

of Mehemet Ali. A short time ago, an English company obtained permission to carry on the digging, which promised to yield them immense wealth. Recently their engineer, Mr. R. Allan, discovered, at a great depth, traces of a great gallery, bearing about it evidence of extreme antiquity. Here he found ancient instruments and utensils, and a stone with a hieroglyphic inscription on it, in a great measure destroyed. It appears, that in this time, Belzoni, to whom the world is so much indebted for its knowledge of the wonders of Egypt, had given it as his opinion, that this mine had been worked by the ancient Egyptians, and this discovery establishes the soundness of his remark. The configuration of the gallery, and the nature and shape of the tools found in it, it is said, exhibit great skill in the art of engineering. From the inscription on the stone, so far as it can be read, it is believed that the labouring in the mine of Zabarah, had commenced in the reign of the great Sesostris, (living about 1650 before Christ) whom antiquity describes as combining the character of a conqueror with that of a prince of vast enterprise in the arts of peace.

*Death of Mr. Richardson, the African Traveller.*—It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. James Richardson, the enterprising African traveller. This melancholy event took place on the 4th of March last, at a small village called Ungurutua, six days distant from Kouka, the capital of Bornou. Early in January, he and the companions of his mission, Drs. Barth and Overweg, arrived at the immense plain of Damerougou, when, after remaining a few days, they separated. Dr. Barth proceeding to Kanu, Dr. Overweg to Guber, and Mr. Richardson taking the direct route to Kouka, by Zinde. There it would seem his strength began to give way, and before he had arrived twelve days' distant from Kouka, he became seriously ill, suffering much from the oppressive heat of the sun. Having reached a large town, called Kangarrua, he halted for three days, and feeling himself rather refreshed, he renewed his journey. After two days more travelling, during which his weakness greatly increased, they arrived at the Waddy Mellaha. Leaving this place on the 3rd of March, they reached in two hours the village of Ungurutua, when Mr. Richardson became so weak that he was unable to proceed. In the evening he took a little food and tried to speak—but became very restless, and left his tent, supported by his servant. He then took some tea, and threw himself again on his bed, but did not sleep. His attendants having made some coffee, he asked for a cup, but had no strength to hold it. He repeated several times, "I have no strength," and after having pronounced the name of his wife, expired, without a struggle, about two hours after midnight. Early in the morning, the body, wrapped in linen, and covered with a carpet, was borne to a grave, which was dug four feet deep, under the shade of a large tree, close to the village, followed by all the principal Sheichs and people of the district. The Sultan of Bornou has given orders that all respect and honour shall be paid to the grave of the ill-fated British traveller.—[Malta Times.

*Eastern Method of Measuring Time.*—The people of the East measure time by the length of their shadow. Hence, if you ask a man what o'clock it is, he immediately goes into the sun, stands erect, then, looking where his shadow terminates, he measures his length with his feet, and tells you nearly the time. Thus, the workmen earnestly desire the shadow which indicates the time for leaving their work. A person wishing to leave his toil says, "How long my shadow is in coming." "Why did you not come sooner?" "Because I waited for my shadow." In the seventh chapter of Job we find it written, "As a servant earnestly desireth his shadow."—[Roberts' Illustrations.

*Cleopatra's Needle.*—The removal to England of one of the obelisks, called Cleopatra's Needle, seems to those who see it in its present state to be scarcely worth the trouble and expense of the undertaking. It is interesting from the associations attached to it, but it will cause disappointment if it is expected to prove an ornament, as it is in a very mutilated state, the edges being broken off, and the hieroglyphics much defaced. The length at present uncovered by the sand is about 35 feet from the apex, with from three to four feet down the sides, and the whole of what is visible is in the same dilapidated condition. It must also be said, that the longer it is left in its present position, the worse it will become from the anxiety of all travellers to possess pieces of it, which the native boys knock off largely to sell. The base of the obelisk is about twenty feet distant from the sea, and the city wall will have to be broken through to remove it. The water is only two feet deep at the distance of 15 feet from the shore, nine feet deep at 20 fathoms, 13 feet at 150 fathoms, 19 at 200 fathoms, and 20 feet deep at 260 fathoms distance. Within 10 or 12 feet of the beach, there are broken rocks and remains of ancient buildings; beyond that, the bottom is sandy.—[London Times.

*The Cambridge Observatory Boston.*—The Observatory is situated on a commanding eminence, called Summer House Hill, the summit of which is about fifty feet above the plain on which are erected the buildings of the University. This height is found to give from the dome an horizon almost uninterrupted to within two or three degrees of altitude.

