

to scientific pursuits, and was an authority in Entomology. In the history and selection of libraries, very few persons equalled him. His death leaves a vacancy in the College that it will be difficult to fill. . . . Some time since her Majesty was pleased to grant a pension of £25 a year to Mr. Joseph Haydn, author of the well-known "Dictionary of Dates." On Easter Tuesday last, Mr. Haydn, employed at the time by the Admiralty, in bringing up the records of the Secretary of State's letters, was struck with paralysis, which has prostrated him to the present hour. Lord Palmerston, the moment he heard of it, sent him £100, while Mr. D'Israeli and a few others added to this sum enough to purchase, for Mrs. Haydn and family, a shop for the sale of stationery and newspapers (No. 13 Crawley Street, Oakley Square). In this house the pious, learned, and resigned Haydn died, a few days after the paralytic attack. . . . Mr. John Forster, author of the admirable "Life of Goldsmith," and other popular books, has been gazetted in England, as Secretary to the Commission of Lunacy—a place worth £800 a year, and involving a residence in London. Mr. Proctor (Barry Cornwall) is a member of the Commission, with a salary of £1,500. . . . A new planet, of great brilliancy, has just been discovered by M. Chacornac, of the Paris Observatory. . . . Astronomers are of opinion that the nebular phenomena revealed by Lord Rosse's telescope, must be governed by forces different from those of which we now have any knowledge. . . . The rate at which waves travel was curiously exemplified in the case of the late earthquake at Simoda, off Japan, when the Russian frigate *Diana* was lost. Twelve hours and sixteen minutes after the gigantic wave which destroyed her had receded for the last time, leaving the harbor dry, the same wave in an infinitely diminished force reached the shores of San Francisco, 4,800 miles distant. The curious phenomena which the wave presented, suddenly rising seven-tenths of a foot, and then receding, followed by a series of seven other waves of less magnitude, was remarked with great care at San Francisco, and there is no doubt that it was the same wave that first rose at Simoda. . . . Mr. Layard is said to have another work on Assyrian antiquities in press in England. . . . The *Athenæum* of London, says: "We scarcely know of an example in which the man of letters has entered the House of Commons, without making in that House a more distinguished figure than he has made in his own sphere. Montagu would have ranked below Prior as a poet; as a man of affairs he beat Godolphin. Sir E. B. Lytton goes into the house, and becomes a chief of his party—a coming Minister. Mr. Gladstone, in literature, would be a second rate essayist: in politics, he stands in the highest rank. D'Israeli is a novelist of the third rank—a poet of the thirtieth: in the House of Commons he is a great power. Lord John Russell is a conspicuous example of the relation of faculties in the two services. He has tried every form of literary exercise: drama, history, poetry, essay, biography—and in none can his warmest friends assert that he has taken high rank. Yet, the genius that has failed to earn distinction in literature, has sufficed to rule the House of Commons and govern England. . . . The French, who have been making experiments on one thousand miles of telegraph wire, are going to try to print from Paris to Kamiesch, and are contemplating the discharge of projectiles by telegraph. Sigismondi Zantedeschi, writing from Venice to the French Academy and the Royal Society, says he announced the possibility of the simultaneous passage of opposite currents in metallic circuits, in 1829, and that he can now demonstrate it between two stations with only one wire. . . . The publication of Mr. Macaulay's new volumes appears to have so much occupied the public mind in England, that we find scarcely any announcements of new books—and none of any importance except Mr. Singer's new edition of Shakspeare, in ten monthly volumes, to be printed at the famous Chiswick Press, and the concluding volumes of Bohn's edition of Addison's Works, which are to contain a large number of inedited letters. The London *Times* of Dec. 17th, contains a graphic account of the unprecedented excitement in Paternoster Row, on the day of publication of Mr. Macaulay's volumes. In another journal we notice a statement that the binding of the first edition of 25,000 copies would use up 5,000 reams of paper, nearly 6 tons of milled boards, and 7,000 yards of cloth. The duty on the paper and boards is estimated at more than £900, or about \$4,500. . . . It is said that the poet Rogers has left 5 volumes of Memoirs, ready for the press, in the hands of his executor and publisher, Mr. Moxon, of London. . . . The Smithsonian Institution has succeeded in obtaining for its library, a rare and valuable book, printed in low Dutch, and published in Regensburg, in 1772. It contains specimens of paper from almost every species of fibrous material, and even animal substances, and has accounts of the experiments made in their manufacture. Wasps' nests, saw dust, shavings, mosses, sea-weed, hop and grape vines, hemp, mulberries, aloes' leaves, net-

