

Kensington, and, by circulation, in local museums in different parts of the United Kingdom, would be useful to the manufacturing industry of the country, and for the artistic and scientific instruction of the schools in connection with the Science and Art Department. 2. That, as one of the principal objects of such purchases should be to show the progress made by other nations in manufactures, and in the application of art and science to practical purposes, examples of foreign origin should, in the first place, be secured in preference to those of British production. 3. That it is not desirable that pictures and modern statuary sculpture should be purchased. 4. That considering the importance of such purchases to the development of the manufactures and trades of the United Kingdom, they recommend that a liberal grant be asked from Parliament for the purpose of making them. They have not sufficient data before them to enable them to suggest the sum which might be advantageously expended, but they consider that under no circumstances should it exceed 25,000*l.* 5. Lastly, they are of opinion that no objects should be purchased at the Paris Exhibition, except such as shall be recommended by a commission consisting of gentlemen distinguished for their artistic and scientific attainments, who should consult with the two Art referees attached to the Department of Science and Art, and other competent persons. They further think it desirable that the referees should furnish written reports upon the objects recommended by them for purchase. — *Educational Times.*

— It is stated in *Cosmos* that the Californian opals are found in ancient decomposed lavas, and that the matrix of the gem is saturated with water, and the opals themselves soft enough to break between the fingers when first dug. Exposure to the sun for several days hardens them and brings out their lustre. The best are enveloped in a ferruginous crust, while those which are white and of feeble colour are without this covering. — *Intellectual Observer.*

OPENING OF NAVIGATION.

We have been favoured by Mr. Healy with the following interesting extract from the Log of the Quebec Observatory, relating to the opening of navigation, during the last twelve years:—

Year.	River ice broke up.	First ship.
1855.....	4th May.....	6th May.
1856.....	No bridge.....	28th April.
1857.....	23rd April.....	21st April.
1858.....	No bridge.....	
1859.....	18th April.....	28th April.
1860.....	No bridge.....	28th April.
1861.....	".....	22nd April.
1862.....	".....	22nd April.
1863.....	29th April.....	3rd May.
1864.....	No bridge.....	24th April.
1865.....	15th April.....	29th April.
1866.....	15th April.....	28th April.
1867.....	1st May.....	1st May.

— *Quebec Gazette.*

— The Oriflamme (*auri flamme*, was already more than four hundred years old when it became the royal banner of France. King Dagobert, A. D. 630, gave a flag to the Abbott and Couvent of St. Denis. The spear which bore the flag was covered over with gold or copper gilt, and the flag itself was without device, long and narrow, ending in three swallow tails, and of a bright scarlet color. The color typified the blood of the martyrs, especially of St. Denis, to whose honor the flag was consecrated. This was the Oriflamme, the distinguishing flag of the Abbots of St. Denis, who, as *ex-officio* Barons of Vexin, caused it to be borne at the head of their vassals when rendering military service in the field. When Louis le Gros became possessed of the Barony of Vexin, he promised the Abbot to adopt the Oriflamme for the royal standard. It first appeared at the head of the French armies in 1124. In 1147 Louis VII took it from its resting-place over the altar of St. Denis, for the purpose of leading with it his immense army, then about to set forth on the second crusade. The last time mention is made of it as the Oriflamme is in the history of the battle of Agincourt. Among the heaps of the best of French chivalry who "larded the plain," was Guillaume Martel, the Oriflamme-bearer. The chronicles give no account of the manner of his death, but it may surely be concluded that he died like most valiant gentlemen in defence of his sacred trust. Since that eventful day the Oriflamme ceased to be borne in the French armies. It remained in the Tower of London till the year 1841, when it was unfortunately burnt in the fire which consumed so many of the national trophies of England. — *Exchange.*

— An earthquake and volcanic disturbance, similar to those at Santorin, have occurred in the two islands of Tercera and Graciosa, off the Portuguese coast. On the night of the 1st of June a volcano rose from the sea about nine miles north of Serrata, and has since been in a state of great activity. It has thrown up enormous masses of stone and lava, and has formed a new island, which is likely to be dangerous to navigation. Sulphur and other vapours are emitted in large quantity. The boats have not been able to approach the new deposit, because of its

incandescence and the dangerous character of the volcanic emanations. M. Saint-Claire Deville has asked the French Academy to appoint some geologist to inquire into and report upon the facts, as in the case of the Santorin volcano.

The Scientific Association of France, established by the Imperial Astronomer, M. Le Verrier, and the meetings of which are held at the Observatory of Paris, has rapidly grown into importance. It appears by a report just issued, that it has already applied the sum of 78,000 fr. in aid of important scientific experiments, and has, moreover, made a reserve of 17,000 fr. for the general purposes of the Association. The association now announces its intention of publishing its *Bulletin* weekly instead of monthly, as at present, and including in it notices of all scientific discoveries, accounts of new inventions, criticisms on scientific and other works, &c., and has issued the first number of the new series. — *Id.*

On Monday last, a little son of Mr. Archibald Crozier, of the township of Saltfleet, aged 11 years, while strolling through a field, disturbed a nest of humble-bees in the ground, and was attacked by the spiteful occupants with great fury. The lad received one sting in the back of the neck, just below the occipital bone, the effect of which was a rapid swelling and severe inflammation, which gradually extended over a greater part of the body, causing intense suffering. The attentions of skilful physicians were bestowed in vain, and the victim expired yesterday, after enduring great agony for twenty-four hours. Evidently the sting of the bee had been inserted in some extremely sensitive part of the body, and the effects pervaded the whole system, finally reaching a vital point. — *Hamilton Times.*

— The skeleton of Pharaoh Mykerimus, who reigned in Egypt before Abraham was born, is in the British Museum, encased in its original burial robes.

— The *Journal de Frankford* publishes the following:—A certificate of studies has been communicated to us, which was delivered at the expiration of the half-year 1821-22 to the future Emperor Napoleon III; who was at the time in the 5th class of the College of Sainte-Anne, at Augsburg. The document is as follows:—"No. 21 Prince Charles Louis Napoleon, son of the Duke de Sain-Leu, of Rome; born at Paris; belonging to the Catholic religion; aged 14 years and five months; gifted with many good qualities, in the development of which he had laboured with much zeal, so that he has made good advancement in the German language, in Latin, and in arithmetic, and pretty good in Greek and in history—in general, therefore, considerable progress. His quiet manner towards his fellow pupils is deserving of praise, as also the respect and gratefulness with which he has accepted even disagreeable tasks. He has the 4th place; the difficulties of the German language, of which he is not yet master, have prevented him from obtaining a higher rank. Besides, he is publicly commended, and he can pass into a superior class." The certificate for the preceding six months says:—"This pupil possesses an ardent feeling for all that is elevated, good, and beautiful; he would have made great progress if illness had not, on several occasions, prevented him from attending the class. — *Exchange.*

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W. C. BAYNES, B.A.,
Secretary.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL.

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W. C. BAYNES, B.A.,
Secretary, McGill University.

McGill College, 5th September, 1867.

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