

under him. For a long time he hesitated, but at last, in an evil hour, sailed for Egypt, and has become, in all but in name, a slave. At first he was appointed Head-master of Instruction at Boulac. Suddenly he was ordered, with twelve of his ablest professors, to form a school at Khartoum, a considerable town, placed at the confluence of the Blue and White Niles. When he arrived, he discovered that no school had been built for him, and that it was absolutely impossible to form one, as the parents run away and live independently in the desert, rather than send their children to be taught. Even could such a school be established, his assistance would not be wanted for several years, as the children can neither read nor write, and he is one of the cleverest professors in Europe in mathematics and engineering, besides being the first Arabic scholar. The whole thing was nothing but a scheme to get rid of the professors, that the pupils might secure their places. Some time ago, a young man of a wealthy family, at Cairo, was sent to Paris for his education, and became one of the best scholars of l'École Polytechnique. Gifted with great natural talent, and possessed of an Eastern imagination, he had scarcely arrived at manhood, when he gave up his mind entirely to the political sentiments then prevailing in the French capital—sentiments as antagonistic as possible to those which existed in Egypt. This, however, was far from being the extent of his imprudence. He thought proper to propose for the daughter of one of the professors; and to secure the hand of the young lady, he abjured the faith of Mahomet. This "perversion" created a greater sensation at Cairo than it had done at Paris. His family were indignant, the Government maintained an ominous silence. No notice whatever was taken of the affair. He fancied that the matter was not thought of sufficient importance to require any particular attention from the authorities of Cairo; and though aware that his family and friends regarded his apostasy as an unpardonable offence, and as covering them with disgrace, he hoped that when time had in some degree softened their feelings, he might be suffered to return to his native city, and be received by his relatives with scarcely any diminution of their affection. As to the light in which this offence was regarded by the ruling Pacha, he never gave it a thought. He felt assured that the affair had been entirely forgotten by the officials, and did not for a moment dream of any danger from that quarter, or from any other. Under these impressions, he arrived at Cairo, and with all the impatience of youth was making his way for that quarter of the city in which his family resided; fully convinced that not one of his countrymen could recognise him, could entertain the slightest idea of his being on the soil of Egypt. In this he was woefully deceived. Every portion of his homeward journey had been under the surveillance of a spy of the Egyptian Government, who had left Paris simultaneously with himself, and was close to him whenever he moved. Information of his expected arrival had been conveyed to the Government; and the moment that he quitted the steam-boat, certain men, for whom the citizens of Cairo rapidly made way, were seen to take a direction which would intercept him on his way to his father's house. That house he never reached. A headless trunk floated the next day on the broad waters of the Nile. It was all that remained of the unfortunate youth. His offence had created a feeling of terrible rage in the Pacha. The story of Bayoumi Effendi conveys a lively idea of the obstacles that must present themselves in the career of the ablest of those able men whose minds have had the advantage of European culture. It has been said that the cause of his disgrace was his being known to hold correspondence with the Government of the Sultan—an offence of the blackest die at Cairo. And it is possible that Bayoumi Effendi, getting dissatisfied with his position under the sovereign he had selected, had listened to the overtures which the agents of the Ottoman Porte were constantly making to draw away from its powerful vassal the most talented of his public servants; that this had been observed by some of the thousand watchful eyes that surrounded him, and the expatriation to Khartoum on a pretended scholastic mission is easily understood. Notwithstanding these "accidents," I believe that the Egyptian Government is sincere in its efforts to effect an educational reform throughout its dominions. Its experiments in that direction have been made regardless of cost, and with a liberality of license regarding the amount of Frankish learning to be acquired, that cannot be too highly appreciated. For the ineffective manner in which the movement has worked, it is not exclusively to blame. In the way of obstacles, there were the prejudices of the orthodox, the intrigues of the heterodox, and the pig-headed ignorance and fanaticism of the large class whose moral and social improvement the last two rulers of Egypt are generally believed to have had in view; and very powerful obstacles they have proved. I visited a school at Hafir on the road to Dongola, where I heard passages from the Koran repeated in grand style. The Dervish (the master) received us very hospitably, immediately preparing some coffee. He informed us that the inhabitants of Hafir were innumerable; that he had two thousand under his charge, all of whom could read and write the Koran. His school formed a curious scene—a mud-room, with one large window, filled with the faces of the pupils; the flickering light of the fire illumining in a singularly striking manner the fine face and long grey beard of the Patriarch, while

