heads have justly gained him a great reputation, has projected a bronze statue of Washington, for the Central Park, the attitude of which when it is mounted on a pedestal will be 150 feet. The head of this monster would be twelve feet long the nose three feet, the outstretched arm some thirty feet, and the buttons of his coat five feet in circumference. Conceive of the Father of his Country being done up in bronze to such a frightful extent as this. And, in the Central Park, too! Mr. Palmer, we learn, either has made, or intends to make his working model ten feet high. But we doubt his ever being required to magnify his model. If such a frightful object as a bronze Washington a hundred and fifty feet high were placed in the Central Park, the price of building lots in that vicinity would fall to a ruinously low price. The vast emblematical figure of Bavaria at Munich is but a seventh of the dimensions of Mr Palmer's mountainous Washington. Emblematical figures may be of any dimensions required for decorative purposes; but the statue of a hero, to be heroic must be of life-size. Any exaggeration tends to belittle and not to dignify a subject. It would be just as absurd to represent Washington as a hundred feet high in history, as in sculpture. Truth is just as essential to true dignity in art as in literature. If Mr. Palmer is ambitious to make a heroic statue of Washington, let him conform his work as nearly as possible to the actual appearance of his hero when he was at his best estate.

—The Brooklyn Academy of Music is now nearly completed, externally; and it makes a much finer appearance than we supposed it could, judging from the elevation of the architect. But no one would imagine from any external indications that it was an edifice devoted to music and the fine arts. It is the most massive looking and imposing structure in Brooklyn, and there is none on this side of the East River that looks so much like a monastic or collegiate building. Keeping out of view the purposes for which it is intended, it is a noble piece of architecture. We hope that some amends will be made in the interior decorations for its external solemnity.

SCIENCE, INDUSTRY, AND INVENTION.

THE ACAMINE LAMP.—Since coal oil has come into its present extensive and increasing use, a lamp in which it can be burned without a chimney, has been a great desideratum. The Acamine lamp invented by Mr W. H Racey of Brooklyn, and now on exhibition at the corner of Canal and Elm streets, seems to meet this want. Mr. Racey has spent three years in perfecting the arrangement of his burner, which may be adapted to any size of flame that is required. It gives quite as brilliant a light as any lamp employing a chimney, with quite as little smoke, and if anything, a less liability to extinction by sudden motion or the effect of a current of air. This result is attained by a simple and ingenious contrivance, which constantly affords to the flame a supply of air heated by the burning of the lamp itself and without any form of mechanism whatever. Mr. Racey, who we believe is a gentleman of fortune, has pursued the laborious studies and experiments by which he has completed his invention, from the impulse of scientific enthusiasm and the desire of usefulness. He is likely also to receive a large pecuniary reward. With the universal employment of coal-oil, under one name or another, for illumination, his lamp must make its way into every house in the land.

GOLD WASHERS.—A remarkable improvement has been effected, in a very simple way, in gold washing in Russia, by the new machine of M. Toussaint. Its invention was based, indeed, upon the law of specific gravities, like all the other and well known washing machines; but with especial regarded to that part of the law, so to speak, which makes the velocity of descent of falling bodies proportional to their specific gravities, causing them to descend through long distances, so as to form separate layers, the heaviest at the bottom. This law is of the last importance in speculating upon the geological formations of the earth's crust. Mr. Toussaint applies it to gold washing by using vertical tubes and quiet water, instead of horizontal cradles and rushing water, the gold sinking rapidly and quietly to the bottom of the tube. He thus saves immensely in time, labor, amount, and therefore cost, of water; can work with less water, and loses no gold at all; for there are no "tailings." The only limit to the operation is the length and hight of the tubing. The same machine is effectual where metals not more than half the weight of gold are to be washed, and experience with it shows the reproduction of the entire quantity of metal, artificially mixed for the experiment, in the proportion of only 1 to 384,000 of sand.

A TARDY PROTEST AGAINST THE CONFUSION OF TONGUES AT BABEL.—The most learned men in Spain, and some of the most distinguished, have formed a society, full of zeal and hope, called "La Sociedad de la Lengua Universal," with the intent to do away with all dialects and differences among the speaking tribes of earth. For $1 a quarter, each member is entitled to receive the statutes of the society, and the successive parts of the grammar and dictionary of the new language, as they appear. Among the names of members we see some high on the roll of science. Martinez de la Loza, Olozaga, Tejada, Luxan, Pacheco, De Rivas, La Vega, De San Luis, Rivero, Lopez, Castillo, Godoy, Maldonado, Montalvan, Hartzenbusch, and the founder of the Society, Sotos Ochando.

