

SCIENTIFIC.

Extracts from the proceedings of the "British Association for the Advancement of Science."

Zoology and Botany.—Sir William Jardine, President, in the chair. A paper was read from Mr. W. H. Clarke, of Liverpool, on a fish of Surinam, with four eyes, which, although previously unknown to zoologists, was met with in large shoals off some parts of the coast of Surinam, the water sometimes assuming a dark colour from their presence. Two of the eyes are in the usual position, but on the crown of the head there is a protuberance like the horn of a buffalo, in which there are two other organs of vision which move alternately with the former. It has a singular mode of escape from its enemies, for when alarmed it retreats to the bottom with its head upwards, and by the aid of its dorsal fins, buries its body in the sand, but in this position they are frequently decapitated in large shoals by the ground shark, which is their most inveterate enemy. It possesses various Indian native names, one of which is "Food for the Chiefs," so that it appears to resemble the white bait of the river Thames.

Mathematics and Physics.—Sir J. Herschell in the chair. Colonel Reid, R. E., read a paper on the law of storms and monsoons. It was founded on the observation of several of the most remarkable storms occurring within the last few years, the courses of which were accurately defined. No theory was advanced, but a considerable number of facts adduced, to which he solicited the cooperation of future observers. He traced the effect of a monsoon as emanating from a centre, and describing a common circle, an opinion which was supported by the President, who stated the singular opinion that the spots of the sun were produced by the operations of causes similar to those producing terrestrial monsoons which move in a parabolic curve in different directions in both hemispheres of the earth and sun.

Fluids.—Mr. Webb Hall read a paper on the economy of heat for domestic purposes: and Mr. Russell a very interesting communication on the resistance of fluids to vessels. It was formerly considered that vessels made their way through the water as the current flowed, but his experiments had proved that speed was not regulated by this cause, nor the shape or construction of the vessel, but by the depth of the fluid, and height and form of the wave, and also their respective velocities. Vessels, he considered, might be so constructed as that there should be no resistance, according to the principles which he had laid down at former meetings, and he and Sir J. Robinson had constructed vessels which entered and passed through the water without disturbing it by a ripple.

Geology and Geography.—Professor Lyell, President. The first paper read was a communication from Mr. W. Long, descriptive of a bone cavern near Cheddar, in Somersetshire, containing human as well as other animal bones. The fact of human bones being found imbedded in any old formation was always worthy of notice, from the rarity of their occurrence, and the interest excited when these were found in connexion with extinct animals. The cave is situated in limestone-rock, and 30 feet in depth. On the first entrance, it has the appearance of lofty chambers, tapering into an archway, which opens again into lofty chambers, on the bottom of which are found human skulls and bones, mixed with those of boars, deer, oxen, &c., imbedded in soil evidently of remote origin, and containing very few fossils, which are, however, very abundant in the rocks above. Professor Sedgwick remarked that he had not personally visited the locality, but always looked with suspicion at cases where the association of human bones with those of other animals of extinct species was sought to be established. The occurrence of human bones in caverns might be readily explained without their being coincident with the rock, and no argument could be drawn from it for changing the present system of geologists, in which the existence of bones belonging to the human species along with those of extinct species of animals had not been established. Professor Lyell mentioned that this subject had been minutely examined by eminent French geologists, who had found in a cavern in the

south of France human bones associated with those of the rhinoceros and elephant; the latter were of living genera though extinct species. It was a singular fact that some pieces of pottery found along with those bones led them to examine a tumulus in the neighbourhood, where they found pieces of pottery of the same description, as also bones of the ox, ass, and goat, but none of the extinct rhinoceros or elephant. The circumstance of human bones being found in connexion with those of animals was no proof that they were coeval, but only that they were of high antiquity, though not referable to a geological era. The second paper read was one of considerable local importance, containing the result of an extensive series of observations of the Newcastle coal district, by Mr. John Buddle, embracing an extent of 900 square miles.—*Newcastle paper.*

DEFERRED ITEMS.

TESTIMONY TO THE CHARACTER OF HENRY MARTYN.

By the late Rev. Robert Hall.

The religious public have lately been favored with a rich accession to the recorded monuments of exalted piety, in the life and religious experience of the late Henry Martyn. It is delightful to behold in the history of that extraordinary man, talents, which attracted the admiration of one of the most celebrated seats of learning, consecrated to the honor of the cross; enterprising genius, in the ardor of youth, relinquishing the pursuits of science and of fame, in order to travel in the steps of a Brainerd and a Schwartz. Crowned with the highest honors a University could bestow, we see him quit the luxurious shades of academic bowers, for a tempestuous ocean and a burning clime, for a life of peril and fatigue, from which he could expect no other reward than the heroic pleasure of communicating to perishing millions the Word of eternal life. He appears to have formed his religious character chiefly on the model of Brainerd: and as he equalled him in his patience, fortitude, humility and love, so he strictly resembled him in his end. Both nearly at the same age, fell victims to a series of intolerable privations and fatigues, voluntarily incurred in the course of their exertion for the propagation of the faith of Jesus. And though their death was not a violent one, the sacrifices they made, and the sufferings they endured entitle them to the rewards and honors of a protracted martyrdom. Their memory will be cherished by the veneration of all succeeding ages: and he who reads their lives will be ready to exclaim, "Here is the faith and patience of the saints."—*Ch. of the Church.*

