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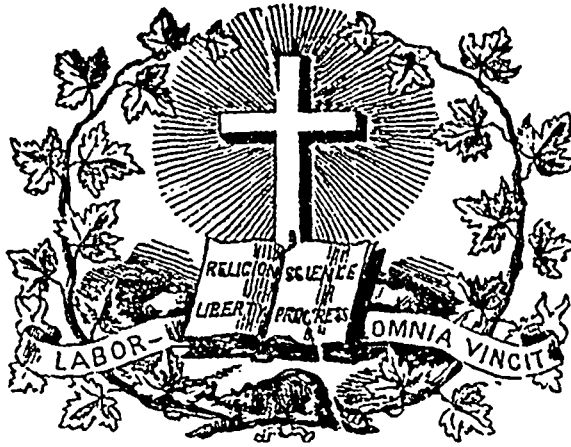
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LITERATURE.

POETRY.

A BEAM FROM THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

By Wm. J. Rose.

Christmas-eve! the snow is whirling
Thick and fast along the street;
And the sky is dark and gloomy,
Wild the wind and sharp the sleet.
Hark! there, faintly down the pathway,
Comes the tread of baby feet.

And behold, through all the tempest,
Glides a tiny, childlike form;
Weary, wandering, without shelter,
Lost in cold, and night, and storm.
"Whence art thou, poor little stranger,
Through the night and through the storm?"

Far outside, the wide plain stretches,
And beyond are hills of snow;
High above, the black sky low'ring,
And the river frowns below;
Whither, whither, in the midnight,
Little lone one wouldst thou go?"

But she hears not, and the snowdrift
Drowns the voice that bids her stay,
And afar along the pathway
Speed those little feet away,
Hurrying whither? Blessed Saviour,
Speed those little feet away!

Feet and hands are cracked and bleeding,
Feet and hands and head are bare,
And the frozen sleet, like jewels,
Clusters in her golden hair;
Tattered garments flutter 'round her,
Battling with the bitter air.

Ah! how shrinks the cowering infant,
As the fierce gust chills her through!
Feebly dies her voice of wailing;
For her lips are stiff and blue,
And the tears cling to her eyelids,
Frozen there in icy dew.

Onward, through the gathering darkness
Still she totters in her flight:
Weary, lonely, like a Pleiad
Wandering in the outer night,
Is there no one, is there no one,
Keeping for her warmth and light?

Ha! there gleams athwart the corner
Ruddy glow from happy homes,
And sweet, merry, childish laughter,
Ringing on the bleak wind comes;
For to-night they sport all hopeful,
With the Christmas elves and gnomes.

Happy children! Happy parents!
Bless the roof that shields you here!
Tender father! Gentle mother!
Loving sister! Brother dear!
Not a frown to mar your pleasure,
Every joy and comfort near!

Christmas-eve! the firelight dances
On the pictured parlor-wall,
And apart in cozy chambers,
Gifts are ranged for one and all;
While, below, the blazing kitchen
Sends its cheer through court and hall.

And there, gleaming past the curtain,
See the glittering Christmas-tree,
Hung with golden fruits and trinkets
For the fun that is to be!
O, the candies! O, the treasures!
On that glorious Christmas-tree!

Then, the table spread for feasting,
Pies, and cakes, and comfits piled—
Rosy apples, nuts and raisins,
Grapes whereon the Tropic smiled,
Heaped together—what an Eden
For that homeless, starving child!

Now look on her where she crouches,
Close beside the friendly door,
While she counts the dancing footsteps
As they clatter o'er the floor;
They are singing Christmas-carols,
Singing till their hearts brim o'er!

And she watches through the window,
Little faces like her own,
Beaming with celestial pleasure—
Glossy ringlets backward thrown;
As the father clasps his darlings,
With sweet words she too has known.

Flowery wreaths that deck the mantel
Frame this picture, as she peers,
Holly twined with buds and roses,
Types of happy by-gone years—
For her, too, they wove gay garlands,
In the happy by-gone years.

O, dear father! O, sweet mother!
Where are you who loved me so?
And her little heart outbursting,
Wails aloud its wordless woe;
For alas! they sleep together,
This wild night, beneath the snow.

Tap! upon the heavy casement,
Tap! her hands would make a sign,
"Take me in, kind Christian people!
All these joys, they once were mine!
Here I die of cold and hunger—"
Heeds her but the Ear Divine!

Now the curtain drawn more closely,
And the splendor fading too,
Drowsy bells in hidden steeples
Toll the heavy midnight through;
All is hushed save distant revel,
And the Storm-King's noisy crew!

Now, the bride dreams of her bridegroom,
And the bridegroom, too, is blest;
Now, the mother hugs her bantling
Where it nestles on her breast;
Age and childhood both are happy
In that heavenly Christmas rest.

But no home receives the lone one,
And no mother's fond address
Smooths her pillow in the snow drift,
And no father's hand may bless
That lost fledgling on the doorstep,
Yielding there to Death's caress!

Lo! behold a sudden glory!
List! soft music in the air!
And she rises radiant, lovely,
Clasps her hands and kneels in prayer.
See! an infant form resplendent
Standing right before her there!

On its head a crown of starlight,
Shedding lustre o'er its face!
Heavenly mildness every feature;
All its bearing sweetest grace;
White robes, pure and bright as silver,
Lighting up that gloomy place!

From its brow the tresses parted,
Float aside in sunny sheen,
And its eyes—the deepest, clearest
That our mortal sight hath seen,
Full of tenderest lovelight, beaming
Summer o'er the wintry scene.

Hark! it speaks! its arms extended
Beckon to that lonely one:
"Come to me, poor little stranger,
For thy pilgrimage is done!"
Tones of heaven! can she linger
When the threshold thus is won?

"My Father's house has many mansions,
Far more beautiful than these;
Pastures green by quiet waters,
Flowers of glory, living trees.
No more winter, only summer,
Where His children rest at ease.

"There, on golden harps, the seraphs
Sound eternal anthems high,
And the songs of angel-myrriads
Echo all along the sky;
Blessed hosts are there forever,
Souls redeemed that cannot die!

There comes neither care nor sorrow
In that glad, unending day;
But the hand of love undying,
Wipes the tear of grief away.
Though the dark world here reject thee,
There, poor wand'rer, shalt thou stay.

"I am He who, in a manger,
Lay a helpless little child;
Swaddled there in rags and tatters,
While the heathen lands reviled;
Yet the after-ages hailed me,
Lamb of God, the Undeiled!

"I, too, wandered poor and lowly,
Not a roof to shield my head;
Homeless, hungry, lost and weary,
Often forced to beg my bread;
While around, unseen, the angels
Hovered ever near my head.

"Mine the words so oft repeated,
'Little children come to me,'
Mine the prayer for stricken mortals,
Mine the Passion on the tree!
By my blood I made the purchase—
There, the home prepared for thee!"

He points, and now her gaze, in brightning,
Sees the Cross shine forth afar,
And above it, in the heavens,
Bethlehem's hallowed morning star!
While, beneath, two dearest faces
Woo her where the cherubs are.

Hallelujah! strains celestial,
Such the shepherds heard of old,
When the choirs on high, exulting,
Joyous tidings there foretold,
And the scroll of our salvation
O'er the earth for aye unroll'd.

Thus they found her in the daydawn
Kneeling with uplifted eyes,
And her hands outstretched and open,
As with glad and sweet surprise.
While the roseate glow was rising
In the blushing Orient skies.

And the sleet had bound her ringlets,
With a coronal that shone
Like to diamonds, in the sunlight
As its beams aslant were thrown,
And the drift enwrapt her shoulders
With white wings—the angel's own!

Thus, the rays that wrought her shadow
Made a holy, strange device,
Flinging it athwart the doorway,
Like a cross upon the ice!
And a crown of thorny snowflakes
Topped the cross upon the ice!

Cheery Christmas-bells were chiming,
And the merry crowd swept past,
There it lay like God's own blessing,
On that happy doorsill cast;
Where the little barefoot pilgrim
Found her Heaven and Home at last!

SCIENCE.

A Geographical Sketch of Canada. (1)

The great basin of the St. Lawrence, in which the Province of Canada is situated, has an area of about 530,000 square miles. Of this, including the gulf of St. Lawrence, the river, and the great lakes, to Lake Superior inclusive, about 130,000 square miles are covered with water, leaving for the dry land of this basin an area of 400,000 square miles, of which about 70,000 belong to the United States. The remaining 330,000 square miles constitute the Province of Canada. With the exception of about 50,000 square miles belonging to Lower Canada, and extending from the line of New York to Gaspé, the whole of this territory lies on the north side of the St. Lawrence and the great lakes.

On either side of the valley of the lower St. Lawrence is a range of mountainous country. The two ranges keep close to the shores for a considerable distance up the river; but about 100 miles below Quebec, where the river is fifteen miles wide, the southern range begins to leave the margin, and opposite to Quebec is thirty miles distant. From this point it runs in a more southern direction than the river-valley, and opposite to Montreal is met with about fifty miles to the south-east, where it enters Vermont, and is there known as the Green Mountain range, which forms the eastern limit of the valley of Lake Champlain. In Canada, this range, stretching from the parallel of 45° north latitude to the Gulf, is known as the Notre-Dame Mountains, but to its north-eastern portion, the name of the Shickshock Mountains is often given.

The flank of the northern hills, known as the Laurentides, forms the north shore of the river and gulf, until within twenty miles of Quebec. It then recedes, and at the latter city is already about twenty miles distant from the St. Lawrence. At Montreal the base of the hills is thirty miles in the rear, and to the westward of this it stretches along the north side of the Ottawa River for about 100 miles, and then runs southward across both the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, crossing the latter river a little below Kingston, at the Thousand Islands, and entering New York. Here the Laurentides spread out into an area of about 10,000 square miles of high lands, known as the Adirondack region, and lying between the lakes Champlain and Ontario. The narrow belt of hill-country which connects the Adirondacks with the Laurentides north of the Ottawa, divides the valley of the St. Lawrence proper from that of the great lakes, which is still bounded to the north by a continuation of the Laurentides. The base of these, from near Kingston, runs in a western direction, at some distance in the rear of Lake Ontario, until it reaches the south-west extremity of Georgian Bay on Lake Huron; after which it skirts this lake and Lake Superior, and runs north-westward into the Hudson Bay Territory. This great northern hill-region consists of the oldest known rock-formation of the globe, to which the name of the Laurentian system has been given, and occupies, with some small exceptions, the whole of the province northward of the limits just assigned. We shall designate it as the LAURENTIAN REGION. Over a small portion of this area, along lakes Huron and Superior, and farther eastward on Lake Temiscaming is another series of rocks, to which the name of the Huronian system is given. But as the country occupied by these rocks is geographically similar to the Laurentian, it is, for convenience, here included with it.

To the south of this region the whole of Canada west of Montreal, with the exception of the narrow belt of Laurentian country described as running southward across the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers, is very level. The same is true to the eastward of Montreal until we reach the Notre-Dame range of hills, already described as passing southward into Vermont, and in its north-eastern extension as bounding the lower St. Lawrence valley to the south. This valley may be regarded geographically as an extension of the great plains of Western Canada and Central New York, with which it is connected through the valley of Lake Champlain. This level country to the south of the Laurentides in the two parts of the province is occupied by similar rock formations, and constitutes the CHAMPAIGN REGION of Canada, the surface of which is scarcely broken, except by a few isolated hills in the vicinity of Montreal, and by occasional escarpments, ravines, and gravel ridges farther westward.

The next area to be distinguished consists of the Notre-Dame range, on the south side of the St. Lawrence, which forms the belt whose course has just been described, with an average breadth of from thirty to forty miles. To the south and east of this, is a district of undulating land, which extends to the boundaries of the province in that direction. These two districts may, for convenience, in further description be classed together, and they embrace the region which is generally known as the EASTERN TOWNSHIPS. By this term they are distinguished from the SEIGNIORIES, which bound them to the north and west. To the north-east, however, along the Chaudière River, some few seigniories are found within the geographical limits of this third region.

The whole of the province is well watered with numerous large and small rivers, and in the mountainous districts there are great numbers of small lakes, more than 1,000 of which are represented on the maps.

We have, in the preceding description, divided the country into three distinct regions, and have next to consider the geological structure of these as related to the soil and to its agricultural capabilities.

THE LAURENTIAN REGION.—The great tract of country occupied by the Laurentian rocks has for its southern boundary the limits already assigned, and stretches northward to the boundary of the province, which is the height of land dividing the waters of the St. Lawrence basin from those of Hudson's Bay. Its area is about 200,000 square miles, or six-tenths of the whole land of the province. This region is composed exclusively of crystalline rocks, for the most part silicious, or granite-like in character, consisting of quartzite, syenite, gneiss, and other related rocks. These are broken up into ridges and mountain peaks, generally rounded in outline and covered with vegetation. The summits in the neighborhood of Quebec are some of them from 2,000 to 2,500 feet in height, and in other parts attain 4,000 feet or more; but the general level of this region may be taken at about 1,500 feet above the sea, although it is much less in the narrow belt which crosses the province east of Kingston. Through the hard rocks of this region run numerous bands of crystalline limestone or marble, which from their softness give rise to valleys, often with a fertile soil. The hill-sides are generally covered with little else than vegetable mould, which sustains a growth of small trees, giving them an aspect of luxuriant vegetation. But when fire has passed over these hills, the soil is in great part destroyed, and the rock is soon laid bare. In the valleys and lower parts of this region, however, there are considerable areas of good land, having a deep soil, and bearing heavy timber. These are the great lumbering districts of the country, from which vast quantities of timber, chiefly pine, are annually exported, and constitute a great source of wealth to the province. These valleys are in most cases along the bands of limestone, whose ruins contribute much to the fertility of the soil. Lines of settled country running many miles into the wilderness are found to follow these belts of soft calcareous rock.

