

portant part in the drama of human life. the new and almost unheard-of continent of Australia, destined at no distant day to stand side by side with the greatest nations; Hindostan, with its vast population, fast growing toward civilization; the Cape Colony, destined to become the lever by which Africa is to be raised in the scale of moral being; and, in fact, go where you will you will find you have been preceded by those who speak the English language.—Everywhere it exists, its nature being diffusive, it is certain to extend and widen the circle of its influence. Had it arrived at the stage of manhood it might not appear so strange; but, still a mere stippling, far from maturity, it already shadows forth the gigantic and stately proportions of its future and matured existence. Dare we follow it in the future and sketch out its territorial extent and national influence? If we do, we shall be forced to arrive at the conclusion that it is destined to become earth's universal language. The known energy of those nations already mentioned, their perseverance, their spirit of enterprise, improvement and extension, aided by their influence and their sure and steady progress, shall ere long bring about the period when the sweet anthemial song of universal harmony shall be chanted in melting and soul-thrilling melody throughout every part of our refined and beautiful world, through the medium of our own language brought to perfection.

ASPHODEL AND PERCY SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION.

OFFICERS.

President.—T. W. Poole M. D., Local Superintendent of Education for the Townships of Asphodel and Belmont.

Vice-president.—Paul Blackmore.

Secretary.—Cornelius Wilson.

Next day of meeting; Saturday 8th December 1860, at the School, Hastings.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

For the East Riding of the County of Northumberland.

OFFICERS.

President.—E. Scarlett Esq., Superintendent of Education for the County of Northumberland.

1st Vice-president.—C. M. Gould, M.D.

2nd Vice-president.—D. Smith.

Secretary.—S. Stone.

Corresponding Sec.—Paul Blackmore.

Treasurer.—T. S. Gillon.

Next Meeting, at the School-house, Pleasant Vale, on Friday, 21st December, 1860.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

For the County of Northumberland.

OFFICERS.

President.—J. M. Grover Esq., of Colborne.

1st Vice-president.—John Turner Esq., of Baltimore.

2nd Vice-president.—J. P. Powers M. D., of Colborne.

Treasurer.—G. Underhill of Colborne.

Secretary.—J. B. Dixon M. A., of Colborne.

COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Kearn of Colborne; N. H. Peterson, of Brighton; Macoun and Scarlett, of Castleton; Black, of Colborne, Rothwell, of Canton; Bell, of Campbellford; Blackmore, of Hastings; and T. S. Gillon, of Hilton.

Meetings, on the first Monday in August and following days. Next meeting at Colborne, on Monday, 5th August, 1861.

THE FINAL DESTINY OF THE EARTH.

Encke's comet, which revolves about the sun in $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, has been observed to complete its revolution in a constantly shortening period, showing that it is drawn inward towards the sun. This fact has led to the general conclusion by astronomers that the planets are moving in a resisting medium, far more attenuated than our atmosphere, but still sufficient to affect their motions. If this is so, it follows by strict necessity that our earth and its sister orbs are all winding spirally towards the sun, and that they must eventually strike against it and become incorporated with its mass. The time required for this purpose belongs to those inconceivable periods with which geology and astronomy have to deal. The resisting medium is so exceedingly attenuated that it exerts but a slight influence on the comets, which are themselves masses of the very thinnest vapor, and its influence would of course be very much less on the matter dense of the planets. Astronomical observations, with all their wonderful delicacy, have yet failed to detect the slightest progressive shortening in the periods of revolution of any of the planets. It is curious, however, to note the multiplied obstacles which prevent the perception of this fact, if it does exist. All the measures of these revolutions are shortening with the revolutions themselves.—If we begin, for instance, with the earth, the problem is to ascertain whether the time occupied by the earth in its journey around the sun is gradually becoming shorter. The first plan that suggests itself is to compare this with the rotation of the earth upon its axis, to see whether the year occupies the same number of days and hours and seconds that it did in former times. But if the earth is gradually cooling, it is contracting in size, and its axis are becoming more rapid; in other words, the day is shortening with the

year; and if the measure shrinks just in proportion to the thing measured, we cannot tell whether the latter is becoming shorter or not. If we take the time of the revolutions of the moon around the earth as a standard, the same resisting medium would draw the moon towards the earth and shorten the month also with the year. If we resort even to the less satisfactory measure of the sun's rotation on his axis, his bulk is also diminishing by the radiation of his heat, and the period of his rotation is consequently becoming shorter. In brief, from the two causes of radiation and the resisting medium, all the times and distances which could be used to measure the earth's distance from the sun (or the period of its annual revolution) are shortening together. So that the differences in the extent of these several contractions are the only means left for detecting by observation the approach of the earth to the sun, if such approach is really taking place. These differences would doubtless reveal themselves in the course of generations to refined astronomical observations.

If the earth and the sun are gradually becoming cold, this winding of the earth towards the sun would tend to keep up its warmth, and it may be a wise provision for prolonging, by some millions of years, the continuance of animal life upon our globe. But this period must come to a close, for if there is a resisting medium pervading the space between us and the sun, the final destiny of the earth is to be crushed by a cannon ball, it dashes itself with an awfully sublime crash into the mass of the sun.—*Scientific American.*

SCIENTIFIC PARADOXES.

The water which drowns us, a fluent stream, can be walked upon as ice. The bullet, which, when fired from the musket, carries death, will be harmless, if ground to dust before being fired. The crystallized part of the oil of roses, so grateful in its fragrance—a solid at ordinary temperatures though readily volatile—is a compound substance, containing exactly the same elements, and in exactly the same proportions, as the gas with which we light our streets. The tea which we daily drink, with benefit and pleasure, produces palpitations, nervous tremblings, and even paralysis, if taken in excess; yet the peculiar organic agent called theine to which tea owes its qualities, may be taken by itself (as theine, not as tea,) without any appreciable effect. The water which will allay our burning thirst augments it when congealed into snow; so that Captain Ross declares the natives of Arctic regions "prefer enduring the utmost extremity of thirst rather than attempt to remove it by eating snow." Yet if the snow be melted it becomes drinkable water. Nevertheless, although, if melted before entering the mouth, it assuages thirst like other water, when melted in the mouth it has the opposite effect. To render this paradox more striking, we have only to remember that ice, which melts more slowly in the mouth, is very inefficient for allaying thirst.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*