

19 DECEMBER, 1868.

James Parton, author of the Lives of Aaron Burr and Andrew Jackson (Mason Brothers, New York); a collection of Old English Plays from the period between Marlowe and Dryden, and a collection of Essays from Elizabethan writers, both to be edited, with notes, by Professor Lowell (Little, Brown, & Co., Boston); and the first volume of an edition of Shakespeare (containing his Life and Poems) by Richard Grant White.

Mr. TROLOPE's "Framley Parsonage" has been translated into German by A. Kretschmar, and published at Würzen as vols. 1195 to 1200 of the "Europäische Bibliothek der besten Romane."

Nos. 69 and 70 of Dr. Diezmann's "Modern English Comedie Theatre," published at Leipzig, contain Tom Taylor's "Nine Points of the Law," and "A Slight Mistake; or, a Prize in a German Lottery."

Two volumes of Napoleon III's "Life of Cesar," are ready, but they are, according to the *Mémoires Diplomatiques*, not to appear as yet, since his Majesty is going to revise them, for the sixth or seventh time, from documents furnished by a learned captain of the Génie corps.

THE Emperor of the French has signed 5000 francs for Billault's statue with his own hand. The imperial autograph has forthwith been incorporated in the archives of Nantes.

SOUFFLÉ's widow has placed M. Meyerbeer in an awkward alternative. Either he is to produce the "Africaine," for which M. Scribe wrote the text, or he is to give her the sum of 60,000 francs as a compensation. This, the Parisians think, will probably have the desired effect of making him come out after twenty years of hesitation.

THE following new German publications deserve notice:—H. Böhm, "Ueber Francis Bacon von Verulam und die Verbindung der Philosophie mit der Naturwissenschaft," Lingg, "Die Walkyren," a dramatic poem; Foglar, "Minnehof, Roman in Liedern;" A. Schwarzkopf, "Shakespeare in seiner Bedeutung für die Kirche unserer Tage," "Kaiser Napoleon III. und seine Herrschaft, Pariser Betrachtungen von einem Nicht-Diplomaten;" Böhlinger, a new volume of "Die Kirche Christi und ihre Zeugen, oder die Kirchengeschichte in Biographien," Freund, "Er hazedek," by Moses de Courcy, with commentaries, &c.; "Morgengebete der alten Kirche des Orients, verdeutscht von Prof. Dietrich;" H. Zepf, "Ueber Missheirathen in den deutschen regierenden Fürstenhäusern bürgerhaft und in dem oldenburgischen Gesamtthause ins besondere," &c., &c.

AMONG the numerous Schleswig-Holstein publications of the past week we record:—"Die neueste Phase der Schleswig-Holsteinschen Frage, ein Flugblatt vom Baume der Erkenntniss," &c.; "Der Londoner Tractat vom 8. Mai, 1852," by Lorenzen; K. Eschmark, "Die Legitimitätin Schleswig-Holstein;" Waitz, "Das Recht des Herzogs Friedrich von Schleswig-Holstein," &c.

THE following are the contents of the smaller historical writings of Heinrich von Sybel which appeared a few weeks since:—"Political and Social State of the First Christians," "The Germans at their appearance in History," "Catherine II. of Russia," "Count Joseph de Maistre," "On the Biting of Europe against Napoleon I.," "On the state of Recent German Historiography," "Christlich-Germanische Staat-Doctrin," "On the Second Crusade," "Edmund Burke and Ireland," "On the Development of the Monarchy in Germany."

PROFESSOR SHIRLITZ, author of a "Greek Lexicon to the New Testament" (Griechisches Wörterbuch zum N.T.), and "Elements of New-Testament Greek" (Grundzüge der Neutestamentlichen Gräcität) has just published, for the use of colleges and schools, an "Introduction to the Knowledge of New-Testament Greek" (Anleitung zur Kenntniss der Neutestamentlichen Grundsprache).

THE first volume of Professor Theodor Müller's long-expected edition of "La Chanson de Roland," following the Oxford MS., and giving various readings from the Venice, Paris, Versailles, and Lyons MSS., which were used in their editions by M.M. Michel and Génin, has just appeared at Göttingen. It contains the entire text, accompanied by critical notes. The second volume will consist of explanatory notes and a glossary.

TWO most interesting relics of Jacob Grimm have just been published for the first time in a brochure of sixty-eight pages: "Rede auf Wilhelm Grimm," and "Rede über das Alter," in the latter of which the picture of Old Age is drawn from his own life-experiences.

THE bronze monument of Melancthon which is to be erected at Wittenberg, where he died 303 years ago, is now finished. It has been cast at Berlin.

HOFFMANN VON FALLEBERG, too, has spoken on the Schleswig-Holstein question. The following is the beginning of a small poem of his which is now making the round of all Germany:—

"Greift an das Werk mit Fäustern,
Das Rechten hilft nicht mehr.
Ist Besten und Getreuten
Zur That, zur Gegenwehr!"

A SPLENDID vellum MS. folio, with 269 painted leaves, the portrait of Johannes Schönerus by Georg Penz, and a great many most valuable and rare antiquities from the famous collection of Förster in Nuremberg, have been sold at an auction, held a short while since, to Paris collections. This was the last but one of the many private collections of extraordinary value which Nuremberg once possessed; the last—*vis.*, Hersel's collection; that part of it at least which he has not bequeathed to the city—will be brought under the hammer in May next. We hope that some portions of it at least will find their way into England.

