

Hatboro', Pennsylvania :—

	DECLINATION.	
1680.....	8° 23'.....	Earliest.
1790.....	1° 50'.....	Smallest.
1850.....	4° 25'.....	

From the observations at 18 stations in the United States, as given by C. A. Schott, United States Coast Survey, 1859, App. 24, the period of the change in the oscillation varies from 1765 to 1815, and the conclusion is drawn that the period is later the further you go South and West, the change of oscillation not having yet occurred on the western coast. It is to be observed that that in the same paper the date of the change at Quebec is given as 1769, which does not, by any means, accord with the observations which we have recorded.

One of the great uses of societies like our own, is to afford opportunities to persons who have neither the leisure nor the attainments necessary to conduct sustained scientific investigations, to contribute, nevertheless, occasionally a stray fact, of which the working men of science may take advantage. I had seen only an imperfect notice of Bressani's determinations of declination, and none at all of those of Champlain, which appear to me important, not only from their early date, and the character of the man for accuracy, but also from their remarkable deviation from the law now regulating magnetic variations in the same region. I desired to make this Society the medium of putting them on record in a more accessible shape, than when buried in two rather rare books, and I have taken the same opportunity of treating upon some of the general features of a rather complex subject.