

The Nation

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO

POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE & ART

VOLUME LVII

FROM JULY 1, 1893, TO DECEMBER 31, 1893

NEW YORK

THE EVENING POST PUBLISHING COMPANY

1893

P 00529

issued in the present series. The single-volume Dryburgh Edition, on the other hand (Macmillan), adds 'Ivanhoe' to its eight predecessors, with woodcuts after designs by Gordon Browne.

The Herbarium of Harvard University has issued a pocket 'List of the Plants contained in the Sixth Edition of Gray's Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States,' embracing the territory east of the one hundredth meridian and north of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas. Mr. John A. Allen is the compiler, his aim having been to facilitate herbarium exchanges and furnish a useful adjunct to the 'Manual.' An appendix of eight pages contains some corrections of the parent work.

Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago, have supplemented their general Guide to the World's Fair with 'A Week at the Fair,' in which, after some general information about Chicago and access to the Fair, the sight-seeing is apportioned among six secular days, with a chapter for each. The design is a good one. The guide is illustrated, and well equipped with diagrams. Laird & Lee, Chicago, send us a new edition of 'Hill's Guide to Chicago and the World's Fair,' which we have already characterized as particularly useful for the city. Its finding-list of articles on exhibition at the Fair will also be appreciated.

'Salem at the World's Columbian Exposition' is a catalogue issued by the Essex Institute, and no one can deny that the old Massachusetts city acquits itself handsomely in the great show. Two plates of old furniture adorn the pamphlet.

The July number of the *Library Journal* contains abstracts of the papers read at the World's Fair Congress and Chicago Conference of Librarians on July 13-23. In a paper read by Mr. G. Iles of this city, it is stated that next year there will be begun here a weekly index to periodicals, with this peculiarity, that each succeeding issue will repeat the titles already published. The Mergenthaler machine, or one operated on the same principle of casting type in solid lines of metal, makes this repetition with fresh alphabetization easy.

Appropos of this innovation, the Boston Public Library will hereafter publish weekly an alphabetical list of newly acquired books "printed from the type set up for new cards for the card-catalogue, so that the titles in the weekly list will be similar in all respects to those in the card-catalogue." This scheme involves the abandonment of the practice of printing in the Library's Quarterly Bulletin a classified list of new books. The space thus gained will be used in printing subject lists, special bibliographies, and reprints or facsimiles of original documents, prints, and manuscripts in the Library. The April number, for example, opens with a third and enlarged edition of its Chronological Index to Historical Fiction (including prose fiction, plays, and poems); the first instalment being of England to the reign of Victoria. Then follows a conspectus of works in the Library relating to the telegraph and telephone; a list of Transactions and like serial publications currently taken in the Library—a vast number; a list of books pertaining to Hawaii; and finally a facsimile of the earliest known chart of Boston harbor, prepared by the order of Gov. Andros. The alphabetical list of accessions may be subscribed for at \$1.50 a year; the Bulletin at \$1.00.

'Nicaragua,' by Courtenay de Kalb, is the title of a reprint from the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society, which proves to be a short but painstaking study of the Mosquito Coast. The political status of this former

home of buccaneers was determined by the Managua treaty, as explained by an award of the Austrian Emperor in 1881. To almost all intents and purposes, the region governs itself, but it is subject to Nicaragua, while Great Britain, which formerly exercised a protectorate over it, retains a dangerous right to interfere in case of an infraction of the treaty. The arrangement works badly and produces trouble and confusion. The insignificance of the territory, with its 7,500 Indian, negro, and white inhabitants, has enabled it to get along tolerably so far; but the Nicaragua Canal would greatly increase its importance, and in time compel some sort of a new settlement, which may not be reached without serious difficulty. The country seems to be very healthy for the tropics, and its capital and chief seaport, Bluefields, has a future as the starting point of a railroad to rich lands in the interior. Mr. DeKalb's study, while mainly historical, derives interest from his observations of country and peoples on the spot. It may be had, for fifty cents, of the author, at Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y.

In the *National Geographic Magazine* for July 10 Gen. Greeley enumerates the hundred most populous cities of the world in accordance with the latest censuses, which are dated in each case. Canton alone is estimated. More than half (52) are populated by English-speaking races or controlled by them; and seventeen of these are in the United States, which has twenty-eight cities whose population exceeds 100,000.