The grounds appropriated to the use of the Observatory comprise about six and a half acres. It is distant nearly three-fourths of a mile Northwest from University Hall, and three miles and a half in the same direction from the State House in Boston. The wonder and admiration caused by the unexpected appearance of the great Comet in March, 1845, was a great incentive to and, indirectly, one of the principal causes of the erection of this new celebrated Observatory, although for many years before it had been a favourite project with John Q. Adams, Nathaniel Bowditch, and other distinguished advocates of astronomical science. But few decisive steps were taken, however, until the sudden appearance of this brilliant Comet, in 1843, when it was found that the instruments in Cambridge were entirely inadequate to make accurate observations on such a body. This roused the public spirited Bostonians to a sense of the importance of an Astronomical Observatory, with instruments of sufficient accuracy to make the necessary observations on the heavenly bodies. Mr. David Sears, of Boston, headed the list by a donation of five hundred dollars for this object, besides giving five thousand dollars for the erection of a suitable tower to contain this instrument. Another gentleman of Boston subscribed one thousand dollars towards the telescope; eight others contributed five hundred dollars each, for the same object; eighteen gentlemen gave two hundred each, and thirty others gave the sum of one hundred dollars each. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences made a donation of three thousand dollars, and the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge gave one thousand. Besides these, the principal Insurance Companies of Boston contributed largely; the American, Merchants', and National Insurance offices, and the Humane Society, gave five hundred each; two other Companies subscribed three hundred; and two others gave, respectively, two hundred and fifty, and two hundred. Thus in a short time an amount was subscribed sufficient for procuring the instrument which has contributed so much to the advancement of astronomy generally, besides reflecting so much honour on the country at large. The site of the Observatory was purchased by the Corporation of Harvard University. The Sears Tower, so called in honor of David Sears, whose generous donation we have already mentioned, is built of brick, on a foundation of granite, laid with cement. It is thirty-two feet square on the outside, while on the inside the corners are gradually brought to a circular form for the better support of the dome, forming a massive arch. This dome, covering the grand equatorial, is a hemisphere of thirty-two feet interior diameter, formed with stout ribs of plank, and covered externally with copper. There is an opening five feet wide, and extending a few degrees beyond the zenith; which is closed by means of weather-proof shutters, and worked by means of an endless chain and toothed wheels. On the lower side of this dome is affixed a grooved iron rail, and on the granite cap of the wall is placed a similar rail; between these grooves are placed eight iron spheres, accurately turned, on which the dome is revolved. The apparatus for moving the wheel consists of toothed wheels, geared to a series of toothed iron plates, fastened to its lower section. By means of this the whole dome, weighing about fourteen tons, can be turned through a whole revolution, by a single person, in *thirty-five seconds*. In this dome are placed the "Grand Refractor," and one or two smaller instruments. The Comet Seeker, a small instrument of four inches aperture, by Merz, is used from the balconies of the dome. This is the instrument with which the younger Bond has discovered no less than eleven telescopic comets, before intelligence had reached him of their having been seen by any other observer. From these balconies a most extensive and beautiful view meets the eye of the neighboring towns, their numerous hills, spires, &c. On either side of the tower are two wings. Of these, the Eastern is used as a dwelling for the Observer; the Western, on which is placed the smaller dome, is used for magnetic and meteorological observations. This wing was erected in the year 1850-1, and adds greatly to the architectural beauty of the Observatory. In this dome is placed the smaller Equatorial, of five feet focal length, and an object glass of four and one-eighth inches, made by Merz, which is a remarkably fine instrument. The "Grand Refractor," justly considered second to none in the world, and is far superior to anyone in this country, has already become celebrated in the hands of the skillful and scientific director and his assistant, from the many brilliant discoveries which have been made. Among these we may particularly mention the new ring and satellite of the planet Saturn. It has also enabled the observers to resolve the principal nebulae, particularly those in the Constellations Orion and Andromeda. The object glass was made at the celebrated manufactory of Merz and Mahler, in Munich, Bavaria, who also were the makers of the celebrated telescope at the Pulkova Observatory, which is of the same size and mounting as that in Cambridge. The same artists made the Washington and Cincinnati Equatorials, besides many others of a smaller size in the United States. The extreme diameter of this object glass is fifteen and a half inches, although the effective diameter is only fourteen and ninety-five hundredths inches: the focal length is twenty-two feet six inches; the total weight nearly three tons; yet the friction is so successfully relieved by the judicious arrangement of wheels and counterpoises, that it could be pointed to any quarter of the heavens