

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

AT the present rate of decrease, the Maori race of New Zealand will have disappeared by the year 2,000 A.D., or thereabouts. The natives numbered over one hundred thousand in Captain Cook's day; now, there are not forty-five thousand of them in all.

A LAKE OF PAVING MATERIAL.—In about the centre of the Island of Trinidad, a dot in the Caribbean Sea, just off the coast of Venezuela, there is an asphalt lake. It is said to cover about one hundred acres, and is apparently inexhaustible. It is a black, sandy substance, and is believed to be crude rotten petroleum. A singular feature of the substance is that although about fifty thousand tons are taken out annually, it continually fills up, so that there is no lessening of the supply. This singular lake of paving is leased to a company in Washington.—*Tidings from Nature.*

THE Temiscamisque Country, which is now being rapidly settled, is described as an agricultural district of great wealth. A number of rich St. Jerome farmers have recently visited that country with a view to settling, and after a thorough exploration described it as the richest agricultural district they have ever seen. The country for many miles from the lake shore is level and the bush is very light hard wood, easily cleared. Settlers are pouring in every day and lots are being taken as fast as they are surveyed. The Temiscamisque Colonization Society have the matter of settlement in hand.—*Montreal Witness.*

STANLEY says the length of the Congo River is 2,100 miles, and that

the Mississippi and the Nile together would scarcely equal its tribute of water to the ocean. From the mouth of the river a steamer drawing fifteen feet can steam up 110 miles, at which point a land journey of fifty-two miles is taken on account of the rapids. Then another standing or rowing voyage of eighty-eight miles occurs, which is succeeded by a land journey of ninety-five miles. After that it is possible to steam up another 1,060 miles. Along this route thirteen stations have been constructed among peaceful tribes.

THE WHALE.—The great whale, which has every season for many years past grown scarcer and scarcer, seems this summer to have reached almost vanishing point. The ships which are at present on the battling grounds on Davis Strait and Baffin's Bay are still to be heard from. But those which have tried their luck in the Spitzbergen Sea have, in several instances, returned with poor cargoes, and with tidings of the vessels afloat which do not hold out much promise of tempting profit. A few whales have been captured here and there, but the scanty freight has often been eked out with "bottle-noses" and belugas, or white whales, in the pursuit of which the lordly skipper of palmier days would have scorned to launch his boats.—*The Standard.*

ONTARIO FIFTY YEARS AGO.—In 1835, when the agricultural population of Upper Canada was only to be found along the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie, and the entire Huron tract was practically unexplored, the two great landed proprie-