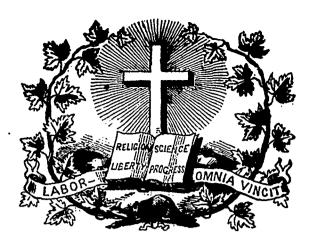
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EDUCATION. JOURNA

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SUMMARY.—Education: The Colleges of Canada.—The McGill University, by Hon.
Pierre Chauveau, (continued from our last).—Infants' schools, a iccure by professor
Hicks.—Remarks on penmanahip.—Catechism on methods of teaching, (to be continued).—Lessons in arithmetic: Fractions.—Science: Things to be observed in
the vicinity of Montreal, a lecture by professor Dawson.—Literature: AngloCanadian literature.—A review of several canadian poems by professor Wisson.—
OFFICIAL Notices: Appointment of school inspectors.—Diplomas granted by boards
of examiners.—Quebec and Montreal, (catholic,) 2 terbrooke and Stanstead.—Erec-

tion of a school municipality.—Labrary of the depertment.—Teachers waiting situations.—Monthly Summany: Educational intelligence.—Scientific intelligence.—Laterary intelligence.—Artistical intelligence.—Official Documents: List of teachers inscribed on teacher's pension fund (continued).—Statement of mones paid by the department since the 1st January to the 31st March.—Advertisements.—Wood Cuts: View of McGill College near the mountain.—View of McGill College near the mountain.—View of Burnside Hall.

THE COLLEGES OF CANADA.

The McGill University.

(Continued from our last.)

institution. The distance from town of the site selected for the erection of the buildings was a serious impediment to the attendance of day scholars, and the unsuccessful attempt at a boarding house which was then made. was equally injurious to the whole undertaking. But probably the

greatest obsta-



purely elementary instruction to that of the highest branches; and it is obvious that in a country like ours, it is difficult to start otherwise. For many years back (and it will be the same perhaps for many years to come) few parents Other causes will also account for the slow progress of the could be induced to follow the more regular course of sending

> their children first to a primary school, and next to the higher classes of institutions. The school which they had first been sent.hadevery chance of being their first an . last station; and if the parents changed the child from one place to another, they little dreamt of allowing him to remain to

cle in its way, was the want of a junior department or the age of fifteen or sixteen in a high school, so as to preparately school connected with it. All our other insti-enter a university immediately after. The second school

tutions have gradually raised from the teaching of almost they went to, was sure to be the last however limited

its programme might have been. A high school equivalent to the lower and middling classes of the old colleges of the country, would have materially helped the McGill University in its infancy; and it is a remarkable fact that street, seems to stand in the middle of a field, and the McTathe commencement of its present prosperous era coincides with the incorporation with it of the Montreal High School.

It was not before the year 1843, that statutes were framed for the government of the college; and in the same year a chair of divinity and two professorships in the faculty of arts were established.

The buildings which had been commenced in 1839, were then completed and although parts of them are still in an unfinished state, they were ready for the reception of students on the 7th of September.

The original plan of these buildings embraced a center building and two wings connected by corridors. Only the center building and one wing on the left side have as yet been erected. Since the erection of Burnside Hall, they have been occupied as residences by several of the officers of the college, and Mr. Fronteau, the professor of French receives in one of them a certain number of pupils as boarders. Young men from the country or from Upper Canada have the advantage under that arrangement of a very comfortable boarding house, together with that of learning the French language from one who is highly conversant with all its niceties and difficulties.

As may be seen by the accompanying engraving the College buildings are placed in a commanding position and are surrounded by a large space of ground, containing some fine trees and which has been much improved recently by planting and the formation of a central avenue. It is expected that the College authorities will ere long complete the original design of the buildings, and hold in them the classes of the faculty of arts as intended at the time of their erection. When completed the whole front of the edifice will be 350 feet, and elevated as it is on a terrace, and surrounded by ornamental grounds, it will have a very imposing effect. Even in its present state, the McGill College is one of the most remarkable objects in the scenery of the mountain of Montreal, and never fails to attract the attention of the tourist.

The huge wall in rear of the College is the terrace or embankment of the reservoir of the city water-works deserving attention and which draws many visitors to that spot. The site of the College buildings as we have said was for many years at a very inconvenient distance from what was then the city of Montreal; but it must be admitted that the directors cannot be blamed for its selection, particularly if they then had in view the rapid development which the city is acquiring every day.

We were much amused a few days ago, in looking at the engravings in a book published the very year in which the foundations of the College buildings were laid. (1) Most of the edifices, which are seen in the plates, have disappeared and are replaced by others of much greater dimensions and of much better appearance. Tracts of land which were then

gardens and fields are now covered with elegant houses; in fact, are the handsomest wards of the city.

In these engravings the General Hospital, in Dorchester vish house, which is near the McGill College buildings at the mountain, has the appearance of a castle built in a forest. Now, Sherbrooke street and the mountain itself to a great distance beyond the priest's farm, are covered with some of the most beautiful residences of the country, which are daily springing up in every direction. If we may judge of what will take place during the next twenty years by what we have seen since 1839, we can say without fear that the present site will then be a very central and eligible one. At all events it affords a most delightful view of this elegant and glittering city, which is perceptibly growing under our eyes, and a distant glimpse of the blue waters of the St. Lawrence with its many verdant islands.

To return to the early history of the College, we find that the first professors appointed in 1823 were: Principal and professor of Divinity, the Revd. G. J. Mountain, D. D. of the University of Cambridge; professor of moral philosophy and learned languages, the Revd. J. L. Mills, D. D., of Oxford; professor of history and civil law, the Revd. J. Strachan, D. D., from Aberdeen; professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, the Revd. J. G. Wilson, A. M. from Oxford; professor of medicine, Thomas Fargues, M. D., from Edinburgh. The first degree conferred by the Colle e was that of M. D. on Mr. W. L. Logie, 24th May 1833.

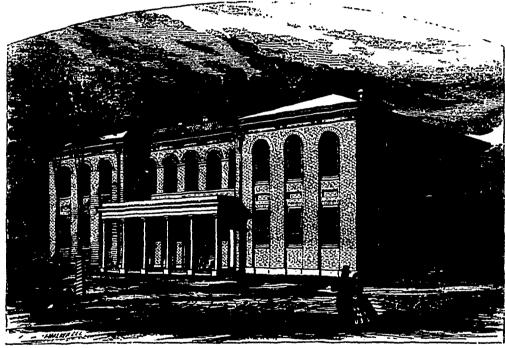
In 1839 the only professors that were connected with the institution were those in the medical department; they were as follows: Dr. Holmes, professor of chemistry and pharmacy; Dr. Robertson, of the theory and practice of medicine; and Dr. Stephenson, of anatomy and physiology. There were besides two lecturers, Dr. George Campbell, on surgery and Dr. Archibald Hall, on materia medica.

From the opening of the buildings in 1843 to the year 1850, there does not seem to have been great progress made, if we judge of it by what is said in the written address presented by Judge Day, president of the board of governors, to His Excellency the Governor General, on the 7th of October 1856, on the inauguration of the new building of Burnside Hall. "The institution thus started was not successful, it " received no general support and dragged on a languishing " existence from year to year without apparent hope of imof provement. Its utterly prostrate condition at length attracted attention and in 1850 the provincial government " was moved by a number of public spirited gentlemen to "aid in an endeavour to place it on a better footing."

In the year 1853 the High School of Montreal was incorporated with McGill College, and became a distinct department of the institution. The first building of Burnside Hall was erected the same year and opened to the pupils in March 1854. It contained the College department, the offices, library and museum of the University, and the High School. From that time, the whole of the operations of the institution were carried on in the city in a most central position, and the result was immediately felt by a large increase of students in every department.

with almost every public building in Canada. There is rebuilt three or four times; and the country has suffered in an intellectual as well as in a financial point of view to an immense extent by the repeated conflagrations of our houses of parliament, national libraries and national archives. The cause is obvious. The cheapness of timber in this country is such that, with the exception of the outside walls, every building is almost exclusively composed of combustible materials. This may answer for private individuals who can compensate their losses by paying a premium to an ins-

rent one. In the United States most of the public collections have placed heen buildings where a stick of wood is not to be found, and among others, the library of the state of New York in Albany, has been made altogether fire proof at an additional expense of about one third of the cost of an ordinary building.



The floors are paved with tiles, the beams, window-sashes, &c., are all iron, and the shelves are a kind of porcelaine like that in use for the ornamental parts of the Russian stoves in this country.

However, Burnside Hall, having been built on the principle universally adopted in Canada, there was no reason why its libraries and collections should not share in the common fate, and on one cold winter evening, in a few hours the greatest part of them was reduced to ashes. This was on the 2d of February 1856. The government immediately placed the old High School (Belmont street,) at the disposal of the directors, and the classes were continued in that building almost without interruption. The activity displayed by the Board of governors was such that on the 7th of October a new Burnside Hall was solemnly inaugurated.

It is a brick building on the site of the old one, at the corner of Dorchester and University streets. It is two stories and as this forms so obvious a portion of the daily routine of the

One sad peculiarity in the history of our Colleges which high, 106 feet in length by 60 feet in breadth with a our readers must have already noticed in that of the Laval projection in the rear, and an adjoining building for the University is their frequent destruction by fire. It is so secretary's office and porters residence. Its style is plain but symetrical and in its internal arrangements and furnihardly a church of some importance which has not been ture it is well deserving of the attention of persons engaged in the direction of educational institutions. The lower story consists of a large hall seated with single chairs and double desks, on the modern plan, for 200 pupils, and five large recitation rooms. This part of the building accommodates the High School department. The second floor contains a convocation hall, capable of seating 300 persons and used for the public meetings of the University and for popular lectures. four large class rooms fitted up to seat the classes of the faculty of arts, and a library and museum. Every room in urance company; but the case of public institutions having the building is provided with ventilating flues terminating invaluable books, documents and collections is a very diffe- in two large Emerson's ejectors, in the roof, and heat is sup-

plied by two Chilson's οſ furnaces in the basement.

(To be continued.)

P. J. O. CHAUVEAU.

INFANTS' SCHOOLS

A lecture made before the Teuchers' Association in connexion with the McGill NormulSchool, by PROPESSOR HICKS.

The Infant School and its system, although intended for the training of a large number of children assembled under one roof,

must not be considered as only deserving the attention of those professionally engaged in instructing the young. They have claims upon all. The mother who desires to train up her children mentally and morally in such a manner as to ensure, in a great degree their future happiness, the sister who has her duties to perform towards the younger branches of the family, the father, brother, indeed all may profit by investigating the principles upon which infant instruction is based. Infant teaching, then, is based upon the fact that the dispositions, or impulses of the mind are accessible in early life to training, and as the neglect of these leads invariably to grave errors, the sooner we begin this education judiciously the better. Precept, although full of importance, will not always protect the young from evil example, which operates in a contrary direction, it therefore becomes important to add something to strengthen the precept, and that we find in good moral and religious training, which forms the second prominent feature in every well conducted Infants' School. As far as intellectual training is concerned, one of the first faculties of the mind brought into play is perception, or that power of the thinking part of our being by which cognizance is taken of objects presented to the senses. By the aid of the senses we ascertain the shape, colour, size, &c., of objects, and it is the training of the judgment in making use of these senses that constitutes one great feature of our infant system.

The third part has reference on the physical training of the child,

school, I need not take up much of your time in speaking of it. countless at Nature herself has happily provided for the maintenance of this the earth. part of education by implanting in the child an intense desire to keep constantly in motion. Its curiosity is unbounded. We, who have reached an age that has allowed us much past time to inspect nations of colours, newness of form, and a variety of beauties, which absorb all his attention. These keep him constantly in motion; three parts:

1st. Religious training; -2nd. Mental training, and 3rd. Physical training.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING.

In this part of a teacher's duty the first care should be to lay an early foundation for the love of God, with such illustrations of his goodness as present themselves to the child in daily life. His goodness and mercy in supplying our daily food—in clothing the beasts of the field-in sending the sun to ripen the corn, and to give us light; and the rain from heaven to water the earth-all these things should be brought forward to confirm our statements; and where opportunities admit, texts of scripture of a suitable nature should be added.