The settlements in this region are along its southern border, and at no great altitude above the sea. In the higher parts, the rigor of the climate scarcely permits the cultivation of cereals, and it is probable that no great portion of this immense region will ever be colonized, but that it will remain for ages to come

(1) The following pages are extracted from a small pamphlet on Canada prepared by Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture, for distribution at the Exhibition held at Dublin in 1865. As containing a brief and popular description of the topography and the soils of the Province, they may not be without interest to our readers.

covered with forests. These, if husbanded with due care, will remain a perpetual source of timber for the use of the country and for exportation; besides affording, with proper facilities for transportation, an abundant supply of fuel to the more thickly settled districts where the forests have nearly disappeared, and where, from the severity of the long winters, an abundant supply of fuel is of the first necessity. There are other reasons why this great forest region should be protected. The vegetation, and the soil which now cover the hill-sides, play a most important part in retaining the waters which here fall in the shape of rain or snow. But for this covering of soil, the rivers and mill-streams which here take their rise, would, like the streams of southern France and of the north of Italy, be destructive torrents at certain seasons, and almost dried-up channels at others. The effect of this great wooded area in tempering the northern winds, and moderating the extremes of climate, is not to be overlooked in estimating the value of the Laurentian region.....

THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.—Under this head, as already explained, is included the belt of hill-country south of the St. Lawrence, with the region on its south-east side, extending to the frontier, and forming a succession of valleys, which may be traced from the head-waters of the Connecticut north-eastward to the Bay of Chaleurs. It is true that the Eastern Townships, as now known, do not embrace this north-eastern extension; but as it belongs to them both geographically and geologically, it may be conveniently included with them.

The area whose limits are thus defined forms about one-tenth of the province. The hills of the range which traverses it are composed, like those of the Laurentian region, of crystalline rocks: but these are softer than the greater part of the rocks on the north shore, and yield, by their wearing down, a more abundant soil. Some of the hills in this range attain an elevation of 4,000 feet above the sea, and the principal lakes in the valley on the south-eastern side, Memphremagog, Aylmer, and St. Francis, are from 750 to about 900 feet above the sea-level. This region is well wooded, and when cleared, is found in most parts to have an abundant soil, generally sandy and loamy in character, and well fitted for grazing and for the cultivation of Indian corn and other grains. Great attention is now paid to the raising of cattle and the growing of wool, and, within the last few years, the best breeds of sheep have been successfully introduced from England and from Vermont. Draining and improved methods of farming are in many parts practised, and the agricultural importance of the southern portions of this region is yearly increasing.....

THE CHAMPAIGN REGION.—The limits of the great plains of Canada have already been defined in describing those of the two preceding regions. These plains, which may be called the champaign region, occupy about three tenths of the province, and are, as we have seen, divided into two parts by a low and narrow isthmus of Laurentian country, which runs from the Ottawa to the Adirondacks of New York. To the eastward of this division, the present region includes the country between that river and the St. Lawrence, and all between the Laurentides on the north and the Notre Dame hills on the south-east; while to the westward it embraces the whole of the province south of the Laurentian region, including the great area lying between the lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, generally known as the south-western peninsula of Canada. The whole of this region, from east to west, is essentially a vast plain, with a sufficient slope to allow of easy drainage. The distance from Quebec to the west end of Lake Superior is about 1,200 miles, yet this lake is only 600 feet above the sea-level, while Lake Erie is 565 feet, and Lake Ontario 232 feet above the sea. The land on the banks of the St. Lawrence and its lakes, either near the margin or not very far removed, generally rises to a height of from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet, and from this level very gradually ascends to the base of the hills which bound the region.

Unlike the two regions already described, these great plains are underlain by beds of unaltered Silurian and Devonian rocks, consisting of sandstone, limestones and shales. These are but little disturbed, and are generally nearly horizontal; but over by far

the greater part of the region, they are covered by beds of clay, occasionally interstratified with or overlaid by sand and gravel. These superficial strata, which are in some parts several hundred feet in thickness, are throughout the eastern division, in great part of marine origin, and date from a time when this champaign region was covered by the waters of the ocean; while throughout the western division the clays are more probably of fresh-water origin. It results from the distribution of these superficial post-tertiary strata, that the soil over the greater part of the region consists of strong and heavy clays, which in the newly cleared portions are overlaid by a considerable thickness of vegetable mould. In the eastern division, a line drawn from Quebec to Ottawa, and two others from these points, converging at the outlet of Lake Champlain, will enclose a triangular area of about 9000 square miles, which is very nearly that occupied by the marine clays. These are overlaid, chiefly around the borders of this space, by more sandy deposits, which are well seen near Three Rivers, and about Sorel. They form a warm but light soil, which yields good crops when well manured, but is not of lasting fertility. The greater part of this area however is covered by a tenacious blue clay, often more or less calcareous, and of great depth, which constitutes a strong and rich soil, bearing in abundance crops of all kinds, but particularly adapted for wheat, and was in former times noted for its great fertility. These clay lands of Lower Canada have been for a long time under cultivation, and by repeated cropping with wheat, without fallow, rotation, deep plowing, or manure, are now in a great many cases unproductive, and are looked upon as worn out or exhausted. A scientific system of culture which should make use of deep or sub-soil ploughing, a proper rotation of crops, and a judicious application of manures, would however soon restore these lands to their original fertility. The few trials which, within the last few years, have been made in the vicinity of Montreal and elsewhere, have sufficed to show that an enlightened system of tillage, with sub-soil draining, is eminently successful in restoring these lands, which offer at their present prices good inducements to skilled farmers. Besides grain and green crops, these soils are well fitted for the culture of tobacco, which is grown to some extent in the vicinity of Montreal. Notwithstanding the length of the winter season in Canada, the great heat and light of the summer and the clearness of the atmosphere enable vegetation to make very rapid progress.

To the north-east of Quebec, besides the plains which border the river, there is a considerable area of low-lying clay land, cut off from the great St. Lawrence basin by Laurentian hills, and occupying the valley of Lake St. John and a portion of the Saguenay. Here is a small outlying basin of Lower Silurian rocks, like those about Montreal, and overlaid in like manner by strong and deep clays, which extend over the adjacent and little elevated portion of the Laurentian rocks, and form a soil as well fitted for cultivation as any part of the lower St. Lawrence valley. The valley of this lake is probably not more than 300 feet above the sea; and from the sheltered position, the climate is not more rigorous than that of Quebec. Several townships have within a few years been laid out in this valley and have attracted large numbers of French Canadians from the older parishes in the valley of St. Lawrence.

The western part of the champaign region, commencing near Kingston and including all the southern portion of the western province, is the most fertile and productive part of Canada. Like the plains further eastward, its soil consists chiefly of strong clays, overlaid here and there by loam, sand, and gravel. In the natural state nearly the whole of this region supported a fine growth of timber, in great part of broad-leaved species, but presented however various local peculiarities. Thus, the banks of the Grand River from Galt to Brantford were remarkable for a sparse growth of oaks, free from underwood, and known as oak openings. These are said to have been pasture grounds of the Indians, brought to this condition and kept in it by partial clearing, and by the annual burning of the grass. The object of this was to attract the deer that came to feed upon the herbage.

The soil of these plains is a light sandy loam, very uniform in character, and generally underlaid by coarse gravel. Though fertile, and of easy tillage, this and similar soils will not support the long continued cropping without manure, which is often practiced on the clay lands of both Upper and Lower Canada.

The valley of the Thames, together with the rich alluvial flats which extend from it northward to the north branch of Bear Creek, and southward nearly to the shore of Lake Erie, is remarkable for its great fertility, and its luxuriant forest growth. The soil is generally clay, with a covering of rich vegetable mould, and is covered in the natural state with oak, elm, black-walnut and tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) of large size, together with fine groves of sugar-maple. Towards the mouth of the Thames, and on the borders of Lake St. Clair, is an area of natural prairie of about 30,000 acres. It lies but little above the level of the lake, and is in large part overflowed in the time of the spring floods. The soil of this prairie is a deep unctuous mould, covered chiefly with grass, with here and there copses of maple, walnut and elm, and with willows dotting the surface of the plain. Numbers of half-wild horses are pastured here, and doubtless help to keep down the forest growth. The characters of the surface are such as to suggest that it had been at no distant period reclaimed from the waters of the adjacent lake.

In no part of the province have skilled labour and capital been so extensively applied to agriculture as in Western Canada, and the result is seen in a general high degree of cultivation, and in the great quantities of wheat and other grains which the region annually furnishes for exportation; as well as in the excellent grazing farms, and the quantity and quality of the dairy produce which the region affords. This western portion of the province, from its more southern latitude, and from the proximity of the great lakes, enjoys a much milder climate than the other parts of Canada. The winters are comparatively short, and in the more southern sections the peach is successfully cultivated, and the chestnut grows spontaneously.—*Canadian Naturalist*.

Leaves from Gosse's Romance of Natural History.

(Concluded.)

THE TERRIBLE.

Man's connexion with the creation around him occasionally brings him into circumstances of more serious result than a temporary excitement of the imagination, and a thrilling of the nerves, which might be on the whole rather pleasant than otherwise. He was indeed invested with lordship over the inferior creatures, and in general they own his dominion; but many of them are endowed with powers for evil, to which he can oppose no effectual resistance; at least, none so invariably effectual, but that occasions occur in which the mastery is reversed. Some are furnished with enormous weight and strength, able to crush him with mere brute momentum; others carry formidable weapons, horns and hoofs, claws and teeth, tusks and fangs, wielded with consummate skill, and made more effective by the aid of muscular strength, fleetness of pace, agility, instinct of combination, or cunning strategy. Others, small and apparently contemptible, are yet armed with implements so terribly lethal, that the slightest puncture of the skin by one of them, darted too with lightning-like rapidity and almost unerring precision, is inevitably and immediately followed by the most horrid form of death.

And the creatures are conscious of their own powers; and, though they will often tacitly own man's supremacy by declining a contest with him, yet there are circumstances ever and anon occurring,—hunger sometimes, sometimes rage, or the desperation induced by escape being cut off which makes the helpless bold,—in which they are willing to try "the wager of battle" with their liege.

The stern conflict for life, when man stands face to face with his bestial foes, has given many a romantic page to the annals of natural history; and too many such pages are stained with the harrowing record of their grim victory, and his bloody death. We cannot therefore ignore them in the aspect of natural science which we are considering; but we may content ourselves with a few examples of

the terrible: the difficulty lies in the selection from the profusion of *matériel*.

Throughout the north temperate zone the wolf is a cruel and bloodthirsty foe of man, making up by a scent like that of the hound, a patient perseverance, and a habit of combining in numbers in common pursuit, what it lacks in individual power. Yet, individually, a wolf is able to pull down an unarmed man, and, when pressed with famine in severe winters, it becomes very daring. In our own island its ravages have long ago induced its extirpation; but in a remote era houses were erected at certain intervals by the road-sides, to serve as places of refuge against the assaults of the wolves; and January was by our Anglo-Saxon ancestors called "Wolf-month," (Wolf-month,) because more people were devoured by wolves in that month than at other times.

In the north and east of Europe, the danger incurred by travellers in sledges of being hunted by packs of hungry wolves is very great; and many dreadful incidents bear witness to their success. A very horrible one is narrated by Mr Lloyd. A woman, accompanied by three of her children, was one day travelling in this mode, when she discovered that she was pursued by these gaunt foes in full pack. She immediately put the horse to a gallop, and drove towards her home, from which she was not far distant, with all possible speed. All, however, would not avail, for the ferocious animals gained upon her, and at last were on the point of rushing on the sledge. For the preservation of her own life, and that of the remaining children, the poor frantic creature now took one of the babes and cast it a prey to her blood-thirsty pursuers. This stopped their career for a moment, but, after devouring the little innocent, they renewed their pursuit, and a second time came up with the vehicle. The mother, driven to desperation, resorted to the same horrible expedient, and threw her ferocious assailants another of her offspring. To cut short this melancholy story, her third child was sacrificed in a similar manner. Soon after this the wretched being, whose feelings may more easily be conceived than described, reached her home in safety.

Mr Atkinson has sketched, with his usual graphic vigour, the situation of himself and his party of Kalmucks, when surrounded by wolves in Mongolia. They were encamped for the night on the open steppe on the banks of a little lake, when suddenly the howling of the terrible wolves was heard at a distance. The men quickly collected the horses, and prepared to receive the assailants. The fire was nearly out, but it was thought best to allow them to approach, and then by a little fresh fuel obtain light enough for a fair shot. It was not long before the padding of their many feet was heard as they galloped towards the party, and presently, a savage howl arose. The men threw some dry bushes on the embers, and blew up a bright flame, which sent its red glare far around, disclosing the pack with ears and tails erect, and flashing eyes. At a signal, five rifles and a double-barrel poured in a volley with deadly effect, as the horrible howling revealed. Snarling and shrieking, the pack drew off, but the Kalmucks declared they would return.

