

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

Extraordinary Popularity of Macaulay's History of England.

—We pay Mr. MACAULAY no compliment, but only record his good fortune when we say that these two volumes are the most popular historical work that ever issued from the English press. Within six months this book has run through five editions—involving an issue of above 18,000 copies; and on the other side of the Atlantic, our enterprising and economical brothers of America have, we hear, re-produced it in forms which appear infinite in number and infinitesimal in price. For the best rewards of authorship, he, therefore, has not been doomed, like many illustrious predecessors, to await the slow verdict of his own, or the tardy justice of a succeeding generation. Fame has absolutely trodden on his heels. As widely as our language has travelled—"super et Garamatas et Indos"—these volumes have already spread the reputation and opinions of their author.—[Edinburgh Review, July, 1849, (attributed to Lord Jeffrey.)]

Mr. Macaulay collecting Materials for continuing his History.—

Mr. MACAULAY, who is at present in Ireland making enquiries connected with his history of the operations of William III. and James II. in Ireland, in 1689, visited the battle-field of the Boyne on Tuesday, accompanied by Captain LARCOM, Dr. WILDE, and Mr. PIERCE MAHONY. Mr. MACAULAY has since left Dublin for Cork and Killarney, whence he is to proceed to Limerick, Aughrim, Belfast, and Londonderry.

The Right Hon. Sir James Stephen, (formerly Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,) the contributor of the "Port Royalists" and other articles to the *Edinburgh Review*, has been appointed to succeed the late distinguished Dr. SMYTH as Professor of Modern History in the University of Cambridge.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington.—At a meeting of the authorities of this Institution, (founded at Washington by the will of Mr. SMITHSON, a munificent Englishman, "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men,") the President of the United States in the chair, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected Honorary Members:—Professor ROBERT HARE, of Pennsylvania; Hon. ALBERT GALLATIN, of New York, (since dead;) Professor BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, of Connecticut; and WASHINGTON IRVING, Esq., of New York.

Serjeant Talfourd, a distinguished literary Barrister in England, and author of "Ion," has been raised to the Bench, to succeed the late Mr. Justice COLTMAN.

The American Association for the Promotion of Science, after a most interesting session, has closed its sitting at Cambridge, Mass. Its next annual meeting will be held at Yale College, New Haven, Conn. We have read its proceedings with much interest; and beg to thank the Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, LL.D., for his courtesy in forwarding papers, containing, among others, his own admirable remarks at the conclusion of the session.

Rev. Henry Coleman, of New England.—The English papers record the death, by fever, near London, of this enterprising gentleman, aged 65. Mr. C. had lately completed his elaborate *Report on European Agriculture, and European Life and Manners*, and had projected a more profound and philosophic work on "*European Life*," when Death summoned him away.

"*The Book of the Angel.*"—Mr. CURRY, in his late evidence before a Select Committee of the House of Commons on Public Libraries, states that in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, there is a MS. of a portion of the Scriptures which belonged to St. Columba, who died in 590, "so beautifully written that people always called it '*The Book of the Angel.*'—they did not believe that it had been written by the hand of man. And Mr. WESTWOOD, who lately published a book of specimens of Continental illuminated MSS. of the Middle Ages, published a specimen of this also, but he failed to represent it accurately, the lines are so complex and so exquisitely delicate."

Alfred the Great.—The birth-day of the founder of the University of Oxford, ALFRED THE GREAT, will be commemorated with great eclat at Wantage, his birth-place in Berkshire, England, the 26th October next. ALFRED THE GREAT was born in 849—one thousand years since!

