

14. An interesting collection of Roman inscriptions, chiefly sepulchral, published by Mommsen. They were obtained at Naples.

15. A choice collection of Greek, Etruscan and Roman gold ornaments, including a beautiful pair of earrings found in the island of Cephalonia.

16. One hundred and seventy-nine folio copper-plates, on which are engraved most of the finest objects in the Blacas Museum. This series of plates has been executed in Paris under the personal superintendence of the late Duc de Blacas, for the great work on his museum, which he was preparing for publication at the time of his death. The text which was to have accompanied these plates has been prepared by M. De Witte, who has devoted many years to the study of the Blacas Museum. The manuscript of this text is now the property of the British government.

— The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes:—“Photography in Paris is making wonderful advances. We have an annual exhibition of the Photographic productions of France, Germany and England, in the large exhibition building, Champs Elysées, in conjunction with the works of painters and sculptors. The student of photography here looks out each year for that long-desired and long-prophesied triumph of chemistry, the production of colour, but we have not yet met with it in these vast collections. The honour of producing on paper the exact colouring which the human form throws on the camera has been reserved for Mr. Chambay, whose process I have carefully investigated, and am able to declare that he succeeds in producing a portrait which gives all the exquisitely varied tints of flesh, together with a transparency in the shades never before attained. This is a great chemical triumph. We have in Paris admirable examples of tinted or painted photographic portraiture, but we have never yet got colour as well as from *Chambre noire*. Mr. Chambay is at present almost unknown in his out of the way studio in the Avenue Montaigne, and therefore I feel the more pleasure in recording this great chemical and art event of the day. For the first time I have seen photography doing justice to female beauty; and never did the human hand reflect flesh and texture of drapery with such wonderful exactitude. Henceforward the photographic artist possessing this secret has only to place his men and women in a graceful and intelligent attitude, and that which a looking glass reflects will permanently rest on the paper. No attempt has yet been made by the artist to produce landscape, and it is with him yet a problem if colour can be held and printed after a certain distance. But one long-sought object has been attained, so far as portraits are concerned, and it dates a new era in photography.”

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

— The Rev. John Earle, writing to the London *Guardian*, says:—“Perhaps it would be acceptable to some of your readers to be informed that shooting stars are recorded in our vernacular Annals under the years 744 and 1095. The first is a short sentence of a lost Anglican Chronicle that was kept probably in Yorkshire, and to which two of our southern chronicles—viz., D. and E., were indebted for materials. The entry of 744 in E contains these words—“And, steorra foran swrde scotienda :” that is, *And stars went shooting remarkably.*

The record of 1095 is more circumstantial. “On thism geare wæron Eastron on viii kal’ Apri’, and the uppon Eastron on See Ambrosius mæsse nht. that is ii uo Apr wægesewen forneah ofer eall this land swiþe forneah ealle tha niht swiðe mænifæddlice steorra of licofenan feollan, naht be anan odde twan, ac swa thiclice thaet hit nan man atælan ne mihte.” This year Easter was on the 25th of March: and presently after Easter, on the night of the Festival of St Ambrosius, that is the 4th of April, was there seen almost all over this land, as it were almost all night long, vast multitudes of stars fall from heaven; not by ones or twos, but so thickly that no man was able to kee, count of it. This might pass for a true and faithful description of what we saw a few nights ago. But I do not find that in either instance the interval of years is divisible by 33. In your admirable article on the theory of these appearances in your last number, it was implied that there was a fractional remainder over or under the 33 years cycle, and this may perhaps be worth taking into calculation where eight or eleven centuries are concerned.

— About a month ago, during the excavations of a peat bed in Cohoes for the foundation of a new mill, now in the course of erection by the Harmony Manufacturing Company, the jaw bone of a mastodon was discovered about thirty feet below the surface of the earth. This relic of the antideluvian age is of immense proportions, and has attracted the attention of geologists and students of nature from all parts of the country—letters of inquiry respecting it, and personal examination having been made by some of the most distinguished savans of the United States. But on Wednesday, even this wonderful discovery was eclipsed by the excavation of still further fossiliferous remains, which complete nearly the bones or framework of the mastodon. Eighty-five feet below the earth’s surface, and about fifty feet below the place of the original discovery, the workmen yesterday came upon the remaining bones, consisting as follows: Two tusks, back bone, the upper jaw and cranium, a number of the ribs, the hip bones, shoulder blades and the bones of the hind legs. The tusks were each nearly six feet long and about nine inches

in diameter. One of them, upon exposure to the light, crumbled to pieces, like clay, resembling that substance in appearance and texture.