Soon the terror of the horses announced the re-approach of the marauders, and they could be heard stealing round between the encampment and the lake, dividing into two packs, so as to approach on opposite sides. Presently the glare of their eyeballs was seen, and their grizzly forms pushing one another on. Again the bullets sped, and the shrieking packs again retreated, but only to keep watch at a little distance.

The night now grew very dark, and all the fuel was exhausted. Presently, a distant howling announced the approach of a new pack, on whose arrival the old ones, which had been silently biding their time, began to manifest their presence by jealous growls, which soon gave way to a general fight among themselves. Some of the men now, well armed, crept along the margin of the lake to collect more fuel, which was then placed on the fire. The flame was blown up, and a group of eight or ten wolves was seen within fifteen paces, with others beyond. The rifles once more cracked, and the packs with a frightful howl scampered off.

In the morning eight wolves were lying dead, and the bloody tracks shewed that many others had carried away mortal wounds, the reminiscences of this fearful night.

The brown bear of Europe is of formidable strength, and sufficiently bold occasionally to be a serious antagonist, as numerous adventures of Mr Lloyd and other northern sportsmen testify. Though it can subsist on fruits, grain, and honey which involve no destruction of animal life, yet it is predaceous and ferocious too. The ancient Romans made use of Scottish bears to augment the horrors of public executions:—

"Nuda Caledonio sic pectora prebuit urso,
Non falsa pendens in cruce, Laureolus."

The ferocity of the Syrian bear is illustrated by many passages of

Sacred Writ, and in particular by the narrative which records the slaughter of the forty-two youths, who mocked Elisha, by two she-bears, (2 Kings ii. 21.) And the Polar bear is a truly savage and powerful animal.

But no species of the genus can compare with the grizzly bear of the North American prairies, for either, size, strength or ferocity. The names of *Ursus ferox* and *U. horribilis*, which have been given to it, re-echo the prevailing ideas of its terrible character. Even the savage bison, vast and mighty as he is, falls a prey to the grizzly bear, which can drag the carcass, though a thousand pounds in weight, to its haunt. Lewis and Clarke measured one which was nine feet in length.

The hunters and trappers of the Rocky Mountains delight to tell, over their camp fires, stories of personal encounters with this formidable savage. Many of these stirring incidents have found their way into print, and one of them I shall here condense.

A Canadian named Villandrie, pursuing his occupation of a free trapper on the Yellow-stone River, had acquired by his skill and daring the reputation of the best white hunter in the region. One morning, when he was riding out to have a look at his beaver traps, he had to break his way through some thick bushes that grew on a high bank above a small river. He was going along, pushing back the twigs with the barrel of his rifle, and keeping an eye on the bank, when all at once he found himself close to an old she grizzly bear, which rose instantly and dashed furiously at the horse, as he was struggling with the shrubs and bushes. One blow of her colossal paw was enough to break his back, and to throw Villandrie down the bank, his rifle falling into the water. Three half-grown cubs now occupied themselves with the poor struggling horse, while the raging mother rushed towards the trapper, who was just getting up; but before he had well drawn his long knife, the bear's claws were on his left arm and shoulder. His right arm he could still move freely, and he inflicted stab after stab in the neck of his fierce enemy, which did not on that account relax her gripe, but tried to catch the knife with her teeth. At every movement he made, she seemed to dig deeper into his shoulder and loins.

The struggle had not lasted a minute, when the sandy bank suddenly gave way, and down the combatants went into the water. Fortunately for Villandrie, the sudden cold bath made the bear loose her hold: she returned to her cubs, and left her mangled antagonist to get away as well as he could. The next day he reached a Sioux village, very much exhausted from loss of blood; but he got his wounds tolerably healed, and still maintained his character of the best white trapper on the Yellow-stone.

Recent travellers in Africa have made us somewhat familiar with the mighty and ferocious brutes of that arid continent, the very metropolis of bestial power. Not only have the missionary, the colonist, and the soldier encountered the lordly animals in their progress into the wilderness, but hunters, either for sport or profit, have gone in search of them, bearded the lion by his midnight fountain, and provoked the elephant to single combat in his forest fastnesses. Fearful adventures have hence ensued, the records of which have thrilled us dwellers at home by our winter firesides. One or two of these I may select for illustration of the terrible in natural history.

Nothing is more appalling in the way of animal voices than the scream, or "trumpeting," as it is called, of an enraged elephant. The hunting of this animal in South Africa is awful work. To stand in front of a creature twelve feet high, infuriated to the utmost, to hear his shriek of rage, to see him come crashing on with an impetus that throws the very trees out of the ground, needs all the nerve and all the courage that man can bring to the conflict. Livingstone says that the terrible "trumpet" is more like what the shriek of a French steam-whistle would be to a man standing on a railway, than any other earthly sound. So confounding is it, that a horse unused to the chase will sometimes stand shivering, and unable to move, instead of galloping from the peril. Gordon Cumming has depicted a stirring scene, in which, having dismounted to fire at an elephant, he was immediately charged by another; his horse, terrified by being thus placed between two enraged monsters, refused to be mounted; and it was only when he expected to feel a trunk clasping his body, that he managed to spring into the saddle.

Even when mounted, the legs of the steed will sometimes fail from terror, and he falls with his rider; or, from the character of the forest, the latter may be dragged from his seat during the flight, and thus be left helpless before the furious beast, exposed to be impaled by the long tusks, or crushed into a mummy by the enormous feet.

An adventure of this sort with an elephant befel one who has had more narrow escapes than any man living, but whose modesty has always prevented him from publishing anything about himself. On the banks of the Zougga, in 1850, Mr Oswell pursued one of these animals into the dense, thick, thorny bushes met with on the margin

of that river, and to which the elephant usually flees for safety. He followed through a narrow pathway, by lifting up some of the branches and forcing his way through the rest; but when he had just got over this difficulty, he saw the elephant, whose tail he had got glimpses of before, now rushing towards him. There was then no time to lift up branches, so he tried to force the horse through them. He could not effect a passage; and, as there was but an instant between the attempt and failure, the hunter tried to dismount; but, in doing this, one foot was caught by a branch, and the spur drawn along the animal's flank; this made him spring away and throw the rider on the ground, with his face to the elephant, which being in full-chase, still went on. Mr Oswell saw the huge fore-foot about to descend on his legs, parted them, and drew in his breath as if to resist the pressure of the other foot, which he expected would next descend on his body. He saw the whole length of the under part of the enormous brute pass over him; the horse got away safely. Dr. Livingstone, who records the anecdote, has heard but of one other authentic instance in which an elephant went over a man without injury; and, for any one who knows the nature of the bush in which this occurred, the very thought of an encounter in it with such a foe is appalling. As the thorns are placed in pairs on opposite sides of the branches, and these turn round on being pressed against, one pair brings the other exactly into the position in which it must pierce the intruder. They cut like knives. Horses dread this bush extremely; indeed, most of them refuse to face its thorns.

Occasionally, however, the elephant-hunter falls a victim to his daring. A young and successful ivory-hunter, named Thackwray, after numberless hair-breadth escapes, at length lost his life in the pursuit. On one occasion, a herd pursued him to the edge of a frightful precipice, where his only chance of safety consisted in dropping down to a ledge of rock at some distance below. Scarcely was he down before one of the elephants was seen above, endeavouring to reach him with its trunk. The hunter could easily have shot the brute while thus engaged, but was deterred by the fear of the huge carcass falling down on him, which would have been certain destruction. He escaped this danger, but soon afterwards, almost at the very same spot, he met the fatal rencontre. With one attendant Hottentot, Thackwray had engaged a herd of elephants, one of which he had wounded. The Hottentot, seeing it fall, supposed that it was dead, and approached it, when the animal rose and charged furiously. The lad threw himself upon the ground, and the infuriated beast passed without noticing him, tearing up the trees and scattering them in its blind rage; but, rushing into a thicket where Thackwray was reloading his rifle, it caught sight of him, and in an instant hurled him to the earth, thrusting one of its tusks through his thigh. It then caught the wretched man in its trunk, and elevating him in the air, dashed him with great force upon the ground, kneeling and trampling upon him, and as it were kneading his crushed and flattened corpse into the dust, with an implacable fury. The remains, when discovered, presented a most appalling spectacle. More recently, another ivory-hunter, named Wahlberg, met a fate almost precisely parallel.

Little inferior to the elephant in strength, though by no means approaching it in sagacity, the different species of African rhinoceros manifest an irascibility against man which waits not for provocation; or rather the sight of a man is itself a sufficient provocation to excite a paroxysm of restless fury. Steedman mentions a Hottentot who had acquired a reputation as a bold elephant-hunter, who on one occasion had his horse killed under him by a rhinoceros. Before he could raise his gun, the enormous beast rushed upon him, thrust its sharp-pointed horn into the horse's chest, and threw him boldly, rider and all, over its back. The savage animal then, as if satisfied, went off, without following up its victory, and before the Hottentot could recover himself sufficiently for an avenging shot.

Mr Oswell met with a similar rencontre. He was once stalking two of these beasts, and, as they came slowly to him, he, knowing that there is but little chance of hitting the small brain of this animal by a shot in the head, lay, expecting one of them to give his shoulder, till he was within a few yards. The hunter then thought that by making a rush to his side he might succeed in escaping; but the rhinoceros, too quick for that, turned upon him, and though he discharged his gun close to the animal's head, he was tossed in the air. "My friend," adds Dr. Livingstone, who gives the account, "was insensible for some time, and on recovering found large wounds on the thigh and body. I saw that on the former part, still open, and five inches long." The white species, though less savage than the black, is not always quite safe, for one, even after it was mortally wounded, attacked Mr. Oswell's horse, and thrust the horn through to the saddle, tossing at the same time both horse and rider.

The buffalo of the same regions is another animal of remarkable savageness of disposition, making an encounter with him a formidable affair. The eminent Swedish botanist, Thunberg, was collecting

plants in a wood with two companions, when a buffalo bull rushed on the party with a deafening roar. The men just saved their lives by springing into the trees, while two horses were speedily pierced through by the powerful horns, and killed.

EDUCATION.

The Duty of Parents to Teachers.

To secure results in carrying on reforms and improvements in society, co-operation is essential to success. The humblest can effect in concert, what the highest could not singly. In the education of youth, parents and guardians can greatly facilitate the arduous labor of the teachers. Good government in school is more the result of careful training at home, than of any efforts of the teacher. Children who behave well at home, will generally deport themselves well abroad. Children should be taught at home respect for their teachers. They should be instructed that it is their duty to be orderly, well-behaved and prompt to obey what they are commanded to perform. If this be understood, the task of the teacher becomes materially lightened. If the pupil be taught that the rules of school must be implicitly complied with, and if the parent insist upon it that the child shall obey all reasonable demands made upon him by the teacher, then the pupil will be properly trained, and will be fitted to receive instruction. Parents are too apt to encourage their children in tale-bearing and criticism on the conduct and ability of their instructors. They are apt to take the views of their children rather than their own.

While we adhere to that system of having school for only a few months in the year and of choosing teachers frequently, we may expect frequent changes in the "rules of school." The ideas of no two persons entirely agree, nor does the manner of imparting instruction, or of governing the school-room of teachers coincide. This thing is inseparable from our present system, and until we are willing to adopt a better one we must do as well as we can with the material we possess. Not only will different modes of instruction be practiced, but new books will be required. All these things must be endured. The teacher who has been taught out of a certain class of text books, has the same desire to use that kind of work as the mechanic, to be effective, will require the use of a favorite plane and saw. He must, to use a homely phrase, "get the hang of the thing," before he can accomplish much. Parents should provide the necessary books, for if the pupil is not supplied he cannot make that proficiency he should.—The mechanic requires good tools to make a good job, and it is economical to furnish them; so it is in regard to books. The best text books should be selected. Such books will awaken interest and impart instruction. They are the tools with which the educational fabric is to be constructed, and with skilful workmanship and good materials we may expect a good structure.

Parents should also make it a point to become acquainted with their teachers. By being intimate with each other, they can discuss the topics of educational interests in their own districts, and devise such measures as may be best calculated to succeed. The spirit of friendship begets that of frankness and confidence, and the teacher feeling that his efforts are appreciated, will labor not only more industriously, but much more effectively. We say to parents, therefore, you must sympathize with, and encourage your teachers. Cheer them on in their arduous work.—Visit the school frequently, and let your children feel that you are interested in their improvement.—Labor to create a good feeling between your children and your teacher, to build up a confidence in each other and to encourage all to do their best. By this means you will promote your own happiness and interest,

and render efficient service in the cause of education and improvement.—*York True Democrat.*

Multiplicity of Studies.

One of the most popular errors which now prevails in our public schools, is the number and variety of studies required of children. Many pupils are expected to study from ten to fourteen branches at the same time, and the result is, that they can seldom give that degree of attention to any which is necessary in order to master it properly. Lessons are thus hastily prepared, indifferently recited, and speedily forgotten. Some studies are recited but once or twice a week, and bitter experience has convinced us of the folly of this system. The studies should be few in number—seldom more than five or six—the lessons short, thoroughly prepared, and daily recited. By pursuing this plan only can we expect to make good scholars and thinking men and women.

