

daughter surviving out of a large family. Her daughter is married to Lord Edward Thynne, M. P.; her son is an officer in the army, has served with distinction in the staff before Lucknow, and was in Canada during the visit of the Prince of Wales.

—The Parisian reviews publish articles on four distinguished authors who have left this world since the beginning of the year: Henry Murger, a poet of the school of Alfred de Musset; Charles de Rancy, one of the writers of the *Union* and author of several historical works; Eugène Guinot, a very able *feuilletoniste*, and the world renowned Eugène Scribe, whose pen has for nearly half a century supplied not only the French but it may be said the European and the American theatre, by the modern system of *adaptations*, with innumerable comedies, operas and *vaudevilles*. It is calculated that he has written more than 360 plays, comedies, operas, &c. He is besides the author of several novels: one of which, *Piquillo-Alluga*, was sold to the editors of the *Sicete*, for 60,000 francs. A list of the works of Eugène Scribe filed, several years ago, 36 columns of the French bibliographical publication, "*La France Littéraire*;" but he has written a great many since and was still preparing a new work when he died suddenly at the age of 70. He had acquired considerable wealth, and was proud of the manner in which he had conquered his position. He had taken for his arms a pen with this motto: *Indè fortuna et libertas*; and over the door of his Castle of Sérécourt, he had engraved the following inscription:

"Le théâtre a payé cet asile champêtre,
Vous qui passez, merci, je vous le dois peut-être."

—MM Brousseau and Bros. have issued the two first numbers (January and February) of a new literary magazine: *Les Soirées Canadiennes*, at \$1 a year. This periodical is to be exclusively Canadian, and whenever its contributors shall shrink from their task, which we hope will be seldom, the editors intend filling up the gap by reprinting the best poetry, essays, &c., already published by Canadian authors. The following gentlemen have allowed their names to be mentioned as those of intending contributors, viz: MM. Parent, Ferland, Garneau, Chauveau, Taché, Trudel, Fiset, Erémazie, Gérin-Lajoie, Lenoir, Bourassa, Casgrain, Larue, Legaré and Fréchette. The two first numbers contain some beautiful poetry from Mr. Fréchette, a very young man and a student in the Laval University, and the beginning of *Trois Légendes Canadiennes*, written by Mr. Taché in his usual pleasant and elegant style.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—We learn from a notice in the January number of the *Canadian Journal* that the documents left by the late David Thompson, containing details of his explorations in the Hudson's Bay Territories, and which were supposed to be buried in the Company's archives, are likely to be made available to the public at an early day; as the editor has been informed by Andrew Russel Esq., Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, that copies of Thompson's field notes are among the records of that department. Mr. Russel has furnished some extracts for publication, which are promised in an early number of the *Journal*. Mr. Thompson was for thirteen years in the employment of the Hudson's Bay Company, and afterwards for fifteen years engaged with the North West Company. Subsequently he was employed for ten years as an astronomer and surveyor on the Commission relative to the boundary between the British Possessions and the United States.—*U. C. Journal of Education*.

—At a recent meeting of the American Geographical and Statistical Society, Mr. Disturnell, on presenting the Medical Statistics and Meteorological Observations of the United States army brought down to December, and prepared by the assistant surgeon general, remarked that Mr. Quetelet, the perpetual secretary of the French academy, had said that the enterprise proposed by the United States, under the direction of Lieut. Maury, of the Meteorological congress, would be accomplished on a large scale. Very distinguished men were disposed to attend. He was about to visit England on account of it. The general congress of Vienna had charged him with the duty of making up a general programme of meteorological observations all over the globe. Unity of views were necessary in these observations. Thirty nations had assented to it, and several were at present at work. The friends of science had thus accomplished a confederation of nations, which politicians had attempted in vain.

—A scientific expedition is about leaving France to explore Southern Siberia, and particularly that portion contiguous to the Amoor. It will be headed by Dr. G. Meynier and M. de Louis d'Eichthal; and a commission has been appointed by the Paris Academy of Sciences to draw up instructions for the expedition.

—The Royal Geographical Society propose raising a subscription of £2,000, for sending an expedition under Mr. Petherick (her Majesty's consul at Khartum,) up the Nile, to explore its sources, and to aid that of Captain Speke, already despatched by way of Zinzibar in the same

direction. The Society gives £100, the Foreign office £100; Lord Ashburton and Miss Burdett Coutts each contributed £50. An appeal is made to scientific men and others, and already £685 has been secured. Should the required sum be quickly raised, Mr. Petherick undertakes to reach Gondoroko in November next; he will then explore till March 1862, and after the rainy season, start afresh and continue his travels till the end of 1863, or the beginning of 1864.

