

DR. SCHLIEMAN's new book, "Ilios, the City and Country of the Trojans," will be published this month in London and Leipzig. The English copy ranks as the original, which the author himself translates into German.

THE great scene of that historic success, the capture of Cetewayo by Major Marter, is to be painted for the Queen by M. De Neuville of Paris. English artists are asking why De Neuville should have been selected by Her Majesty.

THERE is a great deal of artistic talent in the family of the late Prince Consort. Several of his children are accomplished musicians, and his brother Ernest, (Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha,) is also a composer, and one whose operas have met with great favour.

THE papyrus manuscript recently discovered in the cave of a hermit, near Jerusalem, and said to be the work of St. Peter, has been submitted to a committee sent out by the Biblical Society of London. They have concluded that the papyrus is in reality, the work of the apostle, and have offered \$100,000 for the document in vain.

MR. LEWIS SWIFT, the celebrated astronomer of Rochester, writes:—"The new comet which I found on the 11th inst. promises to be one of the most remarkable ones which have recently been seen in this country. Its great size, its slow rate of motion, and the fact that its movement is nearly in a direct line toward the earth, all combine to produce this result."

THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN.

WEST of the old world, and between it and the new, spreads out the vast area of the Pacific Ocean. Though less important as a highway of commerce, the Pacific occupies nearly twice the expanse of the Atlantic. The most important of its seas are those of Japan and China, whose shores have been the seat of an early and peculiar civilization, and whose waters have long been traversed by the ships of every other nation.

Among the many islands that stud the bosom of this great ocean are to be found

Nippon, Likok, Kinsin and Yesso, which, with numerous smaller ones, about three thousand eight hundred in all, form the Empire of Japan. These islands are mostly of volcanic origin, and at the present time many active volcanoes are to be found in Japan. The area of this "land of the rising sun" is about the same as that of California, and its population of about thirty-five millions is within a few millions of that of the United States. The climate is tropical at the south, but temperate and cold at the north. The Japanese as a race are impulsive, highly intelligent, brave to rashness, cleanly in their habits, have a high sense of personal honor, and are universally polite from the highest dignitary to the lowest in the land. They are kindly disposed towards foreigners and especially toward Americans. Before the treaty, concluded by Captain Perry in 1584, and followed by that of Minister Harris, for purposes of trade, the penalty of death was inflicted upon Japanese who held intercourse with foreigners, and consequently trade was impossible. The government was in the hands of a number of Princes, who ruled in the name of the Milkado, or Spiritual Governor, but practically in their own right. The distinctions of caste were vigorously enforced, and feudalism in its most ultra form prevailed throughout the empire. This state of affairs existed less than half a century ago, but since then a radical change has taken place in the government, the Milkado becoming the active head of the temporal power. Feudalism has been swept away, and the government officials receive salaries from the national treasury as is done in Europe. Another important change which has proved a blessing to Japan was the withdrawal of government assistance to the Buddhist religion, leaving it to continue only through the voluntary support of the people. The priests thus left without income are obliged to seek employment, so that Sentoism, which is only a moral code, is all the guidance left to the people. This seems to have been a providential opening for the introduction of the Christian religion into Japan, and it is not to be doubted that with Christian patience and forbearance on the part of the missionaries and teachers and the blessing of God, religion will receive in time not far distant, the same recognition