

though the observations were made on opposite sides of the earth's orbit, a circle of 190,000,000 miles in diameter, it is only with the most delicate instruments that any alteration can be noticed in the position of any of these stars, and this only in three or four of the largest. But, perhaps, you may ask, what is a parallax? A parallax denotes the change in the apparent place of any heavenly body, caused by being seen from different points of view. Therefore, the greater the distance of any body from the earth the less parallax. Thus, the parallax of the nearest of the fixed stars is much less than that of the remotest planet, as the fixed stars are so much farther from us. Now, to find the distance of the fixed stars, astronomers make use of the whole diameter of the earth's orbit—a diameter of 190,000,000 miles—as a base line, and the angle at which any of the fixed stars would be seen, when examined at opposite extremities of the earth's orbit, would be its parallax, which, being known, its distance can be found according to the rules of geometry. Thus, the parallax of star No 61, Constellation Cygni, was ascertained by M. Bessel to be 330,000 times the diameter of the earth's orbit from us. Therefore, this star is the enormous distance of (62,000,000,000,000) sixty-two millions of millions of miles distant from our sun. The distance of the star Sirius is found to be (82,000,000,000,000) eighty-two millions of millions of miles from our sun. These are considered to be the nearest of the fixed stars. Since, notwithstanding a base line of 190,000,000 miles is used, the angle produced on a telescope measuring seconds is so small as to be undistinguishable. In order to obtain a clearer idea of the distance of these stars, we will take their measurement by the agency of light, whose velocity exceeds everything else with which we are acquainted. It travels at the rate of 12,000,000 miles a minute, making the transit from the sun to the earth in about eight minutes. But, for light to pass the enormous interval which exists between the earth and 61 Cygni, it would require 10 years and 114 days, and a ray of light would require 12 years to pass from Sirius to the earth. Others of fixed stars are many thousands of times farther distant than Sirius, and, accordingly, the light which they give, when viewed through a telescope, must have left them many thousands of years ago, and been travelling at the rate of 12,000,000 miles per minute ever since, in order to reach the earth. Suppose, for instance, a cannon ball to move 500 miles every hour, without intermission, in the direction of one of these fixed stars, it would require, to reach it, (14,255,000) fourteen million two hundred and fifty-five thousand years.

As we advance in our examination of the universe, the astounding grandeur and extent of the heavens opens to our view. The vast luminous belt, called the "Milky Way," is found to consist of an infinite number of stars, whose vast distance from us can neither be calculated, or imagined. Dr. Herschell, in directing his telescope to this field of stars, saw 50,000 of them pass the object-glass of his instrument in a single hour. The nebulae, which appear to the naked eye like faint misty specks of fog, are found, by the aid of powerful telescopes, to be clusters of stars, countless in number. One of the most remarkable of the unresolved nebulae was found, when examined with Lord Rosse's telescope, to consist of an immense irregular mass of stars, so remote in space that they were unknown as separate stars by the investigations of other telescopes. And these separate stars, so apparently remote and, with the largest telescopes, barely visible as separate stars, are probably millions of miles apart from each other.

A few observations, in conclusion, on the subject which we have been contemplating. From the great size of the planets belonging to our system, some of which are many times larger than our earth; from the similarity existing among all the planetary bodies; from their being bound together by the same general laws; and from the telescopic appearance of the nearest of the planets and the moon, their surfaces exhibiting diversified scenery, in many cases not unlike our earth, astronomers are of opinion that many, if not all, the primary and secondary planets are the abode of sensitive and intellectual beings. And if a Microscope unfolds to us the fact that a single drop of water may contain in itself a little, busy, invisible world of millions of animated beings, may it not suggest to us that the ponderous globes belonging to our system, are like our planet, inhabited by beings, whose nature, intellectually and physically, must forever remain to us a mystery. But what is the solar system, in all its grandeur and magnificence, when compared with the starry firmament that surrounds it? It is but an insignificant portion of the universe, an atom, a mere unit, we may say, among the countless millions of shining orbs, which fill the boundless regions of illimitable space. Could we but wing our flight to the region of the fixed stars, and while standing on the "milky way," contemplating the magnificent scene we should there behold, our souls would be ravished with the glorious panorama of suns, worlds, and systems rising up in sublime perspective before us; and we would read with awe in that gorgeous scene the power and majesty of the Great Creator of the universe.

