

above mentioned celebrities; but if wanting in quantity, his works prove that the quality was of no ordinary kind. The skull of Rush was prodigious, measuring 24 inches in circumference, and the skull of Burns measured 22½ inches.

THE RACES OF MAN.

Dr. Charles Pickering, an English author of a book entitled as above, describes eleven distinct races of men, founded on what he deems essential differences. He thus enumerates them, and the population of each race:—White 350,000,000; Mongolian, 300,000,000; Malayan, 120,000,000; Telingan, 60,000,000; Negro, 55,000,000; Ethiopian, 5,000,000; Abyssinian, 8,000,000; Papuan, 3,000,000; Australian, 500,000; Hottentot, 500,000. Total, 900,000,000. Dr. Pickering argues that the human race radiated from four centres: one from Thibet, in Asia; two from Abyssinia, in Africa; three and four from North and South America.—*Newark Advertiser*.

AN ARCHÆOLOGICAL PROBLEM SOLVED.

Letters from Vienna state that the ancient Runic inscription on the celebrated marble lion from the Piræus at the gate of the Arsenal at Venice, which has hitherto baffled the attempts of the most learned antiquarians to decypher, has at length found its Œdipus in the person of a learned Danish professor, who assures us that it records one of the most daring expeditions ever undertaken by Vikings of the North, under Harold Sigurson, the half-brother of King Olaf the Sainted, in the year 1040. The bold chieftain, it appears from the inscription, proceeded with his adventurous band of Norsemen to the assistance of the Greek Emperor against a popular revolution; and succeeded in capturing the Piræus, restored order, and obliged the Greeks to pay a heavy fine. It must, however, be added that the above-named date is an hypothesis of this "learned Theban," for there is no date in the inscription, and history makes no mention of the event alluded to.

EVEN THE NAME OF AMERICA FAULTY.

Having had occasion to look over some of the most rare Incunabula of the travels of Amerigo Vespucci, I find that his Christian name was Emmericus, the German St. Emmerich, which was only Italianized into Amerigo. Alexander Humboldt has shown in his *Examen Critique* how it was that the name was given to America by one who was *not* its discoverer. But as even *this* name is one of faulty co-struction, let us henceforth exclaim "Hail Columbia!"—*Notes and Queries*.

THE AUTHOR OF THE HUNDREDTH PSALM.

The long disputed question whether Purcell or Handel was the author of the grand music of the Old Hundredth, has been set at rest by a discovery made a few days since in Lincoln Cathedral library. Purcell died in 1695, and Handel in 1759. But in the cathedral library a French psalter, printed in 1546, contains the music of the Old Hundredth, exactly as it is now sung; so that it could not be the production of either of the great musicians to whom it has been attributed.

POETS GRAVES.

Chaucer was buried in the cloister of Westminster Abbey, without the building, but removed to the south isle in 1555; Spencer lies near him; Beaumont, Drayton, Cowley, Denham, Dryden, Rowe, Addison, Prior, Congreve, Gay, Johnson, Sheridan and Campbell, all lie within Westminster Abbey. Shakspeare, as every one knows, was buried in the chancel of the church at Stratford, where there is a monument to his memory. Chapman and Shirley are buried in St. Giles, in the Fields; Marlowe in the churchyard of St. Paul's Deptford; Fletcher and Massinger in the churchyard of St. Saviour's, Southwark; Dr. Donne in old St. Paul's; Edm. Waller in Beaconsfield churchyard; Milton in the churchy rd of St. Giles, Cripplegate; Butler in the churchyard of St. Paul's, Covent Garden; Otway, no one knows where; Garth in the churchyard at Harrow; Pope in the churchyard at Twickenham; Swift in St. Patrick's, Dublin; Savage in the churchyard of St. Peter's, Bristol; Parnell at Chester, where he died on his way to Dublin; Dr. Young, at Walwyn, in Hertfordshire, of which place he was the rector; Thompson in the churchyard, at Richmond, in Surry; Collins in St. Andrew's Church at Colchester; Gray in the churchyard at Stoke-Pogis, where he conceived his "Elegy;" Goldsmith in the churchyard of the Temple Church; Falconer at sea with "all ocean for his grave;" Churchill in the churchyard of St. Martin's, Dover; Cowper in the church at Dereham; Chatterton in a churchyard belonging to the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn; Burns in St. Michael's churchyard, :umfries; Byron in the church at Hucknall, near Newstead; Crabbe at Trowbridge; Coleridge in the church at Higi;gate; Sir Walter Scott in Dryburgh Abbey; Southey in Crossthwaite church, near Keswick; Shelley "beneath one of the antique woodgrown towers surrounding ancient Rome;" and Keats beside him, "under the pyramid which is the tomb of Cestius."

Useful Facts and Statistics.

VENTILATION—AIR POISON.

The following remarks, copied from "Dickens' Household Words," show the vast importance of thorough ventilation in school-rooms:—"People have often said that no difference can be detected in the analysis of pure and impure air. This is one of the vulgar errors difficult to dislodge from the public brain. The fact is, that the condensed air of a crowded room gives a deposit which, if allowed to remain for a few days, forms a solid, thick glutinous mass, having a strong odour of animal matter. If examined by the microscope, it is seen to undergo a remarkable change. First of all, it is converted into a vegetable growth, and this is followed by the production of animalcules; a decisive proof that it must contain organic matter, otherwise it could not nourish organic beings. This was the result arrived at by Dr. Angus Smith, in his beautiful experiments on the air and water of towns; wherein he showed how the lungs and skin gave out organic matter, which is in itself a deadly poison, producing headache, sickness, disease, or epidemic, according to its strength. Why, if "a few drops of the liquid matter, obtained by a condensation of the air of a foul locality, introduced into the veins of a dog, can produce death with the usual phenomena of typhus fever," what incalculable evil must it not produce on those human beings who breathe it again and again, rendered fouler and less capable of sustaining life with each breath drawn! Such contamination of the air, and consequent hot bed of fever and epidemic, is easily in the power of man to remove. Ventilation and cleanliness will do all, so far as the abolition of this evil goes, and ventilation and cleanliness are not miracles to be prayed for, but certain results of common obedience to the laws of God."

THE FIVE GREAT LAKES OF NORTH AMERICA

Have recently been surveyed, and it is found that they cover an area of 90,000 square miles. The total length of the five lakes is 1,534 miles. Lake Superior, at its greatest length, is 355 miles; its greatest breadth is 160 miles; mean depth 968 feet; elevation above the sea 627 feet; area 32,000 square miles. Lake Michigan is 360 miles long; its greatest breadth is 108 miles; its mean depth is 900 feet; elevation 687 feet; area 20,000 miles. Lake Huron, in its greatest length, is 200 miles; its greatest breadth is 160 miles; mean depth 300 feet; elevation 574 feet; area 20,000 square miles. Lake Erie is 250 miles long; greatest breadth 80 miles; mean depth 260 feet; elevation 555 feet; area 6,000 square miles. Lake Ontario has a length of 180 miles; and its mean breadth is 61 miles; mean depth 500 feet; elevation above the ocean 262 feet; area 6,000 square miles.—*National Intelligencer*.

RAILROADS IN CANADA.

	Miles.		Miles.
Buffalo and Lake Huron.....	84	Grand Trunk—Toronto Section	208
Champlain and St. Lawrence..	43	Grand Trunk—Toronto & Sar-	
Cobourg and Peterboro'.....	28	nia.....	91
Erie and Ontario.....	17	Great Western—Main Line...	229
Grand Trunk—Montreal Divi-		Gt. Western—Toronto Branch.	38
sion.....	119	Gt. Western—Guelph Branch.	17
Grand Trunk—Quebec Divi-		London and Port Stanley....	27
sion.....	94	Montreal and New York....	42
Grand Trunk—St. Thomas Sec-		Ontario, Simcoe and Huron...	96
tion.....	50	Ottawa and Prescott.....	54
Grand Trunk—Brockville Sec-		Port Dalhousie and Thorold..	6
tion.....	125		
Total open to traffic.....	1,368		

The above table is believed to be a correct statement of the mileage in operation in the Province of Canada, on the 30th September, 1856. Besides these, there are several other lines, or extensions of lines, already partially finished, rapidly progressing to completion: as that between St. Mary's and London, and between London and Sarnia; that portion of the Guelph Branch, between Guelph and Preston; the Ottawa and Brockville line, and numerous others which, in the aggregate, will give the province at least one mile to every 1,000 inhabitants, or about 2,800 miles. The United States has already a mile of railroad to each 1,000 persons, or about 28,000 miles. The ratio of population to extent of surface is about equal—the absolute area and population of the United States being not far from ten times that of Canada. Hence, relatively, the United States possess a mileage of railroad double that of Canada at the present day.—*Life Illustrated*.

THE VICTORIA BRIDGE, MONTREAL.

The following interesting account of the immense bridge now being built across the St. Lawrence at Montreal, is from the correspondence of a Pittsburg paper.

"The Victoria Bridge, at the point where it is to cross the St. Lawrence, is two miles in width. The current is very rapid, and the water from four to ten feet in depth along where the piers are to be erected,