

Evidence is reported to be accumulating against the accuracy of DuChailu's estimates of distances and locations in his rambles in Western Africa. Some Englishmen are organizing an expedition into that region to verify or correct his statements.

A manuscript map has been discovered which shows that the northwest coast of Australia was discovered in 1601 by a Portuguese named Manoel Godinho de Heredia. This date is five years earlier than the earliest previously-known discovery by the Dutch. The king of Portugal has conferred the honor of knighthood of the Tower and Sword upon Mr. R. H. Major, of the British Museum, for making this discovery.—*Illinois Teacher*.

#### 9. PARROTT GUN.

The parrot gun is named after its inventor, Mr. R. P. Parrott, of West-Point foundry. The *Scientific American* describes it as "a cast-iron muzzle-loading rifled gun [i.e. cannon] with a wrought-iron reinforce shrunk on, and with its breech made of a separate steel pin," which is made into a screw and screwed tightly in to close the bore at the rear. We some times read in the papers of James' gun and Sawyer's guns: those men only invented projectiles to be used in any rifled cannon.

#### 10. THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The Commissioners and their contractors, Messrs. Simpson & Co., are very busy in setting the Canadian Department to rights, but the lateness of their appointment and arrival leaves them a great deal to do to be ready for the 1st proximo. The partitions and a portion of the counters are up, and the framework of the great timber trophy is rising fast. Upon and around this will be arranged the finest collection of the woods for building, &c., ever shown at any similar exhibition. At the base will be ranged sections of some immense trunks—the largest a black walnut, 4 feet 8 in. or 4 feet 10 in. in diameter without its thick bark, which adds six or eight inches more to its width. This tree, reckoning by the rings of growth, is about 320 years old.

Another white oak is of a still greater age, though not of so large growth. Both of these come from the western district of Upper Canada. Next we have huge square logs of commercial export timber, collected in the port of Quebec by Messrs. Patton & Co., including various kinds of pine, &c. Above them will be ranged planks, several of them showing a width of 48 to 50 inches. One of these is a beautifully seasoned white pine, sent by A. Bronson, Esq., of the township of Bingham, C.W. This is 50 inches wide without any wane, was cut from the tree 50 feet from the ground, the tree measuring 22 feet in circumference and 120 feet to the first limb.

Besides these very fine specimens of woods fitted for commercial and practical uses, the Commissioners have brought over specimens of the more ornamental woods, polished and varnished, either as boards or veneers. They have also brought over specimens of smaller growth as a scientific collection for the use and instruction of botanists, accompanied in many instances by the twigs and leaves as requested by Her Majesty's Commissioners. A collection of 490 native plants, gathered in the neighbourhood of Hamilton, C.W., by Miss Kate Crooks, will form part of this section. The collections of woods have been made from six different parts of Canada—the western, central, and eastern parts of Upper Canada; the Ottawa, central, and eastern parts of Lower Canada. Two collections of medicinal herbs and essences from thence are also sent.

Grouped with the woods, the products of the forests, are to be those of the waters, including preserved fishes sent by Mr. Passmore of Toronto, and a collection of fishes by Mr. Commissioner Taché, packed for export, together with oils, porpoise leather, &c. A small collection of Canadian furs, dressed but unmanufactured, will also be exhibited.

It is hardly necessary to say that the collection of economic minerals brought over by the chief Commissioner, Sir W. E. Logan, will again vie with that found in any other department as a complete representation of the mineral wealth of the country. Those who know, declare this to be a better collection than that made in 1851 for the first great London Exhibition, or that in 1855 for the Paris *Exposition Universelle*. Among the new things will be nine cwt. of copper ore from the great Acton Mine, and petroleum from the wonderful oil wells of the peninsula of Upper Canada. We should, perhaps, say would have been, had not an almost causeless panic caused the Commissioners to turn the petroleum out of the building. Though the public will thus be deprived of an opportunity of examining it, doubtless scientific men and the proper jury will be enabled to test its qualities. It bids fair to become a most important staple export of Canada. Mr. Thomson, of Toronto, had sent over machines for making gas from and heating houses with this oil, but

there is danger that the iron rule of the Commissioners will prevent it from being properly tested.

