

art, and our fellow-citizens upbraid us with the feebleness and inefficiency of our resources in staying their fatal progress. When will they learn that, although we do not fail to cure these maladies, the more precious secret of prevention is in our possession, and has been for these many years.

A COLD ATMOSPHERIC WAVE.—During the past year, the Smithsonian Institute, under the able supervision of Professor Joseph Henry, has maintained its extended system of meteorological observation, and been enabled to make some very curious investigations respecting the three memorable cold days of January, 1859. It was found that the cold of the three days above mentioned swept progressively over the whole country like a wave, coming down from the Arctic regions and first entering the territory of the United States at the extreme north-west, among the Rocky Mountains. It was experienced at Utah some three days before it reached the banks of the northern Mississippi, and was heralded by telegraph at Minnesota some two days before it reached Washington. At Buffalo it was some hours in advance of Boston, and was felt last on the Atlantic Ocean, where it appears to have disappeared. This cold wave also swept South in a most remarkable manner, and progressively appeared in Florida and other southern States and Mexico; and the last pulsations, as it died away in that direction, were experienced in Central America and the West India Islands. Taken in all, it was one of the most remarkable phenomena ever noticed, and the facts collected seem to prove that the originating impulse came from the extreme north-western portion of the American continent.

A factory for the manufacture of oil from shale has been started at Collingwood. The works are upon a large scale. Forty-eight tons of shale are used every week, producing 1750 gallons of oil. An acre of ground will supply sufficient shale for a years work. The oil is adapted for burning and lubricating purposes.

Editorial Notices, &c.

The office of the Board of Agriculture is now at the corner of King and Simcoe Streets, Toronto, in front of the Government House, being the same place in which it was some years ago.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW FOR JANUARY, 1860:

We are in receipt of this splendid review through Mr. Rowsell, of this city. The articles are: The Three Colonies of Australia; Cotton Spinning Machines and their Inventors; China and the War; The Roman Wall; Religious Revivals; Life and Works of Cowper; and Reform Schemes; all of which will amply repay an attentive perusal.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE FOR FEBRUARY:

We have also received through Mr. Rowsell, a copy of Blackwood for February. It contains, as usual, articles of great literary merit, abounding in information that cannot fail to instruct and interest a wide class of readers. Those on Robert Burns; France and Central Italy; The diffusion of taste among all classes a national necessity; and a Visit to the Columbia River and Vancouver's Island; will be perused with equal pleasure and profit on both sides of the Atlantic. This American edition is very neatly printed by Leonard Scott & Co. of New York, at \$3 a year, forming two handsome volumes annually. The same firm issue quarterly the four leading British Reviews, viz: the *Quarterly*, *Edinburgh*, *Westminster*, and *North British*, all of which can be obtained, including Blackwood, for an annual subscription of \$10; being only about a fourth of the cost of importing the original editions from England. Any one of the above Reviews, and Blackwood's Monthly Magazine, can be procured for \$5 a year. We would strongly recommend our readers to subscribe for the whole, by which they will get these invaluable publications at an extraordinary low price, and keep themselves posted up in all the great literary, scientific, social, and political questions of the day. No book clubs, reading rooms, mechanics' Institutes, or farmer's associations should be without them.