

an arrangement in the interior, and falls over into three successive basins, in the form of the pyramid. The base of this fountain, resting on a slab of black marble, is a quadrangular reservoir, four feet in diameter, and terminating in fluted claws, to contain the water,—presenting externally the appearance of a massive and enriched pedestal to the upper structure. In the centre of this pedestal rises a sort of altar or column, also quadrangular; and a shaft, springing out of this smaller table, sustains the first and broadest of the basins. From this lower basin the water is returned into the interior, and raised again for the supply of the fountain. Resting on the basement, at each of its four corners, is a costly vase, of elegant design, containing a group of flowers in frosted silver; and falling from the scrolls of the upper table or altar, towards the four vases, are cornucopie, also filled with flowers. A wreath of oak-leaves and acorns, twisted and banded together into a sort of cable, in the Louis Quatorze style (which is that of the whole design), undulates within and around the edges of the lower basin; and the whole work, which is in frosted silver with burnished edges, is enriched by fruit, flowers, scrolls and wreaths,—human figures being avoided, in deference to the religious laws of Egypt,—with a profusion which makes the impossibility of conveying an idea of the work, or its magnificent appearance, by any means less descriptive than drawings. A convex shield, on each of the four sides of the base, bears the inscription that follows,—on each side in a different language:—"To His Highness, Mehemet Ali, Pacha of Egypt, Presented by The East India Company. London. A.D. 1845." The other languages are Turkish, Arabic, and Latin. The amount of silver employed in this superb specimen of English Art is 10,400 ounces; and the cost of the work 7,000*l*.

The East India Company have appointed Mr. Edward Solly Lecturer on Chemistry at the Military Academy at Addiscombe, vacant by the death of Professor Daniell.

We may mention, as among the measures taking to enlighten the native population of our Indian empire, the arrival in this country of four Brahmins of high caste, sent hither for the purpose of studying medicine at the University of London. They are intended to take degrees, with the view of placing them on the same footing with the faculty of India, and at the same time enabling them, as natives, to spread in the interior the knowledge they have acquired under our institutions. Two of these students are sent over by Sir Henry Hardinge, at the expense of the East Indian Government, one by public subscription amongst the citizens of Calcutta, and the fourth by Ungatque Singh, an Eastern philanthropist, who has devoted his wealth and energies to the service of the Indian population, and to the cultivation of native talent under the auspices of European civilization.

On Saturday last, the annual festival of the Royal Academy, in commemoration of its foundation, took place in the great room of the Exhibition, and was attended by a numerous and distinguished company. The chair was filled, *ex officio*, by Mr. George Jones, the keeper of the Academy, in the room of the president, Sir Martin Archer Shee,—the state of whose health did not permit his presence on the occasion.

Mr. J. L. Knapp, author of 'The Journal of a Naturalist,' and other works on Natural History, died at his residence, Alveston, Thornbury, on the 2nd, after amusing himself with his usual occupations and retiring to rest at his customary hour.—The Continental papers also announce the death, at Breslau, of Dr. John Wendt, professor at the Royal University of that city. Dr. Wendt is the author of more than forty works on practical medicine, some of which have a European reputation, and have been translated into many of the European languages.

The Geographical Society of France held its Annual General Meeting last week, Vice-Admiral Baron de Mackau, the Minister of Marine, presiding;—when the prize for the most important geographical discovery during the year was divided into two medals, the first of which was awarded to M. Gay, author of a 'Voyage au Chili,' containing a novel and complete description of that country; and the other to MM. Ferret and Galinier, Staff-officers, for their perilous and scientific exploration of certain provinces of Abyssinia.—A paper was read, by M. Gay, on the

'Botanical Geography of Chili;' which led to an interesting communication, on the same subject, by the Baron de Humboldt:—and the latter was elected President for the ensuing year.