We were very much pleased with the beauty and correctness of the numerous astronomical diagrams, with which Mr. Murphy illustrated his lectures.

LANDLADIES AND LODGINGS.—There is a story told of a learned Cambridge professor which has always filled me with the highest respect for his courage and conduct. Finding that his college bedmaker—which is, however, a very mitigated species of landlady—was continually abstracting teas, and being, a sarcastic philosopher, aware of what weight of evidence some females can resist, he determined to let her know he had found her peccadilloes out, without the chance of contradiction. He bought two pounds of tea, one of which he placed as usual in his caddy, and secreted the other in a drawer; he drew from the latter store so much as was necessary for his use, but never touched the former; the contents of the caddy nevertheless decreased daily, and in greater proportion, and at last while the professor had still a little left, Mrs. Brown, the bedmaker, declared his tea to be out, and offered to get him some more. "Well," exclaimed her master, producing his remnant in great triumph, "I declare, Mrs. Brown, that your pound has not lasted so long as mine has." But though this may have been permitted to a great man to do, backed by the opinion of the whole of Europe, and with 500 bachelors within call, I affirm for myself to have been mad. From the first designing woman who hooked me as a lodger to the last nothing of mine was safe from them; nothing untouched, unrummaged, unpilfered, except a case of horse pistols, which they were all afraid to meddle with, and wherein I was consequently wont to keep a few wax matches and my biggest lump of sugar.—Dickens's Household Words.

A few years ago, says the Rev. John Clay, (chaplain of the Preston House of Correction), a relative of my own was requested, when on a visit, to take charge of a class in a Sunday school. The members of the class "went through the Catechism with sufficient verbal accuracy, but made sad failures when examined as to their knowledge of its meaning. One of the scholars, in answer to a question, said that her spiritual pastor was the devil! After having been set right on this point, the same girl was asked if she knew who her "ghostly enemy" was. Remembering the answer which she ought to have given to the former question, and determined to be right now, she promptly replied—"The Rev. Mr. G.—"

A learned Leipzig professor, in speaking of the relative frequency of insanity in different countries, makes this singular remark:—"The extreme, is, on the one hand, presented by the State of Maine, in North America, where every fourteenth man is mad."

TAPE WORM CURED BY DR. McLANE'S CELEBRATED VERMIFUGE.

New York, August 2, 1852. A certain lady in this city testifies that, after using Dr. McLane's Vermifuge, she passed a tape worm ten inches long; and has no hesitation in recommending it to every person afflicted with worms; as, in her opinion, it far exceeds every other remedy now in use. The name of the lady, and further particulars, can be learned by calling on Mrs. Hardie, Manhattan place, or E. L. Theall, Druggist, corner of Rutgers and Monroe streets. P. S. The above valuable remedy, also Dr. McLane's Celebrated Liver Pills, can now be had at all respectable Drug Stores in this city. Purchasers will please be careful to ask for, and take note but DR. McLANE'S VERMIFUGE. All others, in comparison, are worthless. LYMAN, SAVAGE & Co., St. Paul Street, Wholesale Agents for Montreal.



THE MONTHLY MEETING of the SOCIETY will be held at St. PATRICK'S HALL, on MONDAY EVENING next, 4th instant, at EIGHT O'CLOCK. N.B.—A punctual attendance is requested. By Order, T. C. COLLINS, Recording Secretary.



THE USUAL MONTHLY MEETING of the Association will be held on TUESDAY EVENING, the 5th instant, at eight o'clock precisely, in the Room adjoining the Recollet Church. By Order, P. J. FOGARTY, Secretary.

TO ADVERTISERS. THE MONTREAL WEEKLY HERALD Has now a Country Circulation of upwards of 6,000 COPIES,

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INSTITUTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB, NEAR MONTREAL.

