

Sir John Richardson is of opinion that the western shores of the archipelago of Parry's Islands should be searched in a high latitude—and he advocates doing this on the side of Behring's Straits. He observes:—"The climate of Arctic America improves in a sensible manner with an increase of Western longitude. On the Mackenzie, on the 135th meridian, the summer is warmer than in any district of the continent in the same parallel; and it is still finer, and the vegetation more luxuriant, on the banks of the Yucan, 150th meridian. The superiority of climate leads me to infer, that ships well fortified against drift ice will find the Arctic seas more practicable in its western portion than it has been found to the eastward."

Sir John Richardson was a strong advocate for the Behring's Straits Expedition; and it was at his recommendation that one of the Moravian Brethren from the establishment of Heranhut, in Saxony, was appointed to accompany Capt. Collinson's expedition, for the purpose of acting as interpreter with the Esquimaux. M. Meitsching is the name of the person selected. He is in the prime of life, inured by a service of five years in Labrador to the hardships and privations of the Arctic regions, and sufficiently acquainted with the habits and manners of the Esquimaux to be able to hold friendly and unreserved intercourse with them.

The use of moderate-sized steam vessels is strongly urged for the Barrow's Straits Expedition:—and, as our readers are aware, two ships are now being fitted with screws for the purpose. It is argued, that such vessels do not require to be fortified in an extraordinary degree. "From the log like quiescence with which sailing vessels must await the crash of two approaching floes, they must be as strong as wood and iron can make them; but the steamer slips out of reach of the collision, waits till the shock is past, and then profiting by their mutual recoil, starts at once through the transient opening." The hydrographer has great confidence in the advantages of using steamboats. He says in reference to Sir John Ross's plan of relief:—"Being thoroughly convinced that nothing but a steam vessel will ever be able to advance through the Arctic sea to any considerable distance, or to retreat with certainty, the proposal of Sir John Ross to employ one of the Port Patrick steamers appears to be good, if she can be sufficiently fortified, and if the paddle-wheels can be made to elevate with instant facility."

Col. Sabine, who has had considerable experience in Arctic exploration, submits, as the most probably hypothesis respecting Franklin's position, that his advance from Melville Island in the season of 1847 may have been limited to a distance of 50, or perhaps 100 miles at farthest,—and that in 1848 he may have endeavoured to retrace his steps, but only with partial success. It is in his opinion quite conceivable that the crews may have been at length obliged to quit their ships, and attempt a retreat—not towards the continent—but to Melville Island, where certainly food and fuel (seals) may be obtained, and where they would naturally suppose that vessels despatched from England for their relief would in the first instance seek them. Col. Sabine adds:—"Where the Esquimaux have lived, there Englishmen may live; and no valid argument against the attempt to relieve can I think be founded on the improbability of finding Englishmen alive in 1850 who may have made a retreat to Melville Island in the spring of 1849." Nor would it in any material degree, if we suppose their retreat to have been made in 1848 or 1849 to Bank's Land,—which may afford facilities of food and fuel equal or superior to Melville Island.

We observe among the papers a letter from a Mr. J. M. Hamilton, brother-in-law to Dr. Rae who lives in Stromness, in which he affirms positively that Sir John Franklin expressed his determination to endeavour to find a passage to the westward through Jones Sound.—Mr. Hamilton says:—"During Sir John Franklin's stay at Stromness I had frequent opportunities of conversing with him on the subject of his voyage; and the last house he visited in Great Britain was mine, on the day previous to his sailing from Stromness,—on which occasion, as well as on several others, he expressed his determination of endeavouring to find a passage through Jones Sound, instead of Lancaster sound." The letter containing this information was written on the 15th of November last; and presuming the writer's impressions to be quite correct, we are at a loss to conjecture why he should have kept them back for so long a period. We cannot, however, attach implicit credence to this statement. Sir John Franklin is not an officer at all disposed to treat his orders with levity; which he would be justly chargeable with doing if he acted on any notions that he might personally entertain rather than on his official instructions, which directed him to proceed westward through Lancaster Sound and Behring's straits.

**WHAT GEOLOGY TEACHES.**—But there are marked features of accordance between the volumes of nature and of revelation, which I am unwilling to overlook. Both teach us the being of a God; both ascribe to him the same perfections of knowledge, wisdom, power, and goodness; both tell us that he created the world, and prepared it for becoming the abode of man. Both date the creation of man about 6000 years back; and if a change so great as his introduction to the earth then took place, it is most reasonable to believe that great accompanying changes, such as are described in the first chapter of Genesis, were made on his account.

The recent creation of man is a fact of vast importance and interest, in whatever aspect or relation it may be viewed. I shall have occasion to speak of it again. At present I only adduce it as proving that, by the testimony of geology itself, the scriptures give a just view of the age of the earth, in so far as it is the world of man, and in no other aspect did it concern us as moral agents to be made acquainted with its chronicles.