Education does not consist in merely cramming the mind with a multitude of facts and principles. The practice of many would lead one to infer that they considered the mind a great reservoir into which they can pour vast streams of multifarious knowledge indiscriminately. The mind is a living, working organism. Food is necessary for its healthy action. Facts and principles constitute this food, and it will benefit it but little, unless it is suitable in quality, regularly taken, and well digested. Now by this system of over-taxing and confusing the mind with so many studies, it is utterly impossible to secure any great degree of mental culture. The object of attending school is not so much to secure a vast amount of knowledge, as it is to train the mind to habits of study and observation, and to teach children how to think. A certain amount of book-knowledge is necessary; but this is not, as many suppose, the *main* object. The facts and principles learned in school are *only* a foundation upon which to build an education. The habits of thought there acquired form only a basis for more extended thought in the future.

Taking this broad view of the subject, we contend that a few things well learned and fixed for life will be of much more use than a great mass of facts hastily committed to memory, not properly digested, and soon so far forgotten as to leave but indistinct impressions.—*Dem. Standard.* B. E.

"Right About Face."

I was sitting at my window one morning, when I heard Frank's clear, boyish voice, shouting, "Right about face!" I looked out and saw in the green below a number of little boys drawn up in battle array, with Captain Frank at their head. He was drilling his company, and had got them into "something of a fix." A trellis was on one side of them and a cluster of lilac bushes on the other, while a fence directly in front of them obstructed their further progress in that direction. But Frank, drawing himself up the last inch of his height, and putting on a stern countenance, gave the word, "Right about,—Right about,—(and instantly each little right foot is drawn back "in position," each little right hand is placed on the side)—Face!" and, lo! we had their little faces full in view.

It is often a wise move to come to a "Right about face." When we are tempted to do anything which we know to be wrong, if we pause a moment and consider, we may see the safety of coming to the "Right about face." If our companions tease us to smoke, to swear, to tell falsehoods, or to go into bar-rooms with them, we shall do well not to listen to their wicked words, but just come to the "Right about face" at once, and leave them; for if we yield to their entreaties and forward march, we may soon find ourselves in a narrow place, where it will be no easy matter to turn about. Do not stop and stand still either, but come to the "Right about face," and march away. Not only "cease to do evil," but "learn to do well."—*Children's Paper.*

OFFICIAL NOTICES.



BOOKS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 28th November last, to approve of the Resolution passed by the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada, on the 12th October last, approving of the following School Books on the recommendation of the Catholic Members of the Book Committee, viz.:

Nouvelle Méthode pour apprendre à bien lire; par J. E. Juneau.

The Catholic School Book, containing easy and familiar lessons for the instruction of youth.

Nouvelle Méthode d'écriture, publiée par Eusèbe Sénécal, en 7 cahiers, Montréal, 1865.

Psautier de David, suivi des hymnes qui se chantent dans les différents temps de l'année, Mame, Tours, 1858.

LOUIS GIARD,
Recording Clerk.

APPOINTMENTS.

COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government has been pleased, by commission dated 16th instant, to appoint the Honorable Sir Narcisse Fortunat Belleau a member of the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada, to replace the late Hon. Sir Etienne P. Taché.

EXAMINERS.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 28th November last, to make the following appointments, viz.:

The Reverend John Monroe Gibson, B.A., and Alexander Johnson, Esquire, LL.D., to be members of the Protestant Board of Examiners of Montreal, in the room of the Reverend A. F. Kemp and the Reverend John Irwin, who have left the limits.

The Reverend F. X. Morin, curé of St. Alphonse, and F. H. O'Brien, Esquire, Advocate, to be members of the Board of Examiners of Chicoutimi, in the room of the Reverend Mr. Ma-tel and J. B. Plamondon, Esq., Advocate, who have left the limits.

PROFESSORS IN NORMAL SCHOOLS.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 18th inst., to approve of the following appointments, viz.:

Mr. Tancredé George Dostaler, Associate Professor in the Jacques Cartier Normal School, to be Ordinary Professor in said School, in the room of Mr. Léopold Devisme, resigned.

Mr. Joseph Octave Cassegrain, Teacher, of Montreal, to be Associate Professor in the Jacques Cartier Normal School, in the room of Mr. Tancredé George Dostaler, promoted.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 18th inst., to approve of the following appointments of School Commissioners:

County of Quebec.—Tewkesbury: Messrs. Louis Pageau, Jean Loignon, Patrick Flynn, Ferdinand Deschamps and Narcisse Clavet.

County of Pontiac.—Portage du Fort: Messrs. George Edward White and Robert Findlay.

County of Drummond.—Durham: Messrs. Benjamin Reed and George B. Placey.

County of Dorchester.—St. Isidore: Mr. Narcisse Girard.

County of Terrebonne.—Ste. Agathe-des-Monts: Messrs. Narcisse Ménard and Joseph Giroux.

County of Gaspé.—Rivière-au-Renard: Rev. Louis Blais, Priest.

ERECTIONS, &c. OF SCHOOL MUNICIPALITIES.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 28th November last,

To erect into a separate municipality for school purposes, under the name of *Municipality of Aiguasha*, that portion of the territory of Nouvelle, in the County of Bonaventure, bounded on the east and south by the Bay of Chaleurs, on the south-west by the School Municipality of Shoobred to the land of Isaac Pentland, not included; on the north-west, by the land

belonging to John Vibert, not included; and on the north, by the place called Barnechois.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 18th inst.,

1. To detach the following portions of territory from the School Municipality of Stoncham, in the County of Quebec, to wit: Ranges Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 of each of the Townships of Stoncham and Tewkesbury, now included in the said Municipality, and to erect the said Ranges Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 into a separate school municipality by the name of the *School Municipality of Tewkesbury*.

2. To erect the following portion of territory into the *School Municipality of Claridorme*, in the County of Gaspé, to wit: that tract of land which extends towards the east from the Great Poud, inclusive, to the Point called *Pointe à la Frégate* towards the west.

3. To erect into a school municipality, under the name of the *School Municipality of Grande Vallée*, in the County of Gaspé, all that portion of territory extending from the point known as *Pointe de la Petite Vallée* towards the east, to the Point of *Grande Vallée*, towards the west.

4. To detach from the Municipality of Malbaie, in the County of Gaspé, all that portion of territory extending on the east, from the residence of Michael Buckley, and on the west, to the boundary line of the Township of Percé, and to erect the same into the *School Municipality of Barre-à-Choir*.

DIPLOMAS GRANTED BY THE NORMAL SCHOOLS.

M'GILL NORMAL SCHOOL.

Diploma for Academy.—Mr. Edward H. Kraus.

DIPLOMAS GRANTED BY BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

BOARD OF PROTESTANT EXAMINERS OF QUEBEC.

1st Class Model School (E.).—David Macmurray.

1st Class Elementary (E. & F.).—Miss Mary Matilda Sturrock.

2nd Class Elementary (E.).—Misses Bertha Baxter, Caroline Hall, Christina McKinnon and Helen Wilson.

Nov. 7, 1865.

1st Class Elementary (E.).—Miss Helen Jane Williamson.

Nov. 14, 1865.

D. WILKIE,
Secretary.

QUEBEC BOARD OF CATHOLIC EXAMINERS.

2nd Class Elementary (F.).—Misses Herméline Baudoin, Françoise-Eugénie Bernier, Sophronie Boutin, Marie Boutin, Sara Côté, Julie Duval, Eloïse Fournier, Caroline Leclerc and Marie-Obéline Prémont; (*E.*) Miss Catherine Horan.

Nov. 7, 1865.

N. LACASSE,
Secretary.

MONTREAL BOARD OF PROTESTANT EXAMINERS.

1st Class Model School (E. & F.).—Miss Emma A. Hunt.

1st Class Elementary (E.).—Messrs. James E. Lawrence, Zephaniah S. Lawrence; Misses Almira Cass, Sarah Ann Kelly and Esther Little.

2nd Class Elementary (E.).—Misses Elizabeth Latham, Harriet McLennan and Isabella Mott.

Nov. 9, 1865.

T. A. GIBSON,
Secretary.

MONTREAL BOARD OF CATHOLIC EXAMINERS.

1st Class Elementary (F.).—Misses Marie-Louise-Julie Limoges, Marguerite-Hélène Tétreault, Marie-Virginie Bourdon, Agnès Champagne Beau-grand and Angélique-Caroline Chévrier.

August, 1865.

1st class Elementary (E.).—Misses Exérie Bélanger, Rose de Lima Bourdon, Lucie Guertin, Cécile Foucault, Marguerite Galarneau and Clotilde Lantague.

Nov. 7, 1865.

F. X. VALADE,
Secretary.

BOARD OF PROTESTANT EXAMINERS OF WATERLOO AND SWEETSBURG.

1st Class Elementary (E.).—Misses Jenny Burns, Alice Douglas, Roxanna E. Shephard, Julia Scovill, Mary A. Todd and Nancy Todd.

2nd Class Elementary (E.).—Messrs. Samuel J. Donaldson and Ernest M. Taylor; Misses Polly Blake, Charlotte Coburn and Arretta E. Hoyt.

Nov. 7, 1865.

WM. GIBSON,
Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CHICOUTIMI, CHARLEVOIX AND SAGUENAY.

1st Class Elementary (F.)—Misses Suzanne Laforest and Marie Tremblay.
Nov. 7, 1865.

THS. H. CLOUTIER,
Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF SHELDROOKE.

1st Class Academy (E.)—Mr. Edward Johnson; (E. & F.)—Miss Helen C. Hurd.

1st Class Elementary (E.)—Mr. Sylvester Lebourneau, Alvan Curtis; (F.)—Miss Elmire Béliveau.

2nd Class Elementary (E.)—Mr. David Rennie; Miss Maria Osgood and Miss Mary Jane Cowan; (F.)—Miss Aurélie Ducharme and Miss Emélie Biron.

Nov. 7, 1865.

S. A. HURD,
Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF RICHMOND.

1st Class Elementary (F.)—Misses Emily Burbank, Julia Wilson, Sarah Jane Davis, Josephine Smith and Fanny Chappuis.

2nd Class Elementary (F.)—Mr. John Cook; Misses Eveline Charlotte Smith, Margianna Elizabeth Cassidy; Louisa Electa Derby, Janet Skinner, Rosanna Neill, Mary Anne Bennett, Emeline Leavitt and Jane Nixon; (F.)—Misses Clarisse Hébert and Julie Verville.

Nov. 7, 1865.

J. H. GRAHAM,
Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF BEAUCE.

1st Class Elementary (F.)—Miss Philomène Ferland.

Nov. 7, 1865.

J. J. P. PROULX,
Secretary.

OTTAWA OR AYLMER BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

1st Class Elementary (E.)—Misses Elizabeth A. Symmes and A. Priscilla Singleton.

2nd Class Elementary (E.)—Misses Esther Ann Baker, Mary Daley and Jane McEwen.

Nov. 7, 1865.

JOHN R. WOODS,
Secretary.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The Superintendent of Education acknowledges with thanks the following donations:

From the Very Rev. Superior of the Seminary of Montreal: *Histoire de la Colonie Française en Canada*, 2 vols.

From the Rev. Secretary of the archdiocese of Quebec: *Le Nouveau Testament*, par Mgr. Baillargeon.

From the Mayor and Corporation of Montreal: *Laws and Regulations of the City of Montreal (English and French)*, 2 vols.

TEACHER WANTED.

A male Teacher, with a diploma authorizing him to teach in schools under public control, is required to conduct a Model School in the Municipality of Bury. This school is attended by about forty pupils, boys and girls, some of whom are learning French. A Teacher competent to teach music, besides the usual branches, would be preferred. Address Mr. Nathaniel Ebbs, Secretary-Treasurer to the Board of School Commissioners, Bury, County of Compton, C. E.

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

MONTREAL (LOWER CANADA), DECEMBER, 1865.

To Our Subscribers.

With this, the last number of the Ninth Volume of the *Journal of Education*, our subscribers will receive as usual the table of contents for the year just ended, and an almanac for 1866. To the last we would call the attention of teachers and

all other persons entrusted with the administration of the School Laws, as it contains information which they may absolutely require. By keeping this sheet within reach and glancing over its contents from time to time, Secretary-Treasurers will be assisted in punctually discharging, conformably to the requirements of the law, some of their most important duties.

We must also take this opportunity of informing those among our subscribers who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1865, that their names will be struck from our list in all cases in which a remittance shall not have been received before the publication of our next number; we shall also be compelled, however much we may regret it, to sue for payment of all arrears.

The Right of Non-Residents to become Dissentients.—Judge Sicotte's Decision.

Below will be found the decision rendered by Hon. Justice Sicotte in the case of the School Commissioners of St. Bernard de Lacolle vs. Joseph C. Bowman, which we promised to lay before our readers. The point, as we had occasion to explain, has already been decided, first by Mr. Justice Coursol, who took the same view of the law as Judge Sicotte, and secondly by Hon. Justice Short, whose judgment was the reverse. The question is, whether a non-resident proprietor can or cannot legally declare himself a dissentient.

The reasons on which Judge Short based his judgment were, if we recollect rightly, as follows: 1st. The word *inhabitant* can only mean a resident, and the law in giving the *inhabitants* forming the religious minority the right of dissent, had in view *residents* only; 2nd, had it been intended to extend this right to non-resident proprietors, a clause to that effect would have been inserted, or the word *rate-payer*, which occurs elsewhere in the same Act, would have been employed; 3rdly, the right of becoming a dissentient is purely personal and exceptional, and should not be exercised except within the strict meaning of the law. The object which the latter has in view is to allow the minority of a municipality to send their children to such schools as they shall approve of,—a reason which does not apply to non-residents, who are not supposed to have any children within the municipality.

