

ened. An immense green forest was found extending many miles. Neither grass, quadrupeds, nor birds were found, and the camels had a very bad time of it for want of food. About 10,000 specimens of plants in a good state of preservation were brought to Esperance Bay.—*The School Journal*.

A SEA VOLCANO. — When the American barque *Hesper* was about seventy-five miles off the Japanese coast recently, a rumbling noise was heard and the next instant the ship was thrown on her beam ends. Great waves came tumbling toward the ship, and water rushed on deck from the stern, bow, and over the sides. It is believed that the barque was directly over a sub-marine volcano. Water flooded the deck, and the crew found it was boiling hot. The crew had to climb into the rigging, where they remained five hours, during which great blasts of hot sulphurous gas escaped from the ocean. The scalding water melted the pitch and oakum in the deck seams, necessitating repairs.—*The School Journal* (N.Y.).

AMERICA'S MOST NORTHERN RAILROAD.—The railroad now extending furthest north in North America is the Calgary and Edmonton Railroad, completed in August last, which carries travellers from the Canadian

Pacific Railroad to the north fork of the Saskatchewan, in latitude $53^{\circ} 30'$. This is the top notch of railroading on this continent—800 miles north of New York, and at least 300 miles higher up in the world than the line of railroad which is building across Newfoundland. In Europe there are railroads much further north, and in Sweden there is a little railroad which crosses the Arctic Circle. This new road in Canada will play a large part in the fortunes of that western country, for in many respects the North Saskatchewan Valley is inviting and abounds in resources, and before a great while there will be quite a large population there. The Saskatchewan will be bridged, and the railroad will be extended at least fifty miles beyond Edmonton. The town Edmonton is 2,200 feet above the sea, and though it is so far north, crops are as fine there as in most parts of this continent. With the aid of this railroad it is now possible to travel by steam all the way from the City of Mexico to the shores of the Arctic Ocean, at the mouth of the Mackenzie River, except for short portages to the Athabasca, and around two series of rapids in that and the Mackenzie River. The Hudson Bay Company's steamer runs for many hundreds of miles on the middle and lower Mackenzie River. — *Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine*.

PUBLIC OPINION.

THE STUPID BOYS.—I once knew a lady tell a schoolmaster, who was proudly boasting of the number of first places which had been obtained by his pupils, that it might be very true what he said, but that these pupils must have been clever boys; her son was stupid, and she would like to know how the stupid boys got on

with him. But such mothers are rare. It is to the parents, then, that we must chiefly call for reform. Let them carefully examine the credentials of every school, and not be taken in by infinite puff. Let them insist on their boys working steadily on, and not being forced to enter into the struggles of life while hardly out of their