

would break when a weight fell on it from the height of two feet, the same pane would resist the same weight falling from six or eight feet. Mr. Siemens, F.R.S., pronounces the process to be certain and unquestionable.

—The leading English scientific journal, *Nature*, pays this handsome compliment to the American expeditions for observing the transit of Venus: "The United States leads all other nations in respect both to the amount of money which her Government has contributed and to the discomfort, not to say dangers, of the station she has chosen in the Southern seas. Posts of importance, which were given up as too hopelessly miserable even for enthusiastic English astronomers, have been occupied by Americans."

—The German Government, last spring, sent Drs. Prutz and Sepp to conduct excavations at Tyre. These gentlemen have returned to Germany, having fully achieved their object. They discovered, and partially unearthed an ancient cathedral, dating from the time of the Crusades, and containing numerous interesting inscriptions, many of which they have successfully deciphered.

—Not less than 8,000,000 acres of wood are said to be annually cleared in the United States, while not more than 10,000 acres are planted every year. A Western paper estimates that Chicago alone consumes the produce of 10,000 acres every year, and in Wisconsin the yield of 50,000 acres is required to supply the wants of Nebraska and Kansas.

—M. Martin is superintending the work of polishing the lens of the mirror of the great telescope in the French National Observatory. The diameter of the lens is one hundred and twenty centimetres, and the polisher, which is a disc of forty centimetres, is so heavy that the six men engaged in using it have to cease working frequently.

—A movement has been set on foot in Germany to send out another expedition to the east coast of Greenland. It is to consist of two steam vessels, of three hundred tons burden, each manned by thirty men; one to explore Greenland, while the other advances to the North Pole. The expense will reach about \$950,000, and the date of the expedition's departure will be determined by the rapidity with which this amount can be collected. Up to the latest accounts the Government had made no offers of assistance to the enterprise.

—The Quarterly statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains an account of the very interesting identification, by M. Clermont-Gauneau, of the ancient Levitical city of Gezer, in the territory of the tribe of Ephraim, with a place now called Abu-Shusheh. The discovery is important, as, in connection with accompanying inscriptions in Greek and Hebrew, it is expected to throw light on the vexed question of the length of the Jewish cubit. The discovery will also have the effect of materially modifying the form and extent of the territory of Ephraim, as laid down in our maps of ancient Palestine, of which territory Gezer marks one of the limits.

—Prof. H. Fritz, of Zurich, has published a paper in which all available observations of the aurora borealis are discussed. It is accompanied by a map showing the curve of equal frequency. This curve passes along the north shores of Siberia and Lapland, thence south of Iceland and Greenland, through the middle of Hudson Bay, where it turns northward, forming an irregular oval, of which the southernmost point is in the meridian of Greenland. This region includes both magnetic poles, and within it the aurora is seen in the south instead of in the north, as is the case outside the region. The frequency of the aurora decreases as the centre of the region is approached.

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