—In a letter from Prof. Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, published in *Silliman's Journal* for September, we find an account of Lieut. Gilliss' expedition to the western coast of the United States for the Coast Survey, to observe the late eclipse. The sun there rose eclipsed, and the moisture of the air was so great at the time that they were obliged frequently to wipe away the dew from the object-glasses of their telescopes. At the moment of totality, beads of golden and ruby-colored light flashed almost entirely around the moon, not constant even for a second at one point, but fitfully flashing, as reflection from rippled water, and as mutable in the respective places of the colors. This bead-thread broke up suddenly, when, for the first time, protuberances were noticed beyond the following limb of the moon. The largest one was in the form of a flattened cone or pyramid of cumulus cloud, about one minute in hight by two minutes broad at the base. The cloud was not a uniform mass, but apparently an aggregation of small ones, and its general tint was a rosy pink, with occasional spots and edges of yellowish white light, as though sunlight shone obliquely through them. This was an extremely beautiful sight, and occupied Mr Gilliss so intently that he lost the beat of the chronometer. It was then so dark that he could not see the second-dial on the gold chronometer without a lantern. On looking back to the telescope he saw on the moon's black disk colors of the spectrum flashing in intervening circles of equal diameter with that body, and each apparently revolving towards the lunar center. The moving colors were not visible beyond the moon, but a halo of virgin white light encircled it, which was uniformly traceable more than a semi-diameter beyond the black outline. This corona was composed of radial beams or streamers, having slightly darker or fainter interstices rather than a disk of regularly diminishing or suffusing light; but the gorgeous appearance of the spectrum-circles, with their incessantly-changing bands of crimson, violet, yellow and green, were thoroughly startling. These colors continued visible for at least ten seconds. The breadth of each spectrum-circle was, by estimation, about two minutes. The green colors were not darker than pea-green. These strange colors vanished with the first appearance of sunlight.

—Father Secchi, the Jesuit astronomer of Rome, observed the eclipse from the summit of Mount Saint-Michel, in the Desert of Palmas in Spain. He did not see the phenomena known as Baily's beads, which were so beautiful in Labrador. During the whole time of the total eclipse the corona was magnificent, but most brilliant on the side on which the eclipse began. Its light was uniformly of a beautiful silvery white, shading off gradually from the margin of the moon to the distance of about half its diameter. From this distance sheets of light shot off in certain directions some of them as long as a diameter and a quarter of the moon. He noticed protuberances while the sun was disappearing behind the moon, and also just before it emerged. At this time he saw a very large number of them, and above all a red cloud, entirely detached separated from the rest and from the lunar margin by a distinctly marked white space. Its figure was elongated; it was twisted and sharp at the extremities, and about 30 seconds in length by three in breadth. There were many smaller ones. He believes that he saw the flames of the solar atmosphere, and that these were clouds suspended above them. The clear gradation and distinct mingling of the peach-blossom colored light with the white photosphere could not be explained by any phenomena of interference of reflection. The rays of the corona seemed to be similar to those seen through the clouds at sunset. More than twenty photographs were taken by the expedition which he accompanied.

—M. Le Verrier went to Tarragona in Spain to observe the eclipse. The first object which he saw after the commencement of totality was an isolated cloud, about a minute and a half high by double that length, separate from the moon's border by a space equal to its own breadth. Its color was a beautiful rose mixed with violet. He says that the visible part of the emergent sun, over its whole breadth and up to the hight of seven or eight seconds, was covered by a bed of rosy clouds, which appeared to gain in thickness as they emerged from behind the disk of the moon. The observations and measurements leave no doubt that these clouds which have hitherto been supposed by some to belong to the moon or to the earth's atmosphere, are really clouds of the sun, and may hereafter be called solar clouds. M. Le Verrier concludes, also, that the theory which has hitherto gained credence that the sun was composed of a central dark globe, above which existed an immense atmosphere of sombre clouds, and still higher the photosphere, the source of the light and heat of the sun, must be given up. He believes that the sun is a luminous body simply because of its high temperature, and that it is covered by an unbroken layer of roseate matter, the existence of which the observations on this eclipse have proved. He explains the spots on this theory. M Faye argues, however, that the observations made in Spain prove no such thing, and that they confirm the old theory.

—Mr. Septimus Beardmore, a civil engineer, has published in London a pamphlet on the subject of the applicability of terra-voltaism to submarine telegraphs, in which he gives an account of some hopeful experiments made by him between Cromer and Heligoland, through a line 300 miles in length. He employed a simple terra-voltaic apparatus such as he seems convinced must ultimately be used for long submarine telegraphs, instead of the battery system heretofore in use. The new apparatus consists merely of a couple of earth plates, positive and negative, one at either extremity of the line, no other battery being used. By such means it is anticipated that all necessity for insulation of the wires, or at least dependence on perfect insulation, will be obviated, the electricity evolved by a single voltaic couple, while connected with the respective ends of the wire, having no tendency to escape to earth during transit. The chief difficulty relates to the question of intensity, as by the single arrangement increase of surface only affords increase of quality, and not of intensity, as by the battery method. Mr. Beardmore thinks that the present substantial cable would prove to be not wholly useless if efforts were made to work it on his terra-voltaic principle.

—Samuel Rowbotham and Thomas Gratton of England have lately taken out letters-patent for a composition designed to render cotton, silk, linen, and other inflammable fabrics and substances, uninflammable. To produce this composition the patentees make use of biborate, or borate of soda, or of potash magnesia, or other base, which is to be mixed with the mucilage of jelly of quince, marsh-mallow, linseed, tapioca, dextrine, or gum of any kind, or of any animal or vegetable substance; to this may be added, as required, a portion of carbonate of soda, potash or magnesia (according to the base used), which tends to neutralize any excess of boracic acid, and thereby destroy the corrosive quality, and render the whole mass more easily combinable. This is thoroughly incorporated with starch and well dried and ground, when it may be used as starch is ordinarily used, which will have the effect of rendering the fabrics to which it is applied uninflammable. It may also be applied to paper and other substances as a varnish; or it may be equally well used without incorporating it with starch.