A CIRCULAR note from the Polish Committee in Paris requests all "patriots abroad" to take part in the loan to be raised by the "National Government." The sum total is to amount to 40,000,000 of Polish florins (=6d.). The shares vary from 100 to 5000 florins. "Every Polish citizen whose private fortune does not exceed the sum of 20,000 florins is exempt from the subscription." The more wealthy landowners are requested to sign according to the following ratio:—From 20,000 to 100,000 florins, 1 per cent.; from 100,000 to 600,000, 2 per cent.; from 600,000 to 1,500,000, 2½ per cent.; from 1,500,000 upwards, 3 per cent. Annual incomes of those who own no estates have to contribute in the following manner:—From 3000 to 6000 florins, 6 per cent.; from 6000 to 10,000, 8 per cent.; from 10,000 to 20,000, 10 per cent.; from 20,000 upwards, 15 per cent.

SCIENCE.

RECENT WEATHER.

THERE is great, good news for meteorologists. The Director of the French Imperial Observatory has stepped forward to supply a crying want. He has commenced a daily issue of weather-charts, embracing the greater part of Europe, to which any one may subscribe as for a newspaper, and receive his copy in London by the forenoon post. This *Bulletin** is plainly but effectively lithographed. The map is indicated by a white space in a faint blue ground. Only enough colour is used to make it visible; strong contours are avoided, lest they should interfere with the meteorographical lines that are traced on the chart. Arrows are drawn over the several stations to show the direction of the wind; they are more or less feathered, according to its force. The barometric heights are written in minute figures, and iso-barometric lines are boldly drawn at intervals of five millimètres (= two-tenths of an inch).

The observations telegraphed each morning from some sixty stations, scattered between Scotland, Norway, and St. Petersburg on the north, down to Gibraltar and Sicily on the south, are reduced, lithographed on the map, and printed in time for circulation by the evening mail from Paris. The *Bulletin* is an institution worthy of our most grateful recognition. It even contains more than the map. The observations themselves are given at length; those referring to previous days which happened to have been delayed too late for use are appended, and a page is devoted to astronomical and meteorological correspondence. The cost in Paris of a yearly subscription is 36 francs; in England, postage included, it is 58 francs, or about £2. 7s. It dates as a publication from November 14th, though tentative charts from the 1st of October were made and circulated privately.

Our first impression on examining these charts is surprise at the narrow limits of what is really known compared to the audacious dogmatism too common among meteorologists. The area of Europe, vast as it is, is too small to exhibit the whole of any one weather phase. For instance, we have

* *Bulletin quotidien de l'Observatoire impérial de Paris. Abonnemens chez M. Chauvin, Lithographe, rue d'Ulm, No. 8, Paris.*

no representation of an entire cyclone in any one of these numerous maps. The lower half of what may have been cyclones lay over England on no less than five distinct occasions; but we know nothing of their upper halves. We have not the slightest data to justify us in saying that the portion of which we have no direct knowledge is symmetrical with the rest. That which appears to have been a part of a cyclone may have been in reality a narrow protruding gulf of barometric depression. When, in our further remarks, we speak of cyclones, we must not be understood as implying that they were more than partially developed.

Another obvious fact is that a limited area of very high barometer is just as dangerous a neighbour as a similar area of very low barometer. The greatest danger of all is when these two are separated by a comparatively narrow limit. The most violent of all the storms before us had this peculiarity. The weather of Dec. 2nd and 3rd had marked cyclonic curves, with England as a centre, but on the 4th an area of very high barometer appeared suddenly in Spain, whilst the area of lowest barometer was in Denmark. The storm of Nov. 4th and 5th was distinctly anticyclonic; from Nov. 16th to the end of the month, and especially on Nov. 20th and Nov. 29th, the Continent was under anticyclonic influence.

The cyclonic and anticyclonic movements of the wind are universal. In every case where the areas, either of very high or of very low barometric pressure, are small, the direction of the wind is compounded of two influences—the one of indraught towards the area of lowest barometer, or of outflow from that of the highest, as the case may be; and the other an eddying movement, to the left-hand in the first case, and to the right-hand in the second. We need not dwell on the well-known explanation of these influences.

If the iso-barometric lines were simply traced from these charts, and were presented to a meteorologist, he would be able immediately to supply the direction of the wind in those well-marked cases of which we are speaking. There is but one apparent exception, and this was on Nov. 8, when a storm of a very confused character raged over France. The iso-barometric lines of the chart indicate no noticeable tension on that occasion; but, when we examine the figures on which the lines are based, we see a vast amount of local perturbations on a small scale. Thus there was a difference of 3-10ths of an inch between London and Belgium, though only 5-10ths between London and Spain; and yet this, taking it as a whole, was the line along which the tensions varied most rapidly.

There have been in all five well-marked cyclonic storms between the 1st of October and the 12th of December—namely, on the 1st, 12th, and 25th of October, on the 2nd of November, and on the 2nd of December. In every case the centre of the storm included the north of Ireland, and in every case the condition of the atmosphere had quite altered its condition by the morrow or the next day. The lines of equal barometric pressure which had formed a series of concentric curvatures of small radius round the area of lowest pressure, almost always deployed themselves into nearly straight lines that stretched across Europe, sloping slightly towards the north or east. It seems evident to ordinary observers that any prevision of the weather founded on the westerly translation of an aerial eddy must have been wholly in error in these cases. There is an undoubted tendency to a westerly movement in the storms and in the weather generally that is pictured by these charts, but its character is so modified during the process of translation that the barometric lines of any one day have grown out of resemblance to those of the day previous. We are sure, if the charts had their dates removed and were shuffled out of their series, that no living meteorologist who did not know them by heart could place them back again into their proper order.

F. G.