

four hours, instead of twelve, as before, and the one which corresponds to Sunday is to be observed as a holiday. Strange to say, the Japanese chroniclers and astronomers have just discovered that the 25th day of December should have always been observed as a grand holiday by the Japanese, and that the ceremonial has been neglected for some reason which they are unable to explain. Christmas Day is to be henceforth held sacred to Trinnia, the first Emperor of Japan. These extraordinary facts are really encouraging to the progress of the Christian cause in Asia. Do they come, even at this late moment, from the dogmas of Confucius or the preaching of St. Francis Xavier and other missionaries?

VII. Biographical Sketches.

1. MRS. MARY SOMERVILLE.

A distinguished Scotchwoman has passed away. Mary Somerville was educated at Musselborough school, near Edinburgh, and, like many men and women of genius, did not give her early preceptors any impression of marked ability. Her first husband—a navy officer, and a man of some scientific attainments—discovered in her a great talent for mathematics, and took great pleasure in instructing her in the exact sciences. “The hard grained muses of the cube and square,” presided over their honey-moon, and each grew tender over equations throughout the months that followed. Her first work, a summary of the “*Mecanique Celeste*” of Laplace, was intended for the Library of Useful Knowledge, and was undertaken at the suggestion of Lord Brougham, but proving too voluminous it was issued in a distinct form in 1831. To this succeeded “The connection of the Physical Sciences” in 1834; and in 1848, “Physical Geography.” She was, in 1835, elected an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society and early received a grant of £300 a year from the Civil List. Her scientific works are characterised by depth and distinguished spirit.

2. THE NECROLOGY OF 1872

The death-roll of the year just closed includes the names of many persons who acquired distinction in their respective pursuits. Journalism lost Horace Greeley, founder of *The Tribune*, who was mourned by the whole American people: James Gordon Bennett of *The New York Herald*, Mr. Spalding of *The New York World*, Edward A. Pollard, formerly of *The Richmond Examiner*; Thomas B. Holcombe, formerly editor of *The Indianopolis Sentinel*; the Rev. Amasa Converse, editor of *The Christian Observer*; Adolphe Guerout of the French press, Joseph B. Lyman and William F. Beers of *The Tribune* staff, and D'O'C. Townley.

Literature lost Charles Lever, the genial moralist; Theophile Gautier, the French art critic, moralist and poet; D'Aubigné, the historian of the Reformation; Prof. Maurice, Frederick Gerstaecker, Prof. Hadley of Yale, Sir John Bowring, the reformer, writer, and versatile linguist; Robert Prutz, A. W. Fonblanque, Sara Payson Parton (Fanny Fern); Norman McLeod, Moritz Hartmann, Scotch churchman and author; Horace Maynard, the English novelist, and Franz Grillparzer, who enriched German dramatic literature.

Many great names have been lost to science—among them Prof. Lee, eminent in medicine; Major-Gen. Chesney, the pioneer of the overland route to India; Professor Morse, the great electrician, Feuerbach, the German speculative philosopher; Babinet, the French savant; Dr. Francis Lieber, the publicist; Prof. Upham of Bowdoin College; Mary Somerville, the English astronomer; M. Ponchet, the French physiologist; Dr. W. Baird of London, and Prof. Goldstacker, the philologist.

The pulpit has lost Dr. Francis Vinton of Trinity Church; the Rev. Dr. Henry Ostrander of the Reformed Church, Saugerties, N. Y.; Peter Cartwright, the Methodist backwoods preacher; the Roman Catholic prelates Cardinal Amat, Archbishop Spaulding, Bishop McGill of Richmond, and the Very Rev. Thomas Mulrey, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Virginia.

Among the great soldiers who died were Major-Gens. Meade and Halleck of the regular army; Marshall Forey, of the French army; Lieut.-Gens. Ewell and Patten Anderson and Gen. Wright, of the Confederate army; Field Marshal Sir George Pollock, Constable of London Tower.

The death-roll of artists includes Kensett, the landscape painter; Sully, Ames, T. Buchanan Read, both painter and poet; and Robert S. Duncanson and George Catlin, all Americans; and Westmacott, the English sculptor.

The stage lost the veterans Forrest and Sedley Smith; also, Miss O'Neill, who was popular in England 50 years ago, Eliza Logan, McKean Buchanan, Bogumil Dawson and Emil Devrient.

Few eminent musicians died; the art, however, lost Hastings, the writer of church music; Lowell Mason of New England fame, and Henry Chorley, the critic of the London *Athenæum*.

Among Americans in political life who died were ex-Secretary Seward, ex-Minister Ingersoll, ex-Postmaster-General Randall, Humphrey Marshall of Kentucky, ex-Gov. Bragg of North Carolina, Norman Eddy, Secretary of State for Indiana; ex-United States Senators Wall of New Jersey, Grimes of Iowa, Walker of Wisconsin, Van Winkle of West Virginia, Garrett Davis of Virginia.

Among the foreigners distinguished in political life who died were Juarez, President of Mexico; Earl Mayo, Governor-General of India, assassinated by a religious fanatic; J. R. Thorbecke, Dutch statesman; Mazzini, the great Italian revolutionist; Duke de Persigny, the ardent adherent of Napoleon III.; Conti, another devoted friend of the ex-Emperor; Sir Henry Bulwer, brother of the novelist; Lord Lonsdale, once Postmaster-General of England; and the Duke of Bedford.

Royalty and royal houses lost King Charles XV. of Sweden, Archduke Albrecht of Austria, the Duke de Guise, Don Angel Iturbide, son of the first Emperor of Mexico; Prince Frederick Albert of Germany, King Kamahameha of the Sandwich Islands, Archduchess Sophia of Austria.

VIII. Educational Intelligence.

—One hundred and fifty-four women were candidates at the last examination of the University of Cambridge, against 127 last year. The proportion of failures has decreased.

—Vale pays its professors \$3,000, Harvard, \$2,600; Dartmouth and Wooster University, \$2,000; Marietta, \$1,800; Oberlin and Wabash, \$1,500; Western Reserve, \$1,300. A slender stipend, at the largest, for work that in many cases is beyond price.

—Hamilton College receives from the Samuel F. Pratt, of Buffalo, N. Y., \$30,000 for the endowment of a new professorship.

—The University of Zurich seems to be contributing its mite to solve the problem of university education for females. Out of some 400 students now in attendance, it is stated that 80 are ladies—most of them students of medicine.

—Gottenberg, Sweden, is to be the seat of a medical college which will afford a three years' course of study to ladies over seventeen years old. After receiving diplomas, they can practice in any part of Sweden as physicians.

—Madison University has four natives of Burmah among its students.

—Rev. Dr. Eliphalet N. Potter was formally inaugurated president of Union College at the last commencement, and the alumni pledged themselves to raise \$100,000 for the college.

—Harvard University lost about \$200,000 by the great fire in Boston, which will, without doubt, be soon made up by her friends, who have already subscribed more than \$150,000 towards this amount.

—The faculty of Harvard College are making a determined effort to put an end to “hazing” and “rushing.”

—The library of the Rochester Theology Seminary has received a gift of \$25,000 from John M. Brace, Esq., which makes about \$125,000 added to the productive funds of the Seminary within the last few months.

—Harvard College has recently announced that women cannot be admitted to the classes in that institution. The report says:—“would take much time and labour to arrive at an unprejudiced understanding of the practical operation of the co-education of the sexes in the colleges where it now exists.”

—The corner stone of an Agricultural College to cost \$180,000, has just been laid in California. Dr. Stebbins, in his address on the occasion, said: “The University is open to the young women of the State on the same terms as to the young men.”

—We are pained to record the recent death, in his 74th year, of Francis Lieber, LL.D., Professor of Constitutional History and Political Science in Columbia College Law School.