—Switzerland is the scene of the latest archæological discoveries. The Bernese village of Kalnach is constructed upon a Roman road which connected Aventicum with the *castrum* of Petinesca. In some recent excavations in the neighborhood, the statue of a fawn, three feet and a half in hight, and of excellent workmanship, together with numerous coins and medals, came to light. At Sion, in another canton, an ancient tomb has been found, containing a large number of collars, bracelets, and other objects of bronze. The newest results of the researches carried on for some time past by the French Government at Constantine, in Algeria a town mainly built out of the ruins of the ancient Citra, have been the finding of two interesting Latin inscriptions, and a large sphinx in white marble. At York, in England, a Roman well of well-constructed masonry has lately been opened near Monk Bar. It contained a number of human bones.

—According to experiments made by Prof. Schmidt and Dr. Sturzwage, of Dorpat, arsenious acid, when introduced into the circulation, like tea, coffee, and alcohol, occasions a considerable diminution of the ordinary waste of the tissues. The experiments of these chemists have been published in the *Journal für praktische Chemie*; they show that this decrease in the waste of the tissues amounts to from 20 to 40 per cent. This fact explains the fattening of horses by small doses of arsenious acid, a practice much in vogue among horse-dealers. It appears that in arsenic factories it is necessary for the workmen to take small doses of arsenic in order to protect themselves from the fumes. In cases of alleged poisoning by arsenic, the defense has been set up that the person said to be poisoned was an arsenic-eater, and it has been urged with success. It is said that the bodies of arsenic-eaters, when buried, are preserved for years, so as to be recognizable.

—Mr. Thomas Towndrow, of this city, has invented a newspaper file which is more convenient than any other we have seen. Most of the files at present in use separate one half of the paper from the other half, and are so constructed as to cover some portion of the inner columns. By this invention, the papers are presented in the same form as that in which they appear in a bound volume, and the inner columns are as easily read as any. The file consists of a wooden stem with a handle at the lower end, and a milled screw at the upper end, which stretches a number of small wires along the side of the stem. By a turn of the screw, these wires are slackened so that a paper may be placed under one of them; another turn tightens them, screwing the paper firmly in its place. This file is in use in THE TRIBUNE office.

—A letter from Paris to the *Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung* contains a description of a new method of engraving and printing music. It is analogous to the method of carving wood by burning the pattern in, which we described a few days ago. The music is stamped into blocks of wood with heated stamps, which have a shoulder to insure their penetrating to an equal depth. From this block a stereotype cast is taken. An edition of 1,500 copies, if stereotyped and printed by this method, costs only about one-third as much as if engraved and printed from the engraved plate.

—The citizens of Venice, surrounded by the sea, have necessarily been compelled to have recourse to cisterns for preserving a supply of fresh water. Mr. Salvadori, the municipal engineer, has lately given to the world an account of these admirable cisterns. They are constructed of sand and clay, in such a manner that the latter material acts as a purifier of the water; and are so well built that not a drop of their contents is wasted. They are 2 077 in number, of which 177 are public and the remainder attached to private houses. Their total capacity is 202,735 cubic meters.

—M. Prazmowski, who observed the eclipse at Briviesca, in Spain, with special reference to the polarization of light, found that while the light of the corona was polarized, that of the red protuberances was not. Hence he concludes that the protuberances resemble the clouds of our atmosphere though they may be much more dense. The polarization of the corona proves that its light emanated from the sun and was reflected. The very decided polarization shows, also, that it was reflected at nearly the maximum angle of polarization, which in a gas is about 45 degrees.

—Sir Emerson Tennent has written a letter in which he abandons the hypothesis maintained in his recent work on Ceylon, that the steady supply of water in wells sunk in coral islands has its origin in the rain-water imbibed from the surface, and banked in by the surrounding pressure of water from the sea. This idea was first propounded by Darwin. Sir Emerson Tennant now thinks that the wells are filled with sea-water rendered fresh by a slow percolation through the masses of porous coral.

—The Japanese have discovered that a few seconds previous to the occurrence of an earthquake the magnet temporarily loses its power, and they have ingeniously constructed a light frame, supporting a horse-shoe magnet, beneath which is a cup of bell metal. The lower portion of the magnet is attached to a weight, so that, upon the magnet becoming paralyzed, the weight drops, and striking the cup, gives the alarm, and all the occupants of the house rush to the open air for safety.

—It will be remembered that Professor Liebig, one of the foremost of German chemists, and Pelouze, one of the first of French chemists, many years ago announced the discovery of an ethereal essence which gave the rich flavor to wine, and which they styled *œnanthic ether*. Their researches were followed up by other investigators and œnanthic acid took its place in chemistry. Mr. A. Fischer now announces that this acid does not exist, and that what has received the name is merely a composition of caprylic and capric acid.

—A new explosive compound has been invented by M. Reynand de Trets, a Belgian chemist. Its cost is less than mining-powder, and it is much more powerful, weight for weight, than ordinary gunpowder. It is composed of nitrate of soda, 52 5 parts; residuum of tan, 27 5 parts, and powdered sulphur, 20 parts. It has, as yet, been only employed for blasting purposes, but its inventor thinks it equally well adapted for use in cannon. It is called pyronome.