crowds of natives were picturesquely grouped about. He told us that taxation had increased since Ibrahim's time, as the Dongola Government taxed them as much as they could, aware that Cairo was too far off for complaints. The instant I left, the lessons were resumed; and I can almost fancy that I still hear the hum of the boys repeating their tasks. I also inspected the school of the Catholic mission at Khartoum. I found about twenty boys, in various costumes, and of almost as many different hues, from Frank white to inky native. Many of them are children of the European residents. Some can speak a little French and Italian, and nearly all can read and write. Whether Abbas Pacha will persevere, till he has established schools on the European model in every district of Nubia and Egypt; whether, through their agency, the blessings of civilization shall become extended to the remotest look of the burning Desert, and the land of the Arab be restored to that intellectual reputation which it enjoyed before the now enlightened West had emerged from the darkest depths of barbarism; whether, in this way, a great nation shall arise on the banks of the Nile, that shall produce evidences of intelligence and refinement rivaling those memorials of a glorious past, Thebes, Carnac, and Aboosimbel, form portions of a question that time alone can properly answer.— [Correspondence of the Educational Times.

## Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

### MONTHLY SUMMARY.

Baron Alexandre de Humboldt has, says a Berlin journal, announced the discovery at Athens of the edifice in which the Council of Four Hundred were accustomed to assemble. Upwards of one hundred inscriptions have already been brought to light, as well as a number of columns, statuts, &c. .... Mr. Huine announces the closing of the penny subscription for a memorial of the late Sir Robert Peel. The sum subscribed in pence is £1700. .... The postage commission of India report in favor of a three-halfpenny uniform rate. Newspapers chargeable at a rate from three-halfpence to sixpence over India. English journals, by Marseilles, will cost two and sixpence. .... The Papal government has decided on adopting the system of postage stamps as now in use in England and France. .... Another volume of Macaulay's History of England is soon expected from the press, and two more of Grote's History of Greece. .... D'Israeli is engaged upon a life of Lord George Bentinck, the great protectionist. .... Lord Cockburn is writing a life of the late Lord Jeffrey, in which will be incorporated his correspondence with Byron and other departed notabilities. .... Dickens and Douglass' Jerrold both announce two new serials; and Thackeray has almost ready an old-fashioned three volume novel. .... "Dickens' Household Narrative of Current Events" has been decided by a majority of the Queen's Bench, Baron Parke dissenting, not to be a newspaper within the meaning of the stamp act, and not therefore subject to newspaper postage. .... The London papers announce the death, at Boulogne, on the 27th of November, of Basil Montagu, Q.C., the learned editor of Lord Bacon—but to be known hereafter most enduringly as the friend of Coleridge. .... The Warsaw journals announce the death of one of the celebrities of modern Polish literature—Madame Nakwaska. This lady was the author of Polish novels and of sketches of the society of the capital. She has died at the age of 69. .... The pastor, Wilhelm Meinhold, the author of the Amber Witch, died on Sunday at Charlottenburg. He was one of the leaders of the old Lutheran party in Pomerania, but had for some years lived in retirement. His son had joined the Catholic Church. .... The correspondent of the London News, Mr. Hodgkins, has been expelled from Berlin and Vienna. The correspondent of the London Morning Chronicle, has also been expelled from Paris. .... The pearl figures which adorn articles made of papier mache, are not, as is generally supposed, inlaid, but laid on. The process is extremely simple, and has been in use about twenty-one years. The pearl shell, cut into such pieces or forms as may be desired, is laid upon the article to be ornamented; a little copal or other varnish having been previously applied, the pieces of pearl at once adhere to it; thereafter, repeated coats of tar-varnish fill up the interstices and eventually cover the pearl; this extra varnish is removed, a uniform surface is produced, and the pearl exposed by rubbing with pumice-stone, polishing with rotten-stone, and finally "handing," or polishing with the hand. .... In the month of February, 1852, there will be five Sundays. A like circumstance will not again occur till 1880, twenty-eight years hence. .... The library of the Capitol of the United States was burned on the 24th December. The estimated loss is £50,000. Several of the works cannot be replaced; 35,000 volumes were destroyed, together with numerous MSS., Paintings, Maps, Charts, Medals, Statuary, and articles of Vertu; 20,000 volumes were saved. .... The Rev. Dr. Robinson, celebrated for his Biblical researches in Palestine, recently left New York again to prosecute his inquiries. He has made ample preparation for a critical survey of the Holy Land, with special reference to Biblical History. .... The celebrated Mathematical library of the late Professor Jacobi,