

hitherto been, a grain of the Wild Oats. This grain has the faculty, it would seem, in an extreme degree, of gathering the moisture of the air at its earliest approach, and being connected with an index by a delicate mechanism of thread, by its subtle contractility indicates upon a disc adapted for the purpose, the degrees by which the tone of the air is disturbed by any approach of rain. The Horseleech it seems has the power or the instinct of giving infallible indications of the approach of a tempest, and the physiologist we have named has contrived the machinery for exhibiting this not only to the eye but to the ear. It acts like that of the wild oat we first instanced, by a connecting thread. The leech, disturbed by the electrical state of the atmosphere, and following its instinct, ascends a glass tube which is provided in the water; in so doing, it moves a thread which is attached to the clapper of a bell, and indicates, (it does not appear, however, in any way to measure)—the change which has taken place in the state of the air. . . . Thomas Crofton Croker, died on the 8th of August, at his residence in Gloucester Road, Old Brompton, aged 57. He was a popular contributor to the lighter literature of England, and was in all respects an estimable gentleman. He was a native of Cork, and many of his writings related to Ireland. His last production was a letter to J. S. Redfield, of New York, in reference to the suppressed correspondence of Tom Moore with his music publisher. . . . St. Peter's Church, Rome, will accommodate 54,000 persons; Milan Cathedral, 37,000; St. Paul's, Rome, 32,000; St. Paul's, London, 25,000; St. Petronia, Bologna, 24,000; St. Sophia's, Constantinople, 25,000; Florence Cathedral, 24,000; Notre Dame, 21,000. . . . It is stated that Victor Hugo is a disheartened exile in the Island of Guernsey; Lamartine is nearly forgotten; Alexander Dumas is neglected; only Guizot, Villemain, Augustin, Thierry, and Victor Cousin remain, of first class French writers, and of these last, Guizot alone is active. Thiers is occupied in writing his book on Italy and the fine Arts in the Sixteenth Century, Villemain is completing the second volume of his "Souvenirs Contemporains." . . . Dr. Eichhorn of Cologne, author of a highly esteemed history of German law and other similar works, has just died. . . . The Chinese of the present day are said to have lost a curious secret. They knew formerly how to paint on their porcelain fishes, and other creatures in such a manner that these figures never appeared to the eye until the vases were filled with liquor. . . . Italian art has just sustained an irreparable loss by the death of Paolo Toschi, the engraver, a native of Parma, who died there at the age of little more than sixty. He was not merely a first rate artist, but was highly gifted in literary and other topics. His conversation like that of Rossini, is said to have been one of uninterrupted flow of wit and humor. . . . A long series of photographic impressions, taken last winter in Egypt, have just been presented to the American Institute, by an American, Mr. John Greene, who has traversed that country from Alexandria to the second cataracts of the Nile. These photographic plates are very interesting in a scientific point of view, presenting as they do numerous inscriptions and bas-reliefs taken from the sombre recesses and depths of the temples of ancient Egypt, where photography has hitherto been unable to operate, and which Mr. G. has now been enabled to lay before the members of the Institute by an ingenious method of his own invention. He took their impression by the application of pasteboard, which had been softened by soaking in water, to the sculptured surface of the stone, which, when dried in the sun, presented its exact counterpart, and thus he was enabled to reproduce by photography the inscriptions and bas-reliefs faithfully incrustured in the flexible pulp. Triumphs, processions, wars, sacrifices, are all reproduced with perfect fidelity and in exact order. It is understood that Messrs. Goupil & Co., will shortly publish about sixty of Mr. G.'s views, representing the most remarkable sites, landscapes and monuments in Upper Egypt. . . . The building for the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1855 is of stone externally, and the contract was taken by Messrs. Goldsmid & Co., at 11,327,000*fr.* Mr. Viel is the architect. There will be two wings, which will cost 6,000,000*fr.* more, and various temporary buildings. The main structure is a parallelogram in three spans about 820 feet long, and 354 feet broad. The width of the centre span is 157 feet, and the height in the centre 108 feet. The gallery will stand over the whole width of the side divisions, about 79 feet. . . . Recently as the work-men engaged in deepening the well of Sheriff Ansel Wright, on Maple Street, in Northampton, Massachusetts, discovered at the depth of seventeen feet from the surface of the ground, eight different kinds of wood—parts of the trunks and limbs of trees, and such kinds as never grow together. The following descriptions were found viz: hemlock, white pine, sycamore or buttonwood, maple, spruce, birch, black oak and alder,—all, of course, more or less decayed. There were also found in the same place, buds of hemlock and spruce, burrs