MENTAL TRAINING.

The mental training, or the developing of the mental faculties, of has been attained. which perception is the earliest and most important, demand much care and study. Its object is to enable the child in its enquiry after truth to arrive at just conclusions. Another great purpose answered by this important part of the infant teacher's labour is to excite in the child a disposition to investigate every object that comes before its eyes in such a manner, that in its search after knowledge, it may be led to take a road that will lead to a successful result. This can be best carried out by lessons on objects that are calculated to arrest the attention of the infant mind-

It must not however be supposed that this has reference only to those objects which are occasionally seen arranged on the shelves of Infants' Schools; very often covered with dust, and used merely as ornaments. Almost everything of a portable nature may be brought under the notice of a class of infants. A simple leaf from a neighbouring tree may afford a subject for a gallery lesson replete with food to strengthen the expanding min i. An apple, or a pear, or a beautiful cherry with its ruddy hue, may excite the enthusiastic teacher to exert all his eloquence to win the attention of his listening flock, and to pour instruction into the ready ear. It a qualities of objects, their differences of form, the surfaces of objects, the length, breadth and depth of common things, may all be inverted with interest, and act the useful part.

We will suppose a teacher standing in front of a gallery of 60 infants, from the age of three to ax; the little creatures fresh, from the playground, where they have satisfied their desire to exerto undergo needful training. The teacher produces a flower-pot containing a flower in bloom, or just about to expand its lovely blossoms. Who that has had the gratification of drawing out the minds of children, does not feel the power of such a teachers' posi-tion, not only to arrest the attention of those before him, not only to develop the intellectual faculties, but to strengthen those good feelings of nature upon which the moral dignity of the future man may be built with a sure and certain foundation? The taste may be refined by the beauty of the form, the colour of the leaves, and the loveleness of the flowers; the "form of beauty" which is born in man may be fostered and excited by the entire object as an ornament of nature, but the intelligent teacher, who looks upon the little ones before him as so many immortal souls who are journeying towards a better land, where there are things which the ear has not heard, and which the eye has not seen, will not fail to centre all in the great truth that every trace of ornament is owing to His creative wisdom, of whom the christian poet beautifully says " Not a flower, but shows some touch, in freekle, steak or stain, of His unrivalled pencil. He inspires their balmy odours, and imparts their

countless as the seaside sands the forms with which he sprinkles all

It would give me much pleasure to enter more fully into the advantages which the infant teacher has in thus bringing his charge into contact with objects skilfully treated, so as to draw out the nature, qualities, and uses of most of the objects daily presented the tender mind, but I am afraid that I shall lengthen my paper to our notice, pass with indifference thousands of things that meet beyond its limits, and leave no room for that discussion which will us in our daily path, but the young child just beginning to notice elicit the remarks of many able to give their experience in this the objects that meet him at every step, has an untried field before important feature of wisdom, school education. It must howeve be him; curious appliances mee, him at every step; the simple open-apparent that every one who has this most pliant period of infant ing of the lid of a box is an unsolved mystery over which he spends life entrusted to his care, occupies a position of the greatest moment; a long five minutes; and a new toy presents to his view, combi- and the characteristics of such a one will afford us an opportunity of consideration, from which we may derive great and enduring benefit. He must have in the first place love of children; good and under proper training the physical development of the limbs proceeds with daily accessions of strength and freeness of motion. mind, and readiness of speech, which I feel more and more every day It appears then that the training of the infant can be divided into to be a great instrument in the hands of the intelligent man whether in a private or a public position. It is only those that have had much practice in schoolkeeping, and who have had daily opportunities of noticing school teachers, that can fully appreciate the advantage of the fluent teacher over one who has not had an opportunity by practice of bringing this important talent into play. Without this fluency no instruction can be successful in that picturing out of objects, &c., which forms so essential a part of infant teaching. In order to do this well it is essential that by careful study we should ascertain how far the minds of very young children reach in their endeavours to apprehend what is brought before them. Care must also be taken to use those terms which are simple yet applicable, that the words may so far convey an idea of the object which we desire to paint that the imagination of the child may readily realize it. This can only be done by great practice, and that careful watching of the childrens' countenances, which if properly studied will serve as a guage to measure how far success

> This picturing out need not be confined to objects such as are generally used in schools, but it may be used to explain words, to describe events, paint natural scenery, and anything that the mind of the child is capable of grasping. I need hardly mention that in carrying out this system of word painting, the teacher must be well up, to use a homely phrase, in all that relates to the different methods of questioning, such as the elliptical method, the suggestive method, the place of simultaneous response, besides that occasional individual questioning which puts all the school upon the alers, and secures general attention. Immediate results are not to be expected in any school, much less in one where the gentle, but sure influence of affectionate training can only be resorted to in order to produce good discipline and perfect control. We have all read of the trials of Wilderspin, when he first began to teach his untrained flock, of the clamour that assuiled his cars when the parents had left the school room, of the expedient he adopted by raising his wife's cap on a pole, and swinging it around the room (thus giving his first object lesson), of his after success, when his warmest wishes were realized; and who that has read this has not felt that it was merely one instance out of many such commencements, which by perseverance and diligence have become far more favourable to young teachers, than if their endeavours at the onset had been attended with less trouble and difficulty. There are several other points of interest connected with Infant Schools, which I should be happy to bring before your notice, but these I am afraid I must leave till some future opportunity when I shall be glad of an occasion to enter again upon a subject which I feel to be one of great importance to all, and to none more than to the elementary teacher.

Education of the Hand in Penmanship,

Of that august personage, a pedagogue in a district school, under whose inspection (and spectacles) we took our first lessons in the chirographic art, we have this distinct recollection: Whenever he announced the "time to write," and we were fairly at work with pen, rule, plummet, and copy, he seldom failed to add, with a good deal of emphasis, this special direction in regard to the exercice:

"Let it be short, very short." A very judicious admonition indeed, and one that will apply equally well, perhaps, to any suggestions that may be made in regard to instruction in penmanship. At any rate we shall act in accordance with our appreciation of its appropriateness, and shall make this article short.

It is now quite common, and quite proper also, as it seems to us, hues, and bathes their eyes in nectar, and includes in grains as for children to commence writing at an early age; hence it devolves instruction in this branch,—a branch so variously, and, in many instances, so badly taught. The particular points to which the early teacher in this branch must give special attention, are mainly these to aid the pupil in gaining a clear perception of the form of the letters to be made; to train the muscles of the hand and arm, that the execution of their movements shall produce a character strictly in accordance with the perception of its form; a knowledge of the elements of letters and their combination; and the correction and prevention of bad habits in the position and movement of the fingers, hand, &c.

It is to the second of these particulars that we wish to call attention in this article—the training of the muscles. It should not be inferred, however, that we pass over the first, and neglect to notice the other two, on account of their trivial or minor importance. Far from it. But we propose to do one thing only at a time, and we select this because we think it seldom receives the attention it deserves; and by many teachers, especially those who have themselves been badly taught, it is scarcely understood at all.

Neglect of an early and proper training of the muscles of the fingers, hand, and arm, will invariably result in giving the pupil a stiff, awkward, and undesirable handwriting, and one the execution of which is always irksome and unsatisfactory to the writer. It is equally true that such a style may be corrected and improved in proportion to the cultivation of proper habits and movements of the

muscles.

The first steps, the elementary processes, which are so univer-sally and so justly acknowledged to be the most important in all branches, are particularly and emphatically so in penmanship; and most of all in the manual part of the exercice—the education of the hand. This is true by virtue of a physical law of the muscular system. It is vastly easier to train the muscles correctly than incorrectly, because a correct movement, such a movement as is required for good penmanship, is a free, easy, and natural one, and one readily acquired, for the reason that the muscles are by nature adapted to just such a movement. Strickly speaking, it is simply developing the natural powers of the muscles; and development always gives increased strength to those powers, and additional facility for varied and difficult movements. But a rigid, cramped, and spasmodic movement is always executed with more or less difficulty, for the reason that the muscles are not adapted to such a movement; and if the habit is acquired, it will always be done at the expense of a very irksome effort. Another important fact to be borne in mind here is, that in youth, while the muscles are pliant, cushioned in fat, and abundantly supplied with nervous stimulus and nutritious blood, their movements are executed easily and rapidly. Not that they can, without instruction, perform difficult and artistic movements with the pencil or pen, but they can easily be trained, and their movements will soon become a matter of habit. Later in life the muscles are not so tractable. Even good habits cannot be so easily acquired, and bad ones are corrected only with great difficulty—so great, indeed, that, in a majority of cases, they are not corrected at all. You may train the young sapling and the tender vine-root; but the sturdy tree yields only when broken, and the full-grown vine holds even the giant oak in its strong embraces. Here will be seen the propriety of heginning to write at an early age, when we can avai ourselves of this superiority of youthful muscle. The vast importance of correct instruction at this time will also be seen, that there shall be in after life no necessity for unlearning or correcting, bad hahits-a work, as we have said above, of so great difficulty.

In this matter of training the hand there is need of more specific instruction than teachers of writing in our common schools usually furnish. The directions frequently given are something like the following: "Keep the wrist and forearm free and move easily and freely across the paper. In all cases follow the copy exactly." Now how are the little chubby hands, unused as yet to act with precision, and wholly undisciplined, to execute those movements which require the trained hand of an expert, perhaps of an artist? Such a requirement is simply absurd. "Be careful," says the teacher, "be careful; make no stray marks, and don't write fast." The whole spirit of this injunction to the pupil, at the outset, is calculated to discourage him and to "stiffen the knuckles." a stray mark in the first attemps at writing? Any slight departure from the copy may, we suppose, be so considered, if close imitation is the first thing insisted upon and expected. But imitation is to be attained only after the pupil has by instruction and practice become capable of it. A person may laboriously imitate a pattern without knowing much of the powers of the hand, the use of the pen, or the

upon female teachers, in a great measure, to give the initiatory little of nothing of the art of writing. Again, must the pupil necessarily write slow? May not the movements of the pen be, compaatively speaking, rapid and quick? Are slow movements always enjoined in the mechanic arts, and in instrumental music?

The hand, if properly trained, is capable of executing rapid move-ments, even at an early stage of its education. If there is, beforehand, a clear conception of the letter, and the muscles are obedient to the will, the letter may be formed rapidly and accurately. If with an indefinite purpose, or scarcely no purpose at all, the pen is placed upon the paper, and after its movement is commenced a pause is made, to east the eye to the copy to study its form and pattern, and then the pen is again started, blindly, as it were, or by way of experiment, of course all its movements will be slow and uncertain, especially in their results. That rapidity in writing is desirable, none will deny. Those who are called upon to compose frequently and rapidly, and with a style of handwriting slow and difficult of execution, know what a hindrance a slow-moving and aching hand is to the current of thought. Many of our happiest spontaneous thoughts must be recorded at the instant they manifest themselves, or the train of ideas they would suggest is lost forever. A mechanical power in the hand equal to this current of ideas is absolutely necessary for profitable composition.
Rapidity of execution, therefore, in penmanship is, after legibility,

the most important object to be secured. That it is attainable is no more than every professional or amateur teacher of penmanship maintains, and proves, if he is a skilful and successful instructor.

The old practice of giving pupils straight lines for the first copy is, we are happy to say, nearly obsolete. To draw such a line is a feat that an artist does not felicitate himself upon until his experience has been considerable. To draw it for the sake of practice, merely, is poor policy indeed; for it needs considerable judgment to begin with, and requires but little variety of movement in the muscles. Commencing with a copy-book that must be preserved, and every character of which must be "shown to the committee and visitors," is, we think, equally objectionable. What, then, it may be asked, shall be the first exercise? We will answer that question.

Place a sheet of paper before the pupil, and with a pen execute a few plans movements, such as letters, parts of letters, or simple "flourishes." Do this in the presence of the pupil, and not at home in your own room, nor in the school-room after school is dismissed, where copies are usually "set." Let it be seen how you do it. Then require the pupil repeatedly to do the same, or something similar-not necessarily the same, however. Be very sparing of criticism, and let one object simply be before the mind, namely: to induce the pupil to use the pen freety and without restraint. he is inclined to make other characters than the copy, or to make "flourishes" ad libitum, it is equally well. Not that a hand-writing abounding in flourishes is desirable. It is not. But the first movements of the pen will have very little to do with the style of

the handwriting yet to be formed.

