

throughout the United Kingdom. At the beginning of this year, Manchester started elementary drawing classes in no fewer than fourteen parochial schools; each class numbers 40 students, and each student pays a penny a week for the instruction, which is thus wholly self-supporting.

UNITED STATES.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

The New York Legislature have finally restored the office of County Superintendent of Schools. The office has the name of "School Commissioner," and the Territory over which each Commissioner presides, is the Assembly District. The duties are similar to those of the old County Superintendency. The salary is fixed at \$500. Expenses to the amount of \$100 may be added to this. The salary may be increased, by paying the amount out of the County funds. The regular salary is paid out of the United States Deposit fund. The law also abolishes the office of Town Superintendent.

The income of the Connecticut school fund for the year was \$131,066, which was disposed of for the benefit of 100,820 children, between the ages of four and sixteen, being an amount \$1.30 each.

The President of Yale College, Connecticut, has issued the following notice:

That from the income of a fund established by David C. De Forrest of New Haven, provision is made for three scholarships in Yale College of *three hundred and thirty-three and one third dollars* each, per annum. Preference is to be given to those applicants who are nearest of kin to the founder. In default of suitable candidates of his kin, or of the same surname, those scholarships may be given to indigent young men, duly qualified, "who are willing to assume the name of *De Forrest*. One of these scholarships is now vacant. Application for this vacancy, or for any other which may occur during the coming year, should be made as early as practicable.

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

The oldest English poets, since the death of Mr. Rogers, are said to be Walter Savage Landor, born 1775; Leigh Hunt, born 1784; and Barry Cornwall born 1790. The *Illustrated News* remarks that—

The only English poets who attained an age of nearly equal duration with that attained by Mr. Rogers was the poet Waller. Waller was born in 1607, two years after the death of Queen Elizabeth. He sat as a member of Parliament in the reign of James I. He was a member of the celebrated Long Parliament of Charles I. He sung the Panegyric of Oliver Cromwell, and celebrated the restoration of Charles II. He was alive at the coronation of King James II.; and, if his life had been spared barely beyond another year, would have witnessed the abdication of James and the accession of William and Mary. He was like Mr. Rogers in other respects than his poetry. He was a man of wealth and he was a wit. Waller at eighty was still the delight of the House of Commons. Rogers at eighty-eight was still the delight of the most fashionable dinner-tables in Tyburnia and Belgravia. The sayings of Waller have deservedly found a place in some of the best volumes of our Ana; and the repartees of Rogers are likely to find a celebrity that is equally enduring.

THE STEREOSCOPE.

By the extreme sensibility of the photographic processes, we are now enabled to obtain pictures of objects in remarkably short spaces of time. The moving clouds and the restless sea can equally be fixed upon our sensitive tablets, and these, viewed in the stereoscope, become so real as to cheat the senses. Under every aspect of light and shadow we can copy nature in her wildest as in her tranquillest moods. The humid valley, with the sinuous river, reflecting back the sun's rays more lovely than he sent them; the forest with its mazy windings, and the fitful strugglings of light to pierce its leafy recesses, are brought out in the stereoscope with a magical reality. The gigantic vegetation of tropical climes, the stunted growth of arctic regions, are realised here in a way which defies the most skilful painter, and thus the stereoscope may be made the medium of conveying the best possible lessons in natural history, and by calling into play the powers of observation, greatly advance the education of the people.—By means of the stereoscope and photography, the Bible student may examine the rocks of Ararat and the plains of Mamre; the desolation which marks the submerged cities of the plain, and the endurance of man's work in the pyramids of the desert; the homes of the idolatrous Assyrian, and the temples of Darius the Persian. The student of profane history may

wander over Marathon, and grow patriotic at the view of Thermopylae. The works of the intellectual Grecian who breathed the breath of poetry into marble, and the efforts of the sterner Romans, who had more of the genius of war than of love in all their efforts after the beautiful, may be studied in a modern drawing room and in the labourer's cottage.—*Professor Hunt, in the Art Journal.*

PROGRESS OF SILK MANUFACTURE.

Though silk was made into cloth at a very early period, in China, India, Persia, and some other countries of Asia and its use became known to the Romans before the Christian era, yet the rearing of silkworms and the silk manufacture were not introduced into Europe until the time of the Emperor Justinian, about the year 530. But after the introduction of these arts at Constantinople, Corinth, Thebes, and Argos, Greece continued to be the only European country in which they were practised until about the middle of the twelfth century, when they were introduced into the Island of Sicily, whence they spread into Italy, where the extent and beauty of the silk manufactures soon became renowned. From Italy, also, the art was introduced into Tours, France, in 1480, and at Lyons in 1520; and into England about the same time, though it did not make much progress there until the age of Queen Elizabeth.

DISCOVERIES.

It is disputed—and probably always will be—who was the original inventor of printing; several cities of Holland, of Germany, nay, even of China, have claimed him. The gravity of air was discovered by Galileo, to whose mind it was suggested by observing that a fountain-player rose only to thirty-two feet in a forcing-engine. It was children, playing with the glasses of a spectacle-dealer, that suggested the first idea of a telescopic cylinder. The origin of the mariners' compass is entirely unknown; it is asserted that Marco Polo brought it from China, in the year 1260. The property of the loadstone was known to the Chinese at a very early period, and used by them in navigation. The art of communicating the magnetic virtue to steel, and suspending the needle on a point, is undoubtedly an European invention.

THE TREATY OF PEACE PEN.

The eagle pen with which the treaty of peace was signed was pulled from a wing of the imperial eagle in the Jardin des Plantes. The statement that it was ornamented with precious stones is contradicted. Immediately after the signature the pen was attached to a sheet of pasteboard, and surrounded by the seals of each of the Powers represented at the Congress, and by the signatures of the Plenipotentiaries. M. Feuille de Conches, the *chef du bureau* of the protocols, wrote underneath as follows:—"I certify that this pen was pulled by me from the imperial eagle of the Jardin des Plantes, and that it is the pen which was used for the signature of the treaty of peace of March, 1856." The pasteboard was afterwards framed and glazed, to be presented to the Empress.

FRESH WATER FOR MARINE STEAM BOILERS.—Mr. J. Biden, of Gosport, has obtained a patent for feeding fresh water to marine steam boilers, which water he obtains by the condensation of the steam after it has been employed in the cylinders of engines. This he carries into effect as follows:—He leads a pipe from the cylinders into the water outside of the ship at one side, and after carrying it round the stem of the vessel, he causes it to enter the vessel at the other side, and open into a reservoir in the hold of the ship. A pipe opens from the reservoir to the atmosphere, to allow any uncondensed steam to pass off. As the steam from the cylinders passes through the water of the ocean outside of the ship, it becomes condensed, and the fresh water thus produced flows into the reservoir, from which it is pumped into the boilers. This invention is really an outside condenser, the ocean being made the grand cooler. The condenser pipe must be set on an incline to allow the condensed water to flow into the reservoir. Each pipe should be provided with a cock, so as to be shut off, if damaged, from communication with the cylinders.

SUBTERRANEAN PARIS.—MM. Lorieux and Eugène de Fourey are preparing for publication, in seventeen large maps, an Atlas of Subterranean Paris. It is well known that a great (say the tenth) part of the French metropolis and its environs (namely, the communes of Vaugirard, Montrouge, and Gentilly) rest on an immense and intricate system of quarries and excavations, which, from the first century of the Christian era down to the seventeenth century have furnished Paris and its neighborhood with building materials. The extent of these excavations (of part) was hardly known during the eighteenth century, and still less was it suspected that they could become