

**Shakespeare in Germany.** The Royal Theatre presents every week one or more of the plays of Shakespeare. Henry the IV, Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Coriolanus and Macbeth, have already been produced. The Germans appreciate at least as highly as the English the genius of the great dramatist, while the German translations of his plays are the best existing in any foreign language. The commentaries of the German critics on Shakespeare are richer and more profound than any in English. Among these stand pre-eminent those of Lessing, Tieck, Schlegel and Herder.

**The Marble Bust of the late Professor Gesenius,** so well known in America as a theologian, has been set up in the grand hall of the University of Halle.

**Berlin Popular Libraries.**—Four popular libraries have been organized in this city, and go into operation immediately. The object of their founders, among whom is Professor Von Raumer, is to place books within the reach of the poorest of the people.

**Louis Philippe's New Work.**—The politicians are looking with some anxiety for the appearance of a work in four volumes, from the pen of Louis Philippe. It is to be entitled, "Eighteen years of Royalty," and will doubtless contain many new views of persons who have figured prominently on the political stage in the last generation.

**Lamartine and the Sultan of Turkey.**—The Sultan is said to have ceded to M. Lamartine a large tract of land lying some twelve miles from Smyrna, in Asia Minor. It is about fifty miles in circumference and contains five villages, whose inhabitants live on the property, paying a small rent to the Sultan, who has been the sole proprietor. The land is fertile, produces orange and olive trees in abundance, and is suited in fact to almost any kind of cultivation. The chateau is situated in the central part of the tract, near a fine lake well stocked with fish. M. Lamartine has despatched an agent to perfect the arrangement, and is said to intend visiting the property in the Spring.

**The Christmas Expositions in Berlin** are remarkable. One represents, in figures as large as life, Waledeck in prison, Professor Kinkel in his dimly lighted and miserable cell, with his spinning machine by his side, and Stein "watching sheep in Switzerland." Great numbers crowd to see those idols of the people.

**A Silver Statuette of Napoleon** and a bust of the Emperor of Austria, made of the same metal, are now exhibited here to the public. Both were made of pieces of silver coin. The workmanship is said to be exquisite. The statuette is two feet high.

**Girardin.**—The Paris *Presse*, edited by the brilliant and eccentric Girardin, lost in the year 1849 more than twenty-eight thousand subscribers, owing to his tacking and veering so often. M. Girardin would be a great man if he would stick to one thing, but it is written "Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel."

**Michael's Hebrew Library.**—The learned Israelite, Joseph Michael, of Hamburg, left behind him, at his decease in 1846, one of the best collections, if not quite the best, of Hebrew literature in the world. He had devoted a great part of his life and a small fortune to the building up of his library, and has succeeded in getting 862 original manuscripts, and 5322 printed works. It is probable that this represents nearly all that now remains of a once rich literature. A great number of Hebrew works perished in the persecutions of the dark ages. The beginning of the 16th century is noted for the immense numbers of them destroyed in Germany and Italy, where they were burnt by the common hangmen, on the order of the Governments. The earlier impressions yet extant are nearly all from the Jewish press in Turkey, and are very rare and dear. The Michael library contained copies of all of these. When the heirs declared it for sale, the learned men of Berlin were anxious to have it for the royal library, and negotiations were commenced for that purpose, but the bureaucracy consumed more than two years in the preliminaries, according to custom; the holders became wearied out and sold the whole to the Bodleian library at Oxford, which retains the manuscripts, but parts with the printed works to the British Museum of London. As the Bodleian library purchased in 1829 the Oppenheim Hebrew library of Hamburg, it has now the largest and only complete collection of the works in Hebrew literature.

**Stopping Fire in Ships.**—A practical chemist of London, in a letter to one of the journals, referring to the loss of the ship Caleb Grimshaw, says that fire in the hold of a ship can easily be choked out by keeping a barrel of chalk in the hold, connected with a two gallon bottle of sulphuric acid on deck. The acid poured on the chalk will generate carbonic acid gas, which will at once extinguish flame.—[Evening Post.

**To Prevent Steam Boiler Incrustation.**—We see it stated that a Mr. Williams, in England, proposes to prevent incrustations by pouring

a small quantity of coal tar into the water before the steam is to be put up. This substance, when thrown into boiling water, parts with all its volatile constituents, and its carbon is, as a crust, deposited upon all sides of the boiler with singular uniformity, adhering with great firmness to the iron plates by the peculiar action of the force, which appears to condense fluid matter on solid surfaces. Thus a kind of graphite coating is formed, which protects the iron most effectually from corrosion.—[Scientific American.

**The Astor Library.**—The work of constructing the Astor Library, in Lafayette Place, has at length commenced. The building, which is calculated to contain 100,000 volumes will be completed at the end of two years and a half, at an estimated cost of \$75,000, exclusive of the furniture, shelving, &c. About \$14,000 worth of iron-work will enter into its composition. It will be, in every respect, a noble structure. From the level of the side-walk to the upper line of the parapet, its height will be about 70 feet. To the apex of the lantern, above the hall, the height will be 84 feet. Its length is 120 feet, width 65. Mr. Alexander Sælzer, of Berlin, is the architect.

**Fossilized Forest.**—The remains of a fossilized forest have been discovered beneath the mud deposit in Wallaseypool, near Liverpool.

**A new method of regaining the hearing** has been invented by Dr. Yeareley. Cotton is passed down to the *membrana tympani*, and the hearing returns.

**Macauley's History of England.**—Mr. Macauley is laboring hard at the work every day, but he does not expect to have the third volume ready for the press in less than a year.

**M. Cousin** has issued the first volume of his edition of the works of Abelard, with a preface of elaborate Latinity. He defrays the cost of the edition.

**M. Thiers.**—The ninth volume of Thiers's "Consulate and the Empire" has appeared in Paris.

**The French Academy** after discussing the new dictionary of the national tongue during nine years, have not yet completed the letter A!

**Miss Martineau's Travels Condemned.**—The committee of the the principal library in Burton-upon-Trent, by a majority of one, burned a copy of Miss Martineau's "Travels in the East," which had found its way into the library, "on account of its irreligious nature."

**Thomas Moore.**—The poet is in the enjoyment of good health, physical and intellectual, at his cottage at Sloperton.

**The Dead of 1849.**—The following distinguished personages and literary characters have died during the year:—Queen Adelaide, of whom it may be truly said that "her memory is blessed." Besides her, death has numbered among his victims, Charles Albert, ex-King of Sardinia; William II, King of Holland; Prince Waldemar, of Prussia; Mehemet Ali, the ablest modern ruler of Egypt; Ibrahim Pacha, his son; the Shah of Persia; Marshal Bugeaud and ex-President Polk. The list of eminent literary characters and artists who were last year taken from among us, contains many names whom "the world would not willingly let die." Maria Edgeworth; Captain Marryatt; Bernard Barton, Horace Smith; the Countess of Blessington; Madame Decamier; Dr. Cooke Taylor; Bishops Stanley, Coplestone, and Coleridge; Frazer Tytler, the Scottish historian; Ebenezer Elliott, the "People's poet;" W. Etty, the artist; Madame Catalani, the singer; Kalkbrenner, the musician; Chopin, the pianist; Kreutzer, the composer, Charles Horn, the English composer; Robert Vernon, the great patron of British art. Hon. Albert Gallatin; Madame Cavaignac; Signor De Begnis; James Reyburn; Madame Marrast; Theodore Lyman, of Boston; David B. Ogden; Marquis D'Alizre, the French Millionaire; Henry Colman, the Agriculturist; Dr. Fisher, original Editor of the *New-York Albion*; Dr. Crolley, R. C. Primate of Ireland; Duke of St. Albans; Sir Edward Knatchbull; Sir E. Paget; Prof. Carmichael, of Dublin; Gen. Sir Hector Maclean; Lieutenant General Sir Benjamin D'Urban; Bishop of Landaff; Peter C. Broods, the Milkman of Boston; Madame Catalani; Lady Ashburton; Cardinal Mezzofante, the linguist; Sir Andrew Agnew; Horace Twiss; Gen. Sir R. T. Wilson; George Knoop, the Violinist; David Hale; Hartley Coleridge; Dr. Pritchard, the Naturalist; Sir Charles Forbes; Earl Carnarvon; Sir M. I. Brunel.

**Acuteness and Sagacity of the Deer.**—The deer is the most acute animal we possess, and adopts the most sagacious plans for the preservation of its life. When it lies, satisfied that the wind will convey to it an intimation of the approach of its pursuer, it gazes in another direction. If there are any wild birds, such as curlews or ravens, in its vicinity, it keeps its eye intently fixed on them, convinced that they will give it a timely alarm. It selects its cover with the greatest caution, and invariably chooses an eminence, from which it can have a view around.