

lost—probably long prior to the foundation of Rome. It is singular that so curious a fact in volcanic geology should have escaped observation for so many ages.—(N. Y. Mirror.)

THE ARTS.

"What cannot Art and Industry perform,
Where science plains the progress of their toil!
They smile at penury, disease and storm;
And oceans from their mighty moulds recoil."

VOCAL IMPROVEMENT.

At a late sitting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, some interesting facts were disclosed, in a paper by M. Bennati, on the mechanism of the voice. From his professional engagement of physician to the Italian Opera, he has had extensive opportunities of forwarding the object of his inquiries. He has observed that the voice is chiefly effected by the elongation of the ulva, which most persons who have had severe colds will readily understand: in some cases that part of the human organ becomes so enlarged as entirely to prevent the issue of any sound louder than a whisper. The case of a lady was instanced, who entirely lost the use of her voice for several months, and was reduced to the necessity of writing all she wished to say; recourse was had in vain to several eminent physicians;—she at last was advised to use a *gargle of strong alum water* which completely restored her voice. A permanent organick enlargement is not unfrequent, in which case M. Bennati, has successfully employed cauterization of the uvula, and has, in some cases, increased the timbre and even added two or three notes to the compass of the voice; Those who wish to benefit by such a curious discovery, will be glad to know how this effected. e makes use of a metalick instrument, at the end of which is a bowl containing the lunar caustick, so shaped as to touch, simultaneously, the whole surface of the uvula having a sliding lid to prevent contact with any other part, which is acted on through the handle of the instrument. The effect of the caustick is to excite the contraction of the muscles, and reduce the part to its ordinary dimension. A few applications will prove its efficacy. An instance is cited, that of a pleader, who, after speaking a short time, lost the tone of his voice, his throat became dry, and convulsive cough ensued: and he was obliged to relinquish pleading. Having consulted M. Bennati it was discovered that the uvula was considerably elongated. He employed the caustick, and in nine applications his voice was completely restored, and he is now a distinguished advocate.

TO MAKE SEALING WAX.—Those who use large quantities of sealing wax may find it economical to make it, which is very easy. Take equal weight gum lac, vermilion and pure Venice turpentine. Melt them over a gentle heat, and stir them well together.—Take a detached portion of the mass and roll it with the hand upon a plate of copper slightly heated; or rather it may be cast in a mould made on purpose, of plaster, of horn, or of copper. Instead of vermilion, other colours may be used, according to the tint which it is desired that the wax may have.—*Jour. de Connoiss.* &c.

TO PREVENT IRON AND STEEL FROM RUSTING: heat it till it burns the hand; then rub it with pure white wax. Warm it a second time so as to melt and divice off the wax, and rub it with a piece of cloth, or leather, until it shines well. This simple operative, by filling all the pores of the metal, defends it completely from rust, even though it should be exposed to moisture.—*Idem.*

HISTORICAL.

"As Morality is the science of human life, so History may be defined to be morality taught by example."

CUSTOMS OF THE NORTHMEN.—The Scandinavians were a remarkable people. They founded the empire of Russia; and joined by some Teutonic tribes, they subdued England after it was abandoned by its Roman masters; they explored the Baltic sea, and roamed boldly over the great northern and western ocean, without chart or compass; discovered the Orkades and Faroe isles, and the country consequently called Iceland, from the dreary aspect which its rugged mountains, covered with eternal ice and snows, presented to the eye. They moreover discovered Greenland, and are even said to have sent out an expedition, in the early part of the eleventh century, that landed on the coast of America, and planted a colony here; which, however, soon perished. Mr. Wheaton, in his history of the Danes and Normans, gives a vast fund of matter relating to the tribes that have spread over the north of Europe; and we believe, there is scarcely a lover of the history, who would throw aside the volume till he had reached its close.

The Icelanders did not adopt the Christian religion until about the close of the tenth century, soon after which they abolished the trial by battle, a mode of procedure recognised by the early laws of all the northern nations, which, with this exception, were full of the spirit of litigation and subtlety, to be found generally mark-

ing the Norman character. The saga of the famous chieftain Egill, furnishes us with a curious and picturesque account of a civil trial in Norway, respecting an inheritance which he claimed.

"Soon after the battle of Brunanburg, (934,) in which Egill had aided King Athelstano with a band of Vikingar, and other northern adventures, his wife's father died in Norway, and his brother in law. Bergaumund, took possession of the entire inheritance, of which Egill claimed a part, in right of his wife, which circumstance compelled Egill to make a voyage from Iceland to the parent country. On his arrival in Norway, he brought a suit against Bergaumund, who was protected by the interest of King Erik and his queen Funildda. The suit was tried at the Gule thing assizes, where the parties appeared, attended by numerous bands of followers and friends. In the midst of a large field a ring was stretched out, with hazel twigs bound together with a chord, called a sacred band (vo bond.) Within this circle sat the judges, twelve from the district called Foodefylke, twelve from Horda-fylke; these two districts being thus united into what may be called one circuit for the administration of justice. The pleading commenced in due form, and Bergaumund asserted that Egill's wife could not, as the child of a slave, inherit the property in question. But Egill's friend, Arinbiorn, maintained, with twelve witnesses, or compurgators, that she was of ingenuous birth; and as the judges were about to pronounce sentence, Queen Gunildda, the old enemy of Egil, fearing the result might be favorable to him, instigated her kinsman to cut the sacred cord, by which the assizes were broken up in confusion. There upon Egill defied his adversary to a single combat in desert isle (holmganga) in order to decide their controversy by battle, and denounced vengeance against all who should interfere. King Erik was sorely incensed, but as nobody, not even the king and his champions, were allowed to come armed to the assizes, Egill made his escape to the sea shore. Here his faithful friend Arinbiorn informed him that he was declared an outlaw in all Norway, and presented him with a bark and thirty men to pass the seas. But Egil could not forego his vengeance, even for a season, and returned to the shore, where he lurked until he found an opportunity to slay, not only his adversary Bergaumund, but King Eriks son Ragnvold, a youth of only eleven years old, whom he accidentally encountered at a convivial meeting in the neighborhood. Before Egill set sail again for Iceland, he took one of the oars of his ship, upon which he struck a horse's head, and as he raised it aloft, exclaimed:—'Hore I set up