THE SCHOOL for the DEAF AND DUMB, (under the patronage of His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal) which has been prevented from re-opening for the last few months, will receive Pupils at the Institution at Coteau St. Louis, on the 7th January next. The public in general, as well as parents of the Deaf and Dumb, will be happy to learn that this Institution has secured the services of an experienced professor from France, to whom will be confided the course of instruction to be adopted. This professor, Mr. Joseph Young, was born at Metz, is 33 years of age, and became deaf and dumb in his infancy. This gentleman, after having completed his course of studies at the celebrated institution of Nancy, was professor during eight years at the school of the Deaf and Dumb at Soissons. Mr. Damais, of the diocese of Lyons, who accompanied Mr. Young to Canada, will assist him in the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. Mr. Damais will also take charge of the temporal management of the Institution, and correspond with parents of the pupils. The Rev. Mr. Lagorce will continue to have the spiritual direction of the Deaf and Dumb. The programme of the course of study, as drawn up by Mr. Young, is as follows. The course of studies, divided into three parts, comprises:— First. Writing, the Elements of Grammar, and the first rudiments of religious instruction. Second. Calligraphy, Exercises in Grammar, Reading, Sacred History, Arithmetic, Geography, Catechism and Religious Lessons, containing interesting accounts, taken principally from the Old and New Testament, Politeness, &c. Third. Grammar in both languages, Ancient and Modern History, Geography, Linear Drawing, Book-keeping, the truths of the Christian Doctrine, &c. The course of study will, in general, comprise a term of five years, but it may be abridged according to the talent of the pupils, or the wishes of their parents. N.B.—A pupil will not, in every case, be admitted under the age of Ten Years. The Deaf and Dumb now advanced in years, or possessed of little intelligence, will only receive religious instruction by the use of signs, and taught the use of words most generally required. The rate of Board and Tuition will be \$7 a month, payable in advance of each term. If the pupil belong to a poor family, he will receive board at the moderate charge of \$4 a month. If parents prefer it, they can board their children out of the institution. The editors of English and French papers are requested to publish this advertisement (gratis) for one month, in order to benefit the Deaf and Dumb. January 2, 1855.

A YOUNG LADY (a Catholic), who has already filled the Situation of Governess and Companion, is desirous of RE-ENGAGING with a respectable Family. The most satisfactory references will be given. Apply at this Office.

NOTICE. A RARE CHANCE TO REALIZE AN INDEPENDENT FORTUNE IN A FEW YEARS.

THE SUBSCRIBER has received a PATENT for CAST-IRON MONUMENTS, SLABS, PLATES, PILLARS, and COLUMNS, to be placed at GRAVES or places of Interment, in memory of the Dead. The Patentee will SELL a PART or the WHOLE of his RIGHT for the Lower Province, either for CASH, or in EXCHANGE for LAND in the Upper Province. Or, otherwise, he will enter into a CO-PARTNERSHIP with any Respectable Business man or Mechanic that will FURNISH Money to carry on the same in Montreal. He has at present Five different Sets of Patterns, together with Letters of all sizes and ornaments, and Images, &c. The Subscriber will guarantee that from 50 to 75 per cent. Profit can be realized by embarking in this trade.—He will be prepared to ERECT MONUMENTS of CAST-IRON which are more durable, and much more beautiful than can be made either in Stone, Wood, or any other material hitherto used for the purpose; and he pledges himself that he will make them more than 75 per cent. cheaper than Marble. Any person wishing Monuments, or any person (such as Pattern Makers, or Iron Founders, or Undertakers, or any one willing to act as Travelling Agent, with a Capital of from £100 to £200) can make application to "Mr. WILLIAM BROWN, Montreal Foundry and City Works," where all the necessary information required can be obtained for one week only from the Patentee, who will be there to exhibit a Specimen of one, and a Model of another, and Drawings of several that he has Erected. JOHN DONAGHUE, Patentee. Montreal, January 22nd, 1855.

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