Singular Retribution.—Our readers will recollect the afflicting murder of the missionaries, Lyman and Munson, among the Buttas, a year or two since. By an extract from the Annual Reports of the American Board, read at their late meeting in this city, we learn the following fact. A missionary of the Board recently made a tour in that country, and ascertained that these devoted men would not have been killed had their object been known. The tribe that destroyed them was at war with another tribe, and being out upon a warlike expedition, they discovered these two strangers. In the excitement of their feelings, they immediately killed them. When the news of this affair reached the neighbouring villages and tribes, and they ascertained from various sources that the missionaries were good men, and came to do them good, they were filled with indignation. Assembling their forces, they marched against the village, burned the houses, destroyed the gardens, killed some of the inhabitants, and dispersed the rest. The place was called Sacca, and is now no more inhabited. A jungle is growing thickly over its ruins. How soon did their wicked deed recoil, in destruction, upon their own heads! It is, indeed, a singular circumstance, that heathen tribes should destroy one of their own villages, in revenge for the murder of Christian missionaries. A mission will, probably, be established among them.—*Epis. Rec.*

Bishop Chase, of Illinois, has located a college on Vermilion river, not far from the town of Ottawa, and named it "Jubilee College."

Montreal to undertake the duty of Travelling Missionary in that District; Mr. Richard Athill, A. B. who will probably be appointed Travelling Missionary to the newly erected District of Wellington, lately part of the District of Gore; and Mr. Thomas Smith Kennedy who, we understand, will be Travelling Missionary in the Bathurst, Johnstown and Eastern Districts.

The following gentlemen were, on the same occasion, admitted to the Order of Priesthood: The Rev. Thomas Greene, A. B., who has for some time been settled at Wellington Square, District of Gore; and The Rev. Henry Scadding, A. B. third Classical Master in U. C. College, who will probably officiate on Sundays in the township of Scarborough.

The services of this most interesting day were renewed at 3 P. M. when, after Evening Prayer and an impressive Sermon from the Lord Bishop, his Lordship administered the rite of Confirmation to 74 persons. On Wednesday his Lordship held a visitation in St. James's Church, at which fifty clergymen were present. An excellent Visitation Sermon was preached by the Venerable the Archdeacon of York, after which his Lordship delivered an impressive Charge to the assembled Clergy.

THE FIRST COLONIAL BISHOP.—We are happy to find that an engraving has lately been executed in London from an excellent painting of the first Bishop Inglis, by Field, one of which we have seen. Those who remember the striking countenance of the venerable original, will pronounce the likeness excellent.—We hope a sufficient number of copies will soon be received in this country, to gratify the desire which we are sure will be generally felt to possess such a memorial of one whose name is so intimately connected with the early establishment of religion and literature in this land.

ANOTHER VEGETABLE WONDER.—A turnip of extraordinary size has just been sent to us, raised in the garden of Mr. Philip Sponagle, merchant, of this town, which might well claim relationship with the Carrot mentioned in our last, or with any other vegetable giant in the world. It weighs 16 lbs. and measures in circumference 2 feet 9 inches! Other turnips raised in the same garden averaged in weight 10 lbs. each.—We should like to know if any other part of the Province can equal this?

The present number completing the **THIRD** Volume of the Colonial Churchman, subscribers are particularly requested to pay their arrears to the Agents nearest to them, whom we would desire to forward the same as far as possible, together with such sums as may be collected in advance for the **Fourth** Volume, and which are published in our terms. Several engagements have rendered this notice indispensable.

Letters received—Rev. L. Doolittle, with remittance; J. Brown, with ditto; Rev. G. Morris, with ditto; George Jarvis, with ditto; Charles Desbrisay, Esq.

DIED.

In this town, on Saturday the 3d inst. Captain Maxim Ernst, in the 37th year of his age—much regretted by a large circle of relatives and friends. At St. John, N. B. on the 23ult., Thomas Padlock, Esq. Physician and Surgeon. Doctor Padlock was in the 48th year of his age.

JUST PUBLISHED, BELCHER'S FARMER'S ALMANACK, FOR 1839.

Containing every thing requisite and necessary for an Almanack—Farmer's Calendar—Table of the Equation of Time—Eclipses, &c.—Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils—and House of Assembly. Officers of the Army, Navy, and Staff of the Militia—Officers of the several Counties, (including the New County of Digby), and of the different Courts, &c. arranged under their respective Divisions and Counties—Roll of Barristers and Solicitors with dates of admission—Charitable and other Societies—Insurance Companies—Clergy of the different Denominations throughout the Province—Colleges, Academies, Clergy, &c.—Roads and distances to the principal towns, with the Route to St. John and Fredericton, N. B. and a variety of other matter. October 27, 1838.

C. H. BELCHER.

Belcher's Farmer's Almanack.—A better cannot be had of any kind, and much that is instructive. The local information is unusually accurate.—*Halifax Times.*