This exercise is to be considered as a muscular discipline. Insist upon its being a frequent one, and if it is done pretty much regardless of copy, or of the lines upon the paper, make no objection, provided there is discernible an improvement in the free swing of the muscles, and the off-hand movement of the pen. Young pupils often have a fancy for a particular letter, or letters, as written by a seatmate, or some friend, and are quite inclined to imitate them. Let it be done, and done freely. If the whole exercise is treated as one mere y to give free play and development to the muscles, and is not cramped by arbitrary rules, there will soon be noticed an improvement, and one of which the pupi himself will be fully aware -a matter of no small moment, as consciousness of success stimulates to greater and more careful effort. Teachers cannot have failed to observe that this same principle and result of free and easy practice is almost daily exemplified in particular cases under their notice. In most schools there are pupils, more or less, who are much employed with the pen, or pencil, in writing, drawing, and scribbling. It is done at the expense of prodigious quantities of paper, and is frequently accompanied with an amount of scratching and noise that is quite aunoying. Moreover, the practice is incessant, unless checked or prevented. But the result of the whole matter is, such pupils almost invariably acquire an easy, elegant, and uniform hand-writing.

Let this practice of the muscles be continued until there has been acquired a facility of movement in the hand, and a command over it, that shall make the pupil fully conscious of considerable executive power with is pen. It may require many days, perhaps some weeks; but in all cases the skill acquired will amply repay the effort and time required for its attainment. This having been best way of doing it; and we have sometimes known pupils who accomplished, the pupil is now prepared to give attention to the would imitate a copy when we were sure they had learned but details of the elements of letters, and also their particular form,

which he will soon be able to execute with great ease, rapidity, and exactness. Of this latter branch of the subject, however, it is

not our present purpose to speak.

That a course of training like the above, thoroughly and judiciously practised, will accomplish a good purpose, we have the best of evidence—the evidence of entire success wherever it has been faithfully tried. Many who are now successfully testing their powers as skilful and rapid writers, in the office, countingroom, and elsewhere, can bear ample testimony to its utility, as a course emmently calculated to commence well the initiatory steps of accomplished permanship .- Massachusetts Teacher.

Catechism on Methods of Teaching.

TRANSLATED FROM DIESTERWEG'S "ALMANAC," (Jahrbi, h.) FOR 1855 AND 1856,

BY DR. HERMANN WIMMER.

(Continued from our last.)

III. ARITHMETIC, (Rechen-Unterricht,) By A. Diesterweg.

What has brought arithmetic into the common school? The wants of daily life—material necessity. Its introduction was historically the first of those which caused a change in the organization of schools. (Rabanus Maurus, in the ninth century, recommended arithmetic and geometry, because they open mysteries, because the Bible speaks of cyphering and measuring, because we pupil can not proceed of his own strength? learn by it to measure the ark of Noah, etc.)

2. Is this the only reason why the present common school teachers retain this instruction, and consider it indispensably necessary?

Not at all. They have recognized in the right treatment of

number, and of its application to daily life, an excellent discipline of the mind; the formal object is added to the material one.

3. How do they compare in value?

The formal object has the preference; in no case is it to be sub-ordinate; the development of the mental powers is in every school the chief point. But they do not exclude one another; quite the contrary. The formal end is attained just so far as the matter to be understood is worked through.

4. What motives decide on the choice and arrangement of the

matter?

First, the "formal" motive; i. e., regard to the mental nature of the children, the laws of human development; and especial regard to the individual nature of the learner; next, various external circumstances-differences of place and time, and of schools. The first motive is universally the same; it dictates the management of the number; the second directs the application of the number, or calculation.

5. How far ought all to advance in arithmetic?

The maximum can not be stated; nor the minimum either, at least in regard to the degree of formal development. It remains to point out the material minimum, and this requires every child to be able to solve the common problems of every day life. It is neither necessary nor possible, that all scholars should reach the same point.

6. What is to be thought of prescribed rules and formulas?
They are to be entirely annihilated. No operation, not understood in its reasons, should be performed, or learned. The scholar must be able not to demonstrate mechanically each operation, but to give the simple reasons which justify it to the mind. The right deductions from the nature of the number and of its relations, are to prove its correctness

Wherewith must instruction in arithmetic begin?

With the numbering of real objects, (cubes, little rods, fingers, etc.)

8. What inductive means are next employed, and how long is

their use continued?

The teacher next proceeds to the use of artificial means, as lines, points, cyphering rods, Pestalozzian tables, etc., and continues to practice the simple changes of number with them, until the pupil has a perfectly clear idea of the numbers and of their quantities.

9. What next?

The teacher advances to the use of figures.

10. What is the treatment of the number, with and without figures?

The latter always precedes the former; the written or slate arithmetic every where follows mental arithmetic. Not only does the cultivating power of arithmetic lie in the insight into the relations the inext-book.

(1) No school can do without an arithmetical text-book. Hence it sufficed to give here the principles. These comain the measure by which we have to judge of the value of the inext-book.

of number, but also the wants of practical life demand preëminently skill in mental arithmetic.

11. Upon what chiefly depends that skill?

First on the ability in handling the decimal principle, (Zehnergesetz:) then on the ability to compare and analyze numbers.

12. How do the exercises with so-called "pure" and with applied

numbers, compare?

The former always precede; application presumes ability in treating the pure number. This being attained, questions, problems and exercises follow; together with denominate numbers, and their

application to life.

13. Are the exercises with numbers from 1 to 100 to come in order after the four rules, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division?

No. All operations ought to be performed successively with these numbers; the regulated uniformity of the operations comes later. (Grube, Schweitzer, etc.)

14. Shall fractional arithmetic be entirely separated from instruction in whole numbers?

No. No. 13 forbids it, and makes it impossible; even considered in itself it would be improper.

15. Which points must be distinguished in pratical problems?

First, the understanding of the words.
Second, the relation of the question to the statement, o. of the thing required to the thing given.

Third, the understanding of the way in which the unknown num-

ber depends on the number given.

Fourth, the finding of the unknown number from the given number; that is, the calculation, oral or written.

16. What has the teacher to do in these four processes, when the

In the first, the understanding of the words and things in their

relations must be explained, and often directly given.

In the second, what is required must be well distinguished from what is given; the propriety of the question must be accurately considered.

The third point is to be brought out by means of questions, from the teacher.

The fourth is an affair by itself, and is the pupil's concern. An exercise is not complete and satisfactory, until the pupil is able to explain these four points, one after another, orally, and without any aid.

The teacher leads by questions, (by analysis;) the pupil proceeds by synthesis. The former proceeds from what is sought, the latter

from what is given.

17. How is talent for arithmetic to be recognized? Besides what has been said in No. 16,—by the independent invention of new methods of solving the problems, of peculiar processes, etc.

18. In what way may uniformity in arithmetical instruction be

gained?

By solving each problem rationally, according to the peculiar nature of the numerical relations occuring in it, and consequently, without admitting any external rule or formula, which on the contrary ought to result from the subject itself. Uniformity lies in the rational, transparent treatment, and, therefore, in the mind, not in the torm. Good rules, etc., are not indifferent, but they must follow the observation of the thing.

19. Which is the most simple, natural and appropriate form of

managing the problems externally?

Not the doctrine of proportion; it is too artificial, and too difficult for the common school; nor the claim rule, etc. The best form in slate arithmetic for the common school is the so-called "Zweisatz," the fractional form, (bruchform,) which every where requires reflection. (Scholz.)

20. What is the value of the so-called "proofs" and abreviations? The proofs are, with a rational method, superfluous; the latter are of little value. A well guided pupil finds them out himself, and if, in the highest class, some of them are pointed out to him, their origin, and thus their correctness, must be demonstrated at the same time. (1)

IV. Geometry, (Raundehre,) by A. Diesterweg.

Is Geometry required in the common school?

No doubt, for it teaches the forms in which every thing appears; the shape of matter and the laws of those forms; the laws of space and of extent in space; the dependance of magnitudes and forms on each other.

cultivation?

Because the whole mass of bodies, the universe, as well as man, exists in space; because without the knowledge of the qualities of space, man would be ignorant of that appearance of things which belong to their inmost nature; because geometry teaches how to measure lines, surfaces and bodies, which knowledge is very necessary; because without it man could not divine, that the distance and size of the sun, moon and stars, could be determined; and because he would even have no idea of the extent of his own abode, and of the mathematical, i. e., fundamental qualities of the same. All this is consequently requisite for general human cultivation, not to speak of its practical value, as well for female as male education, and therefore for the common school, the school of the people. Without it, not the most indispensable part, but an essential part, of education is wanting.

3. What elements of geometry are to be taught in the common school? and in general what parts of it may be considered there? Space admits of "intuitive," (anschauliche,) and a demonstrative,

(begriffsmassige,) observation.

The intuitive faculty of man perceives immediately objects in space, bodies in their qualities and forms; with the sense of touch he perceives what opposes him in space, the body and its external form; the sense of sight assists him, by determining extent and distance, and by comparing and measuring them. These are operations of external intuition. The intellect abstracts the differentia of the bodies, and fixes the pure, mathematical form; and thus aids the interior pure, or mathematical intuition. Moreover, the logical intellect, perceiving the dependence of magnitudes on each other, their mutual conditions, the inference of the one from the other, deduces and concludes.

The intuitive part of geometry is that elementary part which is proper for the common school. But thereby is not meant, that the pupils should not learn the dependence of one thing on the other; this even can not be avoided, it comes of itself; but according to the degree of ability, quicker and deeper with one than with another, and one school will make more progress in it than another. But the power to be immediately employed is the faculty of observing-first, the exterior, and then, and preeminently, the interior. The con-clusions connected with that observation result therefrom spontane-ously; the intellect works without being ordered. Therefore, in geometry, as every where-a fact, ignorance of which, causes much merely repetitions and lifeless teaching, as well as intellectual dependence and immaturity—the teacher ought to lead the scholar to immediate, true and vivid perceptions.

The strict or Euclidean geometry, with its artificial proofs, is not fit for the common school, nor does it prosper there.

4. What is more particularly the subject of geometrical instruction in the peoples' school?

The qualities of (mathematical) lines, surfaces and solids.

5. What method is to be pursued with it?

The point of starting is taken in the physical body; and from this

the mathematical one is as it were distilled.

The order of single precepts or propositions is, as has been said, as much as possible genetical. Pedantry and auxiety are here, as every where, prejudicial. The method, always intuitive, requires originality, i. e., the evolving of every thing learned from some thing preceding; aims at immediate spontaneous understanding of one thing through the other.

6. What is the immediate purpose of this instruction ?

To understand the qualities of lines, plains and bodies; to measure and calculate them.

7. What instruments are used by the pupil?

Pen and pencil, for drawing; compass and scales, for measuring; the usual measures of lines, surfaces and bodies, for calculating.— (Barnard's, American Journal of Education.)

(To be continued.)

Lessons in arithmetic.

ON VULGAR FRACTIONS.—No. 2. (1.)

V. Addition and subtraction of fractions:-Addition has been defined as the process of finding one number, called the sum, which ohall be exactly equal to two or more numbers. From this definition it follows that in order to add numbers representing objects, they must be of the same kind or denomination; for example it is evident we cannot express in one sum 3 oranges x 5 apples; before

2. Why is such knowledge considered as a requisite for general the addition can be effected, but no difficulty exists in the following cases 3s. x 5s., = 8s., 10 marbles x 15 murbles = 25 marbles.

