

of ancient art narrowly escaped destruction during the bombardment of the city by the French in 1849. I hope this statue will be preserved to the end of time.

Mount Sinai—I have stood upon the Alps in the middle of June, and looked abroad upon the snowy empire; I have stood upon the Alpines, and looked abroad upon the plain of beautiful, eventful Italy; I have stood upon the Albanian Mount, and beheld the scene of the *Æniad* from the Circean promontory, over the Campagno to the Eternal City, and mountains of Tivoli; I have sat upon the pyramids of Egypt, and cast my eyes over the sacred city of Heliopolis, the land of Goshen, the fields of Jewish bondage, and the ancient Memphis, where Moses and Aaron, on the part of God and his people, contended with Pharaoh and his servants, the death of whose "first-born of man and beast in one night" filled the land with wailing. But I have never set my foot on any spot, from whence we see so much stern, gloomy grandeur, heightened by the silence and solitude that reigns around, but infinitely more heightened by the awful and sacred associations of the first great revelation in form from God to man. I feel oppressed with the spirit that breathes around and seems to inhabit this holy place. I shall never sit down on the summit of Sinai again and look upon the silent and empty plains at its feet; but I shall go down a better man, and aim so to live as to escape the thunders which once reverberated through these mountains, but have long since given way to the Gospel of peace.—*President Durbin*.

THE NATIONS WITHOUT FIRE.—According to Pliny, fire was for a long time unknown to some of the ancient Egyptians; and when Exodus (the celebrated astronomer) showed it to them, they were absolutely in rapture. The Persians, Phœnicians, Greeks and several other nations, acknowledge that their ancestors were once without the use of fire, and the Chinese profess the same of their progenitors. Pansanius, Mela, Plutarch, and other ancient authors, speak of nations who, at the time they wrote, knew not the use of fire, or had just learned it. Facts of the same kind are also at-

tested by several modern nations. The inhabitants of the Marian Islands, which were discovered in 1551, had no idea of fire. Never was astonishment greater than theirs when they saw it on the descent of Magellan, in one of their islands. At first they believed it was some kind of animal that fixed to and fed on wood. The inhabitants of the Philippine and Canary Islands were formerly equally ignorant. Africa presents, even in our own day some nations in this deplorable state.

PROTESTANT MISSIONS.—The first mission of the Protestants was that of the Huguenots to Rio Janeiro in 1556, which was concerted by John Calvin and Admiral Coligny, the noble leader of the Huguenots who was brutally murdered at the massacre of St. Bartholomew. Missionary efforts were also made by Swedish Christians in Lapland near the end of the same century; by the Dutch early in the next century; by John Elliot, the apostle to the Indians, and the Mayhews in Massachusetts in the same century; by the King of Denmark in 1701, and by the English Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts in 1705; by Sargent, Edwards, and Brainerd among the North American Indians about the middle of the last century; by the Moravians in 1743; by the English Baptists in 1792; by the London Society in 1795; by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Societies in 1796; and by the Netherlands Society in 1797.—*Wesleyan 1786 to the West Indies*.

Property of the Hudson's Bay Company.—The capital employed by the Company is £1,265,068 and consists of stock standing in the names of the proprietors £500,000; valuation of the company's lands and buildings, exclusive of Vancouver's Island and Oregon, £318,884. Amount expended up to September 16, 1856, in sending miners and laborers to Vancouver's Island, in the coal mines and other objects of colonization, exclusive of the trading establishments of the company, and which amount will be repayable by the government if possession of the island is resumed, £81,071. Amount invested in Fort Victoria and other establishments and posts in Vancouver's Island—this amount is not exactly ascertained—estimated at £75,000. Amount paid to the Earl of Selkirk for Red River settle-