

with time, and a writing thirty years old did not give a legible copy, while one dating 1787 scarcely yielded a perceptible trace.

When writings are washed with, or soaked in dilute hydrochloric acid of the strength mentioned, an inverse action is noticed. Those made from a few months to ten years ago disappear after an immersion of from a few hours to a few days, while a writing thirty years old could be read after fifteen days maceration. When copies are made with acidulated paper, they should be held over a dish containing liquid ammonia for a few seconds to neutralize the acid.

—*A Cure for Somnambulism.*—Professor Pellizzari, of Florence, has hit upon a cure for somnambulism. It simply consists in winding once or twice round one's legs, on going to bed a thin flexible copper wire, long enough to reach the floor. Eighteen somnambulists treated in this way have been either permanently or temporarily cured. The *Gazzetta Medica* of Venice, which reports the fact, says that copper wire is known to dissipate magnetic somnambulism, and that this circumstance led the professor to have recourse to this strange remedy.

ARTS INTELLIGENCE.

—*The National Portrait Gallery.*—The twelfth report of the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery was published on March 23. The list of seventy-four donations, given in former reports, is continued, as follows:—William Pitt, first Earl of Chatam, 1708—1778; painted by Richard Bromton (a repetition of the picture now at the Chevening); presented June, 1868, by Earl Stanhope. William, first Earl of Craven, 1606—1667 painted by Honthorst; presented December, 1868, by the Earl of Craven. Sir Henry R. Bishop, the musical composer, 1786—1855; painter unknown; presented February, 1869, by Mrs. C. H. Smith. The purchases were stated by the Trustees in their former report as amounting to 178. They are now increased to 203. The total number of visitors to the gallery during the year 1868 was 25,344, being 692 in excess of the previous year, and 678 in advance of the year 1866.

—Ancient Medals of great historical value have recently been discovered in excavations made in the vicinity of Tarsus in Asia Minor. The medals were struck A. D. 230 in honor of Alexander the Great, by order of the Emperor Alexander Severus, and contain portraits and symbolic heads of the conqueror of the ancient world.

The Emperor Napoleon has paid \$10,000 for four of these medals, and presented them to the Imperial Library of Paris.

—A Clock has been completed for the Cathedral of Beauvais, France which far surpasses all the existing specimens of the clockmaker's art.

It contains no less than 90,000 wheels, and indicates, among many other things too numerous to recite, the days of the week, the month, the year, the signs of the zodiac, the equation of time, the course of the planets, the phases of the moon, the time at every capital in the world, the moveable feasts for a hundred years, the saints' days &c &c.

Perhaps the most curious part of the mechanism is that which gives the additional day in leap year, and which consequently is called into action only once in four years. The clock is wound up every eight days. The main dial is twelve feet in diameter, and the total cost exceeds \$50,000.

—*House Decoration.*—At the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, Dr. Dresser gave a lecture, the subject of which was how to decorate and garnish a house from an art point of view. The lecturer commencing with the general principles that all art should be truthful in its utterance, all decorated objects appear to be what they are, and all excessive decoration avoided, proceeded to point out how this might be carried out in the furnishing and embellishment of a house. Amongst his suggestions were the following:—That of a creamy buff colour, with stars stencilled upon it, to replace the cold whiteness of our ceilings; the rejection of floral mural patterns that aped relief, being mere repetitions or pictorial objects, and therefore objectionable as backgrounds. In lieu of these last he recommended simple patterns having a bloomy effect, and he concluded his discourse by impressing upon his audience the importance of seeking after general harmony, and cautioning them against strong colours in larges masses, repose, not glitter, being the great object.

—The French Mint is at present occupied striking medals in commemoration of the centenary of Napoleon the First. Proofs of the medal have been submitted to the Emperor. Every blood relative of the Napoleon family will be presented with this medal in gold, silver ones being reserved for courtiers and distinguished strangers

—Nearly six thousand visitors paid their shilling at the exhibition of the Royal Academy on the opening day, and catalogues were sold to the amount of about £150. Add the free list to the number, and it will not be surprising that the galleries, spacious as they are, were at some parts of the day somewhat overcrowded.

—Mr. Boxall, R. A., has resigned the post of director of the National Gallery, which he has held since the death of Sir Charles Eastlake.

—A prize of \$30,000 has been instituted by the French Academy of Fine Arts to be given every year to the Artist whose work shall do the most honor to France.

—A Museum of Natural History is to be established in Central Park, New York City, \$50,000 having already been subscribed for that purpose. The Commissioners of the Park have offered the use of the large hall of the Arsenal Building as a place where the collections may be deposited until a suitable structure can be erected. It is proposed to erect a museum building on Ninth Avenue.

—T. G. Appleton of Boston, now in Rome, has purchased the collection of engravings, ten thousand in number, of the late Cardinal Tosti, and presented them to the Public Library of Boston.

—*Statue of the Queen for Montreal.*—This colossal statue was cast at the foundry of Messrs. Holbrook & Co., Chelsea. The figure, which is 10ft. in height, was designed by Mr. Marshall Wood, and is an admirable representation of her Majesty, who stands in an erect and commanding position, crowned and clothed in a classic manner, a wreath of oak-leaves and acorns being held in one hand. The statue has been cast in Florentine bronze metal, which consists of forty-five parts copper, fifty parts fine yellow brass, four parts tin, and one part antimony. This mixture produces a yellow metal having a rosy tint, and which is capable of taking a brilliant polish. One part of the mould gave some trouble and that was the wreath, which from its intricate foliage entailed considerable complication. Skill and perseverance, however, overcame all difficulties, and enabled the statue to be run in one piece—a point of great importance in this class of casting.—*The Engineer.*

—The progress of excavations at Rome, commenced last winter by Mr. H. Parker, F. S. A., has been resumed in the neighbourhood of the Esquiline Hill. By permission of Baron Visconti, the search is to be resumed for the remainder of the "Marble Plan of Rome," which if it can be recovered, will settle very many disputed questions as to the actual sites of several of the temples and other public and private buildings which have hitherto been so many bones of contention among antiquaries. Mr. Parker himself writes: "I have reason to expect that the crypt of the Church of San Podenzia will also be emptied this season by the Roman authorities themselves, and not at our expense. I have been invited also to clear out the 'house of Sallust', but we must wait for that also until funds are replenished. The excavations at the Porta Cassena, and the Templum Urbis Romæ are now going on. We have found the doorway of the time of Hadrian, and the pavement of the street on which it opened. There was a cross street on the south side of the Temple. The marble Plan was on the east wall, and is now in another property." He adds, that, in his opinion, another excavation ought to be made at the Porta Trigemina. We hear also of two very interesting excavations in Rome, now in progress by the Papal Government; the one the Marmorata, the old Roman marble landing-place, upon the banks of the Tiber, not far from the Temple of Vesta; and the house of Polione; adjoining the baths of Cavacalla, where, at the depth of some 30 ft. or 40 ft., the workmen recently came upon some elaborate frescoes and statues and exquisite mosaic floors, at two separate ends of a vine-yard. The intermediate portion, it is fully expected, will bring to light the entire residence of a wealthy Roman citizen.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

—*COLONIAL HONOURS.*—*The Order of St. Michael and St. George.*—The *London Gazette* contains three Orders of the Queen in Council, in which the following appointments are made in connection with this Order:—

To be Knights Grand Cross: The Duke of Edinburgh, the Earl of Derby, Earl Grey, Earl Russel, and Lord Monck, late Governor-General of Canada.

To be Knights Commanders: Mr. Francis Hincks, C. B., late Governor of British Guiana; Mr. James Walker, C. B., Governor of the Bahama Islands; Major-General Charles Hastings Doyle, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia; Mr. Paul Edmund de Stezeiecki, C. B.; Lord Lytton, the Right Honorable Frederick Peel, the Right Honorable Charles Bowyer Adderly; Sir Frederick Rogers, Bart.; Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of Ceylon; Mr. Alexander Tilloch Galt, late Minister of Finance in the Dominion of Canada; Mr. Henry Taylor, of the Colonial Department; Mr. Thomas Frederick Elliott, late Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; and Colonel Thomas Gore Brown, C. B., late Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Island of Tasmania.

To be Companions of the Order:—Mr. Charles Cowper, late Chief Minister of New South Wales; Mr. William Charles Gibson, late Colonial Secretary of Ceylon; Mr. Felix Bedingfield, late Colonial Secretary of Mauritius; Mr. John Bayley Darval, late Attorney-General of New South Wales; Mr. John Sealy, Attorney-General of Barbadoes; Mr. John Lucie Smith, Attorney-General of British Guiana; Mr. Thomas Skinner late Civil Engineer and Commissioner of Roads for the Island of Ceylon, Mr. Theophilus Shepstone, Secretary of Native Affairs in Natal; Mr. Ferdinand Mueller, Government Botanist for the Colony of Victoria, Mr. Macleay, of New South Wales.