

his speeches were carefully prepared, full of information and more polished than those of his contemporaries. In 1834 he was elected Governor of Massachusetts, and was afterwards three times re-elected to the same office. In 1840 he paid a second visit to Europe, and returning home was appointed Ambassador at the Court of St. James under General Harrison's Administration, Mr. Webster being Secretary of State. Many important questions of international moment arose at this time, in most of which Mr. Everett conducted himself to the satisfaction of his Government. In 1845 he was elected President of Harvard College, and occupied several succeeding years in the task of editing his speeches and the works of Mr. Webster, upon whose death in 1852, Mr. Everett was called upon by President Fillmore to fill the vacant place of Secretary of State. In 1853 he was elected by the Legislature of Massachusetts to the Senate of the United States, and during his incumbency of that office the famous bill for the repeal Missouri Compromise was introduced into Congress. Under the excitement attending the discussion of this bill and the great labor through which he had previously passed Mr. Everett's health broke down and he retired from public life a short time afterwards. He entered it again however in 1860, when he ran on the Bell and Everett (or peace) ticket for Vice-President but was defeated. During his last years Mr. Everett engaged a portion of his time in writing for *The Ledger*, a work in which he first became engaged on consideration of its proprietor giving \$10,000 in advance to the Mount Vernon Fund, and delivering public lectures and addresses on various topics. His later writings betray in many respects a strong spirit of Anglophobia. Whatever his drawbacks may have been it must be admitted that he was a ripe scholar and one of the foremost among American orators. In the vast country which gave him birth he has left few equals in these respects.—*Leader*.

V. Papers on Natural History.

1. HIDDEN BEAUTY IN NATURE.

Even this modern world in which we live teems with countless forms of grace and beauty, unseen or uncared for by the hand of man. The myriad tribes of microscopic animals and plants, lovely and graceful as any poet's dream, spring into being all around and beneath us, and live their tiny lives and pass away, unnoticed save by a few patient students of nature's mysteries.—The snow and the hoar-frost form their delicate crystals, more beautiful than any arabesques of man's design, before our very eyes and melt again unheeded. The mildew which we brush away in disgust, and the mosses and liverworts which we tread under our feet, have a beauty of form and coloring scarcely equalled by the chosen exotics of our green houses. The pollen of flowers, which seems to us mere shapeless dust is moulded, grain by grain, into forms of the most exquisite symmetry. Even the so called hairs upon the leaves and stems of the larger plants, are often singularly beautiful. Those of *dentria glaucilla*, to cite but a single example, common looking leaves enough to the naked eye, are seen under the microscope to be studded all over with delicate and perfectly formed stars of purest flint—lovely little silver constellations, sparkling in a firmament of emerald; and there is scarcely an animal that lives, scarcely a plant that grows, scarcely an inch of soil beneath our feet, but could reveal to us some surpassing wonder, or some transcendent beauty, if we had but eyes to see it.—*Ex. Paper*.

2. THE GATHERING OF SPONGE.

The sponge business has become a prominent department of industry in the Bahama Islands. It is almost entirely the growth of the last twenty years, and nets annually about \$20,000. The sponge is fished and raked from the sandy bottom of the ocean at the depth of twenty, forty, or sixty feet. It belongs to a very low order of animal life, organization hardly being detected. When first taken from the water it is black, and becomes exceedingly offensive from decomposition. It is so poisonous in this condition that it almost blisters the flesh it happens to touch. The first process is to bury it in the sand, where it remains two or three weeks, in which time the gelatinous animal matter is absorbed and destroyed by the insects that swarm in the sand. After being cleansed, it is compressed and packed in bales like cotton. The sponge has been applied in a variety of new purposes, and within the last few years has quadrupled in value.

VI. Papers on Scientific Subjects.

1. INTERESTING FACTS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

The discovery of new members of the solar system still continues. During the past year three new planets, and as many comets, have been discovered in the celestial spaces. Payson, Director of the Observatory at Madras, discovered a planet which he very appropriately named Sappho, the "Tenth Muse" of the Greeks. M. Temple, the industrious astronomer at Marseilles, discovered a planet on the 30th of September, which he has called Terpsichore. The third has just been discovered by the distinguished German astronomer, M. Luther. This is the fourteenth or fifteenth discovered by him. The three comets were without any special interest.