Sir William Logan's catalogue, with Dr. Hunt's (Chemist of the Canadian Geological Survey) contribution, forms a very valuable practical handbook to the geology of Canada.

The farm products of the colony will be well represented by 120 to 150 samples of cereals, seeds, &c., gathered in various portions of the Province upon a somewhat similar principle to that adopted in collecting woods.—*Canadian News*.

#### 11. THE MUNIFICENT GIFT OF MR. PEABODY.

The munificent donation of Mr. Peabody to the poor of London is the subject of general eulogium, and certainly is an event calculated to reunite and cement the feelings of the British people towards their North American cousins, from whom they have been to a certain extent of late estranged. It is one of those instances that prove there is still in the American bosom something like sympathy with the country whence they derive their origin, their political institutions, and the essential elements of their greatness. The *Liverpool Daily Post* justly characterises the acts as one "that goes far to redeem an age from sordidness, and render it illustrious throughout time." He further dwells on it thus:—

"The particular destination of Mr. Peabody's splendid endowment is dictated by feelings of a poetical and natural propriety which the whole world will appreciate. Mr. Peabody gives to London because London has been the scene of his business achievements—because, in a word, he made his money there; he gives to the poor of London because, as those always are who come from new countries where there is almost literally no poverty, he was much struck when he arrived in London, a stranger, with the plentiful neediness of its population. His sympathies have not been blunted by years of residence, and he still sees that the miserable squalor and degradation of the Metropolitan poor form a gulf into which even his monolith of benevolence might sink and be seen no more. It has always been a leading idea of Mr. Peabody's mind to devote a proportion of his wealth for the benefit of places which the accidents of life and the changes of business have associated with his career. He was born at Danvers, Massachusetts, and in that town erected some years since an institute and library, which have gone on flourishing and are a real boon to its townsmen. Twenty years of his life were spent in Baltimore, and there he founded, in 1857, a large institute devoted to science and the arts, with the addition of a free library. The building is ready, but the dedication is delayed, like so many other good things, by the unhappy differences that sever in twain the great nation which Mr. Peabody has long and worthily represented in England, and which we trust he will live to see happily re-united. That his great gift to London is not an institute, but a colossal and perpetual alms to the poor of a city in which poverty is always abundant, shows how healthy and natural are the impulses which this merchant prince has kept unsullied by the cares and uncorrupted by the successes of his busy life. Had he been a less original and genuine man, he might have merely imitated such noble benefactors as Wm. Chambers and Wm. Brown by adding to our popular literary institutions, of which on the best model we have too few. But he was true to his American instincts. He bore in mind the revulsion of feeling which he had experienced, and which other Americans and many British Colonists have often confessed to on seeing in English streets the palpable proofs of wide-spread destitution. He resolved that his *in memoriam* gift to London should be a benefaction to the poor.

#### 12. BRITISH GENEALOGICAL TABLE.

Table shewing the lineal descent of Queen Victoria, from William the Conqueror, and from Egbert the first sole monarch of England.\*

##### I. LINE FROM WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

1. VICTORIA, only daughter of
2. EDWARD, Duke of Kent, fourth son of
3. GEORGE the Third, eldest son of
4. FREDERICK, Prince of Wales, eldest son of
5. GEORGE the Second, only son of
6. GEORGE the First, son of
7. PRINCESS SOPHIA, daughter of
8. PRINCESS ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of
9. JAMES the First, only son of
10. MARY, Queen of Scots, daughter of
11. JAMES the Fifth of Scotland, son of
12. QUEEN MARGARET of Scotland, eldest daughter of
13. ELIZABETH of York, (Queen of Henry the Seventh of England) and eldest daughter of

\* Prepared from the paper of the late Mr. J. Hughes of Brantford, by Mr. James McFarland, Teacher of School Section No. 6, South Dumfries.