

intercommunication of the various parts of the world, in the matter of letters and telegrams. In the year 1865 the number of letters sent through post all over the world was estimated at 2,300 millions. The available *data* for 1877 show that the postal correspondence has risen to over 4,020 millions, which gives an average of 11,000,000 letters per day, or 127 per second. Europe contributed 3,036 million letters to this enormous mass of correspondence, America about 760 millions, Asia 150 millions, Africa 25 millions, and Australia 50 millions. Assuming that the population of the globe was between 1,300 and 1,400 millions, this would give an average of three letters per head for the entire human race. The length of telegraph lines, both by sea and land must be at least 700,000 kilometres (437,500 miles) not reckoning the double treble, &c., lines. There were 38,000 telegraph stations, and the number of messages may be set down for the year at between 110 and 111 millions, being an average of over 305,000 messages per day, 12,671 per hour, and nearly 212 per minute. These quantities are increasing daily.—*Pall Mall Budget*.

English Surnames.—Under the title of "The Romance of the London Directory," the Rev. C. W. Bardsley has given some interesting information relative to English Surnames. We extract the following short account from the *Academy*.

"Taking the total number of distinct surnames in the Directory under the first five letters at 5,535, they can be divided out under the following heads:—2,587 local; 769 baptismal; 212 occupational; 107 official; 299 nicknames; 1,067 foreign; 494 doubtful. If the foreign and doubtful are omitted, the local class will be found to be nearly double the rest. Of these classes, the official is one of the most curious. In these names are preserved a record of offices long since passed away:—The Carvers, the Sewers, the Napiers and Nappers, the Ewers, the Pages, the Cup-pages, the Small-pages, the Little-pages, the Sayers and the Sayers who attended the Baron at his meals, are all to be found in London now; as are also the Hayward who guarded the fences, the Forester, Forster or Foster, the Woodward, the Parker, the Warrener or Warner, the Woodreeve, now found as Woodruff or Woodroff; Pinder or Pounder, and the Catchpoll, who caught his victim by the neck."

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

DR. BURTON AND E. J. TRELAWNEY.—JOWETT'S THUCYDIDES.—SYMONDS' RENAISSANCE.—THE WANDERING JEW.

The months that have passed since writing our last Literary notices have been more fruitful in the Scientific than in the Literary world. Every summer sees large gatherings of Scientific men on both sides of the Atlantic: