

my of science, in Stockholm, on the 12th of February, several papers on natural history were read, and Mr. Erdman gave important information of a discovery in the neighbourhood of Nora, which may be of incalculable value. A large supply of beautiful white marble has been opened up there, the specimens shown were similar to the Carrara marble, and give the promise that not only sculptors may find suitable blocks without sending to Italy, but that Sweden may be enabled to furnish other lands with a supply. According to the Manchester papers, the sum of £8,703 has been subscribed for the formation of a free library for that borough. The American Association of Science met on Monday at Cincinnati, a large number of the most eminent savans in the country being present. It is thought that the session will last four weeks. Capt. Wilkes, of the United States Exploring Expedition to the Antarctic Seas, has just received an elegant gold medal from the British Government, as an acknowledgment that he was the true discoverer of a disputed continent, from which he saw the volcanic fires bursting from a land of ice and snow, and pouring their lava down the eternal barriers of the frozen mountains. (We never hear of a reciprocity in these honours by the Americans.)

A Magnificent Album.—The Artists and artisans of Munich have made a present to King Louis of Bavaria, as a lasting sign of their gratitude and acknowledgement of his merits in the cultivation of the fine and industrial arts. The present of the artists is an Album, twenty-six inches high, and seven and a half inches thick; it is bound in dark red velvet, and decorated with clasps, ornaments, and basso-relievs, in gilded bronze, in the Gothic style of the 15th century. In the middle of the cover is a large medallion, encircled with brilliants, and filled with a basso-relievo, representing the King, surrounded by his artists, and speaking to them; "I live in your works" the answer to the King, to the deputation of artists after his abdication. In the corners are four medallions, the basso-relievs of which represent the architects with their models, the sculptors and bronze-founders with the "Bavaria," the historical painters executing a fresco work, and the landscape and genre-painters painting from nature. About the middle medallion are placed the arms of the King, of four divisions of Bavaria, and of the artists with the dedication executed in enamel, and surrounded by rich leaves. The interior contains a collection of 177 drawings, water colours, and oil paintings, executed by artists in Munich Dresden, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Stuttgart, &c., so that the Album, indeed, appears as a present of all the German artists.—*Art Journal.*

Library Statistics, &c.—Russia.—The Imperial Library, founded at St. Petersburg by Catherine II., has been thrown open to the public by the Emperor Nicholas. It contains 563,420 volumes, and 15,471 manuscripts. The duplicate copies amount to about 20,000, part of which are to be given to the Geographical Society, and others to the Archæological Society of St. Petersburg.—In 1849, the number of volumes in the chief public and college libraries of the United States amounted to 1,294,000. The number of libraries was 182. Of these, 48 contained over 10,000 volumes; 9, over 20,000; and 2, over 50,000. The principal are thus enumerated:—Harvard College, including Divinity and Law Schools, 72,000; Philadelphia and Loganian Library, 62,000; Boston Athenæum, 50,000; Library of Congress, 50,000; New York Society Library, 32,000; Mercantile Library of New York, 32,000; Georgetown College, D. C., 25,000; Brown University, 24,000; New York State Library, 24,000; Yale College, 21,000. The N. Y. State Library contains more than 25,000 volumes, over 10,000 of which are law books, very many of them of great value.—The estimated worth of the collection is over \$100,000. The Rev. Mr. Gurley has petitioned the Congress of the United States "to grant to the government of Liberia a set of such books and public documents as have from time to time been published by its order, as the nucleus of a public library for that county for all time."

A Beautiful Flower.—A friend presented us a day or two since with a curiosity in the shape of a flower, which, we think, is one of the greatest wonders of the floral kingdom we have seen. It is about the size of a walnut, perfectly white, with fine leaves resembling very much indeed the wax plant. Upon the blooming of the flower, in the cup formed by the leaves, is the exact image of a dove lying on its back, with its wings extended. The peak of the bill and the eyes are plainly to be seen, and a small leaf before the flower arrives at maturity forms the outspread tail. This leaf can be raised or shut down with the fingers, without breaking or apparently injuring it, until the flower reaches its full bloom, when it drops off.—[Panama Star.

Important Discovery.—A cave that beats the Wisconsin cave. We are just informed that N. J. Coleman, Esq., who has recently visited the great Indiana cave, that another immense cavern has been discovered opening from the original cave, which in extent, curiosities, and mineral productions, far surpasses the old cave. Mr. Coleman discovered an aperture, just before reaching Jacob's ladder, into which a large man could

hardly enter, and desired the party which accompanied him to explore it. The guide and two or three of the party objected, as the aperture appeared to descend rapidly, and they feared they might meet with bad air. By a little persuasion, however, they were prevailed upon to make the exploration. With much difficulty they descended some forty feet, when to their great astonishment, they found themselves in an immense apartment. They immediately determined to fully explore the cave they had discovered. They found that this room opened into others, and these into still others, and that apparently there was no termination to the cave, they followed the main passage some four or five miles, according to their best calculation, when they were admonished by their lights that they must return. On their way back, they visited some of the rooms which they had passed in which they found large beds of Epsom salts, in nearly a pure state. We are also informed that the cave contains five specimens of salpêtre, plaster of paris, alabaster, &c., of which the party procured many fine specimens. We can now say to our sister state, Kentucky, that Indiana has a cavern which far surpasses the Great Mammoth, as the last discovery, in connection with the great Indiana cave, will make it one of the largest in the United States. It is about eleven miles from Corydon, in a southwest direction, and about seven north of Leavenworth.—[New Albany. Indiana. Ledger.

Ivory Carving.—A new art has been introduced into this country, which is likely to prove a very valuable resource for female employment, and that is in ivory carving. A very amiable lady, while staying at Boulogne, took lessons from one of the eminent carvers of Dieppe, a pupil of the celebrated David d'Angers, and she has introduced into this country the tools, models, and processes. Wood-engraving led the way, cameo cutting followed, and now ivory carving will become another branch of art followed by women. Our readers are well aware that ivory-carving affords a great resource to the town of Dieppe, and is likewise practised in other parts of France. Brooches, medallions, and other articles of ornament, crucifixes and small statuary, are extensively manufactured of ivory, and have likewise a considerable sale among English visitors. The art is one particularly suited for young women of education, and of an artistic disposition, and is worthy of cultivation.—[Architect.

Preparation of Flax—Important Experiments.—It is stated that the experiments now in progress at Manchester to test the advantage of the new method for bleaching flax, invented by M. Clussen, appear to afford incontestable proof that the material thus supplied will be of a nature to produce an important effect on our cotton manufactures. By this discovery the necessity for the steeping process is done away with, and the splitting and softening of the fibre is so effected as to fit it for the requirements of the machinery hitherto solely adapted to the spinning and weaving of cotton wool. The texture and softness of cotton is gained, together with the durability of linen, unaccompanied by the cold paper-like surface which has hitherto been peculiar to it; and as these advantages are alleged to be realized at a cost of production considerably below the present price of cotton wool, the question becomes not merely one of importance as regards the regeneration of Ireland, but also as affecting the comforts of the people at large, and the vital interests of the manufacturing population.—[Times.

Telegraphs.—The British Electric Telegraph Company, having some time since laid down a specific plan for effecting electric communication between Great Britain and Ireland across the channel, between Scotland and the north-eastern coast of Ireland, have not only determined on selecting that route as the best for effecting the proposed communication, but have arranged to commence operations forthwith, at Belfast, by laying a line from this town to Dublin, whilst they are making the necessary preparations to cross the channel. The directors contemplate placing all the wires underground, and the act of incorporation enables the company to open all streets, roads, &c., in the three kingdoms, so that they are not necessarily confined to railways, though these will be made use of, so far as practicable. They further propose to bring the telegraph within the reach of the humblest person, as in America, so as to have messages transmitted at not more than one-third the present charge, and, as far as possible, to assimilate the system to a postal arrangement.—We learn from Dr. Turnbull that there are now 22,000 miles of telegraph in operation in the United States; 12,000 on the Morse principle, and about 10,000 on the House and Bain principle. The telegraph now extends from Halifax to New Orleans, and as far west as Dubuque, Iowa.—The Emperor of Russia has ordered the erection of two colossal lines of electric telegraph from St. Petersburg to Berlin and Vienna.—During the present month an unbroken line of telegraph will be open to the public from Antwerp, through Germany and Austria, and under an arrangement between the different states, the charges will be assimilated.—On the first of March, the French telegraphs are to be opened to the public. By the tariff, 300 words from Paris to Calais, (235 miles), will cost \$9.