Fossil remains bear testimony not only to the appearance of new tribes, but to the disappearance of former tribes. And as geology shows us that other races have become extinct, it confirms the intimation of scripture, that the human race also may pass from the earth, and

verify the announcement in its relation to man, that time shall be no more.

Even in regard to scriptural chronology, where the grand difficulty is supposed to lie, I may remark that while the bible declares of the human race that we are of yesterday, yet, in characterising the age of the earth, revelation never speaks of it as if it were modern. God "hath chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world." Would the apostle have so expressed himself, unless he had considered it to be exceedingly ancient? "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth." Would not a modern geologist, who believes in the Creator, adopt as his own this declaration of the psalmist? "Or ever the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the sea, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God." It is plain that in this passage the globe is spoken of as only less ancient than eternity itself.

If by the testimony both of geology and of scripture the world be so very ancient, it is a pity that any misconception or prejudice should blind us to the interest of the fact. It has been said that geology is only less extensive than astronomy in the range of its discoveries. The compliment is just, but inadequate. While astronomy tells us of the extent of creation, geology informs us also of its antiquity; and the impression induced by surveying unnumbered worlds is scarcely more solemn or grand than that which we derive from reviewing unnumbered ages. We are awed in beholding nebular matter resolved into shining points, and in recognising each of these myriads of myriads of bright particles as a gorgeous sun and probable centre of attraction and illumination to encompassing planets. But if we lift a pebble from the sea-shore, and begin to decipher its characters, written by the finger of God himself, we have no relief from this awfulness.—We pass from the abysses of space only to be lost in the abysses of duration, and we are transported by the retrospect into depths of the past, where all reckoning fails us, and the lapse of centuries is reduced to undiscernible insignificance. Where were we when these grains of sand were assorted? Compared with the data of their assortment, the fall of Babylon has just happened, and even the creation of man is an event of yesterday.—(Rev. D. King.)

**SINGULAR DISPLAY OF COURAGE.**—An exhibition of a novel and attractive character has just been opened at Hyde Park Corner, London. Mr. Roualeyn Gordon Cummins, a young gentleman of property in the Highlands, and as keen a sportsman as the Highlands has ever produced, has filled the old Chinese Gallery with the trophies of his skill—the produce of five years' shooting in the far interior of Southern Africa, many hundred miles beyond the farthest point hitherto reached by any white man.—When we state that Mr. Cummins has killed eighteen lions; twenty-eight specimens of the black rhinoceros, seventy-six hippotami and one hundred and five elephants, our readers will know what his daring is, and what his success has been. His lion's skins are the finest we remember to have seen—worthy coverings for the king of beasts. He has at least one thousand pounds worth of ivory in the room, and a pair of elephant's tusks measuring nine feet—the largest known. The whole gallery looks like a combination of a baronial hall and a turrer shop. Antlers of the largest size and the most elegant proportions arrest the eye at every turn. The fore feet of an elephant (exhibited on the dias) afford a noble idea of the enormous size of the herds of elephants he had the luck to fall in with. Mr. Cummins would realise Charles the Fifth's idea of a hero. He knows not fear. His coolest moments seem to have been in confronting half a dozen lions, or an enraged lioness with her young—lying at his ease at night near to fountains where lions are shaking their thirst and making the desert roar with the deep thunder of their voices.

**NEW SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY.**—The scientific world has been in a state of commotion during the whole week in consequence of the publication of the discovery of the long sought for secret of the fusion and crystallisation of carbon. The Salon has been crowded for the last few days to behold the result of this discovery in the shape of a tolerable sized diamond of great lustre which Mr. Despretz the happy discoverer, submits to the examination of every chemist or savant who chooses to visit him. He declares that so long ago as last autumn he had succeeded in producing the diamond, but in such minute particles as to be visible through the microscope, and fearful of raising irony and suspicion, he had kept the secret until by dint of repeated experiments and great labour, he had completed the one he now offers to public view. The diamond produced is of the quality known in the east as the black diamond, one single specimen of which was sold by Prince Rostoff to the late Duke of York for the sum of twelve thousand pounds.

**ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.**

The Mail Steamer *America*, Captain Shannon, arrived at Halifax from Liverpool, at 9 o'clock on Monday Evening, making the passage in a little over nine days.

The News by the *America* is somewhat interesting.

In the British Parliament no very important matters had transpired during the week.

Lord Palmerston had been several times questioned upon the sudden withdrawal of the French and Russian Ministers, caused by the difficulties connected with the settlement of the Greek affairs, but had answered much in the same way as reported by the former Mail; he pretended to attach no great importance to the circumstance, and at the same time avoided giving any explanation as to what the actual state of the difficulties at the present time really are.

Connected with this subject it is said the withdrawal of the French Minister under the pretence that the honour of France has been compromised in the settlement of the Greek affair, is only a ruse on the part of the French Mi-

nistry in order to direct the attention of the people, and to quiet the very strong opposition manifested against the new Electoral Law.

Whether this be the object or not, the Law has been carried by a considerable majority, but not without a very decided manifestation of popular dissatisfaction, and a motion was made in the Legislative Assembly to the effect that, in such a case the Government should appeal to the nation, it being so manifest that the measure was in opposition to the majority of the people. This motion caused great excitement.

The Russian Government has addressed a very insulting note to Lord Palmerston, intimating that in future no English residents will be permitted in Russia or Austria unless for the time of their residence they renounce the protection of their own Government. This is said to be the most impertinent and seemingly uncalled for, public document which has appeared for a long time. What is the object of Russia in sending such a note, or what course the British Government will take concerning it, is yet unknown; but it is generally thought, Russia is seeking a quarrel with England and would like to make the Greek affair the pretext, and at the same time afford employment for the excitable and irritable Frenchmen.

Admiral Parker has sailed for Malta, but has sent a Vessel of War to Naples, for the purpose it is said of demanding from that Government reparation for English losses sustained in 1848.

The Greeks not being aware of what had taken place between France and England, had renewed in good faith their intercourse with Great Britain and had honourably received the Minister.

From Italy—It is stated that affairs are becoming very critical at Rome, that the Pope seems very desirous to escape again, and throw himself into the arms of Austria; he is closely watched, but it is generally thought if he does not yield to liberal institutions, his reign will not be of long duration.

An attempt has been made to assassinate the King of Prussia; he was fired at and wounded by a Sergeant of Artillery; the circumstance caused great sensation throughout Europe.

In France the prosecution of the opposition Press is still continued with unabated vigour.

ENGLAND.—The accounts from the manufacturing districts are considered satisfactory. The weather throughout the week has been most delightful both in Great Britain and Ireland, and the prospects for the coming crops very promising.

**MONTHLY TIMBER REPORT.**—There have been only two arrivals from North America; there has been a steady demand from consumers, and a large business effected, without any material advance in prices, but the market has an upward tendency. *Pine*—a cargo 18 1-8 ins. sold at 17d., one of 18 3-4 ins. at 17 3-4d., and parcels in the yard divided at 18 3-4d. to 19 1-2d. per foot. *Birch*—cargo, sales at 14 1-2d. and 15 1-2d. per foot, retail sales much higher. *Plank and Boards*—cargo, sales £7 per standard—parcels at auction £7 10s. to £7 15s. *Ash* *Hhd. Staves* £7 10s. per M. *Hemlock Lathwood* £5 5s. per fathom.

**IRELAND**

The *Derry Standard* supplies the following late movement of the Ribbon party in Ulster:—"We have just been informed that some miscreants, one night recently, seized some unfortunate man in Glenties, within about four miles of Stranorlar, and actually, with savage barbarity, cut the ears off his head. We have not as yet heard the name of this unfortunate victim to Ribbon vengeance, but hope that the perpetrators of this atrocity will be discovered and brought to condign punishment for the foul offence."

**AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.**—The Jesuits had been admitted into Vienna again, despite the opposition of the Ecclesiastical authorities. Dalmatia has been definitely placed under Jellachich, who is now Chief of Croatia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia. Kossuth's children have been allowed to go to him. Bem's name has been nailed to the gallows by the public executioner, and his property declared forfeited to the State.

A despatch announces a decree of amnesty in favour of Hungary, and the suppression of the Customs barriers between Austria and Hungary. In the garrison of the newly recruited Honveds recently, a young Hungarian nobleman, having disobeyed orders, was sentenced to be flogged. All the corporals of the regiment having refused to execute the sentence, a corporal of the Haynau regiment of Infantry was summoned from another barracks, and commenced putting the sentence into execution, but he had inflicted only a few blows when the young nobleman sank down in a fit of apoplexy. In one moment all the Honveds rushed upon the captain and put him to death. On the same evening, the entire troop was disbanded.

**INDIA AND CHINA.**—The overland mail reached London on Monday. The most interesting news is of the rising of the Affreedees, in consequence of the excessive salt tax imposed by the East India Company. Doctor Healy, of the Bengal army, lately posted to the Punjab Cavalry, now stationed at Kohat, was proceeding to join that regiment, by the Eastern Pass, which was supposed to be still open, when, on the 20th March, within a few miles of Kohat, he was sent upon by the Hill men; his groom and grass-cutter were killed on the spot, and himself so severely wounded that he died immediately after reaching Kohat.

From China, the chief news is that one Emperor is dead, and that another Emperor has succeeded him. The foreign Consuls at Shanghai received from the authorities there, on the 20th of March, an official notice, that his Majesty the Emperor had departed upon the great journey, and had mounted upward on a dragon, to be a guest on high.

Her Majesty's ship crew sloop *Reynard*, has succeeded in capturing and destroying about thirty more pirates.