

beyond the Lake Ngami, discovered by them in the course of a former journey. The country, explored by the travellers, is described as remarkably fertile, and generally covered with long crane grass. They seem to have no doubt that the river Sesheke, now discovered, is a continuation of the Zambesi, which empties itself into the Indian Ocean, above Dela-Gon Bay, and which was explored and described many years ago by Commodore Owen. This river is navigable to a considerable extent, when further progress is interrupted by a large cataract, which has been compared to the Falls of Niagara.

**The Leipsic Book Trade.**—We had a pleasant journey through a well cultivated country and a succession of old and interesting German towns, from Dresden to Leipsic. The first point of importance is Meissen, where the old castle in which the Princes of Saxony formerly resided, has been converted into a manufactory for the well known Dresden china or porcelain. The first china that Europe produced was made here in 1710. We have reached Leipsic at a moment of much deep interest. This is the week of their greatest fair. The city is full of strangers, and literally crammed with rich and beautiful fabrics. These fairs draw people from all parts of Europe, to the number of 30, 40, 50, and in 1834, of 80,000. Then (1834) it is said that the sales amounted to eighty millions of dollars. Leipsic is the great book mart of Europe. Indeed books form the most important part of the trade of Leipsic, amounting to nine or ten millions of francs annually. There are a hundred book publishers and booksellers here, and 5 or 600 more are here now attending the fair. I went this morning through an entire street devoted to printing and binding. The rattling of presses and the clicking of type sounded familiarly. I then called upon Mr. Toucknitz, who is the Harper of Leipsic, whose establishment reminds me of that great American publishing house. Mr. Toucknitz re-publishes in English, cheap editions of all the best works of English and American authors. In his warehouses, besides tons of English volumes, were the works of Washington Irving and J. Fenimore Cooper, complete. Mr. Toucknitz's books are sold throughout Europe. The University of Leipsic has a world-wide fame, and, next to Prague, is the oldest in Germany. It has upwards of 60 professors, and over 1,000 students. In a cellar near the market-place, Dr. Faustus was supposed to have lived in collusion with him of the cloven foot. The market-place itself is queer, from a peculiar order, or disorder of architecture. Here is the town-house in which the allied Sovereigns met when, after a tremendous battle, they had driven Napoleon from Leipsic. There is now a continuous railroad from Leipsic to Frankford, the last link having been just supplied by the completion of the road.—[Correspondent of the Albany Evening Journal.

**Vegetation of the Frozen Regions.**—We take the following from a review in the London Literary Gazette, of Seaman's "Botany of the Voyage of H. M. S. Herald under the command of captain Kellet." The Herald was one of the ships engaged from 1845 to 1851 in exploring the Arctic regions, and in search of Sir John Franklin. Among the more remarkable features of this uninviting region are the ice-cliffs crowned with soil and luxuriant vegetation. The following account of them will be new to most of our readers:—"The soil is always frozen, and merely thaws during the summer, a few feet below the surface. But thawing is by no means uniform. In peat it extends not deeper than two feet, while in other formations, especially in sand or gravel, the ground is free from frost to the depth of nearly a fathom, showing that sand is a better conductor of heat than peat or clay, and corroborating the observation of the accurate J. D. Hooker, who, after a series of experiments in India, arrived at the same conclusion. The roots of the plants, even those of the shrubs do not penetrate into the frozen subsoil. On reaching it they recoil as if they touched upon a rock through which no passage could be forced. It may be surprising to behold a vegetation flourishing under such circumstances, existing independent, it would seem, of terrestrial heat. But surprise is changed into amazement on visiting Kotzebue Sound, where on the tops of icebergs, herbs and shrubs are thriving with luxuriance only equalled in more favoured climes. There, from Elephant to Eschscholtz Point, is a series of cliffs from seventy to ninety feet high, which present some striking illustrations of the manner in which Arctic plants grow. Three distinct layers compose these cliffs. The lower, as far as it can be seen above the ground, is ice, and from twenty to fifty feet high. The central is clay, varying in thickness from two to twenty feet, and being intermingled with remains of fossil elephants, horses, deer, and musk oxen. The clay is covered by peat, the third layer, bearing the vegetation to which it owes its existence. Every year, during July, August, and September, masses of ice melt, by which the uppermost layers are deprived of support, and tumble down. A complete chaos is thus created; ice, plants, bones, peat, clay, are mixed in the most disorderly manner. It is hardly possible to imagine a more grotesque aspect. Here are seen pieces still covered with lichens and mosses, there a shoal of earth with bushes of willows; at one place a lump of clay with senecios and polygonums, at another the remnants of the mammoth, tufts of hair, and some brown dust, which emits the smell