The Paris papers publish a long list of nominations and promotions in the ranks of the Legion of Honour, awarded to the different functionaries of the University, and others coming under the recommendation of the Minister of Public Instruction. Amongst the names more popularly known in this country are, the literary ones of MM. de Balzac, Frédéric Soulié, and Alfred de Musset,—nominated members of that order;—in Art M. Ingres has been made a Commander; and M. Ambrose Thomas, the composer, has received the rank of Chevalier; M. Lacroix, Commander, M. Amaury Duval, the painter, Liszt, the pianist, Kastner, composer, and Boulay-Paty, the writer, Chevaliers. We may add, that the king has granted the decoration of the Legion to Professor Finn Magnusen, keeper of the archives of the kingdom of Denmark, in acknowledgment of his liberal communication of valuable documents to the French Scientific Commission—particularly an historical work, of great interest, on the ancient prosperity of Iceland and the causes of its decline.

The Annual Assembly of the Booksellers of Germany has been held at Leipsic, 718 members attending. A resolution was carried for an address to the Committee of Booksellers meeting at Stuttgart, calling on them to take measures with the Chambers of Wurtemberg for having the legislation of that country, on the subject of piracy, brought into harmony with that of Prussia and Saxony.

According to the *Augsburg Gazette*, a great number of strangers had announced their intention of taking part in the congress of literary men, which was about to assemble at Leipsic,—a meeting which has been for some time the leading topic of interest, in all the literary circles of Germany. The sittings were to be for three days; and the first, at which the respective rights of Authors and Booksellers were to be determined, was to take place on the 27th ult. The booksellers had been specially invited to attend;—and the deliberations were to be open to the public. From the same source, we learn that the Leipsic catalogue, for the last six months, contains the names of 5,750 works,—among which the most conspicuous place is occupied by theological, and particularly what is called *Rongierian* literature,—the title given to the body of writings for and against the schism of the priest Ronge. Works of literature properly so called, are in very small proportion; but pamphlets increase, throughout Germany, in alarming numbers.

It is stated, in a letter from Treves, that a curious and interesting discovery has been made, in the course of the excavations among the foundations of the ancient Roman basilica of that place—about to be restored, in its primitive form, as a Lutheran Church. Beneath the mosaic pavement of its principal hall, which rests on brick buttresses, has been found a complete system of metal pipes, of large calibre, which have obviously, it is said, been used for warming that apartment by means of steam or heated air—thus proving that a method of heating believed to have been of recent invention was known and practised in the days of the Romans.—Not far from the Webersbach gate of the same city, and about four feet beneath the surface of the soil, has been likewise discovered, an extensive and magnificent pavement in mosaic, also resting on brick pillars; and which appears to have belonged to some stately edifice. It is divided into large compartments—of which eleven are uninjured, and represent mythological subjects—such as combats of gladiators, and military and bacchanal trophies.

That morbid love of excitement and sickly sentimentality which, in France, combine to convert the courts of criminal justice into theatres and exhibition-rooms, and fill our own journals with the personal descriptions and nauseous sayings of vagabonds and murderers, has, in the former country, taken a form of expression so revolting, in the very refinement of its curiosity, that we think it useful to quote it, as a warning to such voluptuaries in human anguish, among ourselves, as attend the performances in the chapel of Newgate, under the patronage of the sheriffs,—of the extravagancies towards which the