—Portions of two meteoric stones, which fell at different times, one in Mexico, and the other in Brazil, have recently been analyzed in a German laboratory. The structure of both was found to be essentially the same, being composed of more than one-half iron, and the rest being made up of nickel, cobalt, and phosphorus.

—M. Fasoli has discovered that the sesquioxide of iron is an antidote to arsenic. In his experiments, twelve out of fourteen arsenically poisoned dogs, to which he administered the hydrated sesquioxide of iron and the hydrate of sulphur of iron, recovered.

—Professor Benjamin Peirce, now in Europe, has submitted to the French Academy of Sciences, his theory of the physical structure of comets.

—Gas is being made in Copenhagen from a certain sort of peat, which is reported to produce a light whiter and stronger in flame than coal gas.

THE WATER GAS.—The successful exhibition of the water gas at the Girard House, during the past three months, appears to have had the effect of setting some of the questions recently discussed in our columns at so much length—a well known engineer of this city, Mr. Wiegand, whose advertisement we this day publish, now offering to furnish estimates of the cost of works, and to accompany them with satisfactory guaranties of the cost of manufacture, and of the reliability of the gas produced. In further evidence of this, we learn that arrangements are now on foot for the erection of numerous works for the manufacture of gas according to the process of Dr. Sanders in New England, New York, New-Jersey, and several of the Western States. [Philadelphia Bulletin.

PERSONAL.

—A fat, good natured, quiet-looking man, neatly dressed, the very picture of a good citizen living on a modest fortune, was recently tried by the Tribunal of Correctional Police, Paris, on the charge of robbery. "Generally," said a linen-draper who came forward to give evidence, "the men who steal goods exposed for sale at shop doors display great precipitation, but this man goes to work much more calmly. A few mornings back, as I was in my shop, I saw him stop at the door and examine various articles exposed for sale. He did so with the greatest coolness, stopping from time to time to take a pinch of snuff, and not once looking round to see if he was watched. At last he unpinned the covering of a piece of linen and examined the latter with great attention. I did not for a moment doubt that he was a respectable housekeeper, and that he would make a purchase. But I happened to be called to another part of the shop, and when I returned he was gone. I looked into the street, and to my astonishment there he was, walking off quietly with the piece of linen under his arm! I rushed after him, and said, 'You are a thief!' 'A thief,' said he, 'take care what you say; I am a respectable citizen, as my appearance proves, and a man of property.' 'But you have stolen my linen!' 'No, Sir,' said he, 'it is mine—there are plenty of men who deal in linen beside you, and I am one of them!' I was in a rage at the man's impudence, and called him 'scoundrel! thief!' and other names. A crowd collected, and from the assurance he displayed they were convinced that I was accusing him falsely, and they began abusing me. But two of my shopmen came up and confirmed my statement that the linen he was carrying was mine, and on that he was taken into custody." "How many yards did the piece consist of?" asked the President. "Upward of sixty, Sir, and it must have been very heavy; yet the thief carried it away with ease." The man was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

—Jean Baptiste Payer, a French botanist, born at Asfeld, Ardennes, Feb. 3, 1818, died in Paris in September, 1860. He was successively Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at Rennes and of Botany at the *Ecole Centrale* and the Sorbonne of Paris. In 1848 he graduated as a physician. Lamartine appointed him Chef de Cabinet in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and he became a member of the Constituent Assembly for the Department of Ardennes. In 1852 he succeeded Auguste de Saint-Hilaire in the Faculty of Science as Professor of Vegetable Organygraphy, and on the death of Andrien de Jussieu in 1853, he succeeded to the Professorship of Anatomy and Vegetable Physiology, both chairs being at that time united under the general appellation of Botany. His ability as a lecturer drew large crowds to his classes. In 1854 he succeeded Jaudichand as a member of the Academy of Sciences, in the botanical section. He was a devoted disciple of the physiological principles of the naturalist Mirbel, who died in 1854, and whose system has been called in France the new science of *Organogénie*. Payer's principal work consists of a collection of treatises on that subject, to be published under the title of *Traité d'Organogénie Végétale Comparée*. He is also the author of a number of works on Botany.

—The Hon. James Wilson, whose death at Calcutta has just been announced, was a man who could ill be spared by his country. He was editor of *The London Economist*, and has for several years held important financial positions under the Government. In 1859, the financial affairs of India being found after the rebellion to be in a state of extreme disorder, he was selected for his eminent ability and sent out as Finance Minister, with very nearly carte blanche to do as he thought best. The utmost confidence in his patience and sagacity was expressed by all. The war had swept away the groundwork of taxes and tenures in some parts of India; there was an enormous deficit going on from year to year, and the entire system of laying and collecting the taxes and regulating the finances of India was to be remodeled. He approached his work with judgment and industry; he labored indefatigably and courageously; the changes inaugurated by him gave offense to some of the "old Indians," but the public at home recognized the fact that the India of 1856 had passed away forever, and approved his judgment. He was bringing order out of chaos, and was leading matters into a course when India could pay the cost of her own Government, when he died.