The following catalogue, compiled from various foreign authorities, embraces a view of all the members of the solar system known up to Jan. 1, 1865, except those comets which are without well ascertained elliptical orbits. Only seven of this great number of heavenly bodies were known to the ancients:

Name.	When, by whom, and where discovered.
PLANETS.	

1. Mercury.....	The Ancients.
2. Venus	"
3. Earth	"
4. Mars	"
5. Ceres	January 1, 1801, Piazzi, at Palermo.
6. Pallas.....	March 28, 1802, Olbers, Bremen.
7. Juno	Sept. 1, 1804, Harding, Gottingen.
8. Vesta	March 29, 1807, Olbers, Bremen.
9. Astrea	December 8, 1845, Hencke, Driessen.
10. Hebe.....	July 1, 1847.
11. Iris	August 13, 1847, Hind, London.
12. Flora	October, 18, 1847, " "
13. Metis	April 25, 1848, Graham, Markroe.
14. Hygeia	April 12, 1849, De Gasparin, Naples.
15. Parthenope	May 11, 1850.
16. Victoria	September 30, 1850, Hind, London.
17. Egeria	Nov. 2, 1850, De Gasparin, Naples.
18. Irene	May 19, 1857, Hind, London.
19. Eunomia	July 29, 1857, De Gasparin, Naples.
20. Psyche	March 17, 1852, " "
21. Thetis	April 17, 1802, Luther, Bilk.
22. Melpomene.....	June 24, 1852, Hind, London.
23. Fortuna	Aug. 22, 1852, " "
24. Massilia	Sept. 19, 1852, De Gasparin, Naples.
25. Lutetia	Nov. 15, 1852, Goldschmidt, Paris.
26. Calliope	Nov. 16, 1852, Hind, London.
27. Thalia	Dec. 16, 1852, " "
28. Themis	April 5, 1853, De Gasparin, Naples.
29. Phocia	April 6, 1853, Chacornac, Marseilles.
30. Proserpina	May 5, 1853, Luther, Bilk.
31. Euterpe	Nov. 3, 1853, Hind, London.
32. Bellona	March 1, 1854, Luther, Bilk.
33. Amphitrite	March 1, 1854, Pogson, Oxford.
34. Urania	July 22, 1854, Hind, London.
35. Euphrosyne.....	Sept. 1, 1854, Ferguson, Washington.
36. Pomona	Oct. 26, 1854, Goldschmidt, Paris.
37. Polyhymnia	Oct. 28, 1854, Chacornac.
38. Circe	April 6, 1855, " "
39. Leucothea	April 19, 1855, Luther, Bilk.
40. Atalanta.....	Oct. 5, 1855, Goldschmidt, Paris.
41. Fides	Oct. 5, 1855, Luther, Bilk.
42. Leda	Jan. 12, 1856, Chacornac, Paris.
43. Lætitia	Feb. 8, 1856, " "
44. Harmonia	March 1, 1856, Goldschmidt, Paris.
45. Daphne	May 22, 1856, " "
46. Isis	May 23, 1856, Pogson, Oxford.
47. Ariadne	April 15, 1857, " "
48. Nyssa	May 27, 1857, Goldschmidt, Paris.
49. Eugenia	June 23, 1857, " "
50. Hestia	Aug. 16, 1857, Pogson, Oxford.
51. Aegle	Sept. 15, 1857, Luther, Bilk.
52. *Melite	Sept. 9, 1857, Goldschmidt, Paris.
53. Doris	Sept. 19, 1857, " "
54. Pales	Sept. 19, 1857, " "
55. Virginia	Oct. 4, 1857, Ferguson, Washington.
56. Nemusa	Jan. 22, 1858, Laurent, Nismes.
57. Europa	Feb. 4, 1858, Goldschmidt, Paris.
58. Calypso	April 4, 1858, Luther, Bilk.
59. Alexandra	Sept. 11, 1858, Goldschmidt, Paris.
60. Pandora	Sept. 10, 1858, Searle, Albany, N. Y.

* Ascertained by calculation to be a new planet, by Schulbert, of Washington.