

spent the night in the open air. On Tuesday, a similar meeting was held, and the issue was, that on that evening they took possession of the Faubourg, drove away the sentries, seized the gates, occupied the two islands in the river, and barricaded the bridges. I have omitted some of the details, but these are, perhaps, sufficient. The position the Radicals now held was a strong one. The walls around the city being very strong, it was almost impossible to attack them with any hope of success, except from the river. The attempt, indeed, was made by some of the Government troops at the *Porte du Cornavin*—the bridge which conducts one towards Franco and the Canton de Vaud. The party, however, was repulsed with loss. The Government, therefore, concentrated its efforts to make a passage across the bridges. But here, again, the difficulties were great. If the bridges furthest down, where the river is narrowest, were assailed, they could be more easily and rapidly crossed; but then the enemy had the island, with a crowd of houses on it, and they could fire upon the troops, not only from the opposite side of the river, but also from every window of the island fronting the city. If the bridges, again, higher up, nearer the point where the river leaves the lake, were attacked, the troops would have to sustain for a considerable time the fire, the river being very broad. Both parties concentrated their efforts at the bridges furthest down—the Radicals to defend themselves—the Government to attack. The Government began its assault about three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday. They possessed one great advantage over the enemy in having cannon to aid them. They were not, however, able to employ these very effectually, as they were naturally desirous to injure as little as possible valuable property. The firing continued probably about three hours, and the barricades at the bridges furthest down were in great part destroyed. This was not, however, effected without considerable loss. The Radical party had their sharpshooters in the higher windows of the houses in the island, and wounded a considerable number. The Government also had theirs, but they were by no means so effective. I have forgotten earlier to state the composition of the opposing forces. On the one hand, the Government had the great body of the regular troops, although the other party had a considerable number also. On the other hand, the Government had not so many volunteers, while the Radical force was greatly made up of them. The Radicals had not probably above 400 or 500 in all—the Government, before the termination, about 1500. The latter troops, however, were lukewarm in the cause, and many of them, it is said, could not be trusted. About six in the evening, the firing, in great part, ceased on both sides. It was evident all through the engagement that the Radicals had a very good head guiding them. Their chief, Major Rillet, understood how to employ both his troops and the mob. The mass of the people on the city side were all in his favour, and, with a little manœuvring betwixt them and his troops, did him most effective service. At the close of the engagement for the day (Wednesday,) neither party had lost ground—the Government, however, having many wounded, the Radicals scarcely any. It is said that two persons only have been killed in all—that more than thirty wounded are in the hospitals, and a considerable number in private houses. Rumour varies as to the exact number, and it is better, therefore, not to report it. During the night the Radicals set fire to all the bridges, and they were burned to an extent sufficient to prevent the possibility almost of troops crossing yesterday. In the morning the Conseil d'Etat resigned—a Provisional Committee was appointed—an armistice was concluded, and in the evening the bridges were thrown open, and all was quiet. To-day a Provisional Government has been appointed, with MM. Fazy and Rillet, the leading Radicals, at the head of it, and the former Conseil d'Etat has been ordered to defray, at its own personal expense, all the damage done to property. This will be a tolerable sum. The Provisional Government is charged with the duty of framing a new Constitution. This will be submitted to the approval of the whole Canton; and if accepted, a permanent Government will then be appointed. Such is the state of affairs to-day.

NEW-YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

New-York, 10th Nov., 1846.

THE GEOLOGIST'S AND NATURALIST'S CONVENTION

Was recently held in this city. J. D. Dana presented a paper on the appearances of the surface of the moon, with drawings, &c., which presented the following facts:—1093 lunar heights have been mea-

sured; its immense craters are as yet unexplained; one has been ascertained to be 150 or 200 miles in diameter, and 25,000 feet deep. The crater Bailey is 149½ statute miles in diameter. Two-thirds of all the lunar hemisphere in view—composing the southern quarter—are covered with volcanoes; the names, heights, depths, &c., were given by Mr. D. The sides of these craters appear more brilliant and illuminated than the bottoms; there is no appearance of water in the moon; out of 1093 heights, 6 are almost 20,000 feet in altitude, and 22 exceed 15,750 feet. Professor Shephard, in his report on *meteoric stones*, stated that 33 had been preserved in this country, and from all countries 120; he proposed this as a new science, to be called *Astrolithology*. Professor Silliman said, in regard to their origin, that two negatives were established; that they are neither of terrestrial nor atmospheric derivation. Whence, then, do they come? Mr. Alger made some observations on the *red zinc ore of New Jersey*, from which it appears that the bed visibly exposed at Sterling is about 600 feet. Assuming its present average width at 4 feet, and its depth at 100 feet, we have 240,000 cubic feet of ore, each foot of which contains 170 lbs. of red oxide, and, as the oxide contains 81 per cent. of pure metal, the whole amount in this single locality is 33,048,000 lbs.; at 5 cents per lb., the average price, this one deposit would be worth nearly two millions of dollars! Mr. Allen, on the *mounds of the West*, stated that Dr. Hawes had opened 60 of these receptacles the past year. He had found many curious specimens in them of pipes, and other articles of pottery, of exquisite workmanship, and far superior to anything manufactured by the present race of Indians. Also, several pieces of sculpture representing dogs, racoons, and other animals, all beautifully carved; also a quantity of minerals, beads made of bones, with a variety of copper and copper-pointed instruments. They also found an altar of very curious workmanship. The gentlemen engaged in these researches would at an early day give the public the benefit of their labours.

CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE.

From a communication, dated *Cincinnati Observatory, Sept. 8, 1846*, I glean the following highly important information. By the last steamer we received two numbers of the "*Astronomische Wachrichten*," a journal published at Altona, near Hamourgh, and conducted by the celebrated Professor Schumacher. These two numbers (566 and 567) are taken up with an article by Dr. Mædler, Director of the Doopat Observatory, Russia, in which he announces the extraordinary discovery of the *grand central star or sun*, about which the universe of stars is revolving, our own sun and system among the rest. This discovery is the result of many years' incessant toil and research. He pronounces "the Pleides to be the central group of that mass of fixed stars, limited by the stratum composing the Milky-Way, and Aleyenne, as the individual star of this group, which, among all others, combines the greatest probability of being the central sun." He finds the probable parallax of this great central star to be six thousandths of one second of an arc, and its distance to be thirty-four millions of times the distance of the sun, or so remote that light, with a velocity of twelve millions of miles per minute, requires a *period of 537 years* to pass from the *great centre* to our sun. As the first rough approximation, he deduces the period of revolution of our sun, with all its train of planets, satellites, and comets, about the grand centre, *eighteen millions two hundred thousand years*. The ascending node of the orbit is (1840) in 235° 58' of longitude, and the sun will reach this point A. D. 156,000, or in about 152,660 years! Compared with the above, how insignificant is that proud creature *man*, and the *atom* of creation our world—how incomprehensible to man is the immensity of creation!! But what we know not now, a few short years will make plain. Let us all now seek that preparation of heart which will fit us to enjoy in eternity the wonders of immensity.

CONVENTION OF FARMERS, GARDENERS, &c.

At the recent meeting of this body, the subject of the noxious influence of the gases of brickyards on fruits and vegetables, was taken up. Dr. Underhill stated that he had observed its ruinous effects for the last 6 years; one orchard of 1500 Newton pippin apple trees in Westchester was entirely ruined, principally by the gases from brickyards in the vicinity. After mentioning other facts in proof, the subject was referred to a committee to report at next meeting of the Farmer's Club.