of witch-hazel, pig-nuts, which decomposed within about half an hour after exposure to the air, and one acorn, perfect. It is manifest from these specimens of draft-wood, that what are now the Northampton and Hadley meadows were once a great sheet of water, thus confirming the theory of Prof. Hitchcock.—It would seem that a depth of seventeen feet of earth could not be accumulated upon that locality, in less than a score of centuries. . . . Expensive experiments are going on by order of the English Government, to test the effect of shot made from antimony upon wooden as well as iron surfaces. As far as they have been tested, the destructive effects of these balls are more apparent than those arising from iron ones, for, as soon as the surface is struck, the metal, owing to its great brittleness, breaks, and the various particles consequently, become widely spread. The authorities seemed to be much pleased with the success which has attended these experiments; and it is said that an immediate supply of antimony balls will be despatched to the fleets in the Baltic and the Black seas.

#### MINERAL DISCOVERIES IN CANADA.

There has been much exploring done this season, on the north shore of Lake Superior and Lake Huron: and we understand that many valuable discoveries, in the way of copper and silver, have been made. Heretofore, explorers have confined themselves mostly to the shores of the Lakes; but this year, they have ventured further into the interior of the mineral regions, and have been well repaid for their trouble. Several very large and promising veins have been discovered in the region north of the Bruce Mine, and some new discoveries have been made a hundred miles or more east of that place. These localities on Lake Huron are well situated for mining, and we wish our neighbours every success in the business. On Lake Superior, a large native copper vein has been discovered on Michipocoten Island, and is now being opened by the Quebec Mining Company, and several other veins of like character have been discovered in that vicinity this season. This goes to contradict the usually received theory on the subject of copper mines on the "north shore." It has been supposed by geologists that copper would be found only in the shape of sulphurets, and that the native metal was confined only to the "south shore." It is not the first time, however, that geological theories, in regard to this region, have been disturbed by facts and discoveries.—*Lake Superior Journal.*

THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT IN ENGLAND.—The final decision of the highest judicial tribunal in England in the case of Jefferys vs. Boosey, is so important to American authors and publishers, that we reproduce an extended report of it in another column. A London firm, writing to a publishing house in this city says:—

"The question whether a foreigner can hold a copyright in this country or not is now definitely settled. You will see from perusal of the case that he cannot. It is competent now for any person in the country to print any American books—forthcoming ones, and all those which have, so to say, become vested property in this country. The consequence of the decision will be a general scramble; several of the cheap publishing houses having already intimated their intention of publishing all the works by Longfellow, Halleck, Bancroft, Prescott, Beecher Stowe, Hitchcock, &c."

It appears, however, that there is a way, after all, by which an American author may secure a copyright in England; Lord Cranworth having intimated that if a foreigner goes to England with a work, and the day after he arrives publishes the work in that country, he will be within the statute. No long residence, but a merely transient visit would seem from this dictum to be sufficient to enable a foreigner to obtain a copyright. This privilege of course can only be available in the case of future publications.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONS IN A COAL-PIT.—On Saturday, Professor Airy, the astronomer royal paid a visit to the colliery district of the Tyne in pursuit of curious and important astronomical observations. For that purpose he was taken by Mr. Mather, a scientific gentleman belonging to South Shields, down Horton pit, the deepest in the Tyne, 1,260 feet deep, to examine if it were possible to make arrangements in it for a series of delicate experiments and observations in reference to the pendulum, and the earth's action upon it there, simultaneously with similar ones on the surface, with a view to determine the weight of the earth and planets. Mr. Anderson and the other proprietors and officers of the mine gave every facility to the astronomer royal, and tendered not only the use of the mine, but their own personal services for every future occasion. Everything at present looks encouraging for these important scientific experiments.—*London Times.*