The ribs, of which there were 14 found, are about 4 feet long, the largest being 4 feet 9 inches. The upper jawbone is 4 feet 9 inches long from the extremity of the mouth to the cranium, and across the forehead measures about 3 feet. So heavy is it that it was with difficulty four laborers could move the mass. The sockets in which originally were located the eyes of the monster are almost large enough to admit the head of a man. The hip bone is 5 feet long, and weighs 100 pounds, the shoulder blades measure 23 inches in diameter. The vertebrae of the backbone are 8 inches in diameter. The other fragments found are in harmonious proportion to those already mentioned.

Professor Marsh, of Yale College, was present soon after the discovery was made, and pronounced it the most remarkable scientific event of the age. The structure will now be united in its several parts by means of wire, and thus a very accurate idea can be formed of the size and weight of the monster to which it belongs.—*Am. Paper.*

— A curious stone figure has been found in a quarry at Wishaw, Scotland, which is to be sent to the British Museum. A local paper says:—“On the bank of the freestone quarry, which is being worked at the low end of the town of Wishaw, is to be seen a sculptured-like form, which, at first glance is not unlike one of the winged bulls that have been dug out of the sand heaps which have embedded the ruins of ancient Nineveh. The operations of the quarries have recently disinterred it from its rocky tomb in the bottom of the quarry, and, by great care in Jewing out the rock around it, they have been enabled to secure it in an almost entire state. The workmen have turned up many similar forms of late, of smaller size, but when this was first met it created quite a sensation among them, for, from the position in which he was found lying, the parts first uncovered bore a remarkable resemblance to a human form. Its head and body together measure about eight feet long, and its shape is somewhat different from any member of the saurian tribe that has hitherto been discovered in the same section of rocks. It seems to belong to a higher order of life, and bears a strong resemblance to members of the seal or walrus tribe that tenant the seas and lounge on the shores of the present day. It appears to be lying on its side, on a line parallel to what may have been the tidal wave. Its fins or paddles, are folded into its belly. The rock in which it was found overlies the main coal, and is of that description designated by the quarriers and builders as liver rock—an amorphous freestone, having neither beds or vertical cracks, presenting the appearance of having been formed in convulsive waters, and under different conditions from the ordinary bedded rocks. A few yards from the place where these fossil mummies have been extracted, algae or seaweed are seen in great abundance.—*Exchange.*

— The “Solar Caps” or dark glasses which have hitherto been adapted to the eye-pieces of telescopes to intercept the heat, and as much as is unnecessary of the light of the sun, are all more or less objectionable as giving a tint to the solar image which might interfere with the real colour, and in some cases perhaps affect the visibility of the more delicate details. A very ingenious contrivance has lately been introduced by G. and S. Merz of Munich to obviate this defect. It is well known that the rays of light, when reflected at a certain angle from a surface of glass, become polarized, and consequently will be either transmitted through, or reflected from, a second similar surface, according to the angle under which the latter receives them. In Merz’s new solar eye-piece, 2 pairs of plane glass mirrors (of course, un-silvered), are so arranged as by the rotation of one pair relatively to the other, to intercept at pleasure the whole, or any required part, of the light transmitted through the telescope. Secchi’s opinion of this contrivance is decidedly favourable. He says, “Your helioscopic polarizing ocular is preferable, because it shows the sun of its true colour; thus films which appeared blue in the ordinary oculars with blue glass, are seen with yours of a rosy hue, the same tint as the protuberances which are seen during eclipses. This is an important fact.” It is to be hoped that Mr. Browning or some other skillful optician will turn his attention to this construction in our own country, where the solar phenomena are at present attracting so much notice.—*Intellectual Observer.*

— Marshal Vaillant informs the French Academy that Marshal Bazaine has found a Mexican aerolite, weighing not less than 860 kilogrammes. It is on its way to France and will figure in the exhibition of 1867.—*Id.*

— M. Le Verrier informs the French Academy that another planet, the ninety-first, has been discovered at the observatory Marseilles.—*Id.*

— *Annals of Natural History* contains a report by Mr. George Jeffreys on *Dredging among the Hebrides*, in which he states that Professor Sars is of opinion that Dr. Walljch’s deep sea star fish is an *Ophiocantha spinulosa*, a well-known Greenland species, found usually from 20 to 190 fathoms depth. He states that Professor Sars has enumerated fifty-two species and distinct varieties of animals found by himself at a depth of 300 fathoms—sponges, rhizopods, actinozoa (anemonies), polyzoa, true mollusks, and worms. The Swedish deep sea dredgings, in the exception to Spitzbergen (1861), sounded depths of from 6000 to 8400 feet (1400 to 1900 fathoms), and the sea bottom at these depths was covered with a fine greasy-foeling