

below its foundations, creeks sable as ink surrounding it, and the ground unctuous with black fat alluvium." Not a pleasant place to live in, one would say, but healthy, nevertheless. This is a curious condition of affairs, and deserves to be carefully studied by some disinterested person of scientific attainments. In summing up a fifty-page argument, written to prove that the climate is not so much at fault as the individual, Mr. Stanley practically admits the unhealthiness of the whole region. "One more observation," he says, "will suffice. However well the European may endure the climate by wise self-government, years of constant high temperature, assisted by the monotony and poverty of the diet, cannot be otherwise than enervating and depressing, although life may not be endangered. To preserve perfect health, I advise the trader, missionary, coffee-planter, and agriculturist, who hopes to maintain his full vigor after eighteen months' residence, to seek three months' recreation in northern Europe." What a prospect to hold out to the emigrant! Three months out of every twenty-one to be passed away from his business or farm! Would not the expense of such journeyings eat up the profits of the eighteen months of hard work? And how about wife and children? Are the settlers of Kongo State to be bachelors? or are they to be at home only in those three months passed in northern Europe?

Mr. Stanley has not improved as a writer during the last six years. His volumes are full of descriptions of the river and its banks. But they are not interesting, except for the amount of food for thought they contain. His tone, too, towards his understrappers, is very ungracious, to use no harsher term. The maps are excellent, although it is difficult to see why the eastern half of the large map was not extended to the ocean; and a map on a larger scale of the country around the Livingstone Falls should have been added. With a few exceptions, the illustrations are wretched. They will not bear a moment's comparison with those in H. H. Johnston's 'Congo from its mouth to Bolobo.' Only seventeen out of the hundred and twenty-two are stated to have been made from photographs or sketches. The rest seem to have been drawn on demand, so to speak, in London. The wood-engraving, too, is very poor, the pictures having a hard and flat appearance that is displeasing to the eye; while the flamboyant cover-design of a negress poised on the Belgian coat-of-arms defies description, and must be seen to be appreciated.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

—THE Electric power company of New York announce that they have established an electric railway running from Baltimore to Hampden, two and a half miles. The road is very crooked, and the gradients are as high as three hundred and fifty-two feet to the mile. The motor draws a loaded car, carrying sixty-five passengers without difficulty, stopping and starting on the grade without slip of the wheels.

—Mr. Edward Burgess, the designer and builder of the new yacht *Puritan*, is the secretary of the Boston society of natural history.

—The report in the newspapers of the country of a shower of meteoric stones at Salem, Ind., and the injury by them to buildings and several persons, proves to be without any foundation in fact.

—The Macmillans have just issued an 'Elementary algebra for schools,' the joint work of Mr. H. S. Hall, assistant master at Clifton College, and Mr. S. R. Knight, late assistant master at Marlborough College, — a work which is said to differ in some important respects from the text-books now in use. The same publishers also announced a 'Treatise on differential equations,' by Mr. A. R. Forsyth, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and an 'Arithmetic for schools,' by the Rev. J. B. Lock, whose works on trigonometry have been favorably received.

—The schooner *Rosario*, at New York, reports that on June 23, in lat.  $29^{\circ} 14' N.$ , long.  $133^{\circ} 35' W.$ , at 11 A.M., two heavy shocks of a submarine earthquake were experienced. These were about one minute apart; and the last was much heavier than the first, causing the vessel to tremble violently. The sky was overcast, and the sea remarkably smooth.

—Among the French species of the genus *Polygonum*, hybrids are rare in a state of nature; although there are two kinds of flowers, one fertile, the other sterile. In reply to some criticisms upon Gandoger's work on this group, he replies that this fact does not necessarily mark a degradation, but simply a different aptness in fecundation among different flowers; and that, although the absence of fertile grains point toward hybridity, this is not a sure sign.

—As much of recent geographical discovery in Asia has been due, says the *Athenaeum*, to native explorers trained in the surveyor-general of India's department, it will be interesting to place on record a list of the rewards lately granted by the government of India to some of the more prominent of these pioneers of Indian commerce. The most distinguished of them all, A. K., has received the title of Rai Bahadur, and with it a *jaghir* of rent-free land. The explorer known as 'the Bozdar' has been made a Khan Bahadur, and he also has received a grant of land. 'The Meah,' who accompanied Mr. McNair in his journey to Kafiristan, has been rewarded with a sum of money, and the same recompense has been given to A. K.'s companion; while a piece of plate has been presented to Mr. Penny, a planter who afforded the survey-officers much assistance during the Aka operations.