

and navigation, in the place of Antoine Chazallon, deceased.

—*A New Copper Region.*—Copper has been discovered in great abundance and of a very rich character near the White Mountain Indian Reservation in New Mexico and Arizona. Large veins have been found, one a wall of solid ore several hundred feet in length, some fifteen feet in height, and of enormous width, yielding seventy per cent. of pure copper. It is said that there are still larger veins in the vicinity.

—*Encke's Comet.*—Encke's comet, which was first seen in 1786, and discovered to be a periodical comet by Encke in 1818, was found on the second of February by the great telescope of the United States National Observatory. Its orbit is entirely within the Solar System, and its period is about thirty-three years. As it is said to be gradually nearing the sun, its re-discovery will probably give fresh zest to a controversy that has been going on for some years, as to whether there is a resisting medium in space.

—*Discovery of a Submarine Mountain in the Pacific.*—Captain Erben, of the Tuscarora, in his soundings for a cable route just completed, has discovered a mountain—a single peak rising from the ocean bed to the height of 13,200 feet, with a base circumference of five miles. It is situated in latitude $32^{\circ} 58'$, longitude 132° . The water at the bottom is cold, but a few degrees above the freezing point. The mud brought up indicated a submarine volcano. The Pacific affords a wide and interesting field for exploration, of which this discovery is only a foretaste.

—*The Planet Mercury.*—This planet has been made the subject of much inquiry among astronomers. There is a disturbing influence at work that has baffled the skill of the most eminent. Leverrier himself, the prince in the department of planetary knowledge, and the discoverer of the planet Neptune, has failed in coming to any satisfactory conclusions with regard

to Mercury. The existence of another body between that planet and the sun is probable, and plans have been taken to observe the obscure wanderer, but thus far he has eluded all search. A prize is now offered by a scientific society at Leipsic for a thorough investigation of the subject based upon the researches of the most eminent astronomers.

—The death is announced, on February 17th, of Professor Argelander, the celebrated Prussian astronomer, at the age of seventy-five years. His labours were principally in the observation of fixed stars. In this, says the *Athenaeum*, they may be described as herculean, his survey of the northern heavens including the observation in zones of more than three hundred thousand stars, the charting of which has been of the greatest service in many astronomical enquiries. While in Finland, he made a determination of the motion of the solar system in space, with a result nearly the same as that of Sir W. Herschell, viz., that the motion of the sun and its attendant system is towards the Constellation Hercules.

There is considerable interest manifested in the explorations of Lieutenant-Colonel Long, an American, now in the service of the Khedive of Egypt. It is asserted that he traced the source of the Nile continuously farther than was ever known before, and that it resulted in the discovery of the true source of the great river of Egypt—a vast basin, one and a half degrees south of the equator. There is, therefore, no end to the interest which this celebrated "Unexplored Region" of our school geographies excites. That there should be an upland of such great extent, elevated in the tropics, so as to assume the climate of temperate regions, with a soil fertile and well watered, rivers strung with lakes, the common staple productions of the earth native or naturalized, *fauna* and *flora* of the richest—all this is truly astonishing, especially in being