

constitutes 13 per cent. of magnesian limestone, a rock found in all parts of the world in enormous quantities. Four years ago, all the chemists who had obtained it probably did not possess an ounce among them. Two years ago, its price was 112 guineas per pound. Now, owing to improvements recently introduced, magnesium wire is sold at three pence per foot. It has been suggested that when it becomes cheaper, vessels of war should be built of it; for while it is but little heavier than "heart of oak," it is as strong and tenacious as steel.—*Id.*

—Rev. Frederic Gardiner, by inserting a line of stakes in the ice across the Kennebec River, in the early part of February, found, in the middle of March, that there had been an expansion of the ice of over 12 feet in a breadth of 500 feet. As during this time the temperature of the water was nearly equal, the expansion must have been due to the sun's rays, which was proved by the fact that there was the least expansion on the eastern side, where the ice was partially shielded from the sun by a high bank.—*Id.*

—Pharaoh's Serpents have been succeeded by a new scientific sensation, *Zauber Photographien*, or Magic Photographs. These are sold in two envelopes: the first contains pieces of white albumenized paper; the other, slips of white blotting-paper of a corresponding size. One of the former is moistened with water, and a piece of paper from the other envelope, likewise wet, is laid thereon, when a beautiful photograph is instantly developed on its albumenized surface. Photographs have, of course, been printed in the usual manner on the albumenized slips, and then decolorized with bromic or iodic acid; the other pieces of paper have been soaked in hyposulphite of soda, and the application of this reducing agent to the hidden photograph brings it to view.—*Id.*

—A sea monster has been caught in Bateman's Bay, New South Wales. It resembles a huge turtle, having four large flippers. It is covered with a bony shield extending from one extremity to the other. The head and neck resemble those of a tortoise. It weighs 15 cwt., and is 13 feet long.

—Mr. Spiegelthal has made a curious discovery with respect to the great Syro-Assyrian monument called the pseudo-Sesostris. He has found on the margin of the brook, at Nymphæum, a little lower down the stream, a repetition of the colossal rock-cut sculpture, with the bow, lance, &c.

—An extraordinary reptile has just arrived from Queensland, in the shape of a monstrous specimen of the Saurian tribe, which, in the opinion of Australian savans, is more closely allied to the extinct reptilia of the pre-Adamite era than any living animal yet discovered. It inhabited the unexplored interior of Queensland, near the source of the Fitzroy river. The accounts related of the destruction caused by the monster upon the native population seemed perfectly incredible, until the formidable jaws, armed with fangs of astonishing size, were beheld. Added to this, its claws of prodigious power, and its invulnerable skin, rendered it most formidable. In the contest which ended in its destruction, one claw was torn off; but with this exception, the body is in perfect preservation.—*Educational Times.*

—A writer in the *Times* has drawn attention to the appearance of a new star in the constellation Corona. The star, however, is not new: the real phenomenon being the bursting into brightness of a faint star already known and catalogued. It attained its greatest lustre about the middle of the second week in May, and rapidly grew fainter; and passed beyond the limit of naked eye sight on Sunday the 20th, so that, unless it rekindles (which is improbable), it is useless to look for it without optical aid.—*Id.*

—We have received from Mr. Collins a beautifully-prepared slide of this curious parasite, *Trichina Spiralis*, which has recently occasioned so many deaths in Germany. The slide in question contains a thin and very small slice of pork, in which are a multitude of cells, with the worm-like *Trichina* coiled up in them. The history of this parasite will be found in Dr. Cobbold's *Entozou*. The practice of eating raw and partially-cooked pork is very favourable to the introduction of these creatures in the human organism.—*Exchange Paper.*

## LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—The following are the ages of prominent English writers: Wilkie Collins, 42; John Rankin, 47; Charles Kingsley, 47; Tom Taylor, 49; W. H. Russell, 50; Anthony Trollope, 51; Charles Reade, 52; Robert Browning, 54; Charles Dickens, 54; Alfred Tennyson, 57; Archibald Alison, 66; Mark Lemour, 57; W. E. Gladstone, 56; Charles Lever, 59; Bulwer, 61; B. D'Israeli, 61; Barry Cornwall, 78; T. Carlyle, 70; Lord Brougham, 86.—*Illust. Teacher.*

—It is said that Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*, with illustrations by Doré, will be issued next autumn by a London publishing firm.