Now let us endeavour to apply the above in the case of the addition of two fractions. Suppose an apple to be divided into 9 equal parts, 3 of these parts will be 3-ninths and 5 parts, 5-ninths, and it is plain that the sum of 5-ninths, and 3-maths is 8-ninths; for as in each case unity is divided into the same number of parts, each part is of the same size or value, and we wish to find the sum of 3 and 5 of those parts. Therefore when the denominators are alike, we simply add the numerators and retain the same denominator for our new fraction. Again, let it be required to find the sum of 23 and 34. Here the denominator of each fraction is different, and concequently the size or value of the part is different; that is, 2 parts of unity of a certain size are to be added to 3 parts of a different size. Therefore, 2-thirds and 3-fourths cannot be added while the tractions remain respectively thirds and fourths, any more than £2 and 3 crowns can be added, so long as the £'s remain pounds, and the crowns remain crowns. In the latter case however the addition can be effected by expressing the value of the pounds and crowns by an equivalent number of some common coin, as the shilling, of which the pound and crown are both multiples. In like manner 273 can only be added together, when they are expressed as fractions, whose denominations are some common part of unity of which one-third and one-fourth are respectively multiples. Now we have shown that any fraction may be expressed in a variety of forms by multiplying the numerator and denominator by the same number, and it is easy to select two numbers one of which multiplied into the numerator and denominator of the first fraction and the other into the numerator and denominator of the second, shall reduce the fractions to a common denominator.

Thus the L. C. M. of 3 and 4 = 12and 2/3 = 2x/3x1 = 8/12 also 3/4 = 3x8/4x1 = 9/12therefore $2/3 \times 3/4 \ 8x9/12 = 17/12$

Or it may be demonstrated by taking a line and dividing it, that 1/3 = 4/12 and therefore 2/3 = 8/12; also, that 1/4 = 3/12 and therefore 3,4 = 9,12 Hence to add fractions, reduce them to a common denominator add the numerators, and retain the common denominator for the new fraction. In the same manner it can be proved that to subtract one fraction from another they must be reduced to a common denominator. For it is evident we cannot compare quantities referring to different things. Hence the rule will be similar to that for addition, viz,-Reduce the fractions to a common denominator. subtract the numerators, and retain the common denominator.

VI. Multiplication of fractions.

We have already considered the case of the multiplication of a fraction by a whole number, and it now remains to consider the general case of the multiplication of a fraction by a fraction. Take, for example, the two fractions 314 and 517, and let it be required to find the product of 517 multiplied by 314. Now multiplication is defined as the addition of a number to itself as many times as is indicated by the multiplier: thus, 3 times 4 means 4 added to itself 3 times, as it is impossible to add 577 to itself 374 times or 374 of a time. To ascertain then, what is meant by 517 multiplied by 314, we must understand exactly what 3,4 means as that is our multiplier. Now we have shown that every fraction has two meanings, and according to the second of these 3/4 equal 1/4 of 3; therefore 3/4 x 5/7 is the same thing as 1/4 of 3 x 5/7. But 3 x 5/7 is 5/7 added to itself three times or 15/7, and 5/7 multiplied by 3/4 or 1/4 of 3 must give 1/4 of this result, which will evidently be the required product, viz., 15/28. It will be observed that this result has really been obtained by multiplying the numerators and denominators of the fractions together. And it will be seen, that, to multiply any quantity by a fraction, is to add that quantity to itself, as many times as there are units in the numerator of the fraction, and to take such a part of this result, as is indicated by the denominator of the fraction.

VII.—Division of Fructions.—To divide one quantity by another, is to find how many times the latter is contained in the former. It is evident, from this definition, that numbers can only be compared by this rule when they refer to objects of the same kind. A number of days, for instance, cannot be contained any number of times in a number of acres; but 3s is contained in 15s. five times, &c. To divide then 8,9 by 4,9 is to find how often 4 ninths is contained in 8 ninths. The answer is evidently 2 times or twice; for 8,9 are exactly twice as many ninths as 4,9. Again let it be required to divide 314 by 415. Reducing the fractions to a common denominator, 3/4 divided by 4/5 is the same thing as 15/20 divided by 16/20, and from the preceding 16/20 is contained in 15/20 as often as 16 is contained in 15 i. e. the quotient obtained by the division of 15,20 is the same as the quotient obtained by the division of 15 by 16. Now we have proved that a fraction expresses the quotient obtained by

the division of the numerator by the denominator; therefore the result must be the fraction 15/16 the only form in which the quotient can be expressed. Now this result can be obtained at once by algor which I formulatelying the dividend by the divisor inverted, for, 15,16 = 3,74 x ing a monograph of 3x,5x4xy4. This method is adduced from the above. For ingelial to receive reducing the fractions 3,74 and 4,75 to a common denominator, we multiplied the numerator of the fraction 3,74 by 5, the denominator of the fraction 4,75 by 4 the specimens: denominator of the fraction 3/4, and the two denominators together for the common denominator. In dividing, however, we neglected the latter, and obtained, the result 3x/5x4x4 or 15/16. In is evident, then, that we divide one fraction by another when we multiply the numerator of the dividend by the denominator of the divisor, and the denominator of the dividend by the numerator of the divisor, or in other words, when we invert the divisor and proceed as in muttiplication.—Papers for the Schoolmaster.

SCIENCE.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Things to be observed in Canada, and especially in Montreal and its vicinity. The introductory Lecture of the Popular Course of the Montreal Natural History Society, winter of 1857-8.—By the President, PROFESSOR DAWSON.

There are in all places some things which every one sees, and other things which, though equally or more interesting, very few see. Every visitor to Montreal is likely to know something of our public works and buildings, our mountain and its scenery, our rapids, and many other prominent objects, interesting to naturalists no doubt, but equally so to other men. It is not present to ists no doubt, but equally so to other men. It is not necessary to refer to such things as those; and I propose this evening to direct your attention to some more obscure and less noteworthy objects, deserving attention from those among us who love the study of nature.

In order to receive much pleasure and some advantage from the study of natural history, it is not necessary to be a great naturalist. In this subject we do not repel the tyro with the harsh warning, drink deep or taste not. We hail every young inquirer as an aid, and are glad to have the smallest contributions which are the result of earnest and well directed inquiry. In truth a large proportion of the new facts added to natural science, are collected by local naturalists, whose reputation never becomes very extensive, but who are yet quoted by larger workers, and receive due credit for their successful efforts. A few men highly gifted and widely travelled, or thoroughly conversant with all the details of special subjects, are consulting naturalists, and the reducers into a more general and scientific form of the tacts obtained from many quarters; but still the great majority of naturalists, and among them many of the most estimable and useful, are very limited in their field of actual observation.

We have several such men in Montreal, as well as a few of somewhat more extended reputation; and there are no doubt a number of young persons who might be induced to devote some portion of their leisure to such studies, did they know of a profitable field of enquiry. To such I have no doubt that the topics of

this lecture will be of interest.

Good works of art are rare and costly, good works of nature are scattered broadcast around our daily paths; and are neglected only because their familiarity prevents us from observing their surpassing beauty and interest. Nor are all of these objects known even to naturalists. There are, more especially in these new countries, scarcely any objects that have been thoroughly investigated, and there are vast numbers that are quite unknown to science. I cannot in the space of one lecture point to even the greater number of these objects,—nor is it possible to conjecture the results which may attend inquiries prosecuted in new directions. It may, however, be possible to direct your attention to some leading departments of the great field of nature, that deserve your attention.

Let us inquire in the first place for the most promising local

fields of inquiry in the domain of zoology.

To begin with the lower members of the animal kingdom, I am not aware that anything has been done with our spongillæ or streams, and though very low and simple in their structure, much paratively little examination of these creatures or inquiry into interest attaches to their growth, nutrition and reproduction. They their habits has been made within the limits of the Province;

are soft gelatinous structures, with an internal skeleton of silicious spicula, greenish in colour, and resembling some of the fresh water algae which live with them. Dr. Bowerbank, of London, is preparing a monograph of the sponges, and informs me that he will be glad to receive specimens from our waters. Here then is an open-ing for a young naturalist. I quote the following from Dr. Bower-bank's printed circular, and shall be glad to receive and forward

"The writer would also be particularly obliged by specimens of "The writer would also be particularly obliged by specimens of spongillae, or fresh-water sponges, as he is engaged on a monograph of that tribe. They are found in rivers, lakes or tanks, and pools, attached to dead wood, rocks or stones, and are occasionally found surrounding the branches of trees, dipping into the water during periodical floods; and if they contain their granular, seed-like bodies, they are the more valuable. Dry them just as they come from the water. If it be deemed necessary to preserve parts or the whole of delicate specimens of either marine or freshwater, sponges in fluid, the best material is stone spirit, or water

parts or the whole of delicate specimens of either marine or freshwater sponges in fluid, the best material is strong spirit, or water with a considerable excess of undissolved salt in it, but never alum. Jars or pickle and fruit bottles, well corked and sealed, or tied over with bladder, are the best vessels for the purpose."

Rising a little higher in the scale of life, little has been done with our fresh-water polyps, whether the simple hydra-like forms or the more complex fresh-water bryozoa. Great reputations have been made by the study of such creatures in Europe,—and in a land of streams and lakes like this, much could certainly be done in collecting now forms, and adding to our knowledge of the hain collecting new forms, and adding to our knowledge of the habit, and range of organization of the fresh-water radiates. These animals should be sought in lakes and streams, especially on sub-merged wood, fresh-water shells, and the lea es of aquatic plants. They may easily be kept in water for examination, and careful draw-ings should be made of their forms and internal structures as seen under the microscope. It is difficult to preserve them; but I would recommend immersion in glycerine or the method above given for

sponges, as likely to succeed.

The mollusks also offer tempting fields of inquiry, more cultivated than those formerly noticed, but still having large promise. Many species of unio, alasmodon and anodon, exist in our river, most of them no doubt identical with species described by Amerimost of them no doubt identical with species described by American naturalists, but some perhaps new, and many requiring more careful study as to their habits, reproduction, and the real limits of species and varieties. The univalve mollusks are also very numerous, both in the waters and on the land, and require study, more especially in relation to the animals as distinguished from the empty shells. Such studies demand patience and nicety, and would be greatly added by vivaria, in which these creatures can be easily kept alive and examined at leisure. Mr. Billings, one of our members, has done some work in this field, portions of which have appeared in the Canadian Naturalist. Prof. Hall will bring before us this winter some interesting facts, respecting will bring before us this winter some interesting facts respecting the occurrence of pearls in the fresh-water mussels, and Mr. Bell of the Geological Surve, has collected many species in the lower part of the river.

Many members of this Society have opportunities of collecting marine shells in the Gulf of St. Lawrence,—this is also a useful field of inquiry. Rear Admiral Bayfield has made large collections in the course of his survey. My own collection contains many species. More recently Mr. Bell exhibited to us a very interesting collection from the head of the Gulf between Gaspé and Quebec. I have no doubt that much may still be done, and these shells would be of great interest for comparison with those found fossil in the tertiary clays, long since deserted by the sea. While speaking of the marine fauna, I may add that the echinoderms, the zoophytes and crustaceans, also afford fields of much interest and promise, still very imperfectly cultivated.

Of the huge province of the articulates I am almost afraid to speak. There is work here for all the naturalists in Canada for the next century. Mr. Couper of Toronto has collected and identified several hundreds of species of coleoptera; and his collection, now in the McGill College, affords a good basis for any one desirous of commencing the study of these creatures. Mr. D'Urbain of our own Society has entered on the investigation of the butterflies. With the exception of what has been done for us by the Arctic explorers, and the naturalists af the United States, the other orders of Canadian insects are almost a terra incognita. In the mean time the country is suffering so seriously from the ra-To begin with the lower members of the animal kingdom, I vages of many of the insect tribes, that the attention of Governam not aware that anything has been done with our spongille or ment has been attracted to the subject, and the essays produced fresh-water sponges. Such organisms must exist in our lakes and in answer to its call, by Prof. Hind and others, show that comnearly all the facts contained in these essays, having been collected from abroad though the value of the essays published, and the large number of competitors, show that we have persons qualified for the work. For hints very useful to the young naturalist, I may refer to the papers on collecting insects, and on the distribution of insects, by Mr. Couper, published in the Naturalist.

Who knows anything of the mynads of minute crustaceans and aquatic worms that swarm in our waters in summer. I have a seen enough to be assured that there may be beginned to the papers of the same and the strongly impressed that there may be beginned to the section of Mr. Kane, exhibited here during the meeting of the agents of the assured that there may be beginned to the summer. I have a summer that the summer that there may be beginned to the summer that the summer t

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against whith the water in same is legion, but I am not your minds with the interest of the subject, as it is lates to the aware that any one has collected or determined the species Indian tribes. Mr. Kane was fortunate in having to able an expooccurring here. The subject is a difficult one, but many of these siter of his collection as Dr. Wilson; and I may add that Canada is creatures are exceedingly curious in structure and habits; and fortunate in having an ethnologist so well fitted to lead in this collections of facts and specimens might be made, by any one department. Surely, some of our members might contribute somehaving time to devote to such pursuits.

Among the vertebrated animals, though there is little ground Among the vertebrated animals, though there is little ground so completely untraversed as in some of the lower forms of life, much may still be done. In one department the late Prof. McCulloch and Prof. Hall long since set a good example, in collecting birds and other vertebrates, and preparing lists of those frequenting or rarely visiting this locality. The geographical distribution of the higher animals as illustrated by such collections and lists, is in itself a very important subject.

in itself a very important subject.

The fishes of our rivers afford a fertile subject of inquiry. Many of the smaller species are probably undescribed, and there are some of peculiar interest which deserve study in their habits and modes of life. I refer especially to the Lepidosteus and the Amia, those ancient forms of ganoid fishes which remind us so strongly of the antique species found fossil in the Palwozoic rocks, and a minute acquaintance with whose habits might throw most interesting light on the condition of the world in those bygone particle. periods. Information on their spawning grounds, their haunts at different stages of growth, their food, their winter and summer different stages of growth, their food, their winter and saminer, resorts, their migrations, their peculiar instincts, if carefully collected, would be of inestimable value. Living specimens, which might be kept in vivaria and examined at leicate, would also be remains to be done in investigating the uses of native plants not of great interest, and might be procured by many persons who now applied to practical purposes in the anter in domestic life; and that as Canada becomes more populous, and agriculture less have not themselves time or inclination for such studies. Agassiz, who has already so ably illustrated the structures and affinities of who has already so ably illustrated the structures and affinities of these animals, has invited collectors to contribute specimens for his great work now in progress; and any facts relating to the should our forests and the means for their preservation and restohabits of these inhabitants of our waters, will be gladly received ration to such an extent as may be desirable for shelter and for the tor this journal. I should add here, that Mr. Fowler, one or our supply of wood, be neglected by scientific men. Rich gleanings, members, has prepared a number of accurate and beautiful draw-applicable to Canadian practice, may be made in this direction,

ascertained. The mice, the shrews, the bats, are very imperfectly known. There may be unknown species. There certainly are many unknown facts in distribution and habits. Mr. Billings has many unknown facts in distribution and habits. Mr. Billings has geographical distribution of plants, so ably expounded by De Canpublished in our journal an interesting summary of facts on Canapublished in our journal an interesting summary of facts on Ca Work of Mr. Gosse, 23 well as in the standard works of Richardson & Audubon. I would especially invite attention to the mice and other small rodents, and the shrews. Only a few days ago a fine pair of specimens of the old Black Rat of Europe, which I did not know as a resident of Canada, were procured by Mr. Hunter, beautifully prepared by him, and presented by a friend to the College Cabinet, affording an illustration of the curious facts that may be learned even within the limits of our city.

I had almost forgotten to refer to the reptiles of Canada. magnificent volumes of Professor Agassiz shew what may be done with one family, that of the tortoises. None of us, perhaps, can enter into the study in the manner in which this great naturalist has pursued it, but many may collect important facts and specimens. We do not yet know much about the numerous snakes, frogs, toads and newls of Canada, though many specimens exist in the collections of this Society, of Dr. McCulloch, and of the University. Even a catalogue of the specimens in these collections would be valuable. Unattractive though these creatures may appear to the popular view, they afford more than most other animals evidences of the wonders of creative skill.

One little batrachian reptile I regard, as a geologist, with peculiar interest, and would commend to your notice. I refer to the Menobranchus, or Proteus, a creature most unattractive in aspect, but most singular in its habits and mode of life, and a representative of the earliest forms of air-breathing life introduced upon our planet. No gift would afford me greater pleasure than a few living specimens of this animal, which might enable me to become better acquainted with ite mode of life, and thus tter to appreciate the probable habits of some of its extinct congeners, whose bones I have disinterred from the carboniferous rocks. Some edition of his manual, give facilities heretofore within the reach of

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thing to his great subject. Specimens reating to it are not often laid before us. We received, however, last year, through the Bishop of Montreal, a curious ancient urn, which excited much interest. I have since been in coriest adence with the gentleman who made known the discovery, and nope to obtain further information and specimens. On the return of his Lordship, w possesses the original notes on the subject, I trust this interesting relic will be figured and described in our journal.

Plants afford as many local attractions as animals, but I shall occupy less time with the subject of Botany than with that of Zoology. A very large herbarium has been collected by the oldest living member of this Society, Professor Holmes; and as we now have it arranged by Professor Barnston, in the Cabinet of McGill College, it affords an invaluable means of reference to the student. Dr. Barnston is now engaged in preparing a catalogue of this and his own collections, which will, I trust, be published under the auspices of this Society; and it will then be for subsequent collectors to add to this already extensive list such species as may still

remain undiscovered.

ings of Canadian fishes, and can thus perpetuate for us the fleeting from the expedients employed in European countries; and in a country in which one-third of the soil should probably remain in Even the smaller quadrupeds of Canada are by no means well forest to supply the permanent demand for fuel and other uses, this

subject is of great practical importance. Another subject less practical, but profoundly interesting, is the in the last volume of the Canadian Naturalist, show how much can be done in this field. But it is not merely in relation to botany that this inquiry is of interest. Edward Forb's has shewn that great questions in geology are illustrated by it; and nowhere better than on the American Continent can it be studied in this aspect. Let us inquire respecting any plant, what are its precise geographical limits? To what extent do these depend on climate, elevation, exposure, soil. What inferences may be deduced as to the centre from which it originally spread, and what as to the changes in the extent of the land and the relative levels of land and sea that have occurred since its creation? Here are fertile subjects of inquiry, leading to the grandest conclusions in reference to the history of life upon our planet.

But I must turn for a moment from this great subject to the humbler members of the vegetable kingdom, no less curious than the higher, and less known. One of our members, the Rev. Mr. Kemp, has directed his attention to the fresh-water Algae, and has contributed a valuable paper as the first result of his inquiries. Mr. Poe, another of our members, is an enthusiastic student of the Fungi, and other more minute and simple forms of plant life. A summary of what is known of these objects, as occurring in Canada, will be given to us by Mr. Poe in the present winter; and I have no doubt will excite some interest in these singular and anomalous structures, so curious in their habits and often so injurious to our property.

The Mosses, Lichens, Lycopodiacee, Ferns, and other allied families, offer many rewards to any diligent student; and the excellent arrangement and descriptions in Professor Gray's new

few. There may be Canadian botanists engaged in this study, pect that curious facts as to the distribution of these plants might be obtained, from their study on these isolated trappean eminences, in a limestone and alluvial country.

The naturalists and professional men of Montreal have devoted much attention to the interescope; and our city possesses many good instruments, daily increasing in number, and affording a most delightful and instructive means of scientific observation in all departments of Natural History. Among our members, Mr. Poe and Mr. Murphy deserve especial mention, as having devoted much time and effort to the improvement and increase of our means of study in this department.

study in this department.

Geology presents on every side ample harvests to the inhabitants of this city. Our noble mountain,—the skeleton of an old silurian volcano, with its multitudinous trap-dykes of various age and composition, is itself a study capable of throwing new light on the phenomena of volcame agency as manifested in those ancient periods. The stratified rocks at its base, full of fossils,—many of them no doubt undescribed, and, in some of their beds, actually made up of the comminuted fragments of shells and corals,—invite the attention of the most unobservant. Every block of building-stone from our quarries is a mass of animal debris, presenting under the microscope hundreds of beautiful forms bearing the impress of creative skill, though belonging to perished races of animals. Our worthy associate, Mr. Billings, now most usefully connected with the Geological Survey, is a brilliant example of reputation, and, what is better, accurate and extensive knowledge, gathered from the study of the Lower Silurian limestones.

I need scarcely remind you of the tertiary clays to which I had the pleasure of directing the attention of this Society at one of its late meetings. They have yielded in the past summer about thirty species of animal remains not previously known to exist in them; and many of these have been brought to light by the industry of our College students. Some even of the boys of the High School now have collections of these fossils, and have been processful in adding to the number of consist. successful in adding to the number of species. Much yet remains to be done in this field; and I look forward to the time when we shall have nearly complete lists of the shells peculiar to each level of the Peistocene sea, and to the present Gulf of the St. Lawrence, and an accurate knowledge of the position of the shores of each successive salt-water area, as the sea gradually left our noble valley. We shall then be in a position to offer a large

contribution to the tertiary geology of America, and of the world.

With the present facilities for travelling, the whole geology of Canada lies before us; and we need not apprehend that Sir Wm. Logan will grudge us space in this large field. He has done, and is doing, a great work; but, even with his skill and energy, were he to live far beyond the allotted age of man, he would but find the number of openings for investigation increasing before him. He has well and effectually opened up an immense territory; but there is room in it for hundreds of geologists to earn reputation by following on his track. He will thank you for anything that you can do in the accumulation of facts; that is, provided you do not embarrass him and oppose the interests of truth by those crude and hasty generalizations, or bazeless hypotheses, in which unskilful and hasty observers are too prone to indulge, and which sometimes impose upon the credulity of the public to the serious injury of the science. No department of natural science presents greater temptations to such vagaries than geology, and none has access to books and collections. They are small in comparison suffered more seriously from their effect on the popular mind. No science is more grand in its ultimate truths, none more valuable in despicable. The collection of the Geological Survey, the collections practical results, than geology, when pursued in the spirit which th characterises the head of our survey. None is more dangerous or misleading in the hands of pretenders.

The subject of geology I may remind you includes within itself many subordinate fields, which have been or are being successfully cultivated, by observers in various parts of Canada; and here as in most other parts of America, geological investigations have been mo e eagerly and extensively pursued than other branches of natural science. The mmeralogical researches of Dr. Holmes, and of Dr. Wilson of Perth, who, though not one of our citizens has contributed much to our collection, and the geological observations of Dr. Bigsby, some of which relate to the vicinity of this city, preceded the work of the Provincial Survey, and not only made many important discoveries, but may be regarded as among the causes which led to the institution of that great enterprise, so successful and so creditable to the Province. Nor must I here omit the interesting paper on the Montreal mountain, long since to us. contributed to this Society by our late Treasurer, Dr. Workman, In o

a paper to which I all the more readily give prominence here, as but I have no evidence that this is the case. Our mountain and I have had the pleasure of visiting some of the local uses in comthe neighbouring hills afford peculiar facilities for it; and I suspensy with its author, and as it was inadvertently omitted in the list of authorities referred to in the paper on that subject, which I lately read before this Society. Were it expedient to attempt extending such notices beyond the more immediate limits of our own sphere of operation, I might name many useful men who have variously distinguished themselves in this science, by way of encouragement to our embryo geologists. One name I cannot pass by, that of a man of much more than Canadian reputation, and of emment usefulness in promoting the growth of Canadian geology, Professor Chapman, of University College, Toronto, whose able papers and notices in the Canadian Journal we shall do well if we can approach in the journal of this Society. I shall farther take the liberty of mentioning the collection of the Rev. Mr. Bell, now in Queen's College, and that of Sheriff Dickson, of Kingston, from both of which I have derived much pleasure and instruction, and those of Dr. Van Cortlandt, and of the Silurian Society of Ottawa, and of our more venerable sister the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, the study of which is a pleasure, I trust, yet in store for

I have probably sufficiently trespassed on your patience, and shall say little of the aids which intelligent public appreciation can render to meteorological investigations, such as those of Prof. Smallwood and Prof. Hall, or to the important chemical inquiries of Prof. Hant. The results attained by these gentlemen are full of material for thought, and in many minor departments of their work I have no doubt they might be aided by local co-operation on the part of some of our members. If in no other way, we can aid these gentlemen by studying and expounding to the public the conclusions which they reach. Independently of their interest to science, now appreciated far beyond the limits of Canada, the tables of Prof. Smallwood and Prof. Hall, and the analyses of Prof. Hunt, are full of facts of immense practical value in agriculture and the arts of life. I had occasion, not long since, in connection with my lectures on agriculture te study the analyses of soils in the reports of the Geological Survey, and I am convinced that those analyses contain the germ of a revolution in Canadian agriculture, which will be effected so soon as they are thoroughly understood by

the people.