The reasons on which Judge Sicotte's judgment rests may be summed up thus: 1st. The word *inhabitant* does not (in the legal and administrative sense) necessarily signify *resident*. Many authorities are cited to show that in the legislation of England and Canada the words *inhabitants* and *proprietors* or *land holders* are looked upon as synonymous terms. 2nd. The doubts which have existed in this country, and the lawsuits that have taken place in consequence, show that the word *inhabitant* has not always been held to mean a resident. The hon. Judge also cited (as confirming the view he has taken of the question) the Bill introduced into the Legislative Assembly with the assent of the Department of Public Instruction, and which contemplated a settlement of this point. [The Bill here alluded to was introduced by Mr. Sicotte while Attorney General, but a change having occurred at that time in the Administration, and Parliament having been dissolved immediately afterwards, no discussion took place with regard to this measure. We have at different times alluded to it in this journal, and it will be seen by the last Report of the

Superintendent of Education that the attention of the Government has again been called to the subject.] 3rd. The object which the law has in view in leaving every one free to dispose of his school taxes according to his own convictions being the removal of a source of religious animosity, all clauses of doubtful meaning should, as far as possible, be construed consistently with the attainment of this end; and the concession, like every other immunity favorable to the maintenance of order and the public peace, should be extended rather than restricted in its application. 4th. The proprietor, although he may not be a resident, is nevertheless a member of the municipal body to which the administration of the common interest belongs. He has without doubt, under the law, a right to be heard and to vote at elections. He is a ratepayer and an elector, and consequently must have the same right as a resident to choose between the two school corporations, that of the majority and that of the minority. 5th. Assuming that the word *inhabitant* is used in the exclusive sense of *resident*, it is intended in the law to confer on residents only the right of forming a dissentient corporation; but this dissentient corporation once formed and established, it cannot have been intended to carry further the distinction between resident and non-resident ratepayers, and thus to deprive the latter of the right of paying their assessments to the corporation representing the religious minority to which they belong.

Judge Sicotte's judgment is as follows :

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT, DISTRICT OF ST. JOHNS.

The School Commissioners of St. Bernard de Lacolle vs. Joseph C. Bowman.

In giving judgment in this cause Mr. Justice Sicotte said,—The liberal character of our Legislature in religious matters at all times is a fact which cannot be questioned. By its permanence it has brought about, among the races and the different religions which exist on our soil, sentiments of confidence; a mutual spirit of respect, of good will and charity, confidence and peace. Whenever the law has to be applied in matters relating to religious liberty, this constant state of things, so universal in its tendency, constitutes an important point in the consideration of the question. We have no reason to believe that the Catholic element has retrograded. Everybody understands that the education of youth is of all causes the most energetic, the most active, the most penetrating and the most powerful, which can influence religious ideas, as also the tendencies and habits of every day life. From thence, therefore, arises the just anxieties, the demands of each faith to have the moral and religious superintendence of its fellow-believers. Our Legislature gives each denomination the free control of its own educational matters subject to general law, which provides for civil and political order, the equality of religion and the liberty of conscience. The equality of the different religions by the law, and the absolute right inherent in each citizen to the free exercise of his faith and religion being admitted, the control of educational matters must be recognized as an essential corollary and the logical consequence of these rules of natural right. With a law based on these principles, enacted with the avowed and evident object of giving them complete and due effect, no one can refuse to admit that the way of giving such instruction should be subordinate to the principles of the law. It is proper in this inquiry to take into consideration the true and liberal arguments made during the hearing of the case by the learned advocate for the defence. "There is no doubt," said the Hon. Mr. LaBerge, "that the intention of the Legislature was to allow each and every one to lay out his school-rate after and according to his religious opinions." In fact, if the contributor is a resident or not, his religious belief remains unaltered, as well as his desire to protect it, which is founded on similar reasons. What the law intended was the prevention of all causes of irritation; that all classes should live in that confidence which is assured by religious peace; that fanatics should have no cause for agitation, and that no one should be oppressed. The Legislature seemed to understand that if no one desires to be oppressed, it is unfortunately too true that every one wishes to be an oppressor. With a degree of wisdom which cannot be too highly praised, the Legislature aimed at giving religious intolerance no opportunity to establish itself on any occasion under the

protection of municipal or civil intolerance. It would be a strange anomaly if a law led to two opposite results when applied to the same person,—that it should not protect the individual in the highest exercise of his liberty, by reason of a principle, but would only do so by reason of an accidental fact, such as his residence, and that the immunities which such law confers should be trampled upon by its own action. It would be a still greater anomaly if an order of things, consecrating the principle of the utmost liberty in education and belief, should, when applied, lead to acts of intolerance and oppression. It is indubitable that the law affirms, without disguise (*sans déguisement*), without obscurity, and in a way as positive as it is clear, the right of the Protestant, as well as the Catholic, to control the use of the funds required for the maintenance of the Common Schools, and to direct by such control the education of their children. This is a personal statute elevated above, by its principles, all subtleties, such as the meaning of words, and should not be limited to any particular place. The wish of the dissentient is the measure of the exercise of his right, and is a franchise which should cover his contribution as well as his person, *in omni loco*: otherwise it would be impotent and illusory. The principle of the law, as to dissentients, is in the diversity of the religions, and not in that of places.

Whence, therefore, comes the difficulty, the doubt, in the application of the law? It is pretended that the law is expressed in such a formal manner in the case of non-residents, that the Judge has not to distinguish when the law does not distinguish, and that he cannot seek for an interpretation of the aims or intentions of the legislator, or deduce from principles, when the law contains a positive order and a formal disposition. I will not discuss what is so well understood—that the judicial power cannot intermeddle with legislation. But few cases are susceptible of a decision on the precise text of the facts in litigation. It is from general principles, from doctrine, from the science of law, that we must pronounce in nearly all cases. If the science of the legislator consists in adapting the most favourable principles to the common good, the science of the judge consists in putting these principles into action, and in extending them, by a wise and reasonable application, to circumstances; the role of the judge is to be as liberal and more tolerant than the law (*plus tolérante que la loi*); and his duty should never lead him to place civil intolerance in the power of fanaticism. It principally appertains to judges to show an example of the utmost deference for the sentences and the opinions pronounced by the Courts; and it is by reason of this respect for a judgment in which I cannot acquiesce that I have thought it proper to enter into a more extended examination of the question, by studying the law under all its different aspects, and in analyzing it with impartiality, so as to understand its nature, its aims, its whole, and verify by these means its application to the case. What is important to decide is the security of each person, by putting an end to those grievous situations which, by their doubtfulness, almost sanction ignorance and fanaticism (*qui donnent presque droit à toutes les ignorances, à tous les fanatismes*); to settle their demands by referring to the law as interpreted and applied in the egotistical point of view of each local interest, varied as it is by the accident of Catholic and Protestant majorities. Here is the clause which is cited, asking for a judgment declaring the defendant deprived of the dissentient right which he claims, and which is refused him, on the ground that he does not reside in the municipality of the plaintiffs.

"When in any municipality, the regulations and arrangements made by the School Commissioners for the conduct of any school, are not agreeable to any number whatever of the inhabitants professing a religious faith different from that of the majority of the inhabitants of such municipality, the inhabitants so dissentient may collectively signify such dissent, in writing, to the Chairman of the Commissioners, and give in the names of three Trustees, chosen by them for the purpose of this Act."

Is this text so precise and so clear that its perusal alone leads to the understanding that it desired to exclude non-resident proprietors from the advantages and rights of dissentients? To understand these questions of language and signification, it may suffice to recall the two contradictory judgments which have been cited and the declaratory law submitted by government in 1863, with the assent of the Department of Education, and the opposition, offered on all points, to this interpretation, which manifested itself in judicial proceedings. When the terms of an act appear to conflict with its aim, its whole, the general spirit of legislation, the tendencies of society as well as its habits, it should not be admitted in an hostile sense to the object of the law and the opinions of all, unless the intention of the legislator is evident by the expressions which he has used, unless the order is formal and leaves the Judge no course but to apply the law. There is certainly no such precision, no such expressions, no such order in the enactment on which judgment is demanded by the plaintiffs. The expression "the inhabitants" does not in parliamentary, legal or vulgar language, imply in absolute and necessary sense, residence. It is generally used to desig-

nate proprietors. In the English Statutes and the commentaries it means the rate-payer. The Poor Law says "overseers shall raise by taxation, of every inhabitant, and of every occupier of lands and houses in the parish." Burns in his commentaries says, "The taxation ought to be made upon the inhabitants and occupiers of lands within the parish, according to the visible estates and possessions they have within the parish." Blackstone, treating upon the same subject, thus expresses himself: "The overseers are empowered to make and levy rates upon the several inhabitants." The Statute relating to the maintenance of roads contains the following terms: "An assessment upon all the inhabitants, owners and occupiers of land, rateable to the poor, shall be made." In these two cases the rate is imposed upon persons possessing goods subject to taxation, whether they reside or not in the place. Nevertheless, the Statute designates the rate-payers by the appellation "inhabitants." Burns shows us how these words were interpreted: "Abundance of orders have been quashed, for not setting forth that the persons (who by the Statute must reside 'in the parish'), were substantial householders, and describing them only as principal inhabitants and substantial householders, without adding 'in the parish.'" This surely shows, according to these judges, that the words "the inhabitants or householders" did not essentially imply residence. Philips, in his excellent work on evidence, speaking of the changes brought about by the operation of Lord Denman's Act, thus expresses himself: "Rated inhabitants were before that Act incompetent witnesses." This incompetency applied to all rate-payers, whether they resided or not in the parish. Therefore, according to the Parliamentary language of England, the words "the inhabitants" referred to a rateable property, a rateable and a rated inhabitant, without regard to residence. The edict of 1679, which regulated in Lower Canada the obligations of parishioners with respect to the erection of churches, ordered that they should be built at the expense of the inhabitants. Several ordinances have been published, and several judgments have been delivered since 1790, in which the proprietors in a parish, residents or not, are condemned to contribute for the construction of the churches, and are called "the inhabitants." In the Municipal Law of 1841, the electors are designated in the English text "the inhabitant householders," which has been translated "*les habitants tenant feu et lieu*." The statute of 1845, which reformed the District Councils by Municipal parishes, in designating the electors indicates them as follows: "the said inhabitants being inhabitants *tenant feu et lieu*." In Upper Canada the statute gives the right of voting at the first election in a municipality "to every resident male inhabitant or sufficient property," and at subsequent elections "to every male freeholder" whose name appears on the assessment roll. It would be useless to cite any further texts to show that the words "the inhabitants" have not in our Parliamentary language an absolute sense of residence; otherwise the Legislature would never have said, as we have seen, "the said inhabitants being inhabitants *tenant feu et lieu*." These words indicate the universality of the interested parties constituting the municipality with and by its proprietors. In a community, calculations are only based on its taxable value. The assessment roll is the sole legal record in which you may read and learn the names of the inhabitants. In the works of the best authors the words "inhabitants" or "proprietors" are indifferently held to qualify or designate the interested parties referring to the properties which they possess. Denisart tells us that "When the inhabitants of a parish are at law in matters of real estate, they comprise the proprietors of lands situated in the parish in such a way that although these proprietors reside elsewhere, they are on such occasions held to form part of the number of the inhabitants." Curasson, in his treatise on possessory actions, expresses himself as follows: "The inhabitants have a right to enjoy all the advantages and conveniences which are bestowed by a street"; and then, refuting Pardessus, adds, "He allows that the proprietor should be indemnified if deprived by the municipality." In a Judgment which he quotes, allowing damages for a change in the grade of a street, we find the motive in the following terms: "Seeing that among the charges which each inhabitant has to meet, the damages which a citizen's property may receive cannot be enumerated." So much for the Parliamentary and legal sense of the words. The dictionary says a "rich inhabitant" applies to people generally, and that a well-to-do "inhabitant" indicates a proprietor in easy circumstances, or wealthy farmer; without any reserve as to his special residence. But the Statute even in this case interprets the words in the sense which they should carry. The 34th clause orders that there shall be a meeting of the proprietors of land and of inhabitants *tenant feu et lieu*—"landholders and householders"—for the purpose of electing Commissioners. To be an elector a person must be a proprietor in the municipality. Residence is not necessary in a municipal election to give the right of voting; it is not required either for the political vote, and it is, doubtless, by reason of the universality of interest which relates to public education, that both franchises have been placed on the same footing. The proprietor, although he does