The *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for July opens with an account of the proceedings of the Anglo-Portuguese Delimitation Commission in East Africa. This is followed by an interesting sketch of the Campas, probably the best representatives of the uncivilized Indians of Peru, by D. R. Urquhart, who had many opportunities of observing them during a surveying expedition to the upper tributaries of the Amazon. They have no elected chief, and "probably have not had" since Pizarro slew Atahualpa. Their veneration for the last of the Incas is shown also in the hereditary and inextinguishable hatred for the descendants of his murderers, as well as by the fact that their women still wear a black strip round the dress as mourning for their great chief. Crime is rare among them, and they are truthful, honest, and brave. Their religion is a strange mixture of Christianity, idolatry, and sun-worship. Added to this is a belief in witchcraft, which, unless eradicated, must lead to the extinction of the race. Nearly every death is ascribed to some witch, generally a woman, who is immediately strangled or beheaded. Apparently their only weapon is the bow and arrow; the latter being of cane, excepting the barbed point, which is formed of "a black, exceedingly hard wood, found as a sort of growing inward on a species of palm." Around the arrow "feathers are arranged in a spiral so as to give the missile a rotary motion in flight." A brief historical sketch of the progress in the teaching of geography in Germany may also be mentioned.

Part 2 of vol. xix. of the *Annals of the Harvard College Observatory* contains two memoirs, one, by Prof. Arthur Searle, upon the Zodiacal Light, and the other, by the Director, Prof. E. C. Pickering, upon the Atmospheric Absorption of Photographing Rays. Photographic plates are affected most by a bluer part of the spectrum than that which most affects the human eye, and this bluer part is much more absorbed by the atmosphere, so that the correction to the brightness of a star

on account of its zenith distance is much greater when the photographic method of observation is used than under direct vision. The form and value of the correction are in this paper worked out elegantly and satisfactorily, and the photographic magnitudes of nearly 900 stars between declinations 55° and 65° are incidentally determined. Photographically, the blue stars are shown as brighter and the red stars as fainter than to the eye, the discrepancy often amounting to a whole magnitude. The effect of the atmosphere is to lower the photographic brightness of an average star in the zenith by 0.44 of a magnitude. This effect is diminished with a high barometer, and is slightly increased in warm and moist weather. It is decidedly greater in the autumn than in the spring of the year.

We have received the first volume of the *Physical Review*, "a journal of experimental and theoretical physics," conducted by Edward L. Nichols and Ernest Merritt, and published for Cornell University by Macmillan. "The Transmission Spectra of Certain Substances in the Infra-red," by Ernest F. Nichols; "The Infra-red Spectra of the Alkalies," by Benj. W. Snow; "Relation between the Lengths of the Yard and the Metre," by William A. Rogers; "The Critical Current Density for Copper Deposition," by Samuel Sheldon and G. M. Downing; and "A Geometrical Proof of the Three-Armmeter Method of Measuring Power," by Frederic Bedell and Albert C. Crehore, are the leading papers. There are notes and reviews of new books. The *Review* is beautifully printed.

The Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Holl, Mass., is holding its sixth summer session, with laboratory facilities for both investigation and instruction in animal morphology, physiology, and botany, under the general direction of Prof. C. O. Whitman of the University of Chicago, seconded by a corps of twelve assistants. There are at present in attendance 113 students and investigators, representing Chicago, Columbia, Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Cornell, Pennsylvania, Williams, Brown, Bowdoin, Cincinnati, the Northwestern University, Bryn Mawr, Vassar, Smith, Wellesley, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and many of the smaller colleges.

Under the title 'Special Assessments,' Mr. Victor Rosewater contributes to the Columbia College Economic Series an exhaustive review of the practice and principles of our States in raising funds for improvements that are to such an extent local as not to be properly chargeable on the whole community. The "betterment" principle, Mr. Rosewater thinks, was introduced into the law of New York from the act of Parliament passed to regulate the rebuilding of London after the great fire of 1666, and it is from the law of New York chiefly that the system has been developed in this country.

Dentu's publishing-house has issued 'Mes Campagnes,' by Léon Chotteau, a gentleman who will be remembered by New York and Boston merchants and business men as an earnest advocate of reciprocity between the United States and France. The book is simply an account of the speeches delivered by M. Chotteau in both America and France on this one subject. He has not yet succeeded in bringing about reciprocity, but he is not discouraged, and this account of his campaigns is sure to interest those who are opposed to his views as well as those who are in sympathy with him.

One of the best works on French versification which have appeared of late is Clair Tisseur's

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY