

the addition of the band of the 36th Regiment, and the 4th Dragoon Guards. Aided by this addition to the fine band always in the building, a series of overtures and marches were beautifully rendered, and the crowd which thronged every part of the place, after a few vain attempts to study the pictures, were compelled to remain quiet and listen to the music whether they liked it or not. In this way the day passed without variation or incident until half-past 4 o'clock, when the bands gave the signal that the last hour of the Exhibition had commenced by playing the national anthem. Immediately all the gentlemen present respectfully uncovered, and a simultaneous movement was made from all parts of the building towards the orchestra, round which the visitors collected in a dense mass, listening to the band with a serious and marked attention, that had a striking and almost solemn effect. As the music seemed to re-echo through the building there was a moment's pause of expectation, Mr. Wm. Fairbairn the Chairman of executive committee, advancing to an open space in the front of the orchestra, amid deep silence, closed the Exhibition in these words:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen.—The time has come, when it is my duty to pronounce the last words of farewell, and to inform you that when you have all retired from this building, the Exhibition of Art Treasures, will be at an end for ever. I sincerely hope you will never forget the liberality which has enabled that Exhibition to be formed, (loud cheers,) and that the recollection of this building and the unrivalled Art Treasures it contained will assert among you the truth of the poet's line—

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever,"

Scarcely had Mr. Fairbairn ceased speaking when, moved by an involuntary impulse, a tremendous peal of cheering arose from all parts of the building. It was renewed again and again, sometimes for the executive committee *en masse*, sometimes for Mr. Fairbairn, sometimes for Mr. Deane, the General Commissioner, but always hearty, always warm and general, and accompanied by such an enthusiastic waving of hats and handkerchiefs as would have moved the most impassive. The united bands too, seemed carried away by the same fervour, and gave vent to their feelings in another grand repetition of the national anthem. But when this was over, prodigal of applause as if they had never cheered before, the shouts of enthusiasm and farewell broke out as loud as ever. Suddenly they ceased, and the crowd made a general set towards the place of exit. Thus, then, the Manchester exhibition of Art Treasures was finally closed after a brilliant and famous career, which, though not long in point of time, has at least sufficed to achieve for itself a most marked success, and even to raise our artistic *status* as a nation in the eyes of Europe.

— A SCIENTIFIC MISSION TO INDIA.—An important paper has just been read to the Paris Academy of Sciences on a mission sent to India and Upper Asia in 1854 by the King of Prussia and the East India Company. The members of the mission consisted of three brothers, MM. Hermann, Adolphus, and Robert Schlagintweit, two of whom, MM. Hermann and Robert, returned in June last; the third, M. Adolphus, is still among the Himalaya mountains, and is expected soon to return, via the Punjab and Bombay. During the winter of 1854-55, these enterprising travellers visited the region lying between Bombay and Madras; in the following summer, M. Hermann explored the eastern parts of the Himalaya, the Sikkim, Bhootan, and Kossia mountains, where he measured the altitudes of several peaks. The highest of all the summits known throughout the world appears, by his measurements, to be the Gahoorishanka, situated in the eastern portion of Nepal; the same announced as such by Colonel Waugh, but called by him Mount Everest, because he had been unable to ascertain its real name in the plains of Hindoostan, where he effected his measurement. This peak is somewhat more than 59,000 English feet in height, and bears another name in Tibet, where it is called Chingopamaria. The other two brothers, MM. Adolphus and Robert, penetrated by different roads into the central parts of the Himalaya, Kumaon, and Gurwahl; they then visited Tibet in disguise, entered the great commercial station of Gartok, explored the environs of Lake Mansarowr, and that remarkable crest, which separates the waters of the Indus from those of the Dibang, often erroneously called the Brahmaputra. They ascended the Hsi-Gamine, 22,260 feet in height, that being an altitude never before attained in any part of the world. After having been separated from each other for a space of fourteen months, during which M. Robert ascertained that the table land of Amarkantak, in Central India, which is generally stated to be 8,000 feet above the level of the sea, is not more than 3,300 feet in height, the three brothers again met at Simla, previous to commencing the operations intended for the summer of 1856. M. Adolphus, on leaving that

place, crossed the Himalaya, went over Thibet, Baltistan, and visited the interesting spot where several mountain crests meet, and the Hindookoosh joins the range lying to the north of India. He then returned to the Punjab through the valley of Kashmere. MM. Hermann and Robert proceeded to Ladak by different routes. Under good disguises they were enabled to penetrate into Turkistan Proper, by crossing the Karakorum and the Kuenluc mountains, and descending into the great valley of Yarkande, a reign never visited before, not even by Marco Polo. It is a vast depression of between 4,000 and 3,000 feet, separating the Kuenluc, on the northern frontier of India, from the Syan-Chane, or mountains of Central Asia, on the southern border of Russia. They then returned to Ladak, and entered the Punjab by different routes through Cashmere. After a two years' negotiation, M. Hermann was, at the commencement of 1857, admitted into Nepal, where he determined the altitudes of the Machipoora and Mount Yassa, which have hitherto been vaguely called the Dhawalagery, which means nothing else but "snowy crests," and is applicable to all snow-capped mountains. M. Robert proceeded to Bombay through Scinde, Kutch, and Guzerat, where he surveyed the chain called the Salt Range, and determined the changes effected in the course of centuries in the course of several rivers. Before returning to Europe he stayed three months in Ceylon. M. Adolphus visited various parts of the Punjab and Cabool, previous to returning to the Himalaya, where he still is.

The chief results obtained from this careful exploration of Asia are the following:—The Himalaya mountains everywhere exercise a decided influence over all the elements of the magnetic force; the declination everywhere presents a slight deviation, causing the needle to converge towards the central parts of that enormous mass, and the magnetic intensity is greater than it would be anywhere else under an equal latitude. In the south of India the increase of the magnetic intensity from south to north is extremely rapid. The lines of equal magnetic intensity have a remarkable form, similar and perhaps parallel to those of certain groups of isothermal lines. The three travellers have collected all the materials necessary to ascertain this important fact. Irregular local variations in terrestrial magnetism are rare in those regions. In the Deccan and Behar the rocks are magnetic. On the Himalaya at altitudes of 17,000, and even 20,000 feet, the daily maximum and minimum variations of the barometer occurred nearly about the same hours as in the plains below. Again, at the above altitudes, the inversion of the curves of daily variation, which is met with on the Alps does not take place. At the altitude of 17,000 feet the diminution of transparency produced by a stratum of air of the thickness of 3,000 feet is no longer distinguishable by the eye. During the dust storms which frequently occur in India, the disk of the sun is seen of a blue color; if small bodies are made to project their shadows on a white surface under such circumstances, the shadow is of an orange colour, that is, complementary to blue. The transparency of the waters of the Ganges, the Brahmapootra, and the Indus, was tested by letting down a stone into them, which generally became invisible at a depth of from 12 to 15 centimetres (5 to 6 inches,) showing that they are overcharged with earthy particles, for in the sea near Corfu a stone is visible to the depth of 50 feet, and in the seas under the tropics it remains visible at a depth of 30 feet.

— MEETINGS OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE.—At the meeting of the Canadian Institute, on the 12th December, the nominations were taken for office bearers for the ensuing year. The Chairman, on opening the proceedings, proposed the re-election of the Hon. Chief Justice Draper, as President of the Institute. The Rev. Dr. Ryerson was also re-nominated; but his name, at his own request, has subsequently been withdrawn. Various other nominations to the subordinate offices and Council then took place; after which the Rev. Professor Hinks read a brief paper on the Botany of Western Canada, and Professor Chapman contributed some additional observations. The Chairman then called upon the Rev. Dr. McCaul, President of University College, for his promised paper, entitled "Notices of some ancient inscriptions found in Britain." The learned Doctor, in responding, stated that the paper in question was of a character too purely philological to admit of being read with profit before a general audience, but that he would give an abstract of its contents, and enter into a few explanatory observations on the mode of analysis adopted by him in the interpretation of these inscriptions. The remarks which followed, and which occupied more than half-an-hour, were of a most interesting and instructive character, and Dr. McCaul was warmly applauded at their close. The paper itself will appear in full in the next number of the Journal of the Institute. On the ensuing Saturday, (Dec. 19,) the Report of the