

The same was true of Latin. He could have learned the declensions of the nouns and the conjugation of the verbs as well as other boys of his age, but his seat-mate very kindly volunteered to "tell him in class," and what was the use in *opening the gate* into the Latin language when another would do it for him? Oh, no! John Easy had no idea of tasking mental or physical strength when he could avoid it, and the consequence was that numerous gates remained closed to him all of his life—*gates to honor—gates to riches—gates to happiness!* Children ought to be early taught that it is always best to help themselves.—*Family Visitor, Madison, Georgia.*

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

THE VALLEY OF THE OTTAWA.

The quiet stream within a few rods of us, at this moment slowly and silently finding its way eastward to the ocean, forming as it does, the main artery of the valley of the Ottawa, traverses an extent of country eight times as large as the whole State of Vermont, and ten times that of the State of Massachusetts: in length of its course it almost equals the Rhine, and in magnitude the Danube; it drains an area of about 80,000 square miles, nearly the extent of England and Scotland, and from its origin or source about latitude 49 N. and 76 W. longitude, to its outlet or mixture with the waters of the St. Lawrence, at Bout de l'Isle, below Montreal, its course is nearly eight hundred miles in length; as far as our knowledge of the country generally extends, it appears the greater part of it is covered with luxurious growths of white and red pine, making the most valuable timber forests in the world; other portions, if not so valuably wooded, present a very extensive and advantageous field for settlement. In the diversity of resources the Ottawa country presents unusual inducements, alike to agricultural industry and commercial enterprise. If this be the case now, how much more will it be so, when, in addition to the more extensive prosecution of agriculture, the unlimited water-power which the Ottawa and its tributaries afford, will be (if even partially) applied to general manufactures, as well as to that of deals. The mineral resources of the Ottawa country are not either to be overlooked, only a few miles from the mouth of the Gatineau, an unlimited supply of excellent iron is known to exist, within a mile of its lowest fls. affording unlimited water-power, with abundance of timber for fuel. Plumbago, lead, copper, marble, and the ochrous earths of the Ottawa are also destined to become of commercial importance.

GEOLOGY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Geological Society of London.—Jan'y 19.—Sir C. Lyell, V. P., in the chair.—The following communication was read:—

"Notice of the Discovery of Reptilian Remains and a Land Shell in an upright Fossil Tree in the Coal of Nova Scotia," by Sir C. Lyell and J. W. Dawson, Esq.—"Notes on these Reptilian Remains," by Prof. Wynne and Prof. Owen.—In September last Sir C. Lyell and Mr. Dawson revisited the strata of the coal formation at the South Joggins, Nova Scotia, with a view of ascertaining what may have been the particular circumstances which favour the preservation of so many fossil trees, at so many different levels, in an erect position (such a position being a rare and very exceptional fact in the coal strata of North America generally). They were also desirous of obtaining additional evidence with regard to the relation of the Sigillaria as a root to the Sigillaria;—and also directed special attention to the difference of the deposits enveloping the upright trees, and those that fill the trunks themselves. In examining the stony contents of these fossil trees, the remains of plants, such as Ferns, Flabellaria, Sigillaria, Calamites, and Stigmara, were met with; and in one of the trees were found, near the base of the trunk, several small bones intermingled with fragments of carbonized wood. The whole were imbedded in a dark-colored stony matrix, in breaking up which, besides the bones, was found a small shell, referable to the well-known group of hand shells, Pupa and Clausilia; the osseous remains consist of the bones of the head and extremities, jaw, teeth, vertebra, and dermal plates of one or more small reptiles. These have been examined by Prof. J. Wynne, of Harvard University, and Prof. Owen, who pronounce them to have belonged to a Batrachian reptile allied to the Menobranchus and Menopoma at present inhabiting the rivers and lakes of North America. These eminent comparative anatomists also point out that the fossil reptiles bear some interesting relations to the Labyrinthodontoid type of reptiles.—*Athenæum.*

THE SEVEN ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE WORLD.