Enough has been said to indicate some of the paths of inquiry open to the members of this Society. But, it may be asked, why should we leave our offices, our business, our social amusements, for such occupations. It is not necessary that we should do so. All of us have public, social, and private duties, that have prior claims on our attention. We must not neglect these; but, if we have a little leisure for rational amusement, I know none more agreeable or inspiring than the study of nature, or of some small department of it, such as the observer in his own locality can take time fully to master. Let him provide himself with, or secure access to, the best books in the department he may select, and this need not, in the first instance, be a very extensive one. Let him read, collect, observe, and note; and, in an incredibly short time, he will find a new world of beauty opening to him. Objects before unregarded will become friends, and will speak to him of the wonders of the Universe of God, until he will long to make known to others the utterances which have broken on his own inner ear, and rejoice in being able to add his mite to the treasury of our knowledge of nature.

I might here speak of the facilities which this city presents in tutions, offer many aids to the student, as well as many objects deserving of farther study and explanation. The meetings of this Society also afford a valuable means of improvement and profitable intercourse; and our Journal, the Canadian Naturalist, has for one of its objects the introduction of inquirers to profitable fields of research. Already, in the two volumes published, there are valuable summaries of the facts most necessary to the student in many of the departments referred to in this lecture.

It is scarcely necessary to add that such studies as those which I have recommended, even if they afford no new facts or principles, are in themselves capable of yielding much rational pleasure; and that in this aspect of the subject the field of inquiry is much more extensive than in the former; since here we are not restricted to the absolutely unknown, but may find for ourselves quite as much interest and novelty in ground previously trodden by others, but new

In conclusion, I may say on behalf of all those members of this

Society engaged in the pursuit of any department of Natural History, that they will welcome with pleasure any inquirer fired with the true ardour of a naturalist; and that they will most thankfully avail themselves of, and honourably acknowledge any aid that they may receive in collecting the material of their investigations. Nor need this statement be limited to Montreal. My subject being local, I have confined myself chiefly to things and persons in stanza as "Childe Harold," and with some echo of its mode of our city; but there are men in other parts of Canada, and beyond though lacking the torce and pathos of its passionate utterances. But, while we may easily cult from it many graceful versaries the sequency naturally suggests. here we should rival them in these pursuits, no reason exists to prevent our emulation from being accompanied by mutual and friendly aid. In this spirit I close by asking pardon, if, in the above remarks, I have unwittingly omitted or done injustice to any labourer in the departments of science to which I have adverted. -Canadian Naturalist.

LITERATURE.

Anglo Canadian Literature.

The St. Lawrence and the Saguenay, and other Poems. By Charles Sangster. Kingston, C. W.: John Creighton and John Duff,

Poems. By Alexander McLauchlan. Toronto: John C. Geikie, 1856.

Oscar and other Poems. By Carroll Ryan: Hamilton, Franklin

Press, 1857.

A Song of Churity [Canadian Edition.] Toronto: Andrew II.

Armour & Co., 1857.

Poetry is the natural progeny of a nation's youth. It is the eldest as well as the fairest, of the offspring of literature: if indeed it be not rather her parent, for songs were sung long before letters were invented. Our Province, however, occupies a singular position in this its Canadian youth. Our schooling has been too much alongside of the elder of Europe's nations, and our individual thoughts partake too largely of the experience which centuries have accumulated around the old Saxon hearth, to admit of the lyrical or epic muse inspiring for us the lay that is born of nature in the true poet's heart. We are past the first poetic birth-time, which pertains to the vigo-rous infancy of races; we have yet to attain to the era of refinement from which a high civilization educes new phazes of poetic inspira-tion. We cannot yet respond, amid these charred stumps and straggling snake-fences of our rough clearings, to Hiawatha's appeal to those:

> Who love the haunts of nature Love the sunshine of the meadow, Love the shadow of the forest, Love the wind among the branches, And the ram-shower and the snow-storm, And the rushings of great rivers, Through their palisades of pine-trees.

We want our pine-trees for many surplus for kindling wood, we ask no kindling wood, we ask no kindling wood, we ask no kindling with the rushing of our great rivers we estimate rejoining.

We want our pine-trees for many surplus for kindling wood, we ask no kindling with the reprivileges. The sunshine of the meadow is very welcoming in the lazy-harvest; and the poetry of the snow-storm full of the music—of our sleigh-bells. As to our love for the shadow of the forest, that pertains to the romantic simplicity of our squatter stage of infancy, from whence we emerge as fast as possible into the clearing we hew out of it, rejoining at the crash of falling pines, and keeping time with the music of the axe to the crackling of the logging-pile. We do not mean to say that a poet is an impossibility, amid the rusged realism of this vigorously practical Canada. The ungenial Ayrshire farm of Mosgiel gave to greater promise of a crop of poetry from its bleak and exposed heights before it gave birth to its "Mountain Daisy." But we wonder what would the estimate of the emigrant settler who should apostrophise the giants of the Canadian back-woods, as they bowed beneath his stundy stroke, after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bard to the "wee, modest, crimson-after the fashion of the Ayrshire bar

thought, though lacking the lorce and pathos of its passionate utterances. But, while we may easily cult from it many graceful versifications of such descriptions as the scenery naturally suggests, we have to search carefully through its hundred and ten stanzas to find any such as might be welcome to the jaded fancy of the old world because of their freshness of wild-wood imagery. Campbell has written, in the same stanza his "Gertrude of Wyoning," and sketched very pretty Indian pastonals, such as delighted the London drawing-rooms into the belief that "the mute Oneyda, and the savage Ontalliss were the perfect embodiments of our American vage Ontalliss were the perfect embodiments of our American Aborigines. They do not, however, awaken any very familiar associations for us to whom the scenery, and even the Savage of thewild West, are not unfamiliar. But the poet of "the St. Lawrence and the Saguenay," sees the river: s it is, and not as it was. To him, with all its beauty, it is only the great navigable highway from Ontario to the Sea, with its daily steamers, its wooding stations, its locks and canais. If the Indian lingers among its vanishing woods, it is as the old painted British Druid haunts Avebury or Stonehenge. Here, for example, is the picturing of the thousand Isles:—

Many a tale of legendary lore
Is told of these romantic Isles. The feet
Of the Red Man have pressed each wave-zoned shore,
And many an eye of beauty oft did greet
The painted warriors and their birchen fleet,
As they returned with trophics of the slain.
That sace has passed away; their fair retreat
In its primeral loneness smiles again,
Save where some ressel snaps the isle-inwoven chain:

Save where the echo of the huntsman's gun Startles the wild dack from some shallow nook, Or the swift hounds' deep baying, as they run, Rouses the lounging student from his book, Or where, assembled by some sedgy brook, A pic-nic party, resting in the shade, Spring pleasedly to their feet to catch a look At the strong steamer, through the watery glade, Ploughing, like a huge serpent from its ambuscade.

Were we to transport the scene to the firth of Clyde, or any other islanded home river, and change only a single term; that of the Red Man for the old Pict, or even the Red Gael, there is nothing in the description that would betray its new-world parentage, At best it is no true Indian, but only the white man dressed in his attire; strip him of his paint and feathers, and it is our old-world familiar acquaint ance. The lay of the Whip-poor-will, instead of some romantic Indian legend, is but a commonplace "Willie and J-annie" love song,

as might awake for a Canadian Tennyson another "Sleeping palace" like that from whence he led his happy princess:

> "When far across the hills they went In that new world which is the old."

Poetry, however, is not the crop which it can at all be expected, or indeed desired, that Canadian farmers will cultivate at present. And if we can only reproduce exotic thoughts in verse, it is better on the whole that we should take the foreign originals at first hand. Having, however, stated our feeling in regard to the absence of that originality and individuality of character in "The St. Lawrence," which might have made of such a virgin theme a poetic gem of rarest beauty; we may nevertheless, refer with pleasure to some of its stanzas as gracefully commemorating historical features. Here, for example, is a good subject not discreditably dealt with:-

The inconstant moon has passed behind a cloud, Cape Diamond shows its sombre-colored brst, As if the mournful night had thrown a shroud Over this pillar to a hero's dust.

Well may she weep; hers is no trivial trust;

His cenotaph may crumble on the plain,

Here stands a pile that dares the rebel's lust

For spoliation: one that will remain—

A granite seal—brave Wolfe! set upon Victory's fane

Quebect how regally it crowns the height,
Like a tanned giant on a solid throne!
Unmindful of the sanguinary fight,
The roar of cannon mingling with the moon
Of mutilated soldiers y ars agone,
That gave the place a glory and a name
Among the nations. France was heard to groan;
England rejoiced, but checked the proud acclaim—
A brave young chief had fallen to vindicate her fame.

Wolfe and Montcalm! two nobler names ne'er graced The page of history, or the hostile plain; No braver souls the storm of battle faced, Regardless of the danger or the pain.
They pass'd unto their rest without a stain
Upon their nature or their generous hearts.
One graceful column to the noble twain, Speaks of a nation's gratitude and starts. The tear that valor claims, and feeling's self imparts.

The poem is manifestly designed as a companion, if not a guidebook, for the voyage to the Saguenay; and though it has in it none of those magical passages which stir the heart like the sound of a trumpet, it will nevertheless make an agreable return tothe tourist

for the small space it claims in his baggage.

Of the poems issued from the Hamilton Franklin Press, the principal one, entitled "Oscar," is a picture of the Crimean War, written by a young Canadian, who witnessed and bore a part in the scenes he describes. The plan of his poem, however, embraces a sketch of Canadian scenery, as noted by the imaginary hero, on his way to the seat of war, and so furnishes another view of the same picturesque and historic landscape which has been already drawn by the poetic pencil of Mr. Sangster. Here, for example, is Mr. Ryan's sketch of the Thousand Isles :-

Now Fairy Land is gained—the Thousand Isles—Amid whose cedar shades sweet Nature smiles In all the heauty of a scene unchanged, As when the Indian warrior ranged From isle to isle, long centuries ago, And chased, with swift cance, the nimble doe. Those shady rocks the softest sound prolong, As when they echoed to the Squaw's low song, Who dipped her paddle in the dancing stream, And watched the sun's last lingering beam. As he, behind the forests of the west, In dazzling glory slowly sank to rest. Each isle au emerald, each rock a gem, Which forms proud Nature's own bright diadem! Those wilds again the Indian neer will know, Those wilds sgain the Indian ne'er will know, Nor will those waters, in their joyous flow Bear savage forms unto the depths below.

Niagara is described, or rather soliloquised. Ontario, the St. Lawrence, its Rapids, and the scenes along its banks, all pass in review here, as in the former poem, and Canada itself is apostrophised in terms more loving than original, and with an occasional lameness in the prosody, here as elsewhere somewhat detrimental to the music of the verse:-

Hail! Canada, my own, my native land! Land of a thousand floods sublimely grand!

Upon this world, on nation, land, or clime, Has nature lavished gifts more wild, sublime; Nor blest with brighter hopes her fertile vales, Or wafted over hills more healthy gales. Thy boundless wilds as yet untrod, unknown, Industry soon will rear a joyous home; Those fertile tracts where are was never heard, Wher: securely sings the native forest bird; Where swiftly bounds the deer o'er leagues untold, Wait but for man to yield their hidden gold. Oh! glorious happy West fore'er adieu! Where'er I wander I will turn to you, And, in mem'ry, thy beauties call to view.

The patriotism is here, certainly preferable to the poetry, even though the latter does recall lines not less patriotic, with which the sixth canto of the "lay of the last Ministrel" is preluded. But, passing onward down the St. Lawrence, here is the younger poet's picturing of the historic associations of the heights of Cape Diamond:-

See now Quebec with mighty grandeur rear Its gloomy head—loom sternly in the air! And from the awful height look proudly down And from the awful height look proudly down Upon St. Lawrence with a watchful frown; Where 'neath guarding shade securely ride A thousand vessels on the heaving tide.

