

oolite sand alone produces sounds. The above mentioned Mr. Ward says, that the friction of the sharp-edged grains of silicious sand, exposed to the rays of a tropical sun, caused the resonant quality of the sand. We must leave the investigation of this matter to scientific men, being confident that they will explain the mystery. To the musician, we hope it may be an interesting curiosity.

We must still mention a sixth locality of the same character as that mentioned by H. Miller—the seashore. At the house of that distinguished lawyer and accomplished gentleman, Mr. William Whiting, of Roxbury, Mass., we were shown some sand, apparently consisting of quartz and horn-blende (if we judge and recollect rightly), taken up from the seashore near his summer residence, at Berkley, on account of its singing qualities, and, no doubt, there are other localities of similar character, which have as yet escaped the notice of observing men.—*Wes. Review.*

BARRENNESS OF PALESTINE.—Dr. Unger, the well known naturalist of Vienna, has published an account of the scientific result of two journeys which he undertook in 1858 and 1860 into Greece and the Ionian Islands. He devoted himself entirely to the botany of the country through which he passed, including an inquiry into the fossil Flora of Eubœa. The distinctive characters of the most remarkable new species that he found are delineated by the system of nature-printing, which is a good deal used upon the continent. He closes the work with an interesting chapter on the question whether, from a physical point of view, there is in Greece and the East a capacity for returning to its ancient prosperity. By a full comparison of its ancient accounts with present facts, he arrives at the conclusion that there has been no essential change in the physical conditions of the country. But there is a very serious accidental change. So far as the mere forces of nature go, there is nothing to hinder Greece, Palestine, and Asia Minor from returning to their old fertility. It has been destroyed by man, and could be restored by man. The wholesale destruction of the woods has been the sole cause of the barrenness with which those coun-

tries have been smitten. The vast wood fires, kindled partly by the hordes of invaders, who, in the course of centuries, have followed each other upon that soil, partly by the shepherds to gain fresh pastures, have gradually deprived the climate of its moisture, and the ground of its fertility. The instrument by which the barrenness of those regions is perpetuated is still more insignificant than its original cause. It is the goat. The ordinary operations of nature would, in the course of time, restore the woods that have been destroyed, but for the large number of goats the scanty population maintains. These have no pasture to live on in summer, for the arid climate dries it up, and they consequently eat off the shoots of trees just springing out of the ground. But if, by the operation of any causes, the woods were ever to be suffered to grow again, Dr. Unger's view is that fertility would return, and the old prosperity of the East would be restored.—*Saturday Review.*

ON THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME "CANADA."—*By the Rev. B. Davies, I. L. D., Member of the Council of the Philological Society, London.*—The name by which the most extensive and valuable Province in British America is called, has a very uncertain, if not strictly unknown origin. To this fact Dr. Trench, in his popular work on "the Study of Words" (page 170, ed. 9th), calls attention in these terms: "One might anticipate that a name like 'Canada,' given, and within fresh historic times, to a vast territory, would be accounted for, but it is not." Yet there have not been wanting attempts to account for what the learned Dean justly regards as still needing explanation. And the present paper is intended briefly to recount such attempts, and also to submit a new conjecture, not so much with the idea of fully satisfying as of directing inquiry.

Among the curious, who have investigated the early history of Canada, some have sought a native origin for the name, and others a foreign one.

1. Those who hold the name to be aboriginal, derive it from the Iroquois language, or rather from a dialect of the same spoken by the Onondagoes, who (as we gather from the *Archæologia Americana*, vol ii., p. 320) call a town or village *ganataje* or *kanathaje*; while the corresponding words in