not reside, forms part of the municipal body to which appertains the administration of the common interest. He is by the law itself held to form part of the number of inhabitants. He has the right to be notified, and of action in the organization of the Executive Council of the community. Thence flows his immunities, which are those of the other rate-payers; he cannot form part of the body politic and still only possess the right of paying. It is by reason of his contribution that he forms part of the community, and the least that he can possess is the right to control its use and destination. It is no longer a local, partial and exclusive right, but a public and general one, interesting all society in the same degree. When local improvements of a material nature are in question, this contribution can be laid out in what the majority may deem to be the most advantageous way; for then the non-resident proprietor participates in the improvement. But we cannot reason in this way when conscience is in question, and things relating to morals and religion. There is no longer any confusion between a thing belonging to all and to each, but nothing is settled or determined by the principle of majorities; in a religious point of view a person owns himself entirely; otherwise it is but liberty of thought and education, exercised at the will of the majority. In these divergences of opinion, more or less egotistical, people seem to have lost sight of the object which Parliament had in view by the terms in question. In order that there should be a corporation of dissentients in a municipality, it follows that there should be in a municipality itself a number of inhabitants to organize and carry out the functions of such a corporation. But once such a body is constituted, the law makes no further distinction; it declares that the council of dissentients will have the sole right to assess and levy the school rates from the dissentients. Religious faith alone limits and designates those who may belong to such corporation; in fact, it is but logical and impartial that a separation of the majority and minority should take place on the simple demand of the latter. Ere resuming this argument, I believe it my duty to say that if any person does not concur in the opinions which I have just enunciated, they cannot, nevertheless, deny that the language of the law, as to the conditions of the right of dissidence, is at least susceptible of the interpretation which I have given it. This admitted, we revert to the science of law. The general rules which the wisdom of enlightened men of all ages have taught us for the explanation of laws should be studied, in order to guide the opinions of judges. As Darris remarks: "The duty of the judges in the interpretation of the law, if difficulties occur, is to look to the spirit and object, and to be guided by rules and examples." Several of these rules have already been elucidated; it will suffice to recall and apply a few others. "It is not the words of the law," says ancient Plowden, "but the eternal sense of it, that makes the law. The letter of the law is the body, the sense and reason of the law is the soul." It is worthy of remark that our legislature, in material points, transcribed these words almost literally by enacting that generally all words, expressions and dispositions should receive as large, as liberal, as broad, and as advantageous an interpretation as was necessary, in order to reach the objects contemplated by its acts, and to put in force all its different provisions, according to its true sense, intent and meaning. In form the intention of the legislature is not doubtful; it is even admitted in a sense favorable to the dissidence of the non-resident. And here is how the judicious Darris resumes the teaching and the jurisprudence of England: "The real intention, when collected with certainty, will always, in statutes, prevail over the literal sense of the terms. A thing which is within the object, spirit and meaning of a statute is as much within the statute as if it were within the letter." The dissidence of the Catholic or Protestant non-resident "is within the object, spirit and meaning of the statute." A juriscounsel, whose opinions should have the greatest weight, but principally in the study of the rules which should be followed in the interpretation of the laws,—the learned Domat,—taught that it was by the spirit and intent of the laws that they should be heard and applied. To judge properly of the sense of a law we should, he said, consider what is its motive, what were its inconveniences and its utility. Thence it followed that if some of the terms or some of the expressions of a law appeared to have a different meaning from those which were evidently fixed by the tenor of the law in its entirety, we should seize these latter and reject the others which were in the terms, but contrary to the true intention of the law. With the liberty of creeds and their equality before the law, the rights of the minority are as absolute as those of the majority. The true intent of the law seems to be the equal protection of these rights; the other sense the law is capable of must be rejected wherever it seems contrary to its real object, although it is evidently couched in much the same terms. An important observation on this part of the subject would be omitted if we did not recall what was so often shown by the most eminent magistrates of France and England. When it is proposed to set aside the principles of eternal justice or to elude fundamental rules, the law expressing the intention of the legislator must be expressed with irresistible clearness to induce

the tribunals to suppose that he really has the intention to effect such a result. The present organization was established for the purpose of guaranteeing the Catholics as well as the Protestants from the fear and possibility of seeing their contributions employed in propagating doctrines which they hold in repugnance. The law would destroy the law if by its application under any circumstance whatever it did away with this guarantee. The reasons of inconvenience urged by the plaintiffs in support of their pretensions cannot be supported, inasmuch as their system does not provide any remedy, can only tend to hinder public education and would inaugurate every where the provocative policy which the Legislature has endeavoured to prevent. It would be as just in Canada as it is in England, to say with Baron Parke, "We must always construe an act so as to suppress the mischief and advance the remedy according to the true intent of the makers of the law."

The examination which I have made into this subject, leads me to believe that it is demonstrable to evidence that the right of the rate-payer to superintend the employment of his rate in public education is the corollary of his right to the exercise of his religion and of his faith; and that the law examined as to its object in its whole, and in its details, has consecrated so just and necessary a principle to peace, in a country where races find shelter in their contrast, and religions protect one another by their diversities.

It also seems to be demonstrated that a strictly legal interpretation of the text of the law, followed in its Parliamentary as well as in its usual and legal sense, cannot allow or admit an exception to this right, which flows from our civil and political constitution as well as from the natural law.

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

(Continued.)

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON, PART OF THE COUNTIES OF CHATEAUGUAY AND ARGENTEVILLE, AND THE PROTESTANT POPULATION OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

(First Report concluded.)

10. *Hemmingford*.—Of the schools of Hemmingford, more are in a satisfactory state than usual. The school-houses of Nos. 9 and 12 were burnt some time ago; since then, these districts have had no school.

Of the three dissentient schools in the municipality, only one has a teacher. It is not in a very satisfactory state, and is very ill-supplied with desks and benches. It would have been much better for the people of this district to have remained under the commissioners.

11. *St. Andrew's*.—At the time of my visit to St. Andrew's, seven of its schools were in operation, viz.: 3 dissentient schools and 4 schools under commissioners. All were in their usual state of efficiency. The children who showed most improvement under examination, were those attending the English academy, and schools Nos. 6 and 13, under commissioners.

In the French academy similar efforts are made by the teachers, but with rather less success, owing especially to the very irregular attendance of the scholars, and the very short time that the school remains under the conduct of the same staff of teachers.

12. *La Chute*.—It is pleasant and very encouraging to have to report favorably of all the schools of a municipality. Improvement in methods of teaching are observable in all the schools of La Chute. The college is well conducted. After spending two days in examining its departments, the collected results of my examination are altogether favorable.

Generally, the people of La Chute show of late much zeal in their efforts to advance education in their parish.

13. *Gore and Wentworth*.—Of seven schools in these municipalities, only 3 were in operation last winter, at the time of my visit. For two in the Gore, efficient teachers could not be obtained. With the Wentworth people the school commissioners have had for some time considerable trouble; nor had they got over it. The trouble was caused by a few discontented selfish persons, of little education, with purblind views of education, who thought to have everything their own way in school matters, and they have so far succeeded, that Wentworth has had neither of its two schools in operation for two years.

14. *Chatham, No. 1*.—I have not really to report unfavorably of any of the schools. The best conducted, and where the children, from the results collected at their examinations, showed most improvement, are those of Nos. 2, 5, and 6.

15. *Chatham, No. 2*.—This division has five districts. At the time

of my visit two of their districts had no school. The three schools in operation were in a pretty satisfactory state. So often are schools here brought under the control of new teachers, that the children, though brought into a very favorable state of mind for training, and making favorable advances in their education at one time, are in danger of coming under others less capable of teaching them, or it may be, who will retard instead of advance their education. I have faith in the school commissioners of this section of the township. I believe them to be men earnest in the advancement of education.

16. *Grenville*.—The opposers to the school law in this township are as much disposed as ever not to submit to it. They would rather put up with such schools as they have been able to keep, or have no schools, than to come under any law compelling them to support and keep schools in operation for the benefit of their children. For resisting the law their motives are various; but whatever these be, their youth continue to grow up without education, or with very little deserving the name.

17. *Harrington*.—All that I have said respecting Grenville applies equally to Harrington.

CITY OF MONTREAL.

The two schools under my inspection in Montreal continue to flourish. Mr. Arnold's model school deserves special notice. Its numbers, since the first year I inspected it, have tripled; and in efficiency, I observe every year a favorable difference.

Of Mr. Robertson's school, I would state further, that if an addition were made to his school-room as a distinct department for girls, to be conducted by a female teacher, and Mr. Robertson's salary so much increased as to enable him to employ a few paid pupil-teachers, his school would greatly increase, and become more deserving of public support.

Second Report.

In this report Mr. Bruce describes the obstacles to the working of the school law and the progress of the schools in about the same terms as he used in his previous reports. He mentions at the same time that the number of ill-kept schools is decreasing, and that at the present time there is not one which has not at least done some good.

Mr. Bruce then makes the following remarks on the subject of the matter taught in the schools in his district:

Reading.—The elementary lessons in reading are, in many schools, now taught more rationally than formerly, and children pass through the elementary stage much quicker and with far more knowledge of what they read. Still farther improvements are required, and must be aimed at. The methods of teaching the more advanced classes is greatly reformed. A large proportion of the children in the more advanced classes, in many schools, read with considerable fluency and expression. Orthography is generally taught by the slate—a great improvement.

Writing.—The proportion of children, in nearly every school under my supervision, taught writing is much greater than formerly; and the improvement in quality is, perhaps, more than the improvement in quantity.

Arithmetic.—The improvement in teaching arithmetic is very marked compared with former years. A very large proportion of the children now work elementary rules with ease, accuracy and expedition. And teaching pupils the application of the different rules to business is now more attended to.

Geography.—In only eight schools is geography not now taught. Why it is not taught in these is, that parents will not purchase geographies, nor will commissioners buy wall-maps, &c.

Grammar.—In four or five schools only is grammar not taught; the fault is that of parents, who will not purchase grammars for their children, considering grammar a useless study. Grammar, which requires more thought in the children and skill and knowledge in the teacher, is still in a state which indicates a deficiency in knowledge, tact, or industry on the part of too many teachers. The grammars used are scarcely up to our improved methods of teaching it.

Composition.—Composition is taught in about 80 schools, and in a considerable number of these very successfully. I cannot remember that it was taught in any school when school inspection first commenced.

Vocal Music.—It is to be much regretted that so very little attention is paid to singing in our schools. In only a very few within my field is singing practised. Every teacher should be required to give

instructions in music; it should be considered an indispensable branch of instruction.

Drawing.—This is another branch too much neglected. Writing and drawing should be taught contemporaneously; where this is the case, the art of writing is acquired much sooner and with more ease.

1. *Elgin.*—The schools of this municipality all had teachers, and were in operation at the dates of my visits, except the school of No. 3, which happened to have holidays. In this report I have to complain of no school as being in an unsatisfactory state. One school (No. 2) had a very small attendance. I wish commissioners would take a more active part in collecting school dues.

2. *Dundee.*—I found two schools vacant at this visit to the township, namely, No. 2 and the dissentient school; both these have not been kept regularly in operation for some time. The dissentient school can never do much good; it and No. 7 should be united; their union would make a strong district, and commissioners would be able to keep its school regularly in operation conducted by an efficient teacher.

Of the schools in operation, Nos. 1, 4, 7 and 8 showed considerable improvement; No. 1 the most. The children of No. 5 showed very little advancement.

The school commissioners shew considerable zeal in discharging their duties, and their Secretary-Treasurer deserves praise for his part of the work.

3. *St. Anicet.*—This parish cannot yet boast of many efficient schools. So frequently are teachers changed, and schools are thus brought under new discipline and children under new methods of teaching, that our difficulties in improving them can hardly be overcome. The people desire to have their own way in choosing instructors and change them as they wish. Commissioners and trustees generally yield to their desires and wishes, and thus in mending matters, as they think, things go from bad to worse. We have remonstrated against this evil, but, as yet, in the majority of municipalities, to little purpose.

The best conducted schools, and in which children show the most advancement, are No. 12, under commissioners, and Nos. 3 and 4, under trustees; next there are No. 1, under trustees, and Nos. 3 and 4 under commissioners; the rest are in a very tolerable state.

I may further remark that there is no want of desire with either the people or the commissioners and trustees to have good teaching and good teachers. Their notions about teaching, sound education, of principles, and ignorance of how schools should be conducted, are the great drawbacks.

4. *Godmanchester.*—The state of schools in Godmanchester, this year, varies not a little; some are conducted with considerable zeal, efficiency and success. No. 8, under the commissioners, gives the least satisfaction.

5. *Hinchinbrooke.*—In this report I have to speak favourably of nearly all the schools of this municipality. A reformation is gradually working less or more into them all, except the dissentient school. So often is this school without a teacher, so inferior are the teachers the trustees generally engage, and so short is the term of engagement, that the difficulties which these create are too formidable to be easily and in a short time overcome. The present teacher, however, should she be continued for some time, may do not a little to revive it.

The school commissioners of this township discharge their duties with not a little zeal, and their Secretary-Treasurer is likewise very attentive to his work.

6. *Franklin.*—Of the schools in operation all are in a fair state of advancement. The least improvement I observed was in writing and grammar.

I have to speak favorably of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners. His books are kept with much correctness, and everything recorded and entered with care.

7. *Huntingdon.*—The schools of this village are all in operation. The advancement of education since my first visits to their schools is most satisfactory.

The dissentient school is in a fair state, considering the difficulties with which the teacher has to contend. The greatest are the irregular attendance of the scholars and want of books and other school apparatus.

8. *St. Malachie.*—I have to report, and with much pleasure, of the very satisfactory state of the schools of this municipality. In my visits I was accompanied by one or more of the school commissioners, and in not a few schools some parents attended.

The commissioners are generally very attentive to their duties. They have a very efficient Secretary-Treasurer. Books well kept.

9. *St. Jean Chrysostôme, No. 1.*—Visited together two schools in this division, and found them pretty well conducted. The teachers of both are diligent, and not unsuccessful in advancing the children. The journals of the schools showed some increase of pupils.

The dissentient school of this part of the parish was not open at the time.

The school affairs of this division of the parish are at present in a much better condition than formerly, and the murmuring objections to the school law and property assessment are no more heard of.

Last year their finances were in rather a confused and unsatisfactory state. The difficulties then existing are now nearly got over. It is unfortunate that they are still in arrears with their teachers.

