

discoverer can "find any bold enough to give to the world a work of fiction full of interest, rich in humour, rapid and brilliant in its descriptions of scenery and character—but which the critical press of England is determined shall not have been written by Sir Walter Scott."

AUTHORSHIP OF THE CRITIQUE ON BYRON'S "HOURS OF IDLENESS."

It turns out, on the evidence of a manuscript note of the late Lord Cockburn, of Edinburgh—the biographer of Jeffrey, and the careful collector during his life of everything relating to the *Edinburgh Review* and Scottish literature generally—that the famous article in the *Edinburgh Review* on Byron's "Hours of Idleness," which drew forth the "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," and stung Byron into the splendid revenge of his subsequent career, was written, not by Jeffrey, but by Brougham. Lord Cockburn's library, containing many curious and valuable memorials, has just been sold; and a collection of tracts, relating to the *Edinburgh Review*, and Edinburgh politics and literature during the last fifty years, and profusely annotated by Lord Cockburn, has been purchased by the British Museum for £85 8s. 6d. The collection consists of 350 volumes of pamphlets, of which about 60 refer to the *Edinburgh Review* alone. These supply, in some cases, the only evidence of the authorship of the essays in that famous periodical.

MEAN METEOROLOGICAL RESULTS AT TORONTO DURING THE YEAR 1854.

Professor Cherriman, of University College, read a very interesting paper at a late meeting of the Canadian Institute on the "mean meteorological results at Toronto, during the year 1854." The February number of the *Canadian Journal* will contain a full report of the address; in the meantime we present to our readers the following facts:

The mean temperature of the year 1854 was above the average of the last 14 years by 0.87, due chiefly to excess of heat in July and October, but reduced by the fall in December; the months from May to November being above their average temperature; the rest, with the exception of March, below.

The year is the hottest on record, with the exception of 1846.

The hottest month was July, and the coldest February, which is in accordance with the normal march of the temperature; the climatic difference is 51.4, which is 7.9 above the average.

July was the hottest month ever recorded, being 5.75 above its average temperature, and no less than 3.6 above the next inferior, which was July, 1850.

The hottest day was July 3d (81.3), and the coldest January 23th (1.6) the difference between these being 79.7.

The greatest daily range occurred on July 4th, amounting to 44.5, and the range on the whole year is 110.0, between 99.2 on the morning of August 21th, and -10.8 on the afternoon of February 3d, the former being by 4.9, the highest temperature ever recorded.

The year presents a remarkable instance of conformity with Col. Sabine's law of "permanence in the mean annual temperature, combined with great variability during the year."

The summer is the hottest recorded, and the autumn is only exceeded by that of 1846.

The thermic anomalies for the respective seasons are—Winter—11.2; Spring 8.2; Summer $\times 0.9$; Autumn—3.7.

The mean humidity of the year is 7.9, having attained a maximum in February and a minimum in July. The lowest humidity (27) occurred on August 7th, at 2 p. m.

The mean direction of the wind was from N. 42 deg. W., with a mean velocity of 6.02 miles per hour, making the most windy year of the series of 8 years. In all the months except September and October, the velocity was in excess of the average, and in November and December particularly so.

The depth of rain fallen has been 27.76 inches which is 3.586 inches less than the average: and if to this we add 4.95 inches for the amount of rain equivalent to the fall of 49.5 inches of snow, we have a total of 32.71 inches.

Frost occurred in every month except June, July, and August, the latest in Spring being on May 22d, and the earliest in Autumn on September 21st. The last snow of Spring was on April 29th, and the first of Autumn on October 16th. Toronto-bay was clear of ice on April 8th, and frozen over on December 2d; being crossed on foot on the morning of the 8th, this being unusually early. Only a few days about 28th October gave ill-defined indications of the Indian summer.

The number of thunder-storms during the year has been 58, more numerous than usual. Of these none occurred in January and February, one in March; the number increasing up to 16 in July, and then again descending to none in December. The most violent occurred on April 25th and 26th, May 17th and 20th, July 4th and 8th, from 19th to 22d, August 18th, and September 6th. That of July 4th was a complete hurricane, the wind for some minutes reaching a velocity of 60 miles per hour.

During the year there has been 203 nights, the state of which would have permitted Aurora to be seen if it existed. On 55 of them Aurora was actually observed. Only two displays of the first magnitude occurred, on March 27th and April 10th, both accompanied by great magnetic disturbance. On July 10th and September 10th perfect Auroral arches were formed, but without active features.

NINEVEH RELICS.

The French Minister of State has caused a three-masted vessel, the *Manuel*, of Bordeaux, to be hired to bring to France the objects discovered by M. Victor Place, consul of Mossul, in his excavations at Nineveh; and she has just sailed from Nantes for the Persian Gulf. Amongst the objects she will bring back is one of the monumental gates of the city, four gigantic bulls, several basso relievos, a great number of utensils of earthenware, copper, iron, and a number of statues of greater antiquity than any yet discovered. They are to be conveyed down the Tigris on large rafts, supported by bladders according to the custom of the country, to Bussorah, and are there to be shipped. The descent of the Tigris, a distance of 300 leagues, will be attended with considerable difficulties and dangers; but M. Place will, no doubt, be able to surmount them. He has already accomplished the more difficult operation of conveying the objects, some of which are of enormous weight, from Khorsabad to the banks of the Tigris, a distance of some leagues, and across a country which is not only without roads but is traversed by torrents over which it was necessary to throw bridges; and all this he has done without any of the apparatus employed by Europeans. It is expected that the *Manuel* will have returned to France in sufficient time to enable her precious cargo to be deposited in the Assyrian Museum of the Louvre before the opening of the exhibition.

PUBLIC LIBRARY NOTICE.

To Municipal and School Corporations in Upper Canada.

Until further notice, the undersigned will apportion one hundred per cent. upon all sums which shall be raised from local sources by Municipal Councils and School Corporations, for the establishment or increase of Public Libraries in Upper Canada, under the regulations provided according to law.

E. RYERSON.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 1st February, 1855.

. In selecting from the General and Supplementary Catalogues, parties will be particular to give merely the catalogue number of the book required, and the department from which it is selected. To give the names of books without their number and department, (as is frequently done) causes great delay in the selection and despatch of a library.

NORMAL SCHOOL.

THE next SESSION of the NORMAL SCHOOL will commence on the 15th of MAY, and end on the 15th of OCTOBER, 1855. CANDIDATES must present themselves during the first week of the Session, or they cannot be admitted. Terms of admission can be obtained from the Educational Department, upon application. See page 57.

EDUCATION OFFICE, Toronto, April, 1855.

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All communications to be addressed to Mr. J. GEORGE HODGINS, Education Office, Toronto.

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