—Madame Grisi has been making a short tour in Ireland. A local paper speaks thus of her at Glendalough: "Although skylark may never have warbled over the gloomy shores of Glendalough, the strains which princes have listened to with rapture might one day last week have been heard rising above the water beneath St Kevin's Bed. A small party was made up with a view of exhibiting to Madame Grisi the grand and peculiar beauties of the 'City of St. Kevin.' The lady was greatly pleased with her visit, and being taken in a boat, as in duty bound, to the bed 'where young St. Kevin stole to sleep,' the Queen of Song poured forth, unsolicited, a melody which reëchoed with a bewitching effect from the somber side of the frowning Lugduff. A favored few of the country people, and the party in the boat, formed the only audience. We can imagine the crowds who would have lined the silent shores of the dark lake had the least notice been given of the excursion."

—The Licensed Victuallers of London had a fete recently at the Crystal Palace in aid of their fund. *The London Times* says: "The sight that attracted most attention was the performance of a M. Blondin, who, while the fountains were playing, crossed the central basin on a tight rope, with his feet in baskets to increase the difficulty. The great basin is not quite a Gulf of Niagara, nor is the fountain so tremendous a piece of aquatics as the Fall. But the rope was high enough from the ground to make the spectators nervous, and the appearance of a human figure walking in mid air above the spray was an effect altogether novel. M Blondin is announced as an American; the last mail left the Blondin, of Niagara celebrity, in Ohio. But if this Blondin is not the original he has an approximate degree of skill. There was some dancing in the grounds in the evening, and long after dark the grand transept was crowded with promenaders, listening to the performance on the organ."

—It is known that the town of Syracuse, in Sicily, remained in the power of the Neapolitan troops. These men have in their turn just declared in favor of Italian unity. The Government of Palermo has announced this fact to the Sicilians in the following terms: "Some days ago the Government were informed that the royal troops were disposed to recognize the national movement, and to merit the title of Italian soldiers. It had been decided that in order to second this intention 600 National Guards should march from Catania to Syracuse. The garrison, however, did not wait for the arrival of those men, but declared for the Italian cause by fraternizing with the people and thus gained the whole honor of their patriotic conversion. In consequence of this noble fact, Syracuse has recovered its liberty.—F. CRISPI, Minister of the Interior.—Palermo, 2d."

—A Polish Roman Catholic named Tokarski was married last year, near Zytomierz, to a Russian girl, a member of the National Greek Church; but the Greek ecclesiastic who performed in the ceremony neglecting to impose upon them the obligation of bringing up their children in the Greek Church, their first-born was baptized in the faith of Rome, in consequence of which Tokarski has been arrested, the Greek ecclesiastic degraded and forcibly enlisted as a common soldier in the army, and the Roman Catholic priest—a monk 70 years old—who officiated at the baptism has been banished to Siberia.

—Pierre Daussy, a French hydrographer, born in Paris in 1792, died there in September, 1860. In 1806 he entered the Corps of Engineers, and was gradually promoted to the office of Director of Charts and Maps in the Ministry of Marine. He succeeded Beautemps-Beaupré as a member of the French Academy in the section of Geography and Navigation, and was a prominent member of the Bureau of Longitudes and for many years honorary President of the Geographical Society. Among his principal works are tables of the geographical positions of the principal places on the globe. (Paris, 1847.)

—A ladies' Garibaldi Fund has recently been started in England, with the Countess of Shaftesbury as directress. A similar association is in course of formation in this country, under the auspices of some of the most distinguished ladies of America. We hope that the efforts of the association will be crowned with success. The ladies of America should not remain behind their sisters of England in their appreciation of the heroism, the statesmanship, the tender humanity and the genius of the illustrious deliverer of Italy.

—Colonel Rudler, who, there is every reason to believe, shared the fate of Walker, and was shot at Honduras, was a native of Alabama, and had served in the Mexican war. In 1849 he went to California, and exerted himself to bring about the election of General Scott. He was nominated for the office of Sheriff of Joaquin county in 1854, but was not elected, and subsequently joined Walker in Nicaragua. He had a profound faith in the "gray-eyed man of destiny," and ardently seconded him in his ambitious schemes.

—Auguste Vivier, the French composer, a Corsican by birth, who created a sensation in Paris a few years ago by his performances on the horn, and by his concerts at the Château of Eu during the visit of Queen Victoria, is an eccentric genius, and is said to have established his musical studio in the solitude of the loftiest tower in the right wing of Notre Dame, where he is preparing a new comic opera, the libretto being written for him by Scribe and Cormon. A rather tragical spot for a comic opera.

—Prof. Lübke of Berlin has been appointed professor of fine arts at the national polytechnic school of Zurich. This institution is in a flourishing condition, and takes a foremost rank among the seats of learning in Europe. Moleschott, the celebrated physiologist, is among its professors, and his laboratory there is a nucleus for the more liberal of the rising generation of medical students and chemists.

—Prof. Agassiz and Col. Fremont have been elected foreign members of the Prussian order *pour le mérite*, instituted in honor of those who have rendered great services to science and art. Schlosser, the historian, and Neumann the Orientalist and author of the new history of the English empire in Asia, were, on the same occasion, elected knights of the same order, with the right of voting.

—The widow of the Austrian general Eynatten, who committed suicide after the discovery of his gigantic frauds, has been sentenced to three years' hard labor, her extravagance having encouraged her husband in his acts of depredation. In consideration of her children, the sentence was commuted to three months' imprisonment, and the baroness is now atoning for her reckless and giddy life of fashion.

—The public-spirited Hungarian statesman and reformer, Count Stephen Szechenyi, whose death by his own hand at Döppling, near Vienna, in April, 1859, was deplored as a national calamity, is to be honored with a monument, to be erected at the point where, by his efforts, the Theiss is now made navigable. He is justly called the father of Hungarian steamboat navigation.

