

—Mr. Florent Prévost, has read a paper before the french society, for the protection of animals, on the utility of birds in an agricultural point of view. It is a most elaborate document which can be found in the *Année des Sciences*, where by minute observation on the habits of various tribes of birds, it is proved that each of them are more useful to the farmer by destroying insects than harmful by the share they take for themselves of the crops, which says the author they have as good a right to as a soldier who has fought for the state, to his ration.

—The town of Etampes, is erecting a monument to one of its sons, the great naturalist, Etienne Geoffroy de Saint Hilaire, the rival and continuator of Cuvier.

—The government of France being desirous of buying the botanical collection of the late eminent botanist, Laurent de Jussieu, offered 30,000 francs to his family, who through a disinterestedness which cannot be too highly praised, has refused the offer; and made a donation of the whole of the collection to the government. It consists of 10. the *hortus siccus* of Laurent de Jussieu; 20. that of Adrien de Jussieu; 30. catalogues and documents concerning the history of the *Jardin des Plantes* of Paris; 40. Notes and manuscripts of the two great botanists.

—The Natural History Society of Montreal has published its report for the year 56-57.—It gives an account of the measures successfully adopted by the Society to secure the meeting in Montreal of the American Association for the advancement of sciences, of an offer made by the McGill University, of a donation of a lot of ground for a new building and of the best mode of disposing of the present one, and of the measures taken for the publication under the auspices of the society of the *Canadian Naturalist* and geologist. The vice president L. H. Latour, Esq., has offered a gold medal for the best essay in french or in english on any subject of Canadian Natural History, to be read at the meeting of the American Association. "This measure the Council trusts will call forth much latent talent and advance the objects of the Society." Six lectures have been given during the winter by members on subjects connected with Natural History.

—Though the great comet of Charles-Quint which was expected with so much terror has not yet made its appearance Mr. Dien in Paris and Mr. Klinkerfues in Berlin have discovered another comet which was at its greatest degree of brilliancy in the middle of July and was to decline and disappear in the beginning of August.

—The French are engaged in a good work in Algeria, which will make their conquest a benefit to that country. They are sinking artesian wells in the desert probably for their own convenience; but the benefits must be general. The well of Tennacin gives 120 quarts the minute. Others more: the Arabs were frantic with joy in seeing fertility at once restored to their grounds. Speeches of the most grateful acknowledgment were addressed by the chiefs of tribes to the French officers and Engineers. Science puts a power in the hands of men which enables him to transform nature herself.

—The government and the people of France are noted for the homage they render to the memory of great men in science or literature. We spoke some time ago of the statue of Gay Lussac which was about to be erected, in one of the public square of Paris; we now read that a beautiful statue of Bichat, the great anatomist by David d'Angers, has just been inaugurated in the yard of the school of Medicine of Paris. The ceremony was presided over by the minister of public instruction who made a remarkable speech, crowds of people were present and crowds have been for several days visiting the statue which is one of David's chef d'œuvres. Bichat is represented in the attitude of meditation his arms folded on his breast holding in one of his hands the scalpel which he has used so admirably. Besides him is a corpse half covered with drapery. This monument was executed by order of the medical congress of 1845.

—Scientific journals in Germany, are publishing tables to prove that the distance between the earth and the sun is increasing annually, and argue from it that the increasing humidity of our summers and the loss of fertility by the earth are to be attributed solely to this circumstance. They also rely on the ancient traditions of the Chinese and the Egyptians according to which the sun's disc would have appeared much larger to them than it does to us.

—Experiments have been made at Trouville of Devisme's new cylindrical musket ball for the destruction of whales. It consists in a hollow cylinder filled with powder which being fired by a rifle made expressly for it, explodes in the body of the whale after having penetrated the fat of the animal.

The advantage of this invention over the rockets used by the Americans and to which we alluded in a preceding number will be that death being instantaneous, the whale will not be able to plunge to as great depth as it used to do. It has been ascertained that the number of fishermen killed by the whales, is about five per cent on the number of those engaged in that dangerous occupation. Devisme has rendered the cause of humanity a great service. But what of it, if his invention was applied to war? Why war would become impossible!

ARTISTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

—The statue of Henry the fourth by Bonassieux has been solemnly inaugurated at Lassèche on the 28th of June. It is a full length statue of the king clothed in armor, holding in his right hand the edict of the foundation of the college of Lassèche, the other hand is supported by a sword.

—The painting of the taking of Malakoff by Adolphe Yvon, which is to be placed in the gallery of Versailles has been copied by Mr. Bingham the photographer who has been already so successful in copying in the same manner several *chefs d'œuvre* of Messonnier, Horace Vernet, Ary Scheffer and Ingres.

—A collection of paintings, statues, and of mediæval curiosities belonging to Mr. Leopold Redpath, was sold in the last month in London. A group in ivory representing Henry the fourth and his minister Sully, sold £50—the statue of *Leda* by Pradier was bought for £500 and the whole gallery of paintings realized between £12,000 at £15,000. Water colour and oil paintings belonging to Mr. Robertson Blaine were also sold in London. In Paris several amateurs seem to have been taken with a selling mania and numerous rich collections are now in the market. It is accounted for by the fact that the value of antiquities and objects of art increasing every day, and old amateurs having been enabled to make cheap collections, there is a great profit to be realized by such an operation. The remarkable collection of antiquities of Mr. Boeckle in London, sold at very high prices. That of Baron de Bake, the Belgian minister at Constantinople was disposed of in Paris in the month of May, and interesting details of the sale may be found in the *Artiste*.

—Four great exhibitions of fine arts are now opened in Europe, the universal exhibition of arts in Manchester, the water colour painting exhibition and the Royal Academy in London, and the french annual exposition of painting in Paris.

—The Quebec papers mention an exhibition of paintings of the modern artists of France and England but chiefly of the former country belonging to Mr. Hardinge. *Le Courrier du Canada* and *Le Journal de Quebec* are publishing a review of those paintings which appear to be by Messonnier, Ary Scheffer, Horace Vernet, Ducrous and Sebron. *Le Courrier* states that Sebron is of French Canadian descent and was born in the district of Montreal.

—The *London News* of the 25th of July contains a beautiful wood cut of the first prize design for the foreign office; the designers being Messrs Coe and Hofland, and the premium awarded £800. It comprises a public office and an official residence for the minister of foreign affairs. Designs are also prepared for a similar building for the war office.

—The death of the sculptor Simart, who belonged to the class of *fine arts* of the *Institut*, is one of the numerous losses recently made by that learned body. He was a pupil of Pradier, was 48 years of age, and died by falling from an omnibus, evidence, say's Mr. Pitre Chevalier, that talent with us will not give a man an equipage. Simart obtained the first prize of the French academy at Rome. He succeeded his master Pradier at the *Institute*. His most remarkable works are the *Virgin of Troyes*, the statue of *Epic poetry*, the bas relief of Napoleon's tomb at the *Invalides*, the famous statue of *Minerva* belonging to the Duke de Luynes, the sculptures of one of the new attics of the Louvre and the caryatides of the central pavilion. The Emperor who a short time ago, wanted to show the new extension of the Louvre to the King of Bavaria in all its splendour, sent an order that all the scaffolding should be down at such an hour. The answer was that the time did not allow it; the scaffolding was expensive and to remove it without a serious loss could not be done under ten days. The Emperor's reply was "The King of Bavaria must see the caryatides: remember how Alexander dealt with the gordian knot." Measures were taken accordingly. The immense scaffolding was sawed at proper places, and at a moment's notice the whole of it was down. The King of Bavaria saw the *chefs-d'œuvre* but poor Simart could not judge of the effect: he was no more.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

—Mr. Delarue a pupil teacher of the protestant Normal School of Cours bevoie in France, was bathing in the Seine with some of the professors and pupils of the same institution, when he disappeared. His friends immediately made for him but could not reach him; they might have been drowned themselves, but for a few mariners who went to their relief and succeeded also in finding, after a quarter of an hour, the corpse of the unfortunate young man.

—The Mediterranean extensive submarine cable in course of manufacture, is to join at Cagliari and will be laid down and delivered over to the company in october next, by the constructors when a saving of five days will be effected over the route from India via Marseilles.

—While France is engaged as usual, in warring against the Kabyles, England has three great contests to carry on in Persia, in China and in