

Recent Interesting Orations at Edinburgh.—Four remarkable orations have recently been delivered at Edinburgh. There was, first, Mr. Macaulay's address to the electors, when about making his first appearance as their representative in the new Parliament. The subjects were chiefly political; but he threw over them the brilliancy of historical and literary illustration for which all his speeches are conspicuous. The University of Edinburgh lately commenced its winter session, when the usual introductory address was delivered by the Very Rev. Principal Lee. Dr. Lee, after referring to the special occasion of the meeting, entered on a review of that portion of the recently published "Life and Letters of Barthold George Niebuhr," the historian, which describes his residence at Edinburgh. The learned Principal, who was a college contemporary of Niebuhr, defended the University and the learned societies of the northern capital from the charges made by Niebuhr. In the course of his address, the learned Principal referred to the changes in the professorships since last session, especially to the retirement of Professor Wilson, and the appointment of Mr. Macdougall, concluding with an historical statement of the question of University tests, and an able argument against the views which in some quarters seem still to be entertained. On the following day, Mr. Macdougall delivered his introductory lecture in the Moral Philosophy Class-room, and was received with great enthusiasm by the students, and by the crowded and distinguished audience, including the professors and city magistrates, attracted by the unusual circumstances under which the Professor commenced his academical career. The lecturer justified the highest anticipations formed of him as the successor of Professor Wilson. On the same evening, a lecture was delivered in the Philosophical Institution, "On the Spirit of Hebrew Poetry," by Isaac Taylor, the author of the "Natural History of Enthusiasm." The citizens of Modern Athens have certainly enjoyed in these four addresses, delivered within two days, a display of eloquence, learning, philosophy, and genius, such as in this or any country is rarely surpassed.

Uncle Tom's Cabin.—The number of separate editions of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," issued to the 10th ult., was twenty-one, varying in price from ten shillings to a shilling, and even sixpence. Of this sixpenny edition, no less than two hundred and fifty thousand copies had been printed. The proprietor has already cleared, in the space of two or three weeks from this and other editions in which he is interested, about £4,000, and fully calculates they will yield him \$10,000. He employs four hundred men, women and children, constantly occupied in binding the work, and has scoured and cleared the warehouses of all the principal stationers to find paper for it. Messrs. Smith, the railway booksellers, have sold upwards of three hundred copies a day, of the better editions for some weeks past. The sixpenny edition they do not keep. It is confidently estimated that a profit will be realized to the publishers of these editions of not less than £20,000, and, (observes the Literary Gazette,) with the single exception noted in our article of last week, not a penny of this will go to the authoress!—*London Weekly News.*—3000 copies of this work has been published in Toronto, by Mr. T. Maclear.

The Immensity of the Universe.—As a proof of what an immense book the heavens is, and also of the indefatigability of the student man in turning over its leaves, Dr. Nichol, in his work describing the magnitude of Lord Rosse's telescope, says that Lord Rosse has looked into space a distance so tremendous, so inconceivable, that light, which travels at the rate of 200,000 miles in one second, would require a period of 250,000,000 of solar years, each year containing about 32,000,000 of seconds, to pass the intervening gulf between this earth and the remotest point to which this telescope has reached! How utterly unable is the mind to grasp even a fraction of this immense period; to conceive the passing events of a hundred thousand years only is an impossibility, to say nothing of millions and hundreds of millions of years. The sun is ninety-five millions of miles distant from the earth, yet a ray of light will traverse that immense distance in 480 seconds; long as the distance may seem to be passed in so short a time, what comparison can the mind frame between it and that greater distance, which Dr. Nichol and Rosse demonstrate, would require every second of that time to represent more than five hundred thousand years! And recollect the study of astronomy is not only useful to excite emotions of grandeur and sublimity at such discoveries, but it is the basis of navigation and of our note of time, and unites the strictness of mathematical reasoning and the most certain calculations.

Singular Geological Fact.—At Modena, in Italy, within a circle of four miles around the city, wherever the earth is dug up, and the workmen arrive at the distance of sixty-three feet, they come to a bed of chalk, which they bore with an augur five feet deep. They then withdraw from the pit before the augur is removed, and upon its extraction, the water bursts up with great violence, and quickly fills the well thus made, the supply of water being affected neither by rains nor droughts. At the depth of fourteen feet are found the ruins of an ancient city, houses, paved streets, and mosaic work. Below this, is again a layer of earth, and at 26 feet

walnut trees are found entire, and with leaves and walnuts still upon them. At 28 feet, is found soft chalk, and below this vegetables and trees as before.

Cleopatra's Needle.—The following is a translation of the inscription upon Cleopatra's Needle. "The glorious hero—the mighty warrior—whose actions are great on the banner—the king of an obedient people—a man just and virtuous, beloved by the Almighty Director of the universe—he who conquered all his enemies—who created happiness throughout his dominions—who subdued his adversaries under his sandals. During his life he established meetings of wise and virtuous men, in order to introduce happiness and prosperity throughout his empire. His descendants, equal to him in glory and power, followed his example. He was, therefore, exalted by the Almighty All-seeing Director of the world. He was the Lord of the Upper and Lower Egypt. A man most righteous and virtuous, beloved by the All-seeing Director of the world. Ramesis, the third King, who for his glorious actions here below was raised to immortality."—*The Builder.*

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