peculiar to burial-places, and is evidently decomposed animal matter. The foot frequently stumbles over enormous osteological remains, some elephants' tusks measuring as much as twelve feet in length, and weighing more than 240 pounds. Nor is the formation confined to Eschscholtz Bay. It is observed in various parts of Kotzebue Sound, on the river Buckland, and in other localities, making it probable that a great portion of extreme Northwestern America is, underneath, a solid mass of ice. With such facts we must acknowledge that terrestrial heat exercises but a limited and indirect influence upon vegetable life, and that to the solar rays we are mainly indebted to the existence of those forms which clothe with verdure the surface of our planet." A curious fact is stated respecting the condition of the vegetable world during the long day of the Arctic summer.—Although the sun never sets while it lasts, plants make no mistake about the time, when, if it be not night, it ought to be; but regularly as the evening hours approach, and when a midnight sun is several degrees above the horizon, droop their leaves, and sleep even as if they do at sunset in more favoured climes. "If man," observes Mr. Seemann, "should ever reach the Pole, and be undecided which way to turn, when his compass has become sluggish, his timepiece out of order, the plants which he may happen to meet will show him the way; their sleeping leaves tell him that midnight is at hand, and that at that time the sun is standing in the north."

**Monument of the late Thomas Moore.**—At a meeting of the friends and admirers of the late Thomas Moore, held at Lansdown-house, on Tuesday last, a letter was read from Lord Claremont, stating that at a previous meeting it had been resolved to erect a public monument to the memory of the poet in his native city Dublin. It was then resolved that a subscription should be raised in Great Britain in furtherance of the object, and the following noblemen and gentlemen were appointed a committee to carry it out: Lords Lansdowne, Clarendon, Fortescue, Wicklow, Carlisle, Shelburne, John Russell, and Monteagle, and Messrs. Macaulay and Longman. Other resolutions as to the details of the subscription were then come to, a circular to be forthwith issued was prepared, and Mr. Longman consented to act as treasurer. Those who respect the memory or admire the genius of the lamented poet will thus have an opportunity of testifying their feelings and their admiration.

**Influence of the Moon.**—A Paris astronomer has published the results of twenty years' observation upon the influence of the moon upon the weather. From the new moon to the first it rained (during the period of twenty years embraced in the calculations) 764 days: from the first quarter to the full moon it rained 845 days; from the full moon to the last quarter it rained 761 days; and from the last quarter to the new moon it rained 896 days. So that during the moon's increase there were 1,609 rainy days, and during her decrease only 1,457—a difference of 152 days. This difference is more likely to have been accidental than the result of any natural cause, and the conclusion which we derive from the statement is that the moon has no influence upon the weather.

**Ancient Sculpture.**—The demolition of a building attached to the old Abbey of St. Germain, at Auxerre, has led to the discovery of an old piece of sculpture, dated as far back as the eleventh century. The principal subject represents Daniel in the Lion's Den. On the left is a fragment of a statue, probably of David, as there is a harp with four strings lying by it. On the right is a representation of the parable of the rich man. This morceau, although mutilated, is curious, from the vigorous energy of its composition. A man is represented in a sitting posture, holding a large purse between his legs, and which he appears to be defending against two devils armed with pitchforks, who are strangling him with cords. This piece of sculpture has been deposited at the museum of the town.

**Lexicography.**—Some years ago a gentleman, after carefully examining a folio edition of Johnson's Dictionary, formed the following table of English words derived from other languages: Latin, 6,732; French, 4,321; Saxon, 1,665; Greek, 1,168; Dutch, 691; Italian, 211; German, 106; Welsh, 90; Danish, 75; Spanish, 46; Icelandic, 50; Swedish, 34; Gothic, 31; Hebrew, 16; Teutonic, 15; Arabic, 13; Irish, 6; Runic, 4; Flemish, 4; Erse, 4; Syriac, 3; Scottish, 3; Irish and Erse, 2; Turkish, 2; Irish and Scotch, 2; Portuguese, 1; Persian, 1; Frisic, 1; Persic, 1; uncertain, 1; total 15,734.

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