—Kaulbach's new picture of the Martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul creates a great sensation in the artistic circles of Germany. Nero is introduced as a gay female, and never before, say the German critics, has the contrast between the sensuality and brutality of the Romans, and the spirituality and gentleness of the Christians, been brought out in such picturesque splendor.

—The Rev. Mr. Bird, Wesleyan Missionary in the colored republic of Hayti, who was here last year, and went to England for the purpose of carrying out an enterprise which he has started for the education of the colored females, has returned to this city, and is desirous of enlisting aid in behalf of a girls' boarding-school at Port-au-Prince, the capital of the above-named republic.

—Baron Wessenberg, the former primate of the See of Constance, who died recently, has bequeathed his extensive collection of pictures to the Grand Duke of Baden, under the condition that he shall appropriate $15 000 for the benefit of the poor children of Constance.

—The Hon. Alexander H. Rice, Representative from the IVth Congressional District of Massachusetts, has appointed Frank Wildes of Boston to the Naval School at Annapolis. The young man has been admitted to that Institution as Acting Midshipman.

—Mlle. Poliack the prima donna of the Berlin royal opera, has been discharged, on account of her having participated in a musical festival at Copenhagen commemorative of the battle of Idstett, in which disparaging allusions were made to Prussia and Germany.

—The three Swiss Cantons of Schwytz, Uri, and Unterwalden are erecting a monument to Schiller, on the so called Mythenstein, or "myth-stone," memorable in the history of William Tell, and referred to in the German poet's drama of that name.

—M. Lebeau, a prominent member of the Brussels Royal Academy of Sciences, referred, in the session of that body on Sept. 8, to the great number of eminent men in the New-York Medical Society, and proposed an active coöperation with that institution.

—Several thousand Polish Jews have recently passed through Posen on their way to the United States, via Berlin and Hamburg. The German papers say that such an exodus of the children of Israel has not been witnessed since that out of Egypt.

—The genuineness of the discoveries of Runic inscriptions in France by Lenormant, which have been characterized by Jacob Grimm as important contributions to ancient German archæology, is called into question by Prof. Lauth of Berlin, and by other scholars.

—The brothers Schlagintweit are now in Paris, where they were received with much distinction. On the 10th of August they delivered before the Academy of Sciences a lecture on their explorations in Asia. The lecture is in course of publication by Barthelemy St. Hilaire.

—Göschen, the son of the celebrated Leipsic publisher, has presented the Saxon Government with $10 000 for the benefit of the Grimma public school of his native city.

—Professor Jakob Bekker of Frankfort-on-the-Main, noted for his labors in archæology and epigraphy, has been elected a corresponding member of the *Instituto di Correspondenza Archeologica* of Rome.

—A new opera by Verdi is founded upon Schiller's tragedy of "The Robbers," and is to be called "The Robbers of Germany."

—José Rodriquez Seoane, a Spanish youth of great literary promise, and author of *Viazas de incognito*, died recently at Madrid, at the early age of 21.

—Theresa Palacky, the wife of the eminent Slavic historian, died August 18, at Bodenbach, on her way home to Prague from Nizza.

—Andrea Mustazidi, a friend of Capodistria, noted as an eminent Greek and Italian philologist, died in Vienna July 29, 1860.

—*The Albany Knickerbocker* furnishes the following account of a recent balloon trip, by which Mr. La Mountain came near losing his life:

"As our citizens are well aware, Prof. John La Mountain made a most magnificent ascension from our Fair ground on Friday afternoon last. We now regret to say that that splendid ascension terminated most seriously, Mr. La Mountain meeting with an accident by means of which he came near losing his life. At precisely 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon last, everything being in readiness, the ropes of the balloon were loosened and Prof. La Mountain sailed off in truly majestic style, in a course due east. He arose rapidly until he reached the upper current, when the Atlantic traveled along at a velocity exceeding one mile a minute. It traveled at this speed for upward of 30 miles. Prof. La Mountain was now over Pittsfield, Mass., and looked out for a place to land. He discovered a fine meadow located between two high mountains, and determined upon effecting it there. He acted accordingly, and the Atlantic descended just as majestically as it had ascended, and alighted safe and sound upon the farm of a Mr. Wood, about six miles from Pittsfield. Time from starting, 29 minutes. But he had no sooner arrived on *terra firma* and was about to vacate his basket, than a tornado came sweeping through the vale and carried the Atlantic off with it. Here Prof. La Mountain could have landed had he seen fit, but he preferred staying with his balloon at all hazards. In a few seconds the Atlantic was elevated to a distance of 500 feet. Prof. La Mountain possesses remarkable presence of mind, and fully realized his dangerous situation. When he left here he had about 70 pounds of ballast, which the car still retained. He commenced launching it out. Up the mountain slope the balloon traveled at a fearful rate. As it reached the top it struck the earth and plowed it up with as much ease as would an earthquake. Over the mountain top it went. At this moment the balloon was going headlong, dragging the basket and Prof. La Mountain after it, at a speed of over one mile a minute. At this point the elements tossed the balloon about in a fearful manner, and the Professor says that during the whole of his experience he never met with anything so threatening. He thought that nothing but instantaneous death awaited him. At times the basket would be as high as the balloon, and both swaying to and fro, and clashing together like angry waves on the ocean. Onward he sped, until the basket was dashed against a stone wall with tremendous force, by which means Mr La Mountain received his injuries. By the concussion his left hip, shoulder and knee were terribly bruised, and also his head. One finger on his left hand was badly jammed, and yet, with all these bruises and gashes upon his body, La Mountain thinks nothing of them. Carrying away a portion of the stone wall, the Atlantic struck a small maple tree, the top of which it whipped off as though it were a pipe-stem. Some of the branches having caught in the netting, tore it considerably. The balloon also suffered from this collision. The aerial ship next encountered a larger maple, against which it dashed broadside. Here Mr. La Mountain was disengaged from his balloon, but by what means he is unable to explain. He was thrown out and fell to the ground. He lay here for a few minutes in a partially insensible state, and as soon as he became really conscious of his predicament he looked after the Atlantic. On casting his eye upward he discovered it wrapped about a tree in a collapsed condition. It was greatly shattered and torn, and the basket broken. Mr. La Mountain laid on the grass until help came, when he was removed to the house of Mr. Wood, whose family kindly cared for him. Mr. Wood and his sons then set about removing the balloon. This was taken from its lodgment and also brought down to the house."