Recovery of the lost Journals of the House of Lords.—At the great conflagration of the Houses of Parliament, which took place in 1834, several books and important papers were either lost or consumed, amongst which were some of the manuscript Journals of the House of Lords. Within these few days, however, it has been ascertained that a portion of

the latter at least was not consumed, and their existence was brought to light in the most singular manner. It appears that a few days since a gentleman was passing along the Walworth-road, when his attention was attracted by some old books, &c., in the shop of Mr. TERRY, and which the latter had purchased as waste paper. On closer inspection he discovered no less than twelve books which appeared to be the Journals of daily minutes of the proceedings of the House of Lords, comprising the following dates:—1780, 1781, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1798, 1799, 1801, 1803, 1805, 1806. The gentleman accordingly purchased one of the apparent Journals, with which he repaired to the Library of the House of Lords to learn if it was genuine, when some of the parties there instantly detained it; and having been informed where the rest was, yesterday morning three messengers proceeded to Mr. TERRY'S, and purchased the whole twelve, which really proved to be the actual Journals of the above named dates. The price they paid for these important documents was merely that of common waste paper, being no more than £1 15s. for nearly one cwt. The account given by Mr. TERRY is, that he some time since purchased them, with nearly a ton weight of other papers, at a sale or the effects of the late Mr. CROFT, Clerk of the Journals of the House of Lords. [The "Journals" have proved to be a set of private minutes, of no official use.]—[*Ed. Jour. of Education.*]

The British Association.—The preparations for the forthcoming meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, have assumed a very decided character. Two soirees are to take place on the 13th and 18th of September, at the Town Hall, and are expected to be conducted in a very brilliant manner. The arrangements for the excursion to Dudley Castle and caverns are also upon an extensive scale, and the event will no doubt prove very interesting in connection with the meeting. The illuminations in the caverns are expected to excel anything of the kind ever before witnessed in them. On Monday, the 17th of September, Captain CARR'S apparatus for affording assistance in case of shipwreck or distress at sea, will be exhibited at the Reservoir. The session rooms are in a forward state of preparation; they consist of four rooms at the Free Grammar School, two at the Queen's College, and one at the Philosophical Institution. The grand exhibition room in Broad-street now assumes a very interesting appearance. Articles of the most splendid character are flowing in from all directions. The articles in electro-plating, *papier mache*, glass, stained and cut, and plate, bronze, wood, castings of all sorts, porcelain, musical instruments, models, including one of the Britannia Bridge, wood carving, chandeliers, lamps, &c., are of the most splendid and interesting description. We are happy to be able to state that all the principal manufactories in the town will be thrown open for inspection to the members of the Association. Many of the principal proprietors have most generously volunteered this favor, and not one has refused the application made to them by the Committee.—[*Birmingham Gazette.*]

Literary Travellers in Ireland.—Mr. THOMAS CARLYLE is daily expected in Dublin, being about to make a tour of some weeks in the South and West. Messrs. DOUGLAS JERROLD, T. B. MACAULEY and CHARLES KNIGHT are also making a tour through the South, &c.

Scientific Achievements.—Withing thirteen years a Tunnel under the bed of the Thames, an Iron Tube for railway carriages over the Menai Straits, and a Wire Bridge across the great Niagara, have been perfected. Thousands pass daily under the river, where a mighty commercial marine is floating above them,—ere long railway teams will be rushing through the Tube, dragged by the Iron Horse—while we are fraternizing with our American neighbors on a Bridge of Wire.—[*Hamilton Gazette.*]

Rivets in the Britannia Bridge.—The rivets in the tubular bridge at the Menai Streets are 2,000,000 in number, each an inch in diameter!

Suspension Bridge over the Dnieper.—Yesterday was the last day of the exhibition of a most interesting and beautiful model of the great suspension bridge which the Emperor of Russia is about to have constructed over the Dnieper at Kieff. The work is designed for great political and military purposes, being intended to facilitate the communication between Russia and Poland, and terminating on the Russian side with a swivel bridge, by which a retreating army can in a moment cut off the communication with the opposite bank. When completed it will be the longest suspension bridge in the world—viz., half an English mile in length. It will have six bays, four of them 444 feet long, and two 222 feet. The roadway will be 34 feet, and the footpath 6 feet. The swivel bridge will communicate with the rest of the structure by an island formed of masonry, and constructed so that any injury to the chains fastened within it can be easily rectified. The whole work will occupy the space of about five years in completion. As to the model, which has been prepared in this country for the Emperor, and is about to be despatched to Russia, is