

A MASTODON FOUND.—Forty miles west of St. Thomas, Canada, the bones of a mastodon were found in a grave thirty-five by twenty-one feet. They were in a bed of marl and were about six feet below the surface. The length of the animal is, from the point of the nostril to the root of the tail, about twenty-two feet. This is greater than that of the celebrated *mastodon giganteus*, discovered near Newburg, N. Y., in the summer of 1845, and the skeleton, as a whole, is larger and more complete than any that have been found in Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, California, or Oregon.—*The School Journal* (N.Y).

WHAT IS RATTAN?—Every one knows that chairs and many other pretty articles of furniture are made of rattan. It is a climbing vine found in the Celebes and other Malayan countries. Starting with a trunk as thick as a man's leg, it winds through the forest, now wrapping a tall tree in its folds, like some gigantic snake, and then descending again to earth and trailing along in snake like curves until it can find some other stately tree to fasten and climb upon in its pursuit of light and air. The

rattan is a water carrier. The thirsty traveller has at all times a tumblerful of cool, refreshing water at his command by cutting off six or eight feet of it, and putting one of the severed ends to his mouth, or holding it over a dish to catch the water.—*The School Journal* (N.Y).

WHY THUNDER STORMS AFFECT MILK.—The effect of an electrical discharge is to decompose a portion of the atmosphere, by which ozone is produced. This substance is an oxide of oxygen, and its action is often believed to be, and may be, the cause of the souring of milk, beer, and fresh wine during thunder storms. No doubt if the milk is submerged in water, and access of air is prevented, no result of the kind will occur; and as the more milk is exposed to the air the more it will be affected by the ozone, the milk in open shallow pans will be acidified more readily than that in deep pails, although these may be open. It is believed, however, that the heat of the air preceding thunder storms is more directly the agent in the souring of the milk than the ozone that may exist in the air after the storm is passed.—*Our Times*.

GEOGRAPHY.

THE submarine telegraph system of the world now consists of 120,070 nautical miles of cable. Since the West African system of cables was completed to Cape Town, Africa is completely encircled by submarine telegraph. Eleven cables span the North Atlantic and five companies, owning over 30,000 nautical miles of cable, send telegrams between North America and Europe.

THE Sea Route to Siberia, which Captain Wiggins has spent a life and a fortune in opening up, has at last become a successful commercial highway between Great Britain and Northern Russia. Two ships left London at the beginning of August with cargoes destined for Karraoul, a Siberia port one hundred and sixty miles up the Yenisei, where they discharged their cargoes into river boats,