

with the Western World. The problem has been solved, which is an important fact, of our having sent messages 2,800 miles through the Atlantic Ocean, as 300 communications were made between the New and Old World by the servants of the company, before the cable, from some cause or other, was so injured that it gradually ceased to speak. I still hope, as experiments are being made by the united talents of America and Europe, we may soon find a cable that will meet the duty it has to perform, and enable us to communicate with our transatlantic friends as rapidly as we do with those in London or Edinburgh. Every day is bringing to light some new discovery. Had we possessed the knowledge fifty years ago, which geologists have now acquired, many bitter disappointments would have been prevented, and much treasure have been saved, in looking for coal and other minerals where none are to be found. I am sanguine that the library and museum, from the valuable works which will be found there, will contain information that will prevent much loss of time and many of these disappointments to our thoughtful and inquiring people, as there they will have an opportunity of referring to the specification of all existing patents, and more or less information on every subject interesting to mankind. And the five literary and scientific societies, which have grafted on the museum in the course of its erection, cannot fail to turn to the best account the knowledge that is contained within its walls.

THE NECESSITY AND ADVANTAGE OF EDUCATION.

The great advantage of education is shown in every movement of our lives. Officers of the army and militia, whose duty it is to inspect the drilling of uneducated recruits, are very much struck with the rapid progress that educated volunteers have made in the knowledge of their duties in so short a period. The time has happily gone by when it was considered dangerous to instruct the people. Nothing is more satisfactory than to see how knowledge enables the labouring classes to understand and appreciate the advantages that they and their country derive from improved machinery. The more we are instructed, the more we value the advantages we possess over every other nation, and the less we are exposed to any misunderstanding among ourselves. Every day we live we see the importance of putting within the reach of the masses the means of getting instruction. It is a most important element in securing to us the freedom of the press and of discussion, and that knowledge which is necessary to amend our laws and to convince all of the advantages of a constitutional Government; I do not believe that there ever was a period in the history of this country when we were a more united people, and more determined to support the honour and dignity of the nation and the stability of the throne, now occupied by our virtuous and illustrious Queen, who sets a good example to every crowned head in the world. Mr. Brown then proposed as a toast, "The House of Stanley," and in doing so expressed his regret that the head of that house, through serious indisposition, was unable to be present. The toast was drunk with loud cheering.

Lord Stanley, in rising to respond to the toast, was hailed with loud and continued applause. When silence was obtained he proceeded to say, that he felt great pleasure in returning thanks for the honour which had been done to the house of which he was a member. If anything could add to the value of the compliment it would be from the circumstance of its having been proposed by a gentleman whose proud public position all envied. He need not make his father's excuses for absence, for all knew the reason of that absence. Ill as he had been, however, he could assure all present that no one felt more cordially in sympathy with the objects of this meeting, or with more cordiality applauded the purpose for which Mr. Brown had devoted his energies. (Cheers.) Long before the subject of a public library was mooted, and while the late Lord Derby was busied in collecting specimens of natural history, which in their collected form now held a place in the building, the gift of which to the public they had inaugurated that day, it had been a subject of deep consideration and of cordial agreement between him and his immediate successor as to its immediate destination. Both had agreed that no place was so fully entitled to the advantages to be derived from such a collection as the town of Liverpool, to which the House of Stanley owed so much. The carrying out of the intentions connected with that institution in its fullest extent had devolved on others, and he was proud to find that it had devolved on one of Liverpool's townsmen.

Mr. Bagley, M.P., proposed as a toast "The House of Lords and Lord Brougham."

Lord Brougham, on rising, was received with a perfect storm of cheers and applause. On its subsidence his Lordship proceeded to say he felt fully persuaded of the absolute necessity of the House of Lords as a means of maintaining that form of government under which alone true liberty can be enjoyed. Some parties complained of the aristocracy; his belief was that without the aristocracy we

had no chance whatever of having a mixed constitution which would preserve the liberties of the people.

The Mayor here intimated that a donation towards the library had been received from Mr. Joseph Shipley, a partner of Mr. Brown, to the extent of £1,000. (Cheers.)

Other toasts followed, and at a late hour the party broke up.

II. HARVARD COLLEGE ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

In November last a very fine Zoological Museum (which originated with Professor Agassiz) of Harvard University, was opened at Cambridge, Massachusetts, with appropriate ceremonies. From a Boston paper, kindly forwarded to us, we make the following extracts relating to the interesting event:

CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH THE FOUNDING OF THE MUSEUM.

As a preliminary we select from Professor Agassiz's statement regarding the founding of the museum, the following. He says:

When I came to this country in 1846, I had no thought of staying here. I had come upon an invitation of Mr. John A. Lowell, to deliver a course of lectures before the Lowell Institute. I had taken leave for a year and a half from the college of Neuchatel, with which I was then connected, and it had pleased the King of Prussia, at that time Prince of Neuchatel, to grant me the means for a scientific exploration of some parts of this continent. I had not been much more than a year here, when the convulsions which disturbed Europe led me to consider seriously how far it would be advisable for me to return to my native country, or to prolong my stay in America. While I was hesitating, the late Honourable Abbott Lawrence one day called upon me, and explained to me confidentially his plans respecting the foundation of a Scientific School in Cambridge, relating that it would be an additional reason for him immediately to carry out his intention, if I should accept a professorship in that school. I did not feel at liberty to decide before having obtained a regular discharge from the College with which I had been connected for fifteen years. This was, however, granted in the most considerate manner, and in the spring term of 1848 I entered upon my duties as Professor of the Scientific School—a post which I still hold.

One of the most tempting inducements I had for staying in America was the offer to me by the Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, to avail myself of the facilities afforded by the different parties carrying on the work of the survey, to visit in person the coast and collect the animals living along our shores, with most accurate indications respecting the nature of the bottom on which they are found, the depth at which they occur, and other information for which naturalists sigh, without having frequent means of obtaining them. To these facilities I owe part of the most valuable information I have been able to obtain in my life.

Placed as I was at the head of a new department of public education, I had now to make the necessary collections for my instruction, as none existed in the University; and during my vacations I visited successively, for that purpose, our Southern and Western States, delivering lectures on my way to defray the expenses necessary to make extensive collections, which to me were very heavy, as I never had any thing but what I earn from year to year.

In 1852 the Treasurer of Harvard College obtained by private subscription the sum of \$12,000, amounting to the expenses I had thus far incurred, to secure as property for the University the collections I had brought together. With these new means at my command and some additions, obtained in the same way as in former years, I have gone on enlarging the collection until, by a succession of fortunate circumstances, a movement was started to found a public museum.

Nearly two years ago Mr. William Gray presented to our University the sum of \$50,000, left by his uncle, the late Hon. Francis C. Gray, to found a Museum of Comparative Zoology, without determining the institution to which it should be granted, but leaving to his executor the final disposition of his generous bequest. With such a basis of operations it was at once plain that the usefulness of the Museum of the University should be extended beyond what had been thus far contemplated, and that perhaps a great establishment might be founded, if the public in general could be interested in it. With this impression, a committee of gentlemen was formed at the suggestion of the committee annually appointed to examine the condition of the Scientific School, and in a surprisingly short time the sum of \$75,000 was raised by private contributions, with the view of erecting a suitable building to receive and preserve the collections then on hand.

A munificent grant of \$100,000 was also made by the Legislature in accordance with a recommendation of His Excellency, Governor Banks, in his message to the General Court. The nascent institution was thus endowed with \$225,000, and it became necessary to organize