10. *St. Jean Chrysostôme, No. 2.*—I visited the mixed schools in this division of the parish, in company with Mr. Inspector Grondin. There are No. 8 and 14, both of which are in a favorable state of improvement. Schools Nos. 1, 11 and 13 are Protestant, and were visited by myself only. They are in a very satisfactory state, Nos. 1 and 11 especially.

11. *Hemmingford.*—In some municipalities education advances far less than in others; the same is the case in different districts. This applies to Hemmingford. Compared with some other municipalities, it lags behind; comparing some of its own districts with others, there is a marked difference.

12. *La Chute.*—At present all the schools in operation are in a satisfactory state. The quality of the instruction given is now much better.

The present Board of Commissioners, also, pay considerable attention to their duties. For their assiduity and zeal they deserve praise.

The college is, likewise, in a favorable condition, and is well worthy of public support; nor are its directors unmindful of their duties.

13. *Gore and Wentworth.*—I have repeatedly directed attention to the poverty of the Gore and Wentworth, and therefore the difficulty of keeping schools regularly in operation. The education which the children of these municipalities are receiving is, in consequence, meagre and imperfect. In not one of their schools, with the exception of No. 1, do I find the children advancing to my satisfaction.

I anticipate not a little help to rise the character of their schools, and keep them more regularly in operation, from the present chairman of the Board, the Rev. Mr. Griffin.

14. *Chatham, No. 1.*—This is another municipality favored with earnest, zealous, and watchful commissioners, who spend not a little of their time in attending to their school affairs. In engaging teachers they are frequently disappointed, depending more on diplomas for professional skill and scholarship than on that true test of qualification—previous success in conducting schools. This year their teachers, with one or two exceptions, are persons of fair qualifications, and in teaching, pretty successful. They all complain of that general hindrance to successful results in teaching, viz: irregular and unpunctual attendance.

15. *Chatham, No. 2.*—It is of great advantage to schools when school commissioners and inspectors work together, and the suggestions and recommendations of the latter are followed up. I single out this municipality as one such. It has been but a short time a distinct municipality for school purposes, yet they have built two new school-houses, one of which is the best in the township of Chatham; and their schools are in as good a condition as I could expect. Their Secretary-Treasurer is also very efficient, and otherwise of value to the Board.

16. *St. Andrew's.*—All the schools in this municipality have been kept regularly in operation during last year, except those of Nos. 11, 12 and 14. The academy is in its usual state of efficiency. The English academy is kept very regularly in operation and deserves public support.

Both the commissioners and their Secretary-Treasurer discharge their respective duties very satisfactorily. The trustees of the dissentient schools and their Secretary-Treasurer show considerable skill in attending to their duties.

17. *Greenville and Harrington.*—The people in this section of my field of inspection, who object to come under the School Act, are still triumphant.

CITY OF MONTREAL.

The schools under my supervision in the City of Montreal are in their usual very satisfactory state, and the number of children attending is steadily increasing. The greatest increase is in Mr. Arnold's model school. This school continues to be conducted in a very efficient manner; the most remarkable skill and success appear in his method of teaching arithmetic.

Extract from the Report of Mr. Inspector VALADE.

COUNTIES OF JACQUES CARTIER, HOCHELAGA, VAUDREUIL AND SOULANGES,
AND THE CATHOLIC POPULATION OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

As I have always done, I consider it to be my duty, instead of suggesting new theories, to watch and see that your recommendations are put into execution, and I have endeavored by every means in my power to place the schools in a position to meet the requirements of society, to the honor and profit of which they are destined to redound. I have also applied myself to the careful examination of the accounts of each Secretary, the liabilities, and the collection of the rates, and I have taken measures to assure myself of the regular payment of the teachers. I must here remark that I have to congratulate myself on the ability exhibited by a great number of the Secretary-Treasurers in the performance of their duty, a condition which all acknowledge to be the mainspring of the school system.

So great is the interest which the parents take in the success of the schools, that when they are informed of the day and hour of my visits, they take real pleasure in being present at the examination.

I have always received a cordial welcome from the clergy. Our venerable Curés take the more interest in the schools in consequence of the instruction there imparted being based upon religious principles.

As to the teacher, that privileged individual, that lay apostle, I have generally found him at his post, full of devotion to the cause which ensures him the esteem, respect and confidence of the parents of his pupils.

I must not neglect to make honorable mention of some teachers in my district who have been educated at the Normal Schools; they are distinguished for their abilities and good morals. Sobriety, vigilance and love of study characterize most of them.

I have nothing but praise to bestow upon our religious educational institutions, in which order and perfect discipline are maintained.

If I have alluded to the acknowledged merit of the male teachers, I must certainly not forget the eminent services rendered by teachers of the opposite sex in their respective sections.

In most of the schools I was particularly struck by the progress which had been made in two branches of instruction: writing from dictation and mental arithmetic; nor are the epistolary art, composition and declamation neglected.

I subjoin a review of each school under my superintendence.

(To be continued.)

Notices of Books and Recent Publications.

BUCHON.—*Jules Marcou, par Max. Buchon.*—Billet, Publisher; Salins (Jura): 1865.—24 pp. 18mo.

A short biography containing an account of the scientific researches of M. Jules Marcou, the well known author and geologist. M. Marcou spent several years at Harvard College, near Boston, and while in North America, explored the continent in all directions, and published many valuable works. In writing the present sketch of his life and labors, M. Buchon has performed a patriotic task, the object in view being to place prominently before the eyes of the public in Europe the success of a friend and countryman.

McGEE.—*Speeches and Addresses chiefly on the subject of British American Union.* By the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. Chapman and Hall, Publishers; London: 1865.—308 pp. 8vo.

The popularity of Mr. McGee, as a speaker, is so widely spread that his name is, in itself, a sufficient guarantee for the favorable reception of any collection of oratorical efforts to which it may be appended. The speeches and addresses will be read with interest and pleasure by persons of all shades in politics for the eloquence and learning displayed by their author, if for no other reason. The subject, besides, is completely exhausted in these pages—at least on that side of the question which the gifted speaker has espoused.

BAILLARGEON.—*Le Nouveau Testament de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ, traduit de la Vulgate en français, avec des notes explicatives, morales et dogmatiques; Par Mgr. Charles François Baillargeon, Evêque de Tloa, administrateur de l'archidiocèse de Québec.*—Brouseau, Printer; Québec: 1865.—xiv-817 pp. 8vo.

The translation of the Vulgate, of which we have here a remodelled edition, was undertaken at the instance of Mgr. Signay, when the author was still curé of Québec, and published for the first time about the year 1846. In the former edition, besides numerous foot notes added by the translator, the commentaries of Père de Caërières had been interwoven with the text—an arrangement that proved embarrassing and defective. In expunging the commentaries from the

text for the present edition, it was found that many portions of the narrative, as translated, would require to be altered in consequence of the intended change, or because His Lordship believed they were susceptible of a more literal rendering, and the greatest part of the text has been retranslated accordingly. The work is enriched besides by the addition of notes to the 1600 contained in the first edition. The typographical part of the work leaves nothing to be desired and reflects much credit on the publisher.

L'ECHO DE LA FRANCE.—*Revue étrangère de science et de littérature, numéro spécimen.*—30 pp. 8vo., double columns, Louis Ricard, Editor and Proprietor. Longmoore & Co., Printers; Montreal.

As the title implies, this periodical will be devoted to the reproduction of articles selected from the French reviews. It will be issued once a week, and, under the management of Mr. Ricard, promises to be highly successful. We would suggest that in addition to the name of the author, the title of the publication from which each article is drawn should be also given. The price of subscription will be \$4 per annum.

SOUVENIRS du 4 novembre 1864, dédiés aux anciens élèves du Séminaire de Ste. Thérèse. Eusèbe Sénécal, Publisher, Montreal; 38 pp. 8vo.

The contents of this pamphlet are, 1st, an account of the inauguration of a monument erected to the memory of the founder of the college at Ste. Thérèse, the late Rev. Mr. Ducharme; 2nd, a sketch of his life and, 3rd, an essay treating of his capabilities as a speaker; the whole being ornamented with a portrait and a view of the college. We have said before that these little publications are calculated to do much good by promoting the interest felt by former pupils for the place that witnessed their first attempts to win literary honors, and by diffusing a knowledge of our institutions of learning throughout the country.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

—The boys of the High School, before separating for the Christmas holidays, gave an entertainment at the school to their friends and friends of the school. Yesterday afternoon a very respectable and numerous audience gathered in the large hall of the school, when the following programme of recitations was gone through:—

First came an admirable Prologue written by Geo. Murray, Esq., recited by Smith.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I make my bow,
With trembling diffidence, before you now;
But still not speechless, for methinks I trace
Kind looks, warm sympathy in every face.

I'm not exactly, if the truth be told,
A veteran actor—I am eight years old—
And who can hope artistic skill to reach
By seven years' practice of the gift of speech?
Boldly I say it, we have one and all
Toiled not to bring discredit on this Hall:
Throughout our Programme we have sought to "steer"
"From grave to gay, from lively to severe,"
And, should we fail, we humbly still profess
That we at least have merited success.

True, we have nought on which we can rely
To charm the taste or fascinate the eye,
No painted miracles of scenic art,
No costumes faithful to each actor's part,
No gilt, no spangles, nought in fact beyond
This one-stage property of Shylock's bond.

For this day only, Shylock will be seen
Without his far-famed "Jewish gabardine;"
Sweared with no soot to simulate his breed,
The "noble Moor" will eloquently plead,
And Buzfuz thunder with indignant frown,
Docked of his wig and destitute of gown!

Forgive these flaws: and if our *mise en scène*
Be deemed too simple, to severely plain,
Recall the tale of antique ages, how
When men and women laughed and wept as now,
Thespis, the Sire of histrionic art,
Displayed his *troupe* of actors in—a cart.

One word, kind Sirs, pray pardon us the crime
Of being young—'t will soften down with time ;
And you, fair Ladies, o'er our efforts fling
Your smiles' bright sunshine—for, as poets sing,
Without the smile from partial beauty won,
Oh! what were man (or boy)—the world without a sun!

The remainder of the programme was as follows :

2. The Idiot Boy—Matthews.
3. Othello's Defence before the Venetian Senate—Macduff.
4. The Duel—Baylis.
5. Scene from "The Merchant of Venice,"—Shylock, Childs; Antonio, Reid; Bassanio, Empey.
6. The Charge of the Light Brigade—Michaels.
7. Sergeant Buzfuz address to the Jury—Baynes.
8. Trial Scene from "The Merchant of Venice"—Shylock, Baynes; Antonio, Mulholland; Bassanio, Macdougall; Gratiano, Fleet, The Duke, Jones; The Doctor of Laws, Cross.

The whole of the recitations were very excellent, most creditable to the lads themselves and to their Elocution Master, Professor Andrew. We never remember to have heard such excellent school recitations. Baynes was particularly clever in Sergeant Buzfuz and Shylock—the trial scene being all done *à merveille*, and Michaels recited "The Charge of the Light Brigade" with wonderful spirit, feeling and good taste.

The elocutionary exercises having concluded, the audience adjourned to the gymnasium, in order to witness the performances of Mr. Barnjum's pupils. First in order came the Junior Class, who, with wooden dumbbells, executed a variety of most graceful and spirited movements, and anything more admirably adapted for the use of children than these exercises, we cannot conceive. Next came a class of older boys with Indian clubs. This beautiful exercise is doubtless familiar to many of our readers, who witnessed it at the late entertainment given at the Rink, on which occasion it was the theme of universal admiration. Next followed the parallel bars, on which the boys showed to very great advantage the elasticity and ease of their movements, speaking volumes for the admirable training which they had received. Mr. Barnjum evidently believes that *nerve* as well as *muscle* should be cultivated, and the dashing in which the young gymnasts threw somersaults in every variety on the bars showed that he had found apt pupils, but still an attentive observer could notice that the *confident* way in which the feats were performed resulted in no small measure from the consciousness of possessing the necessary muscle, for no boy is allowed to perform any advanced feat, until he has proved his subtlety to execute all the simple feats *perfectly*. After the parallel bars came the horizontal bar, and here the feats performed were such as to call forth enthusiastic applause, and it was only the confidence, inspired by knowing that their careful instructor would allow them to do nothing which they were not fully capable of, that could have reconciled many parents to see their sons apparently determining in the most deliberate manner to break their necks; but there was no occasion for fear, as so strong and pliant have the boys' limbs become by practice, and so well can they balance their bodies, that a severe fall seemed to be an impossibility. After the horizontal bar came the Trapeze and Side Rings; on the former several excellent feats were performed, and the latter demonstrated with what perfect comfort one can progress by an alternate hold of the arms, when those arms have been *educated* to the required standard. Next came the inclined ladders, up which the boys climbed hand over hand without the aid of feet, and ran up and down without any assistance from the hand, a feat which, although it looks easy, in reality demands a great command of nerve, and no small practice. After a few more feats, the exercises terminated, and the audience dispersed, evidently much gratified by what they had witnessed.—*Montreal Gazette*.

—The several schools under the control of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of Montreal held their Christmas examinations. At the British and Canadian School and the Griffintown School, the examinations were presided over by Wm. Lunn, Esquire, Chairman of the Board, and books were distributed as rewards. The pupils are numerous in both schools and appear to have made considerable progress during the course of the year. The British and Canadian School is now under the management of Mr. Allan, formerly of the Quebec suburb Model School, and the Griffintown School is conducted by Mr. Williamson. At the Quebec suburb Model School, Panet street, the examinations were presided over by the Hon. the Superintendent of Education; Rev. Dr. Taylor, Hon. James Ferrier, Wm. Lunn, Esquire, and Professor Hicks, being among those present. After presenting the prizes to the pupils, the Superintendent addressed those present, and was followed by Mr. Ferrier and Mr. Lunn. The school is conducted by Mr. and Miss Maxwell with several assistants. The pupils gave evidence of sufficient proficiency in the several branches of tuition.

