

—The London *Quarterly* reviews the *Greville Memoirs* very severely, and impeaches their accuracy in several important respects.

—Mr. Birch, of the British Museum, is engaged in translating the Egyptian antiquities collected by Lord Prudhoe during his travels in the East.

—The *Athenæum* understands that an important document has lately been discovered, which throws fresh light on the trial of Mary Queen of Scots.

—It is stated that the new work upon which Mr. Gladstone is engaged is an essay on marriage, with especial reference to the alleged sacramental character of that institution.

—Mr. Kinglake's fourth volume on the Crimean war, just published, is entirely occupied with the battle of Inkerman. The subject is magnificently treated, but historical proportion is rather distorted by the too minute detail.

—Mr. John Austin Stevens, jr., is engaged upon a translation of one of M. Taine's most brilliant works, *La Vie Parisienne*. The volume, published by Henry Holt & Co., will appear early in the Spring.

—Professor Curtius, the Grecian historian, writes for the Berlin Academy an able paper on Greek armorial bearings, which he traces back to Assyria. Certainly the earlier art efforts of the Greeks are due to Assyrian inspiration; but it is not equally sure that modern heraldry owes much to the successors of Sennacherib.

—Mr. George Smith has discovered among the Assyrian tablets in the British Museum, the legend of the building of the Tower of Babel. This discovery is quite as important as that of the tablet relating to the Deluge, made known last year by the same gentleman.

—Mr. Gladstone's reply to his opponents, is styled "Vaticanism; an Answer to Replies and Reproofs." Mr. Gladstone maintains in his new brochure all the positions he took up in his "Expostulation." He is par-

ticularly complimentary to Father Newman, but he is severe upon the inaccuracies he thinks he has found in the historical references of Archbishop Manning. Of Mr. Gladstone's former pamphlet, 145,000 copies have been sold, and the *Quarterly* is in a fifth edition.

SCIENCE.

—Claude Louis Mathieu, a distinguished French astronomer, died on the 7th ult., in his ninetieth year.

—Mr. Darwin is about to publish an exhaustive work on "Insectivorous and Carnivorous Plants," giving the full details of the present state of scientific knowledge on this subject.

—The use of the spectroscope in the testing of metals is extending, and is regarded of especial value where purity is essential, for which reason it is employed in the coining establishments of Europe, and has recently been introduced into the United States Mint. The way in which the instrument detects even the most minute quantity of impurity, is marvellous.

—The results of the labours of the English Palestine Exploration Society during the past year are reported as being more satisfactory than those of any year since 1869, when many notable discoveries were made by Capt. Warren at Jerusalem. Altogether, the survey made covers 3,400 square miles, or one half of Western Palestine, and it extends from Mount Carmel in the north to the southern point of the Dead Sea in the south. The whole of this portion of Palestine has been carefully surveyed and a map of the region has been prepared. The map when published will indicate all the ravines, water-courses, hills, woods, and ruins, and give every known name of each locality.

—Among objects of interest lately received at the National Museum at Washington are thirty-six stone knives, with handles, obtained by Major Powell from the Pai-Utes.