

her opportunities of the highest social standing in the community. She cannot, it is true, give all her time to social life—she can enjoy none of its dissipations, must have the courage

to keep good company, good hours, and retain economical tastes; but all of these things characterize genuinely good society everywhere."—*American Paper*.

GEOGRAPHY.

AFRICAN GOLD.—The expedition of the British South African Company into Mashona Land and the Highlands of British Zambesia has already found unmistakable indications of gold. A rush of gold-diggers will quickly let light into "The Dark Continent;" the railway is now complete from Cape Town to Vryburg, the capital of British Bechuanaland.

PARIS AS A PORT.—There has long been an idea of making Paris a port by a wide canal to the sea. One hundred millions have been expended in deepening the Seine between Paris and Rouen, so as to allow vessels of 600 or 700 tons to reach Paris. The depth between Havre and Rouen is 18 feet, but the depth of 10 feet between Rouen and Paris is sufficient for the coasting trade. A French engineer has devised an apparatus, enabling 1000-ton vessels to come up to Paris with the present depth of water. A Paris Navigation Company has been formed which intends to build, chiefly in England, thirty or forty vessels of 600, 700, and 1000 tons, plying between Bordeaux and London, Southampton, Liverpool, Cardiff, Newcastle, Hamburg, St. Petersburg, Naples, Cadiz, Lisbon, Tunis and Algeria, West Africa, and Paris.

THE CENTRAL PARK OBELISK.—The obelisk in the park in New York has been reported to be crumbling away, and has lately been examined by a committee of experts. This was one of several that was standing more than 3,000 years ago at Heliopolis, a city situated a few miles north of the

present site of Cairo. It was originally cut from the granite rock at the first cataract of the Nile, and thence floated down the river to Heliopolis. About B.C. 525 the Persian Cambyses invaded Egypt, devastating the country with fire and sword. This obelisk is believed to have suffered from fire at that time. It was removed to Alexandria shortly before the Christian era. When it was brought to this country a few years ago the opinion was expressed that it would be damaged by our atmosphere and climate.—*School Journal* (N.Y.).

ROUND THE WORLD IN FIFTY-THREE DAYS.—A postal card was recently despatched on a journey round the world, the performance of which it duly accomplished in fifty-three days. The card was posted on June 13 to Singapore, in the Straits Settlements, via Brindisi, and returned from that port to the sender, via Hongkong and San Francisco, reaching London on the 5th Aug. This feat was accomplished at the very small cost of 3½d. The post-marks on the card record that it left London on June 13, and duly arrived at Singapore on July 8, which shows that the outward journey was accomplished in exactly twenty-five days. Re-starting, it left that port the same day, and travelling onwards, via Hongkong and San Francisco, it reached Shepherd's Bush and was delivered to its original sender during the afternoon of the 5th Aug., or twenty-eight days (four weeks) after it had left Singapore, making its total time on journey fifty-three days.—*School Journal* (London).