This Oscar saw, and stood to view the height Where Fraser's clans had climbed that glorious night Up the craggy steep to Abraham's plains, And hid the verdant sod with bloody stains. The chivalrous Montcalm, though hasty, brave, Fought well, his noble post and cause to save; To every deadly charge his men led on, And nobly fought amid the clashing throng. Proudly he died, though not in victory's arms, Glorious be fell 'midst battle's wild alarms! Nor did Death's terrors his manly bosom mock— Nor did Death's terrors his manly bosom mock-He died defeated nor survived the shock.

Peace to the warrior hero's shade—
Bright be his wreath, its glories never fade!
Wolfe the true, the noble, generous, brave,
Thou hast all earth can give—a here's grave.
For this have kings and monarchs vainly sighed
The tyrant's tomb by deeper stains was dyed:
A tear of joy, not grief, bedews his pall,
A prayer from earth thanks Heaven for his fall.
A lowly poet a chaplet fain would twine
Unto a name as bright and nurs as thine Unto a name as bright and pure as thine.

Proud Britain's standard, waving from the height O'erlooks the glorious scene with conscious might; Flag borne triumphant over sea and land, And kiss'd the breeze on every foreign strand; Serenely spread out to the sweeping gale, Beholds the proud St. Lawrence mighty vale. Its wide-spread folds, high above all unfurl'd llids stern deliance to the envious world. lle:e a true patriot justly would exclaim, Let Liberty and Truth wash out the stain That yet upon its mighty folds remain.
Long may true freedom 'neath its shade repose,
Twined round her brow, the shamtock, thistle, rose.
As once it was, may it ne'er again be grasp'd
To mark blood and ruin where'er it passed.
From off point Diamond's peak a booming gun,
With lond report, selutes the satting sun; With loud report, salutes the setting sun;
Through the ambient air mellow, clear and sweet, The bugle's note, re-echoed, sounds retreat.

We would not willingly quarrel with a Canadian poet inspired by loyal and patriotic sentiments such as these; but we venture to think that a prose narrative of the Crimean . ampaign, from one of our-selves who had borne a share in its sufferings and its triumphs, would have won the suffrages of a thousand Canadian readers for one who will be tempted to the perusal of "Oscar's" poetic experiences. Nor would such a narrative have been the less welcome for his enthusiastic apostrophe to the beauties of our noble St. Lawrence, though uttered only in eloquent prose. We may be permitted to say here once more, in the words of "Aurora Leigh":—

> Young men Too often sow their wild oats in tame verse, Before they sit down under their own vine And live for use. Alas, near all the birds Will sing at dawn,—and yet we do not take The chaffering swallow for the holy lark.

The poems of Alexander McLachlan are designated in the motto

of their title page as "hamely rustic jingle," and as the former volumes are composed after the model of English poets of the beginning of the century, this is a faint echo of Allan Ramsay and Fergusson,—we can scarcely say of Burns: though some of the subjects are probably suggested by his choice of themes, e.g. "The Grieve; or the Lamentation of old Jawbaws," which thus begins:

I dinna ken what tempted me
To venture owre the raging sea;
To come awa' to to thir back wuds,
To live in poverty and dudds.

But here, e'en those wha rule the nation Are driving on some speculation; Aye, e'en the big parliamenter Will trade and cheat, like a tramp tinker. The biggest man thinks nocht degrading—

This it will be seen is a genuine, if not a very poetical Canadian glimpse of things as they are, and the curious reader may find more of the like kind in the same volume.

Craving as we do a native poetry, if we are to have Canadian poetry at all, The "Song of Charity" takes us by guile. The dedication of the tastefully executed volume "to kind friends in Orillia, Canada West," tells us that the poem was "composed in chief part, during a summer's holiday, on the waters and amidst the islets of little Lake Couchiching." Here accordingly is genuine native inspiration. We are gliding, with the author in his birch canoe, over the picturesque lake, and hailing the Indian as he silently paddles past us, under the lee of the wooded islands, from the prettily named Orillia—so called after a favorite native flower,—to his own scattered Indian lodges at Rama. We turn the page, and, as we expected, we are in the forest:

The forest's faery solitude, The violet's haunt be mine; Where call the free in merry mood From dawn till day's decline! All gentle creatures gather there From leafy nest and mossy lair; The little snakelet, golden and green, The pointed grass glides swift between And there the quaint-eyed Lizards play Throughout the long bright summer-day-Under the leaves in the gold sun-rain, To and fro' they gleam and pass, As the soft wind stirs the grass A moment and then sleeps again.

And there, the mountides, dream the deer
Close couched, where with crests upcurled, The fragrant ferns a forest rear Within the outer forest-world. And many a petalled star peeps through The ferny brake, when breathe anew The soft wind-pantings. And there too, The hare and the tiny leveret Betake them, and their fears forget-Lazily watching with soft brown eye The laden bees go sailing by, With many a bright winged commany Of glittering forms that come and go, Like twinkling waves in ceaseless flow, Across those dreamy depths below. And high above on the bending bough Its gush of song unloosens now Some forest-bird. Wild, clear, and free Upswells the joyous melody In proud, quick bursts; and then, anon, in the odorous silence, one by one The thick notes drop, but do not die; For through the bush the soul keeps on With a music of its own-So runs the forest minstrelsy! One other sound there soundeth only Out of the distance dim and lonely; Out of the pine-depths, murmuring ever, Floweth the voice of the flowing river.

And we too, wend our way out of these pine-depths, following the windings of the flowing river, until we at length emerge and—what see we? Not the rocky rapids of our Canadian Sevem, or the woody solutudes of Chief's Island, or the fringing "bush" that still skirts the shores of Lake Simcoe,—but an ancient home:

Beneath the shade Of those old trees so bent and sere; And there, with its stonework tracery, The quaint old house, as old as they, Still stood, and kept from year to year, With storm and frost and slow decay, A struggle for the mastery.

We are not then in Canada at all? Unless we have slept a sounder and longer nap than Rip Van Winkle: it would seem not. While we were imagining ourselves in the bush, and deceiving ourselves even to the fancying these hares and tiny leverets, were some native variety that haunted the Georgian Bay, we were all the time amid the glades and the associations of Old Europe. We could even fancy ourselves once more under "the huge, broad-breasted old oak tree," beneath which we first made the acquaintance of "the lovely lady Christabel;" for the rythm, and even something of the mode of thought, recall to us that most beautiful fragment of the dreamy Coleridge's muse. But it is Canadian poetry we are in search of, and we therefore leave the "Song of Charity," and betake ourselves to the additional poems which accompany it. And here, at length, is one of truly native name and characteristics: "A Canadian Summer's Night." Now, at least, we are not deceived. We glide over the rippling waters of Lake Couchiching, and list to its forest voices:

Still callest thou—thou Whip-poor-will! When dipped the moon behind the hill, I heard thee and I hear the still.

But mingled with thy plaintive cry A wilder sound comes eibling by Out of the pine-woods, solemnely. And hark, again! It comes anew—Piercing the dark pine-forest through, With its long too-hoo, too-hoo!

Shoreward again we glide—and go Where the sumach shadows flow Across the purple calm below.

There the far-winding creeks among, The frogs keep up, the summer long, The murmurs of their soft night-song.

A song most soft and musical— Like the lulled voice of distant fall, Or winds that through the pine-tops call.

And where the dusky swamp lies dreaming, Shines the fire-flies' fitful gleaming—
Through the cedars—dancing, streaming!

Who is it hideth up in a tree Where all but the bats asleep should be, And with the whistling mocketh me?

Such quaint, quick pipings—two-and-two; Half a whistle, half a coo—Ah, Mister Tree-Frog! gare-i-vous!

The owls on noiseless wing gloom by, Beware, lest one a glimpse capy Of your grey coat and jeweiled eye.

Now this is a genuine Canadian scene, such as no fire-side traveller or fancy-visioned poet of old world wanderings or library book-dust, could possibly call into being. The dark recesses of the pine-woods and the shadows of the lake-fringing sumach, the monotonous call of the Whip-poor-will, the soft and musical night-song of the frogs, the fifful gleaning of the fire-fly dancing in the cedar-swamp, the prowling night owl noiselessly listening to the mocking note-half a whistle and half a coo,—of the tree-frug: each one of these shows the touch of a Canadian pencil, such as the most labored study of the home poet would in vain attempt. In this direction alone lies the path in which poetic success is worth welcoming among us; unless indeed it be fancied that we can look for some great Canadian-born Miltonic epic, not local or exclusive, but for other ages and generations than our own,—of which consummation it can only be said there appears at present no very discernible prospect.—Canadian Journal of Science.

D. WILSON.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.



APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Charles II. Leroux, teacher, has been appointed school inspector in lieu and stead of A. P. L. Consigny, Esquire, resigned, for the district of inspection comprising the counties of Bagot and Rouville, and part of the counties of St. Hyacinthe and Iberville.

George Allan Bourgeois, Esquire, has been re-appointed school inspector for the district of inspection comprising part of the counties of Bagot, Drummond and Arthabaska.

ERECTION OF A SCHOOL MUNICIPALITY.

Malvina Séguin, Delphine Tarte, Célina Leclère, Tharsile Dalpé, Marie Louise Arpin, Julie Arpin, Virginie Roy, Julienne Laporte, Marceline Paré, Adélina Meloche, Evelina Masse, Marie-Mathilde Morelle, Victoire Limoges, Mélodie Mercier, Célina Limoges, Phélonise Lassier, Césarie Lefebvre, Célina Mathieu, Geneviève l'alia, Manie Lyle, Sophie-Abraham Gourville, Rose Edonard Hébert, Elizabeth Lemire dite Marsolais, Célina Taillefer, Marie-Anne Legault, Clémence Benoît, Philomène Christin, Adeline Beandouin, Isilda Beaudry, Elizabeth Tellier, Emilie Tessier, Ouésime Bissonnet, Nathatic Charlebois, Marie Fontaine; Messrs John McAfee, Jérôme Robillard, Théophile Beauregard, Auguste Hébert, and Miss Rosalie Leclère, lave obtained diplomas muthorising them to teach in elementary schools.

F. X. VALADE, Secretary.

CATHOLIC BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE CITY OF QUEBEC.

Mr. Louis Michel Amouroux has obtained a diploma authorising him to teach in academies.

Misses Marie-Adélaïde Bergeron, Rosalic Matte, Honoria Kenny, Ben-riette Bergeron, Judith Farley and Mrs. Adolphe Paré, have obtained diplomas authorising them to teach in elementary schools

C. DELAGRAVE, Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE COUNTY OF SHEREROOKS.

Miss Jane Amelia Doak and Mrs. Maria Alger Rodgers have obtained diplomas authorising them to teach in model or superior primary schools.

Misses Ellen C. Hurd, Candace C. Bailey, Malvina Hitchcock, Christine Stone, Helen S. Ryther, Jane S. F. Doherty, Louisa M. Cross, Emily M. Martin, Irène J. Pierce, Sylvia A. Gilden, Malvina Sawyer, Maria Sawyer, Margaret Carr, Susan M. Gildert, Jane Wilford, Harriet O'Connor, Harriet Jane Ball, Catherine Gill, Ruth Algerand Mr. George H. Pope, bave obtained diplomas nathorising them to teach in elementary Echools.

S. A. HURD. Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE COUNTY OF STANSYEAD.

Misses Floretta P. Dalloff, Susan Blamy, Lora Emma Morse, and Mr. George L. Clark, have obtained diplomas authorising them to teach in elementary schools.

C. A. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

will please return them at as early a date as possible. It being intended to prepare a detailed and classified catalogue, the library will be closed until it is completed.

J. LENOIR, Librarian.

SITUATION AS TRACHER WANTED.

Mr. Adolphe Lamy, teacher, a canadian by birth, provided with a model school diploma, will undertake to teach algebra, trigonometry, &c. Applications to be addressed to Mr. Adolphe Lamy, St. Sovere, county of Champlain.