—A correspondent of *The Manchester Mirror*, writing from Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., Sept. 22, says:

Last Tuesday evening the younger son of Judge Fowler—for he has two in College—was enticed into Dartmouth Hall, where some of the students undertook to give him an insight into the "ways and means" of College life, by way of a Freshman initiation. After "putting him through," as is the College phrase, he was left on the steps at one of the College buildings, where he was found by three other students. They took compassion on him and conveyed him to his room. On Wednesday his elder brother informed the Faculty, and also wrote to his father. On Thursday, some of the students were invited to call on the President, and Judge F. arrived in town. On Friday, five students were arrested and gave bonds to appear at the February term of the Court. This (Saturday) morning, the Judge hangs in effigy from the deck of the mast on the Common, and it appears that about 1 o'clock last night, the Messrs. Fowlers' room was visited by a bottle of assafœtida and a shower of stones, when a pistol was fired from the window at the crowd, but no one was injured. Great excitement prevails.

—A letter from this city in a Boston paper says:

"One who frequents Broadway or any of our fashionable promenades will notice the daily walk of a gentleman who saunters leisurely along, followed quite closely by a man apparently bent under 70 years, and stooping so constantly as to seem almost to crouch as he walks. He follows his leader like a shadow, and goes into all possible places with his attendant. The feeble old man is John Jacob Astor, son of the famed Astor whose name is identified with the Astor Library. He was a bright and promising boy, and till seventeen years of age gave promise of much genius. Reports vary as to the cause of his mental decline; but the best accounts attribute it to the mental forcing system, and to the intense study that occupied his early years. But true it is that he has been for years a hopeless imbecile, and has been as much more care than an infant as a strong and athletic person can be. Ample provision has always been made for all the comfort he is able to enjoy. An elegant mansion on Fourteenth street is his abode. It is fitted up with elegance and taste. A yard, comprising an entire square, secures all the privacy that is needed. Room for walking, riding on horseback and for recreation is afforded. Horses, carriages, and servants, wait on his call. The gentleman who has the care of Mr. Astor has long devoted himself solely to him. He has sure command over him that he can guide and control him at will, which no one else can do. Ample compensation is given to the attendant. He has the horses and all the servants, the equipage, and everything at his own command. Beside a liberal provision made for him in Mr. Astor's will he receives above the house and living the sum of $6 000 per annum. But he is not alone an hour. Sleeping, waking, walking at home, abroad, or riding, Mr. Astor is with him, makes one at his table is one of the invited guests at all places, and in all his movements follows him. The family of Mr. Astor are kind and tender to their relation, visiting him daily, seeing that all his wants are attended to, and in the most scrupulous manner carrying out all the wishes of the father in regard to one whom he called in his will "his unfortunate son."

—We regret to announce that Mr. Donn Piatt has been confined to his room at the St. Denis Hotel by severe indisposition for some time past. This must account for his not filling his engagements to address the Republicans. So soon as able, Mr. Piatt will proceed to meet the engagements made for him and the Hon. Robert C. Schenck in Illinois by the State Central Committee.

—George Jones, "the Count Joannes," appeared in Court as his own lawyer, the other day. He had brought an action for slander against Prof. Jewell, the Librarian of the Boston City Library, and the case was tried at Dedham Mass. The Count addressed the Court in a very eloquent manner, enlarging on his wrongs and persecutions, and his determination to defend his reputation. He paid a high compliment to the counsel for his adversary, and stated that that gentleman had made an explanation of the matter which changed the aspect of the case, and had offered to introduce him to his opponent. He was willing, therefore, that the case should rest until Monday, and until he could take his adversary by the hand. The highest characteristic of a gentleman was the willingness to offer atonement for injury. He spoke of his own public life, and the injury which slander would cause him, and stated that if the offensive language should be proved to have been spoken his only reparation would be in a prosecution of this suit. The other counsel assenting, the case was allowed to stand till Monday.

—The wife of the Austrian General Eeyatten, who committed suicide upon the discovery of his gigantic frauds during the late Italian war, was lately sentenced to three years' hard labor, her extravagant habits having encouraged her husband in his acts of depredation. In consideration of her children, her sentence was commuted to three months' imprisonment, and the baroness is now serving out the punishment.

