

"The rural sounds of eve were softly blending—
The fountain's murmur like a magic rhyme,
The bellow of the cattle, homeward wending,
The distant steeple's melancholy chime:

The peasants' shouts, that charms from distance borrow,
The greenfinch whirring in its amorous flight.
The cricket's chirp, the night-bird's song of sorrow,
The laugh of girls who beat the linen white.

The breeze scarce stirred the reeds beside the river,
The swallows saw their figures as they flew
In that clear mirror for a moment quiver,
Before they vanished in the clouds from view.

And schoolboys wilder than the winging swallows,
Far from the master with his look severe,
Bounded like fawns, to gather weeds, marshmallows,
And primrose blossoms, to the young heart dear."

In 1874 she began the study of Sanscrit, and was almost constantly employed at it till 1876, when she became an invalid and was forced to cease work. Nevertheless, she had in those two years not only learned that most difficult language, but had translated into English blank verse the whole of the Vishnu Parana. Scholars await anxiously the publication of her work, their interest being stimulated by the excellence of the fragments which have already been given to the world.

We have already recounted achievements which might well have employed the whole time of any author who ceased to write at twenty and died at twenty-two years of age. But Toru Dutt had also written much English verse, which has yet to be published, and a novel of French life in the French language—"Le Journal de Mlle. d'Arvers"—which has been given to the world. The plot is suitable to French society, her characters live in a French world, the only objection taken to them being that the hero and heroine are conceived psychologically and physically in Indian colors. It was possible for the authoress to imagine the outward circumstances of a life of which she only knew what she had learned from study, but not possible for her to imagine and exhibit naturally human souls different from those which she had known. Her mastery of the French language was even greater than her command of English, the diction of "Mlle. d'Arvers" being very easy and graceful.

THE work on the removal of Cleopatra's Needle to the United States is going on.

GROWING MOUNTAINS.

THESE remarkable phenomena are found between Baku and Navagi, along the road, within a space of about fifteen verst. They are of various heights, never attaining any great elevation. Their color is grey; they are devoid of vegetation, and their form is conical. The soil is argillaceous earth; each mountain seems to contain within itself a source of salt water, thick and slimy, which, ascending up to its summit, overflows when it reaches the edge of the opening. The deposit becomes petrified, and thus gradually increases the dimensions of the mountains. Some of these springs—those at the highest elevation—have been dried up, but others have burst forth from openings at the sides, and are continually spouting a thick slime. Not only in this locality, but in other parts of the country, "growing mountains" exist. Near the sea there is a mountain which is constantly emitting flames.—*Hanstee's Travels in Siberia.*

A LEARNED German doctor has discovered a means of dyeing the eyes of animals in general and of men in particular, any color he pleases. He is accompanied on his travels of propagation by a dog with a rose-colored eye, a cat with an orange-red eye, and a monkey with a chrome yellow eye. But the most curious specimens of his art are a negro with a black eye and the other blue and a negress with one eye gold-colored and the other silver-white. The doctor says the process of ocular transformation, far from injuring the sight, strengthens and improves it.

It is now proposed to make railroad ties of glass. Soon after De la Bastie introduced his method of toughening glass, Mr. F. Siemens, of Dresden, commenced a series of researches, which have culminated at present in the production of a very hard glass, which, unlike the material produced by the De la Bastie method, does not fly into a million fragments when broken. The sleepers, which are being tested on the North Metropolitan line in Stratford, England, are three feet long and four inches wide, by six inches deep, the upper side being shaped to fit the rails. The glass sleepers are not so strong as those cut from sound pine, but they are practically indestructible, and, what is more, are cheap.—*Ex.*