—*Producing Manure from atmosphere.*—The *London Chemical News* contains an article on this very important subject by two French chemists. The value of guano and most other concentrated manures consists, to a considerable extent, of the ammonia which they contain. As three-quarters of the atmospheric air consists of nitrogen, and as hydrogen forms one-ninth of all pure water, it some cheap means could be found for inducing the hydrogen of water to enter into combination with the nitrogen of air in the form of ammonia, this valuable manure could be produced in unlimited quantities, and the agricultural products of the world enormously increased. The production of ammonia at a low price has been a problem of the highest interest to agriculturists. It is composed of nitrogen and hydrogen.

Atmospheric air is an inexhaustible and gratuitous source of nitrogen. However, this element presents so great a difference in its chemical reactions, that, notwithstanding the numerous attempts which have been made, chemists have not heretofore succeeded in combining it with hydrogen so as to produce ammonia artificially. MM. Marguerite and de Souderal, the chemists alluded to, have succeeded in making it artificially from the atmosphere, baryta. The following is the operation:—In an earthen retort is calcined, at an elevated and sustained temperature, a mixture of carbonate of baryta, iron filings in the proportion of about thirty per cent, the refuse of coal, tar, and saw dust. This produces a reduction to the state of anhydrous baryta, of the greater part of the carbonate employed. Afterwards it is slowly passed a current of air across the porous mass, the oxygen of which is converted into carbonic oxyd by its passage over a column of incandescent charcoal, while its nitrogen, in presence of the charcoal and barium, transforms itself into cyanogen, and produces considerable quantities of cyanide. In effect, the matter sheltered from the air and cooled, and washed with boiling water, gives with the salts of iron an abundant precipitate of Prussian blue. The mixture thus calcined and cyanuretted is received into a cylinder of either cast or wrought iron, which serves both as an extinguisher and as an apparatus for the transformation of the cyanuret. Through this cylinder, at a temperature less than 300 degrees, (Centigrade,) is passed a current of steam, which disengages, under the form of ammonia, all the nitrogen contained in the cyanide of barium. It is impossible to foresee all the results of this great discovery. Among other things, it suggests the production of nitric acid from the air by oxydizing ammonia.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

—John Underwood, Esq., of Aurelius, says the *Auburn Advertiser*, secured his entire crop of hay this summer by consulting the barometer. The morning he commenced cutting his hay looked cloudy and felt like rain, still the barometer pointed unerringly to dry weather, and on the strength of that sent in his Kirby. The hay was cut, cured and secured before any rain made its appearance. But for the barometer, the hay would have been standing at this time. Who doubts that the instrument paid for itself by that one item of information? The time is coming when the farmer will as soon think of returning to the scythe as to be without the infallible weather prophet, the barometer.

—The following is a summary of the annual aggregate resources of the railroads of the United Kingdom, since 1842, with the number of miles in use at the end of each year:—

	Miles opened.	Receipts		Miles opened.	Receipts.
1842.....	1,630	£1,470,700	1843.....	1,736	£5,022,650
1844.....	1,950	5,814,980	1845.....	2,243	6,900,270
1846.....	2,840	7,945,870	1847.....	3,710	9,277,671
1848.....	4,626	10,455,100	1849.....	5,950	11,683,800
1850.....	6,733	13,142,235	1851.....	6,928	14,987,310
1852.....	7,537	15,543,619	1853.....	7,774	17,926,530
1854.....	8,928	20,000,520	1855.....	8,249	21,123,300
1856.....	8,761	22,995,500	1857.....	9,171	24,162,460
1858.....	9,568	28,763,764	1859.....	9,883	25,576,100

Curious incident of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.—A young officer in the army of Wolfe, was apparently dying of an abscess in the lungs. He was absent from his regiment on sick leave; but resolved to rejoin it, when a battle was expected. "Far," said he, "since I am given over, I had better be doing my duty; and my life's being shortened a few days matters not." He received a shot which pierced the abscess and made an opening for the discharge. He recovered and lived to the age of eighty.—*New York Historical Magazine*.