—The subject for the Arnold prize essay at Oxford, for the ensuing year, is "The Mahometan Power in India."

—Mr Collier has reprinted in his illustrations of Old English Literature "The Worthie Hysstorie of the Most Noble and Valiant Knight Placidus," a rare poem by John Partridge, of the early date of 1566.

—A late number of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated* contains a portrait of the late François-Xavier Garneau, and a biographical sketch from the pen of Mr. J. M. LeMoine.

## NECROLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—The Rev Francis Mahoney, known to literature as Father Prout, has just died at Paris. Born in Ireland about 1805, and educated in Jesuit College in France and the University of Rome, Mahoney was a Roman Catholic Irishman of the old school. He early took to literature, accepting an appointment on the staff of *Fraser's Magazine*, upon the invitation of Dr Maginn. A colleague of some of the brightest spirits in London, he was fully their equal in wit and humour—probably their superior in classical scholarship. "Father Prout's" essays in *Fraser* were eminently popular, and were published in a collected form in 1836. In 1860 they were republished, with etchings by Maclise. Mr. Mahoney also contributed some of the earliest and best papers which appeared in *Bentley's Miscellany* in 1837, and subsequently travelled for some years in Hungary, Asia Minor, Greece and Egypt. In 1847 he accepted from Mr Dickens the post of correspondent of the *Daily News* in Rome, and in 1840 published his letters, which were full of ardent zeal for the Italian cause, under the title of "Facts and Figures from Italy." He was for many years—indeed, until a month ago—Paris correspondent of the *London Globe*. Mr Mahoney had long lived in Paris, but occasionally he came to London, and his wit and scholarship, as well as the higher qualities of the heart, made him universally popular in the society which he frequented. He was a great master of languages—wrote French and Italian as well as English, and had Greek and Latin enough to bamboozle scholars by his pretended citations of fragments from the lost works of ancient authors.

—The Quebec *Morning Chronicle* announces the death of William Smith Sewell, Sheriff of the District of Quebec. The family to which deceased belonged is one of the noblest in colonial history. Connected with the rise and progress of British power on this continent, from the remotest times, unwavering loyalty to the British Crown, in weal and woe, has ever been the motto of the family. When the United Colonies severed the connection with Great Britain they removed to Canada, rather than forswear their allegiance. In Lower Canada they have always held a prominent position. The late Hon Chief Justice Sewell, father of the deceased Sheriff, was undoubtedly one of the ablest among the leading men who figured in the history of the past generation. Deceased had occupied the shrievalty of the district for very many years; and during the term of his service had ever distinguished himself by the quiet, unassuming, conscientious and attentive manner in which he discharged his duties.

## MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

—The hospital records show the enormous aggregate of 253,000 Union soldiers to have died on battle-fields and in hospitals during the war, to suppress the Rebellion. This does not include those who died at their homes of lingering disease contracted in the service.

—A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge. This it is that opens the whole mind, quickens every faculty of the intellect to do its fit work, that of *knowing*; and therefore, by sure consequence, of wisely uttering forth.

The courage we desire and prize is not the courage to die decently, but to live manfully. This, when by God's grace it has been given, lies deep in the soul; like genial heat, fosters all other virtues and gifts; without it they could not live.—*Carlyle*

—The adulteration of wines being so general, a mode of detecting any of the sophistications employed is a matter of some importance. In no way is even tolerably good wine more tampered with than in regard to its colour. It has been ascertained, however, that its artificial colouration may be very easily detected. For this purpose, a small piece of bread, or of sponge which has been well washed, is to be dipped into the suspected wine, and then placed in water. If the dark colour of the wine has been produced unfairly, the water will be, at once, tinted a red violet; otherwise not until after about half an hour.—*New Application of Chloroform.*—Both flour or meal, and the mineral substances ordinarily used to adulterate them, are completely insoluble in chloroform. This fact has suggested a very satisfactory mechanical test of the purity of farinaceous matters. A portion of the meal or flour that is to be examined having been placed in a tube which is closed at one end, the tube is to be nearly filled up with chloroform, and the open end, having been well closed with a cork, is to be agitated for a short time. All the farinaceous matter will be found collected on the surface of the chloroform; and the mineral matter, if any is present, will have subsided to the bottom. Should there have been an adulteration with mineral matter, it will thus be rendered distinctly perceptible.—*Intellectual Observer.*