—We had the pleasure of visiting the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Coteau St. Louis on Saturday last, when the whole of the pupils, 35 in number, were mustered to receive a lesson in writing from Professor Long. We should premise that M. Magnan, one of the preceptors, has himself been studying under the Professor, with the purpose of being better able

to instruct his pupils in the art of writing, and so enable them, as book-keepers or accountants, to earn an honest living. The Principal of the Institution, Mr. Belanger, was present, and three other Priests. The boys, who in age varied from 8 to 20, were put through a great many exercises on the black board; the explanations of Professor Long being interpreted to them by their tutors. The boys seemed to enjoy their drill very much; and it was surprising with what aptitude they imitated the curves and straight lines which the Professor put before them. At the conclusion of the hour's exercise, they thanked Prof. Long for his visit, which he promised to repeat after the Holidays. This highly benevolent institution is under the auspices of His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, and the Seminary of St. Sulpice, protected by the Provincial Government, and directed by the Clerks Regular of St. Viator. English as well as French is taught. The course of studies is of six years, and comprises grammar, history, geography, arithmetic, book-keeping, drawing and catechism, with some notions on agriculture and domestic economy. The charges for board and tuition are very low, and the unfortunates who have had to seek for education there look very comfortable and happy. They seem to be deeply attached to their teachers, and were delighted when any one of them smiled upon Professor Long's appreciation of their efforts. The charge for board and tuition is very low, and there is no characteristic dress—only the pupils must be provided with clothes, that they may be always kept clean.—*Transcript*.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—The usual monthly meeting of the Montreal Natural History Society was held in their lecture-room on the evening of the 18th Dec.—Dr. Smallwood, the President, in the chair.

The meeting was well attended. Among the members present were the Lord Bishop and Metropolitan, Principal Dawson, Dr. De Sola, Dr. Wilkes, Dr. Philip Carpenter, and others.

A paper on "Sanguinaria Canadensis" or Blood Root, by Dr. Gibb of London, England, was then read.

In January, 1860, I had the honour to read before the Medical Society of London a lengthy paper upon the natural history, properties, and medical uses of the *Sanguinaria Canadensis* with the chief object of making the medical profession in Britain acquainted with a plant which I had employed for some years with decided advantage in many affections of the chest and wind-pipe. My observations were the result of many years' study of the plant in Canada, where I had made myself familiar with everything concerning its growth and natural history.

As far as traditional evidence can be traced, this plant has been used for some time by the Indian tribes of North America as a pigment and a medicine, and also as a dyeing agent. Charlevoix appears to have been the first writer who mentions the purpose for which it was employed when using the expression: "S'est souvent servi de la racine de cette plante pour provoquer les mois;" or, in other words, it was administered as an emmenagogue.

The first printed notice of the plant is briefly given in the *Historia Canadensium Plantarum*, by Jac. Cornuti, Doctor of Medicine, published in 1635. The second notice was by John Parkinson, apothecary, London, 1640. It cannot be inferred from Parkinson's writings that the plant was cultivated in England, although seeds of the plant had been sent from Canada and Virginia, which had propagated abundantly in a garden near London.

The plants described by Charlevoix in 1744, which he met in Canada in 1721 and 1722, are considered in the first volume of the *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec* by Mr. Wm. Sheppard.

The *Sanguinaria* cannot be considered a handsome, showy plant; nevertheless, its humble but beautiful little white flower, and the extreme delicacy of its leaves curiously veined on the under side with a pale orange, almost at once strikes the observer; with justice it may be called elegant, and can be admired not only for its delicacy, but is interesting from the circumstance of its very early inflorescence, being among the earliest of the Spring plants of North America, appearing as soon as the frost leaves the earth in the month of April or May.

The flower resembles the White Crocus very closely, for when it first comes up the bud is supported by the leaf, and is folded together with it. The flower, however, soon elevates itself above its protector, while the leaf, having performed its duty of guardian to the tender bud, expands to the full size. The flowers have generally 3 petals—I have seen them of 10 or 12. They are, therefore, not double; with care and attention a fine double variety might be produced, as there is a great propensity in this plant to multiply its petals.

There are, probably, two varieties of the *Sanguinaria*, carefully founded upon the difference in the form of the petals. When the flowering has passed about a month the whole plant becomes much increased in size, frequently attaining, by midsummer, to the height of 15 inches, but commonly not exceeding 12. The number of leaves varies from 2 to 5 or 6, and several flower stalks are furnished from a single root. The number of flowers depend upon the number of buds or hybernacula, but usually 3 to 4.

The plant has been successfully grown in various parts of Europe, still it is very little known in Britain, and is not even mentioned in many of the systematic works on Botany.

Dr. Wm. P. C. Barton speaks of it in an arid sandy soil near the University of Pennsylvania; whilst Pursh says it delights in fertile soil;

moreover it is found where the soil is positively bad, thus showing it is a hardy perennial. It may be converted into an annual by parting the roots in the Autumn, when it will blossom in the beginning of April, and its seeds will ripen perhaps before June. The Sanguinaria or blood-root possesses several names derived from its leading peculiarities and uses. It was called blood-wort, blood-root, beth-root and sanguinaria, from the circumstance of its fleshy roots pouring forth a bright red or orange juice when broken asunder. This juice was used as a dye and a paint by the Indians to smear their bodies, and hence called Indian paint, Indian Turmeric, Puceoon, Ked Puceoon, Red Root, &c.

Canada is essentially the country of the Blood Root, hence its name, especially as it was first discovered in that part of the British Empire. It grows in abundance throughout the woods of Canada, and is found plentifully on the shores of Lake Superior. I believe it will be found as far eastward as Labrador and to the north of the Saskatchewan, on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. I have seen it growing in various parts of Canada, at distances the most remote. My friend Dr. Henry G. Wright has seen it at Grosse Isle, and it extends much further eastward. I believe that Pursh found it on the peaty soil of Anticosti. It exists throughout the United States as far as Florida. According to the late Mr. Peter Dease, of Montreal, it is unknown at Hudson's Bay, a fact corroborated by Sir John Richardson. The extreme western range of the plant probably extends to the Oregon Territory and California.

No. 1 Bryanston street, London, England.

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Gibb for his valuable paper.

Principal Dawson exhibited a number of specimens of flint implements and fossils from St. Acheul, near Amiens, and made some observations on the mode of their occurrence in the "high level gravel," in the valley of the Somme. He referred to the investigations of Boucher de Perthes and Prestwich, and quoted a portion of the description of the locality by the latter geologist. He stated the following conclusions derived from an examination of the locality and of the specimens, more especially those in the collection of Mr. Prestwich:

1. The implements cannot be considered so much a characteristic of a particular age as of a particular work. They are not spears or arrows, or hatchets, but picks and diggers, adapted for digging in the earth or hollowing wooden canoes. A consideration of the implements of the American stone age renders it in the highest degree improbable that the makers of these tools did not possess also stone arrows, spears, knives, and other implements. The application of the idea of an older and ruder stone age to such implements is gratuitous, and contradicted by American antiquities.

2. There are some reasons to induce the belief that these implements have been used in driving small horizontal adits into the gravel beds of St. Acheul, in search of flints. In this case they may not be of great antiquity, though certainly older than the Roman occupation of Gaul.

3. They may have been deposited with the gravel. In this case they belong historically to a very ancient period, though geologically modern; and at the time when they were deposited the climate of France must have been more severe than at present, its level different, its surface covered with dense forests, inhabited by several great quadrupeds now extinct, and the River Somme must have been much larger than at present, and must have spread its waters over a wide plain, in which the St. Acheul gravel constituted a bank or point, inundated in times of flood, and perhaps too by the aborigines as a place for making canoes.

4. Before either of the two theories above stated can be finally accepted, much more thorough investigations must be made, and also careful topographical surveys of the whole district. In event of the view last mentioned being sustained, the question of absolute time required will still be difficult to determine, since the causes of erosion and deposition in operation at the period in question must have been very dissimilar from those now in action, and other unknown causes, whether sudden or gradual in their operation, must have intervened to produce the present state of the country. In this case, however, there would be a strong probability that the *Rhinoceros tichorhinus* and the Mammoth had continued to exist in Europe down to the period of the implement making.

It is much to be desired that a series of systematic excavations in these gravels, and a geological and topographical survey of the whole basin of the Somme should be undertaken by some scientific body in France or England, as it may require many years to enable individual explorers to obtain the data required to settle the questions that have been raised in connection with these deposits.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Dawson for his valuable paper was passed by the Society, after which the meeting adjourned.—*Montreal Gazette*.

—At a meeting of the New York Association for the Advancement of Science and Art, in Cooper Institute, October 16th, a deeply interesting paper was read by Mathew Hale Smith, Esq., on the "Evidences of the Hebrew Origin of the North American Indian," which well deserves republishing in full for the benefit of all who are interested in the subject.

The following remarks were made by Mr. J. Disturnell, relating to the present condition of America and the native Indians:

"On the continent of America man is found to exist, in different degrees of civilization, from the 75th of north latitude to Tierra del Fuego, 55 south latitude; on the extreme north being found the dwarfed Esquimaux, and on the south the full-grown Patagonian Indians. For three or four hun-

ded years this vast stretch of country, running through 130 degrees of latitude, has been known and peopled mostly by different European nations. Danish America or Greenland, Russian America, and British America, lying on the north, each extend within the Arctic circle.

"The United States, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, has been mainly settled by the Dutch, English, Irish, French, Swedes, Norwegians, Germans, and Africans—there now being only about 400,000 native Indians. Cuba, Mexico, Central America, and most of the South American republics, have been settled by Spaniards and Africans; Brazil by the Portuguese and Africans.

"The whites and the blacks embrace all of the known modern origin of the inhabitants now living on the American continent, estimated at from 55 or 60,000,000 souls. Of the native American copper-colored race there is estimated to be 10 or 15,000,000 living in North and South America, whose origin is doubtful, their antiquity running back many hundred years before the discovery of America by Columbus. A late writer says, 'The aboriginals of all America have a striking similarity. From Tierra del Fuego to Labrador they are of a swarthy copper color, with straight hair, small ears, prominent cheek-bones, thick lips, long eye, and gloomy aspect. These are considered as distinct families of the human race, though intermixed in every shade.

"Perhaps the most degraded portion of the North American Indians may be found in California and Oregon, while further to the north, along the Pacific coast in British America and Russian America, there are to be found a more intelligent people, who are good fisherman, hunters, and carvers in wood, stones, and metals, and that in many respects they assume an Asiatic character in their mode of living and rude drawing and carving of different kinds of ornaments.

"On Queen Charlotte's Island, lying midway between Vancouver's Island and the Sitka Archipelago, the native population, named Skittagets, are described as the best specimens of the Indian race, apt to adopt the customs of civilized life, ingenious and industrious, and naturally white as the inhabitants of the south of Europe; no doubt partaking of an Asiatic cast of character, although possibly more or less removed from the Hebrew origin. One singular fact that exists in regard to the Indian race in America is that of the slight difference in color when living in the Arctic or the equatorial regions, while in Africa and Asia the very black natives are found near the equator."—*Phrenological Journal*.

—The American Geographical and Statistical Society was incorporated by the State of New-York, in 1854. Its object is the advancement of geographical and statistical science by the collection and diffusion of these branches of knowledge; and although in its infancy it has already taken rank as a useful and efficient institution. Among its members are many gentlemen of high scientific and literary attainments, both in New-York city, where its rooms are located, and elsewhere, and it has for its honorary and corresponding members gentlemen, both in this country and abroad, of the first literary and scientific excellence. The Society has on foot at present the following measures, among others:

A collection of standard and authentic maps and books relating to geography and statistics, to be kept for public use under proper regulations. This collection now numbers over 10,000 volumes.

The holding of meetings, monthly (July, August, and September excepted), for the reading of valuable papers, with scientific discussions, personal narrations of explorers, travellers, etc. These meetings are open and free to the public, and the proceedings of the Society therein are published to the world. Interesting matter relating to the subjects comprehended by the association is solicited from all parts of the globe. Another object is the origination and assistance in explorations of undescribed regions and in voyages of discovery.

Valuable contributions to the library and funds of the Society have been received from time to time, from and through the different departments at Washington, and the department of State has shown a special interest in its welfare by recommending it to the notice of foreign powers and the foreign agents of the government.

The Society is now seeking to raise a fund of \$10,000, by subscriptions, with which they contemplate taking suitable rooms, and fitting them up properly as a library, where will be afforded to all the privilege of consulting its books and maps. The Society has also in view the establishment of a permanent fund of \$100,000, to be raised in the same manner, the income of which is to be applied to the extension of geographical and statistical information, and the carrying into practical effect any undertaking which may be considered worthy of accomplishment.

It is hoped that the amount, \$10,000, will be speedily made up, and the laudable purpose of the Society in opening their extensive and valuable collection of books, maps, and other geographical matter to the public be carried into effect without delay.

Gentlemen of means now have an opportunity of subscribing to the library project, and may soon have the opportunity to enroll themselves as patrons of the permanent fund, as the subscriptions therefor will ere long be opened.—*Id.*