Mr. F. H. Declerq, a native of Belgium, provided with a diploma authorising him to teach in elementary schools, will undertake to teach English, Latin, &c., he also possesses other certificates of capacity. Address: F. H. Declerq, St. Charles de Bellechasse.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the separation of the place known as a ladnor Forges" from the city of New York 45 free creme...

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There are at present in the city of New York 45 free creme.

we with much pleasure insert the following extract from a letter lately received by a gentleman in this city from his brother, now resident in the Unand States. The writer, we understand, edited the first journal ever published in the English language devoted exclusively to the adice ent of education: "The American Journal of Education." at Boston, in 1826. He also has been for nearly forty years an active teacher and labourer in the educational field. It is gratifying to learn that one to well qualified to judge of our educational efforts appreciates them highly, and has formed so just an estimate of the fitness of the Canadian Superintendents of Education for their important duties:-(1)

* "I have to acknowledge several valued favors in the shape of educational documents, besides your last letter. It gives me inexpressible pleasure to observe the noble efforts now making in Canada inexpressible pleasure to observe the noble efforts now making in Canada for the advancement of education, and particularly the high aim which they all indicate, as regards the extent and the elevation of the plan which they embrace. Education cannot renovate the heart: but it may meliorate it to a degree far beyond what has yet been imagined, and thus prepare the soil for the good seed of the Tree of Life. Human culture has as yet been miserably low and poor to what it ought to have been; when we look on the origin and destination of the soul; and it must undergo immense changes before it can accomplish the work for the faithful performance of which it is responsible. We have, in the past, been going blindfold in the track of a routine established when gross darkness was expected ever to cover the people, and but here and there a lamp of going blindfold in the track of a routine established when gross darkness was expected ever to cover the people, and but here and there a lamp of knowledge was to be lighted at the worshipped golden urn of benighted autiquity. Scholarship in antiquare lore was still regarded as the allin-all; and it was not till very near the time of your school days and mine that the intelligent study of the works of God was considered as a requisite part of human culture, or the nature of the mind itself regarded as indicating its proper developement. England is now awake on this subject, and is doing much for genuine culture. In the States, particularly in New England, we are gaining ground every year, although as yet far too slowly. Canada will soon have passed us in the race—has indeed, in some respects, already gone beyond even the standard at which we aim. I hope that Dr. Ryerson will long be contistandard at which we aim. I hope that Dr. Ryerson will long be continued in his noble sphere of action. His moto seems to be Ever Onward. Mr. Chauveau seems to be indefatigable. His journal is intensely interesting. It breath a a charming spirit, and must, I think, be effecting a vast amount of wood. The various documents with which you have rast amount of 200d. The various documents with which you have favored me prescut some prominent points of peculiar interest—the wide range of attainments prescribed in your university and college courses, the high standard of scholarship at which they aim, the rigor of examination which they intimate, and the certainty of good results which they secure in the thorough education of those who are occupied with the duties of instruction. The standard of acquirement established in the Normal Seminary, and the judicious measures adopted for the professional

All persons having books in their possession, belonging to this library, pay are published in Barnard's American Journal of Education for Narch 1867.

advancement of teachers, far transcend any thought in my own mind of what could ever be made practicable in Canada. Dr. Ryerson's late movement for bringing the canobling and purifying influences of art to bear upon the minds of teachers will prove, I doubt not, the commencement of a new era in the history of popular education. Next to the study of mature, as an influence on mind, heart and soul, true art seems to me the most of the province the most efficient for every good purpose of human culture. To every thoughtful parent the anticipation of bringing up his children in Canada must now be a source of deep felt satisfaction; and to every patriotic mind the prospective position of the Province must be truly cheering."-(Montreal Gazette.)

-The Hon L. J. Papineau has visited the Jacques-Cartier Normal School, and the education office in Montreal. He was pleased to express his approbation of the arrangements made for the conveyance of Normal instruction. The professors and teachers were happy to see among them a gentleman who has played so great a part in the history of our country; and they heard with great delight the short but impressive address which he made with his usual eloquence.

—The board of education of San Francisco, (California) has expelled from the public schools of that city, a young girl of great natural tuents and irreproachable character, on the ground of her being of African descent. The Echo du Pacifique contains a well written and well deserved rebuke of so unchristianlike a proceeding.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

- A new institution the Cercle Littéraire was mangurated at Montreal at the "Euvre des tous livres. It is in the nature of a debating club on literary and scientific questions.

· Father de Ravignan who, together with Father Lacordaire held the first runk is the French pulpit, died at Paris, at the age of 63. Navier de Ravignan at first belonged to the bar, and made his debut as substitut du procureur du roi in a brilliant manner. He left the world for the order of St. Sulpice from which he passed into that of the Jesuits. At the time when Mr. Thiors and the liberal party moved the reexpulsion of the Jesuits from France, he published a remarkable work on the history of his order.—Father de Ravignan had among his usual auditors in the church of Notre-Dame, the preatest men of the day, irrespective of their religious opinions or political principles.

—Mr. Franz Stevens, son of Mr. Stevens, chief clerk in the war office at Brussels, and brother of Mr. Pam Stevens, principal of the college of Chambly 1 C., and late editor of La Patric, died recently at the age of 25 of consumption. He was the author of a book of poetry "Les Poésies" Nationales" and had been recently appointed professor of literature at the military school. The general in command, the pupils of the school, several ministers of state, and a great crowd attended his funeral. His popularity as a poet was such that a subscription list was opened for the erection of a monument to his memory.

ARTISTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

- We have great pleasure in announcing that a lady whose musical taste and ability are well known by her remarkable compositions for the piano-forte, has made arrangements with the celebrated firm of Scheidphano-torte, has made arrangements with the electrical many of Search mayer & Co., of Stuttgard, for the importation of their pianos, harmoniums and organs, which have deserved the gold medals of the exhibitions of London and of Paris. Mrs. Shephard has appointed for her agents at Quebec, Mestrs Cremazie. booksellers, Mr. Rolland in Montreal and Mr. Larue in Three Rivers. Orders may also be sent directly to Mrs. Shephard, No. 42, Ste. Ann street, Quebec.

The theatrical world has lost its' two greatest celebrities, Rachel, the great tragedian and Lablache the most powerful singer of the age.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

-The acidemy of Sciences of Paris contains eleven sections under — The academy of Sciences of Paris contains eleven sections under two divisions. We give the names of the 63 savans, comprising those sections.—Division of mathematical sciences. First section.—geometry: MM. Biot, Poinsot, Lamé, Chasle, Bertrand and Hermite. 2nd Section.—Mechanics: MM. le baron Dupin, Poncelet, Piobert, Morin and Combes. 3d section.—Astronomy: MM. Mathieu, Liouville, Langier, Le Verrier, Faye and Delauncy. 4th Section.—Geography and navigation: MM. Duperrey, Bravais and Daussy. 5ta Section.—Physique générale: MM. Becquerelle, Pouillet Babinet, Duhamel, Despretz and le baron Caignard de Latour. 2d Division.—Physical sciences.—1st section.—Chemistry: MM. Chevreul Dumes Peloure Régnault Relard and Erdow. 2d section. de Latour. 2d Division.—Physical sciences.—Ist section.—Chemistry: MM. Chevreul, Dumas, Pelouze, Régnault, Balard and Frémy. 2d section. Mineralogy: MM. Cordier, Berthier, de Senarmont, Delafosse, le vicomte d'Archiac and Sainte-Claire-Deville. 3d Section.—Botany: MM. Brongniart, Montagoe, Tuiasne, Moquin-Tandon, Payer and Gay. 4th Section.—Rural economy: MM. Boussingault, le conte de Gasparin, Payen, Rayer, Decaisne et Péligot. 5th Section.—Anatomy and zeology: MM Dumeril, Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire, Edwards, Valenciennes, Coste and De Quatrefages. 6th Section.—Medecine and surgery: MM. Serres, Andral, Velpeau, Bernard, Cloquet and Jobert de Lamballe. There are b siles two secretaries and 2 members unattached to any section. Vr. Elie de two secretaries and 3 members unattached to any section. Mr. Elie de Beaumont is the secretary of the division of mathematical sciences and Mr. Flourens of the division of physical sciences. The nine other members are MM. le baron Séguier, Civiale, Bussy, Delessert, Bienagmé, le maré-chal Vaillant, de Verneuil, le vice-amiral Dupelit, Thonars and Passy. There are 8 foreign associate and 100 corresponding members.

at Nismes. It is to be called Nemausa in honor of the latter city.

We have just received from Mr. Bouillet the author of a great many classical works adopted by the University of Prance and namely of two excellent dictionaries, of one biography and geography and the other of sciences and literature, which are known all over the world: a letter from which we give an extract highly testifying to the greatness and usefulness of Mr. Lovell's patriotic enterprise.

Paris, 8th March 1858.

"I have received the Canada Directory which you were kind enough to send me: although I knew of no claim of mine to such a munificent gift. If your intention is to encourage the author of several works intended for the education of youth, and at the same time to afford him the means of completing and rectifying his "Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire et de Géographie," believe me, sir, you will not find me ungrateful in that respect. I will not only take care that the 'Canada Directory' ful in that respect. I will not only take care that the 'Canada Directory' is turned to a good account in my next edition of the dictionary, but I will present the copy you have spared for me to the Geographical Society of Paris, a member of which I am and I will call the attention of all those among my confrores, who deal in statistics to the valuable and plentiful information which is to be found in that inexhaustible mine. For my part as a member of the University, I have especially noticed the extended and complete article on education which this annuary contains.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

List of Male and Female Teachers inscribed upon the Register of the Teachers' Savings' Fund, from the 1st of October to 31st December, 1857.

Names of Male and Female Sinceribed Si									_
Mr. Louis François Tardif. 3½ years. 1 0 0 3 10 0 4 10 0 10 0 10 0 0 0 0	N'berol mame on Register.	NAMES OF MALE AND FEMALE TEACHERS.	of years inscribed since 1848.	Dramium	_:		of pres to d fr.1	the miu edu st y	im ict r's
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89 Mr. Pierre Augustin Drolet .	9 years.	1	0, 01	9 0 0
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Statement of East, be	f monies tween th	paid by the Department of Education to 1st January to 31st March, 1857.	for Canada
		t to 31st January 1858 as per statement rnal No. 1, 1858	\$ 77,035:11
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FOR SALE.

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EDUCATION OFFICE,

AT MONTREAL

AND AT THE

PRINCIPAL BOOKSELLERS

IN MONTBEAL & QUEBEC:

"The Journal of Education."

" JOURNAL DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE,"

XOR 1857.

The two journals bound together with a rich cloth cover Each journal with same rich cloth cover	\$2,00
Each journal with same rich cloth cover	1,30
Each journal in boards	1,123

These collections will be found useful for distribution as prize books, in Colleges and Schools. Directors of Colleges and Academies, School Commissioners and Teachers generally, who will buy six copies, or any number over six, for that object, will obtain a DEDUCTION OF TWENTY PER CENT on the above prices. They will obtain their copies either at the Education Office, in Montreal, or at the Office of the Agent of the Department, Thomas Roy, Esquire, Quebec.

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

securing them, will do well to send in their orders immediately.

The terms of a scription to the "Journal de Pinstruction Publique." edited by the Superintendent of advanton and M. Jos Lenoir, will be rive skillings perannum and, to the "Lower C and Journal of Education," edited by the Superintendent of Education and Mr. Job Lindiger, also rive skillings perannum the two Journals, or, if they choose, two copies of either the one of of the other. Subscriptions are invariably to be paid in advance.

advance.

1.000 copies of the "Journal de Pinstruction Publique "and 2.000 copies of the "Lower Canada Journal of Education" will be issued monthly. The former will appear about the middle, and the latter towards the end of each month.

No advertisements will be published in either Journal except they have direct reference to education or to the arts and accinetes. Price—one shilling per line for the first insertion, and six pence per line for every subsequent insertion, payable in advance. Subscriptions will be received at the Office of the Department Montreal, by Mr. Themse Roy, agent, Quebec: persons residing in the country will please apply to this office per mail, enclosing at the same time the amount of their subscription. They are requested to state clearly and legibly their names and address and also the post office to which they wish their Journals to be directed.