ties, seeds, straw, cabbage stems, asbestos, wool, grass, thistle-stems, seed-wood of thistles, turf or peat, silk plant, fir wood, Indian corn, pine-apples, potatoes, shingles, beans, poplar wood, beech wood, willow, sugar-cane, tulips, linden, &c., were used.

#### SCIENTIFIC OPERATIONS IN RUSSIA.

The Smithsonian Institution has received the following information respecting scientific operations in Russia:—

There are already in that country 6,000 miles of telegraph wire, all of which are continually used for official despatches. Only one short line has served for scientific objects, this is from Petersburg to Cronstadt, by which exact Pulkowa time is transmitted for the purpose of regulating the rates of the chronometers of the navy. The war has not exercised the least influence on the progress of any scientific pursuit for which the support of government is wanted. On the contrary, the energy elicited by the state of war in one principal direction, has given rise to a development of energy in many other respects. This is proved by the geographical undertakings commenced last year. First, a numerous party, under the direction of M. Schwarz, started for the exploration of Eastern Siberia; another party was sent to the Steppes of the Kirghis; a third, under Dollen, had to fix the exact geographical positions of a number of points in or near the Ural Mountains, to form a base for the construction of an exact topographical map of the vast district of mines in that part of Russia; a fourth expedition, with forty chronometers, has to join—first, Moscow with Saratow, and this latter town with Astrachan; and finally, the great trigonometrical operations in the Southern part of Russia, and in the Trans-Caucasian Provinces, are carried on without the least interruption. Both the astronomical and geodetical part of a great arc of parallel will be finished in a very short time. . . . The Grand Duchess Helen is thought likely to be elected president of the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. There is precedent for the election of a woman to this office. In the days of the Empress Catherine, the infamous Princess Dashkoff sat in the chair of learning, and ruled the sciences with her fan.

#### METEOROLOGY IN UPPER CANADA.

In a paper read before the Canadian Institute at Toronto, last week, by Mr. Hodgins, Deputy Superintendent of Schools for Upper Canada, it was stated that Dr. Ryerson had made arrangements with Messrs. Negretti & Zambra, philosophical instrument makers, for forty sets of apparatus, consisting each of one barometer, one thermometer, one Daniels' hygrometer, or other instrument for shewing the dew point, one rain gauge, and one wind vane. Each of the Grammar Schools of Upper Canada is to be provided with a set of this apparatus, and regular records are to be kept. If properly attended to, in course of time a great deal of valuable information connected with changes of temperature, the laws of storms, and variations of the seasons may be collected.—*Ottawa Citizen*, 9th Feb.

#### PHENOMENA OF THE LAKES.

An opinion is quite prevalent in this country that the water in the lakes rises gradually for seven years, and then falls for the same period. Maj. Lachlan has investigated this subject, and collected all the facts which could be ascertained in relation to it for the last 65 years; and he comes to the conclusion that there is no septennial or other great flood in any of the great lakes. He is inclined to believe that differences in barometrical pressure in different parts of the lakes, and lunar attractions at the times of the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, may have some influence in causing the daily oscillations, and other irregular transient tides.

### Departmental Notices.

*To Municipal and School Corporations in Upper Canada.*

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

The Chief Superintendent of Schools is prepared to apportion *one hundred per cent.* upon all sums which shall be raised from local sources by Municipal Councils and School Corporations, for the establishment or increase of Public Libraries in Upper Canada, under the regulations provided according to law.

In selecting from the General and Supplementary Catalogues, parties will be particular to give merely the catalogue number of the book required, and the department from which it is selected. To give the names of books without their number and