

berte, Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo Buonarroti, Benvenuto, Cellini, and Guido d'Arrezzo. There are also statues of the navigator Amerigo Vespucci, the archbishop Antonius, Cosmo the elder, and Laurent de Medicis; and four eminent citizens of Florence, Farinata degli Uberti, who protected the city in a great emergency; Capponi, who defended it against the French; Giovanni delle Bande Nere, the general of the Medicis faction; and Ferruccio, the last general of the republic, who perished with it. . . . Count Abel Hugo, brother of the renowned Victor, has just died in Paris, aged 57. He was the compiler of two esteemed works, "La France Pittoresque," and "La France Militaire," and was the author of several dramatic pieces and numerous pamphlets. Another French Author named Delbare, has also just died. He was more industrious than famous, but he had the honor of having assisted Michaud in his History of the Crusades. . . . It is stated in a letter from Bohemia, that a Dr. Herzog has just discovered in the archives of the town hall of Zwicken, twelve folio manuscript volumes, containing the poetical works of Hans Sachs, a celebrated German troubadour, who was born in 1494.

OBSERVATION OF THE LUNAR ECLIPSE OF MAY 1. 1855.

The evening of Tuesday, May the first, was remarkably fine and the opportunity of examining this beautiful phenomenon very favorable. The day had been brilliantly clear, and only eight hazy clouds obscured the moon partially, but did not prevent the observation. The moon became visible from behind some low clouds at 7h. 15m., and had reached an altitude of some 35°, when, at the moment predicted by the beautiful science of Astronomy, it was seen to become touched as it were by a dark substance which slowly enveloped it from the S. E. lower limb and making towards the N. E. limb, which it finally reached at 9h. 55m. 30s. p. m. The appearance at this time and a little later was very interesting, as though the moon was evidently in the shadow, still the form of the greater part was distinctly visible. This was due to the effect of the atmosphere of our earth, which beset or refracted the rays of the sun and partially illumined the moon's disc. This effect was so great that the absolute or total obscuration was very brief indeed, and very shortly after 10h. 43m., the centre of the eclipse, a faint glimmer of light could be perceived on the S. E. limb which had been first enveloped. The great size of the earth's shadow was remarkable and rendered this eclipse so perfect that it subtended 37 min. 30 sec. of the heaven, or was 2 1-5th the moon's diameter, and as she moves at about double her own diameter in her orbit in the hour, it took her just 96 minutes of time to traverse from one edge to the other. Some time before she touched the N. E. limit of the shadow, the stars of the 4th and 5th magnitude which had become visible for a few minutes began to grow indistinct, and she appeared shortly after to assume her preeminence and shine supreme as Queen of the heavens attended only by the larger stars which she seemed to permit to accompany her. A more splendid eclipse it has seldom been our fortune to witness, and the words of the poet came forcibly to our recollection:

"Queen of the silver bow, by thy pale light,
Alone and pensive I delight to stray,
To watch thy moon-beams trembling on the wave,
Or mark the floating clouds which cross thy ray;
And while I gaze, thy mild and placid light,
Sheds a soft calm upon the troubled breast,
And oft I think, fair planet of the night,
That in the orb the wretched may find rest;
The wanderers of this earth perhaps may go,
Released by death to thy benignant sphere,
And the sad children of despair and woe,
Forget in thee their cup of sorrow here,
Oh! that I soon may join thy world serene,
Poor weary pilgrim in this troubled scene.

Woodstock U. C., May 2, 1855.

W. G. T.

STONE QUARRIES UNDER JERUSALEM.

A party who had explored these remarkable quarries, (which had been accidentally discovered by a dog while in pursuit of an animal) says:

Upon comparing a subsequent measurement of our guiding line, and the time spent in returning from the extreme end, we judged the length of the quarry to be rather more than a quarter of a mile, and its greatest breadth less than half that distance.

There had been some doubt expressed by one or two of the party, who had made a previous visit, as to its being a quarry; but we all agreed that though it might originally have been a grotto, it had been worked, and then the question arose, "By whom?" The answer was, "King Solomon," and for this opinion there seemed to be many reasons. The stone is the same as that of the portions of the temple wall still remaining, and referred to by Dr. Robinson to the period of the first building. The mouth of the quarry is but little below the level of the platform on which the temple stood, making the transportation of the immense blocks of stone a comparatively easy task.

The heaps of chippings which lie about show that the stone was dressed *on the spot*, which accords with the account of the building of the temple: "And the house, when it was in the building, was built of stone, made ready before it was brought thither; so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building." The extent of the quarry, the amount of stone which must have been worked out there, and the size of some of the blocks themselves. The extreme age of the part which has been exposed to the action of the elements, and which dates back in legends and traditions to the time of Jeremiah. The fact that there are no other quarries of any great size near the city, and especially the fact that in the reign of Solomon this quarry in the whole extent was *without the limits of the city*.

PUBLIC MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES IN IRELAND.

Mr. Ewart, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, and Mr. Kirk have introduced a bill for further promoting the establishment of free public libraries and museums in Ireland. It repeals the 16 and 17 Victoria, cap. 101, and the 99th section of 17 and 18 Victoria, cap. 103, and provides for the adoption of the act in any incorporated borough, or any town, the population of which shall exceed 5,000 persons, the adoption to be determined by the votes of two-thirds of the householders. The expenses of carrying the act into execution are to be defrayed out of the borough or town fund. Accounts are to be audited, and a copy thereof sent to the Lord-Lieutenant. The amount of the rate to be levied for the purposes of the act is not to exceed 1d. in the pound in any one year. The councils or boards of any borough and the town commissioners of any town are empowered to appropriate lands, and to sell and exchange the same for the purposes of this act. The general management of the libraries and museums is to be vested in the borough councils and town-commissioners, who are "to purchase and provide the necessary fuel, lighting, and other similar matters,—books, newspapers, maps, and specimens of art and science," &c. The property of the library and all lands and buildings will be vested in the managers. A decision against the adoption of this act will be valid for one year. Museums and libraries established under this act will be open to the public free of all charge.

ANNUAL RISING OF RIVERS.

The Nile begins to rise in June, and attains 24 to 28 feet of elevation in the middle of August, and then floods the valley of Egypt, 12 miles wide. The Ganges rises from April to August 32 feet deep, and then creates a flood 100 miles wide. The Euphrates rises between March and June 12 feet, and covers the Babylonian plains.

INTERIOR OF AFRICA.

The recent naval expedition into the interior of Africa is a notable event in African exploration; and affords a fresh starting point for the future. It is known that in the spring of last year the expedition left Liverpool in the screw steamer Pleiad, built, we believe, expressly for the purpose by Mr. Macgregor Laird. The government share in the expedition was limited to a money contribution and the appointment of certain officers, among others, of Dr. Raikie, of the Royal Navy. The report of that gentleman to Lord Clarendon on the result of the expedition was read at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, and it is in every way satisfactory. The expedition started from the island of Fernando Po, and entered the Kwora from the sea on the 12th July. On the 4th August the Pleiad reached the confluence of the Chadda and the Kwora, passed Dagboh, the furthest point hitherto reached, on the 18th, and steamed nearly 200 miles further up the river. On the 30th September the Pleiad turned westward once more, with the falling of the waters, and reached Fernando Po on the 7th November. For the present we shall not dwell on the details of this expedition. The most remarkable fact in its history is, that it voyaged far up a river hitherto so destructive to human life, and returned without the