1850, and his Christmas book of that year was a reprint from "*Fraser*" of a mock continuation of Scott's "Ivahoë," entitled "Rebecca and Rowena." He published an original Christmas tale for the next year, "The Kickleburies on the Rhine," a clever and kindly satire on a proud and vulgar family travelling on the continent. In the summer of 1851 he lectured in London before brilliant audiences on "The English Humorists of the 18th Century," sketching the lives and works of his predecessors in English fiction from Swift to Goldsmith. The lectures were repeated and admired in Scotland and America, were published in 1853, and have a peculiar charm from the sympathetic and social portraiture of his "fellows" of the past, mingling fine thoughts and amusing anecdotes. Ten thousand copies of a cheap edition were sold in a week. His attention had been called to the wits of Queen Anne's reign by studies preparatory to the "History of Henry Esmond, Esq., written by Himself" (1852), the scene of which is laid in that era. This is the most artistically complete and the noblest in tone of all his works, while it also admirably copies the manners, sentiment, and diction of the Queen Anne period. The main characters, Esmond and Beatrix, are among his best creations—the former a strong, high-minded, disinterested, and impulsive cavalier and Jacobite, the latter perhaps the finest picture of a splendid, lustrous, physical beauty ever given to the world. It is a magnificent and sombre romance, comparing with his other works as "The Bride of Lammermoor" to the others of Scott. His third serial novel was "The Newcomes: Memoirs of a Most Respectable Family, edited by Arthur Penderennis, Esq." The characters of Olive and Ethel are less vivid than some of his others, the story lingers, but the whole is redeemed by its prevalent genial spirit, and especially by the moral beauty of the life of Colonel Newcome, and by his death in the Charterhouse, than which there is nothing more touching in romantic literature. The success of his lectures on the humorists induced him to prepare another series "The Four Georges," which were first delivered in the principal cities of the United States in 1855-6, and afterwards in London and most of the large towns in England and Scotland. The courts and characters of the Hanoverian monarchs furnished abundant occasion for satire; the third George alone, especially in the misfortunes of his last years, was discussed with forbearance and described with pathos; and the literature, society, morals, and manners of the time were briefly illustrated. Thackeray had entered himself at the Middle Temple and been called to the bar in 1848, but with no intention of following the legal profession. In 1857, one of the seats for the city of Oxford in the House of Commons having been declared vacant, he offered himself as the liberal candidate, he was defeated by Mr. Cardwell, by a majority of 67 votes. Before the close of the year he had begun another serial, "The Virginians," the scene of which is laid in the last century during the later

years of George II. and the earlier years of George III., and in which Chesterfield, Garrick and Johnson, the gaming table and coffee house, Washington, Wolfe, Braddock, and the impending America war, are introduced together. In January 1860, appeared the first number of the *Cornhill Magazine*, under the editorial charge of Thackeray, which soon attained a circulation of some 100,000 copies. He produced in its pages a new romance entitled "The Adventures of Philip on his Way through the World." Thackeray was found dead in his bed. His death was caused by an effusion of the brain. His funeral took place in Kensal Green and was attended by nearly all the great literary notables in England.

—It is seldom our duty to record a death that will cause more general and sincere regret, than that of the Hon. Adam Ferrie. The deceased gentleman was born at Irvine, in Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 15th of March, 1777, and was the youngest of fourteen children. In 1806 he removed to Glasgow, where he continued to reside, until the removal of his family in 1829 to Montreal, with which city he had been commercially connected for some years previously. His memory will long be cherished by the people of Glasgow for the energetic self-sacrificing public spirit which has been his peculiar characteristic through life, but which was particularly displayed in that city, by his zealous and unweary advocacy of the rights of the citizens in the famous contest in the Courts of Scotland, in what is there familiarly known as the "Harvey Dykes Case," which was finally, on appeal to the House of Lords, decided in favor of the people of Glasgow. To testify their appreciation of his exertion on that occasion, the citizens of Glasgow presented him with a handsome gold medal and a service of plate; and on his return to his native land, a few years since, he was complimented by a public dinner, numerous attended by his former townsmen, by whom, notwithstanding his long absence, he was held in fond remembrance. He was raised to the Upper House in this Province, at the time of, or shortly after the Union, by the late Lord Sydenham, and has there earned the respect of all parties by the honest, out-spoken manner in which, on all occasions, he stated his opinions. We need not remind our Hamilton readers that the course taken by the hon. gentleman in Parliament fully justified the selection made by that far-sighted nobleman, and has gained for the subject of this notice the sincere respect even of his bitterest political opponents. The deceased gentleman moved to Hamilton in 1855, in order to be near his sons, who may be almost said to have been the "pioneers" in commercial business in this part of Upper Canada. He outlived all of his children but two. His eldest son, Mr. Colin Campbell Ferrie, who for some years represented this city in Parliament, died in 1858, and Mr. Robert Ferrie, also a member of the Legislature, in 1860. He has died full of years and honors, and the demonstration at the grave to-day shows how fully his character was appreciated by his fellow citizens.—*U. C. Journal of Education.*

—M. Billault, recently deceased, was the Minister chosen by the Emperor of the French to defend the Imperial policy in the *Corps Legislatif*, and it was chiefly on his ability that the Government relied to encounter successfully the new Opposition, which, though inconsiderable in numbers, is rendered very formidable by the great array of talent in its ranks. Born at Vannes, in Brittany, in 1805, M. Billault, Advocate, and the *Batonnier* of the Bar of his province, entered the Chamber of Deputies in 1837, and filled the short-lived office of Under-Secretary of State under Thiers in 1840. He pleaded with success at the Paris Bar, and acted with the Opposition but did not take part in the demonstrations of the reform party which preceded the revolution of 1848. A moderate democrat in the Constituent Assembly, and the first President of the *Corps Legislatif* after the *coup-d'état* we find him in the Senate in 1854, the successor of M. de Persigny as Minister of the Interior. Holding moderate opinions he was one of those able men who could find under different regimes, ample opportunities for the exercise of their talents.

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