indulgence of their corrupt tastes and unwholesome emotions tends. At the execution, at Nevers, for the murder of his mistress, of a ruffian, who had contrived to attract considerable interest to himself,—by the affectation of a religious insanity, which, notwithstanding the efforts of the priests and the pious in his favour, failed to save him from the scaffold,—the Daguerreotype was employed for a purpose which it is almost awful to write. The quality of the guillotine, by which it is mercifully recommended, is its rapidity of action; but the Daguerreotype is more rapid still,—and never did its peculiarity of writing with the shadow suggest a fancy so terrible (in connexion with the frivolity of the motive) as that of the shade which it has been here attempted to record. The instrument in which Nature is made to write her own memorials was applied to catch, for publication, the expression of the murderer's face, at that one awful moment when, tied to the fatal block, he stood in the immediate presence of death,—and the last human emotion that impressed it was the shadow of the grave into which he was that instant passing. This is the very madness of such tastes as those to which we have been alluding; and when they reach a point like this, whether their pretence be pseudo-philosophy, vicious sentimentality, or the mere idle craving for excitement, it is time that the guardians of public morality should interfere. We read, with pleasure, the conversation, last week, in the House of Lords, which condemned, with no reserve and no dissentient, our own exhibitions of the kind; but we think the publication of a case like this should speak with more authority than any censors can against the indulgence of an appetite which feeds, at length, on stimulants so rank and unwholesome.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.
The EXHIBITION of the ROYAL ACADEMY is NOW OPEN.
—Admission, (from Eight o'clock till Seven) 1*s*.; Catalogue, 1*s*.
HENRY HOWARD, R.A., Secretary.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.
(Closing of the present Exhibition.)
The Gallery for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN DAILY, from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Evening, and will be CLOSED on SATURDAY 17th Inst.—Admission, 1*s*.; Catalogue, 1*s*.
WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
The ELEVENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION is NOW OPEN at their GALLERY, FIFTY-THREE, PALL MALL.—Admission, 1*s*.; Catalogue, 6*d*.
JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

PANORAMA OF NANKING.
JUST OPENED, at the PANORAMA ROYAL, LEICESTER SQUARE, a View of Nanking, the ancient capital of the Celestial Empire, with its unrivalled Porcelain Tower; comprising, also, the Yang-Tse-Keang Rivers, the heights and scenery adjacent, with portraits of Sir H. Pottinger, Lord Saltoun, Sir H. Gough, Sir W. Parker, and other officers in friendly communication with Eleppa, Ke-ting, Nien Kien, the three Chinese Commissioners, and various native groups around them. The View of Naples by Moonlight is now open, and Baden-Baden still continues on view.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.—REDUCED PRICE of ADMITTANCE.—Just Opened, with a new and highly interesting exhibition, representing the CASTLE and TOWN of HEIDELBERG (formerly the residence of the Electors Palatine of the Rhine) under the various aspects of Winter and Summer, Mid-day and Evening; and the exterior view of the CATHEDRAL of NOTRE DAME at Paris, as seen at Sunset and Moonlight, and which has been so universally admired. Both pictures are painted by Le Chevalier Re-noux. Open from 10 till 6. Admittance to view both Pictures—Saloon, 1*s*.; Stalls, 2*s*. as heretofore.

WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.
ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—THE ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAY, exhibited by a WORKING MODEL having a power to carry visitors. A CURIOUS MECHANICAL HAND on a person who has lost his natural hand. DR. RYAN'S LECTURES on the CHEMISTRY of DOMESTIC LIFE daily. Prof. BACHHOFFNER'S VARIOUS LECTURES with brilliant experiments. LECTURES on CHARACTER, with MUSICAL ILLUSTRATIONS by Mr. J. RUSSELL, accompanied by Dr. Wallis on the Pianoforte, every evening except Saturday, at Eight o'clock. New and beautiful objects in the CHROMATROPE, PHYSIOSCOPE, PROTEOSCOPE, &c. NEW DISSOLVING VIEWS. SUBMARINE EXPERIMENTS by the DIVER, and DIVING BELL. Working Models described daily.—Admission, 1*s*.; Schools, Half-Price.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—April 28.—R. I. Murchison, Esq., President, in the chair.—Six ordinary, and one foreign corresponding Member were elected. The paper read was a notice on Peel's River, an affluent of Mackenzie's River, in North America, by Mr. A. Isbister, of the Hudson's Bay Company's service. This gentleman was commissioned to establish a trade with the Indians on Peel's River, so named by Sir John Franklin, and which had been examined by Mr. Bell, also of the Hudson's Bay Company's Service, in 1839. On the 25th of May, 1840, Mr. Isbister left Fort Simpson, with the intention of joining Mr. Bell at Fort Good Hope, on the