

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

London Literary Announcements.—The Quarterly and Edinburgh *Reviews*, both recently published, give us some idea of what we may expect from the press during the present literary season. In the historical section, we are to have a "Life of George Washington," by his namesake, Washington Irving. Sir Emerson Tennant is to give us a work on "Christianity in Ceylon;" two volumes of the "History of Rome under the Emperors," by the Rev. C. Merivale, will be issued in a couple of weeks; besides, a "Critical History of the Language and Literature of Greece," by Colonel Mure, M.P. We are likewise promised a laborious "History of Man," by Dr. R. G. Latham, and the "Memoirs of the War of Independence in Hungary, by General Klapka, the gallant defender of Comorn. In the Biographical section, we are to have the "Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury; the "Lives of the Prime Ministers of England," and the "Lives of the Speakers of the House of Commons." There is an announcement, too, of the "Life and Correspondence of Mr. Ward," the author of *Tremaine*, and the father of the present Governor of the Ionian Isles. The late Sir Harris Nicholas's "Posthumous Letters and Journals of Sir Hudson Lowe," are at length on the eve of publication, and are to tell us the truth, and the whole truth, about Napoleon's captivity at St. Helena. Leigh Hunt promises us his "Autobiography" soon, which will be eagerly read. We are furthermore promised a "Voyage to the Arctic Seas," by one of Sir John Ross's companions, and Parkins' work on Abyssinia, both of which cannot fail to prove interesting. And lastly, we are to have a narrative of hair-breadth accidents in flood and field, in the shape of "Four years residence of a Hunter in the wilderness of South Africa," by Mr. Cumming Gordon, a dashing Highland laird, who has killed lions and hippopotamuses beyond number in the memory of man.—[Cor. Patriot.

Chinese Literature and Schools.—The Chinese are a reading people, and the number of their published works is very considerable. In the departments of morals, history, biography, the drama, poetry, and romance, there is no lack of writings, "such as they are." The Chinese *Materia Medica* of *Le-she-chan*, comprises forty octavo volumes. Of statistical works, the number is also very large. Their novels are said to be, many of them, excellent pictures of the national manners. The plot is often complex, the incidents natural, and the characters well sustained. The writings of the Chinese are exceedingly numerous, and the variety of style is very great. From the days of Confucius down to our own times, during a period of more than twenty-three hundred years, there has been one uninterrupted series of authors. China is full of books, and schools, and colleges. New authors are continually springing up, though few of them comparatively gain much celebrity. The press is active, and the traffic in books is a lucrative and most honorable branch of trade. Individuals have their libraries, and government its collections. Of these there are catalogues, some of which contain simply the titles of books, with the names of their authors; but others, in addition to the titles and names, give brief notices of their contents, intimating in a few words what each contains.

Chinese Women and their Education.—In the education of females, the first object of attention is their virtue; the second, their language; the third, their deportment; and the fourth, their appropriate employment. A modest demeanour, so essential in the education of a Chinese lady of the higher class, is heightened by their mode of dressing, which is frequently of rich and costly materials, and in fashion extremely graceful. Among ladies of high birth it is considered indecorous to show even their hands, and in their general movements these are invariably covered by their large sleeves. The fingers are long and taper, and in some instances the nails are allowed to grow to a length far beyond our ideas of what is either becoming or beautiful. The generality of Chinese ladies cannot boast of great beauty. They make a free use of rouge, and this article is always among the presents to a bride on the occasion of her nuptials. The distinguishing marks of personal attractions among the Chinese, in a gentleman, are, a large person, inclining to corpulency, a full glossy face, and large pendant ears; the latter indicating high breeding and fortune. In females it is nearly the reverse; delicate forms are in them highly esteemed, having slender "willow waists." The eyes are termed "silver seas;" the eyebrows are frequently removed, and in their stead a delicately curved pencil line is drawn, resembling the leaf of the willow "Lew shoo," which is considered beautiful, and used metaphorically for "Pleasure." Hence the saying—"deceived and stupified by willows and flowers;" i. e., by dissolute pleasures. In the estimation of the Chinese, however, a beautiful female should possess the following attractions:—"Cheeks red as the almond flower—mouth like the peach's bloom—waist slender as the willow leaf—eyes bright as autumnal ripples, and footsteps like the flowers of the water-lily." These are a few of the metaphors used by the Chinese to describe beauty; the figure of *autumnal ripples* alludes to the dancing reflection of

the sun upon a ruffled lake; the impression of the small feet of a Chinese lady in the path is supposed to resemble the flowers of their favorite lotus. Among the accomplishments of the Chinese ladies, music, painting on silk, and embroidery, hold the chief places. The musical instruments are various in kind and material, and a supply of them is held to be an indispensable part of the furniture of a lady's boudoir. Painting on silk is a very common recreation; and embroidery is an almost universal accomplishment.—[Langden's China.

The Danish Oehlenschläger is dead.—the most fertile and famous dramatic poet that the Scandinavian kingdoms have produced. He died of apoplexy, in the seventy-first year of age. The poet was accompanied to his tomb, in the church of Fredericksburg, by the largest attendance that has been seen in Copenhagen since the funeral of Thorwaldsen: upwards of twenty thousand persons—a sixth of the entire population of the capital—representing every class of the community, from the Crown Prince downwards. The streets through which the procession passed were strewn with sand and green boughs, and the houses hung out black flags hemmed with silver.

The English Wordsworth and Bowles are also dead.—two of the literary celebrities of the present century—the former the Poet Laureate of England, and the latter, the Rev. W. L. Bowles, a sweet Poet and brother of Caroline Bowles the Wife of Southey.

Dr. Layard's Researches.—Dr. Layard has effected an entrance into a room in the old Nimroud palace, containing an extraordinary assortment of relics,—shields, swords, pateræ, bowls, crowns, caldrons, ornaments in ivory and mother-of-pearl, &c. The vessels are formed of a kind of copper or rather bronze—some perfectly preserved, and as bright as gold when the rust is removed. The engravings and embossings on them are very beautiful and elaborate, and comprise the same mythic subjects which are found on the robes of the figures in the sculpture—men struggling with lions, warriors in chariots, and hunting scenes. At Koyunjik Dr. Layard has uncovered a very interesting series of slabs, showing the process of building the mounds and palaces.—[Athlænum.

Public Libraries in England.—Mr. Ewart's Bill, now before Parliament, proposes to enable Town Councils to establish public Libraries for general use by a tax upon property.

Power of Lord Rosse's Telescope.—The light of the star Sirius, seen through this telescope, a six feet reflector, by the unprotected eye is unsupportable, yet when properly viewed, the air appears as an intense, sharp bead of light.—Some of the difficulties in working in speculum metal, which is as hard as steel, and yet so brittle, are that a slight blow will shiver it, and so sensitive to changes in temperature, that a little warm water poured on the surface will crack it in all directions. A deviation of the one hundred thousandth part of an inch from the parabolic form, would render a reflector of such a size as Lord Rosse's telescope optically imperfect, and one of a millionth of an inch could be detected.

Preserved Water.—M. Perinet, ex-professor of the Hospital Militaire d'Instruction has succeeded in preserving water in a pure state, by placing a kilogramme and a-half of black oxide of manganese in each cask of water, containing 250 litres. He has kept this water for seven years in the same barrels, and exposed them to various temperatures. At the end of that time he found it as limpid, free from smell, and of as good quality as at the beginning of the experiment.

The Consumption of Coal in England and Wales was estimated at 3,500,000 tons yearly, for manufacturing purposes, and 5,500,000 for household purposes. These are the inland dug coals. The additional quantity carried coastwise was estimated at 3,000,000 of tons, making a grand total of 12,000,000 of tons.

Universities in Russia.—The official journal of St. Petersburg has published the imperial decree regulating public instruction in the Empire, and dated November 29th, 1849. One paragraph is as follows:—"After the first of January, 1850, the upper classes [of the Universities] counting from the fourth, shall be open to none but pupils of noble blood. As to the inferior classes, His Majesty will deign to authorize the admission into them of the children of bourgeois, such as merchants and even those of Jews. But these shall pay a considerable sum, the amount of which shall be determined hereafter. The number of Universities for the whole empire remains fixed at eight. No University shall, in any case, admit more than three hundred pupils."—[Corres. N. Y. Com. Advertiser.

Female Editors.—There are six papers in the United States under the editorial charge of ladies. They are:—The Pittsburg Visitor. Mrs. Swishelm. The Windham County Democrat, (*Vt.*) Mrs. C. J. H. Nichols. The Lily, (*Seneca Falls*.) Mrs. Bloomer. The Lancaster Gazette, (*Pa.*) Mrs. Pierson. The Yazoo Whig, Mrs. Horn. The Mountain Bough, Mrs. Prewett.