These were, 1st. The brass Colossus of Rhodes, 120 feet high, built by Caros, A. D., 288, occupying twelve years in making. It stood across the harbour of Rhodes 66 years, and was then thrown down by an earthquake. It was bought by a Jew from the Saracens, who loaded 900 camels with the brass. 2nd. The Pyramids of Egypt. The largest one engaged 860,000 workmen

30 years in building, and has now stood at least 3000 years. 3d. The Aqueducts of Rome, invented by Appius Claudius, the censor. 4th. The Labyrinth of Psalmetichus, on the banks of the Nile, containing within one continued wall 1000 houses, and 12 royal palaces, all covered with marble, and having only one entrance. The building was said to contain 3000 chambers, and a hall built of marble, adorned with statues of the gods. 5th. The Pharos of Alexandria, a tower built by order of Ptolemy Philadelphus, in the year 282 B. C. It was erected as a light-house, and contained magnificent galleries of marble—a large lantern at the top, the light of which was seen near a hundred miles off; mirrors of enormous sizes were fixed round the galleries, reflecting everything on the sea. A common tower is now erected in its place. 6th. The Walls of Babylon, built by order of Semiramis, or Nebuchadnezzar, and finished in one year, by 200,000 men. They were of immense thickness. 7th. The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, completed in the reign of Servius, the 6th king of Rome. It was 450 feet long, 200 broad, and supported by 126 marble pillars, 70 feet high. The beams and doors were of cedar, the rest of the timber cyprus. It was destroyed by fire B. C. 365.

MR. LAYARD—NINEVEH.

At a meeting of the Northampton Mechanic's Institute, in England, Mr. Layard, who has gained so much fame by his explorations of the ruins of Ancient Nineveh, was present, and made the following remarks, which we publish that they may induce our young readers to peruse the printed account of his discoveries.

Mr. Layard said he was about going to regions where there were no Mechanic's Institutes, but where men, still wild, wandered over the face of the earth. Those men, however, wandered among the remains of great cities, the existence of which indicated a state of civilization which equalled if it did not excel our own. That was a solemn reflection. In speaking of the ruins of Babylon and Assyria, they must not picture to themselves temples and monuments such as were to be seen in Italy. Those ruins, on the contrary, consisted of vast mounds of earth, something like the ancient barrows to be found in this country, and some of them were as much as three thousand yards in length, and occupied many square acres of ground. Those vast mounds were literally the heaps to which the prophet Isaiah referred when speaking of the ultimate fate of those cities which were, in his days, as flourishing, as great, and as populous as our own London was at present. The words which the prophet used in speaking of Nineveh, in particular, had literally been fulfilled; so much so, that if he wished to convey to them a correct idea of the present state of the ruins of Babylon and Assyria, he could not do so to greater advantage than by quoting the words prophetically employed in the sacred Scriptures. They must remember that the mounds to which he had referred, consisted of vast platforms of earth, beneath which the remains of palaces lay entombed. The mode of construction employed in those edifices, accounted for the present state of their ruins. They were chiefly erected in the midst of great plains, where the want of stone rendered solid masonry exceedingly difficult and expensive. The consequence was, that the builders were driven to the use of mere mud in the erection of those palaces, mixing it up with chopped straw, and making it into bricks, which they dried in the sun. These temples were used as great national records. Upon these walls the people of those days engraved the history of their national exploits. The art of printing being unknown, they were compelled to record their history on the walls of their public edifices. With that view, the lower stories of those edifices were built of alabaster, a substance exceedingly well calculated to perpetuate the pictorial representations of their great national events, and the explanatory descriptions with which they are accompanied. The upper parts of the building were constructed of the sundried bricks which he had described, and the consequence was, that in the lapse of time, they eventually fell in, and buried in their debris the imperishable memorials beneath. So soon as the sun-dried bricks, which had once formed part of the masonry, were exposed to the atmosphere, they returned to their original state, which was nothing but earth, and thus those heaps of ruins became covered with a kind of soil susceptible of various kinds of cultivation adapted to the wants of the population. That would explain to them the state of those ruins, also account for the excellent preservation of the monuments which were found beneath them. The result of those discoveries had been completely to silence the common remark, that there was no human confirmation of many of the historic facts related in the Bible. They possessed now a valuable collection of contemporary records executed at the time when many of the most important events mentioned in the Scriptures were performed, inscribed by those who were actors in those events, and completely tallying with the facts described by the sacred historians.