—The venerable Nathaniel Willis, who was for many years the editor of *The Boston Recorder*, has recently received a very pleasing letter from an old subscriber, inclosing $30 for the principal and interest of three years' subscription to *The Recorder*, due 23 years.

—Mr. Knox, a London magistrate, is said to be the author of the excellent papers published in "Once a Week, with the signature "Gamma"

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BOSTON, MASS.—We have received the Semi-Annual Report of Mr. J. D. Philbrick, Superintendent of the Public Schools of the City of Boston, Mass. We are glad to see that his visits to the Schools are made "on all days of the week, at all hours of the sessions, without previous notice, and without regard to geographical order." This secures quite as good an examination as is done by our method of stated examinations, for which the pupils are generally crammed, and it has the grand merit of not interfering with the regular course of studies in the schools. Mr. Philbrick believes that the great defect of the Boston schools is the want of physical training and recommends the introduction into all grades of the schools, of a thorough system of physical training, as a part of the school culture. He thinks that a universal course of training of this kind, scientifically arranged and applied, in connection with obedience to other laws of health, might, in one generation, transform the inhabitants of this land from the low development now so extensive, to the beautiful model of the highest form of humanity. He says that the necessary exercises can be practiced without costly apparatus, and without a room set apart for the purpose; they contain all that either sex needs for the perfect development of the body, and are adapted to mixed schools, so that both sexes can perform them together. And, finally, they will occasion no loss of school time, for experience has shown that pupils will make better progress in their studies by taking half an hour from the school session for exercise, than by devoting the whole session to study.

THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY FAIR.—The Annual Fair of the Connecticut Valley Association will be held at Charlestown, N. H., on the 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th of October, and, as usual a very large number of Morgan horses from Vermont may be expected. The fair grounds are large and beautiful, the horse track is said to be among the best in the county, and as the locality is only eight miles from Bellows Falls a large crowd may with reason be counted upon. We are pleased to learn from the managers that they have, after much effort, secured the attendance of Mr. Charles C. Bathgate, with his famous Patchen colts, and also Mr. Lewis B. Brown, with his famous "century team," and Alexander Bathgate, with his thoroughbred stallion Comet. Thus the Vermonters will have an opportunity afforded them to see the superior excellence of the thoroughbreds in size and symmetry, as well as constitution. We greatly mistake if they are not led in time to adopt the sensible plan of mingling a few dashes of good blood with the questionable tide which flows in the veins of the Morgans, which, whatever may have been the origin of the original Justin, has undoubtedly been weakened by too close breeding in-and-in.

We clip the following gem from *The Winchester* (Ill.) *Democrat*, a Douglas journal. As a specimen of intellectual ability, we think it is far superior to that we recently copied from *The Hannibal Messenger*. The Italics are our own.

"THE STATE FAIR.—This colossal humbug *has been in session* all week at our neighboring town, Jacksonville; while there are many *things* and *institutions* connected with it, that are worthy of *caste and aspiration*, there are a great many we should shun as we would a snake. And from the present *index* of things, this very institution and the benefits *that was* intended for the benefit of the poor man, has become the mart of money and seat of *pee* and *speculation*, a place where the vain peacock aristocrat seeks and obtains a means of exhibiting their linen, purple and silken textiles, *coursers, the pampered steed, while Lazarus lies at the gate in hopes of crumbs, and dogs to lick his sores.* We published their card, and as editor received a free ticket, and *was permitted to the inside of the exterior ring*, and started with a heart full of emotions of gratitude to ascend the *amphithearial* stairs, thinking what good we had done for our country, and what an ample reward an editor, are at once in his life, might meet, when a bully seized us by the throat and arm, and told us that we must not enter here, we still holding our ticket in his face; but all would not do our money must come, or we could not witness the *pogodal idol and the inner ring*; and last but not least *the blossoms of a future yield of the steam plow, for it shall blossom many years before it bears the practical fruit.* We then went round among the other institutions, and made all the necessary inquiry for a ticket for admission, while the keepers and ticket agents laughed at us, and for the life of us, we still cannot see why there were not tickets granted to see the mechanical, agricultural and *natural productions* for that was where the merit was. We staid until we got tired and strapped. When we arrived at home we found that editors, like the most of men, fare best at home."

THE NIAGARA FALLS HYDRAULIC CANAL.—Speaking of the prospect for the early completion of this great work, *The Niagara Falls Gazette* has the following: "Work is progressing on the canal. Mr. Southard, Mr. Day's engineer, is here, and will proceed to examine the canal and make estimates of the work to be done and probable cost. His estimate will probably be used as the basis for letting the work to contractors. Mr. I. Stone also arrived from New-York on Sunday, to look after the interests of his principal. Mr. Day will probably be here from Philadelphia by the last of this week. Everything indicates that as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, the work will be prosecuted with great vigor. Mr. Day has given orders to have shade-trees planted on Ontario street, throughout the entire front of the canal lands, and also in front of his lots on Buffalo street. This is another indication of his desire to improve and beautify the village.

The remains of a Roman theater or temple, dedicated to Apollo, have been recently excavated at Pierrefonds, near Compiègne. The style of architecture is particularly fine, and the bas reliefs are said to be of remarkable beauty.