

## ATHENS LETTER.

THIS has been an important day for American students in Greece, and for the friends at home, of the American school of archeology. The corner-stone of the permanent home of the school has finally been laid, and, after five years of existence without a house of its own, the school will in a few months be commodiously and permanently accommodated. The building, in course of erection under the supervision of Mr. Trowbridge, was planned by Professor Ware of Columbia. It occupies a charming site a short distance east of the palace, on an eminence fronting Hymettus. The land, which adjoins that of the English school, is the gift of the King of Greece, and was obtained chiefly through the exertions of minister Fearn. The building will afford accommodations for the director of the school and for the students, as well as for the library and working-rooms.

This afternoon most of the Americans in Athens assembled about the new building, over which floated the flags of the United States and of Greece. Upon the platform were the United States and British ministers, and representatives of the Greek government, as well as of the English, French, and German schools in Athens. U. S. Minister Fearn, in laying the corner-stone, spoke in earnest words of the importance of the school for classical studies, and congratulated his countrymen that their school would now be on an equal footing, so far as accommodation is concerned, with its sister institutions of other nations. Copies of the Athens daily papers, and a box of Greek, English, and American coins, were put in the stone, which was then formally placed in position.

Minister Fearn was followed by Professor D'Ooge, the present director of the American school, who described its sphere, and spoke of its needs and its resources. M. Dragoumis, Greek minister of foreign affairs, spoke cordially of the work accomplished in Greece by the Americans, saying that "Greece could not forget that the first well-organized schools in Greece were established by Americans." M. Foucart, director of the French school, was unavoidably absent, as was also the well-known architect, Mr. Penrose, head of the English school, who, however, watched the proceedings with hearty interest from the window of the neighboring school, while his part in the exercises was taken by Mr. Walter Leaf of London, whose Homeric studies have made his reputation. Dr. Petersen spoke for the German school, and the proceedings came to an end with a libation in which all the assembled friends participated. The school is now fairly well established, but too little is known of it at

home. Unlike the other schools, which are well supported by their respective governments, our school depends entirely on voluntary contributions; and the responses to its appeals have heretofore been in no wise adequate to its needs. Little has been done by way of presenting its claims, save by circulars issued to the various alumni associations, and funds are urgently needed for the successful carrying-on of this most important work.

A sufficient sum has been raised to erect this new building, and nearly enough more to make provision for the permanent director, but a fund is needed for excavations. The school has just decided on uncovering some important ruins north of Corinth, but the money to prosecute the work is not at hand. Friends of classical study should contribute liberally to place this American school on a suitable basis, and enable it to go on unembarrassed with its work. Hitherto the various colleges have taken turns in sending out a Greek professor to fill the post of director for a year. But it is found that considerable time is needed for each new director to become acquainted with his work, and thus much of his year is spent to no advantage to the school. Charles Waldstein, a graduate of Columbia, and more recently director of the Fitzwilliam museum of the University of Cambridge, has signified his willingness to accept the permanent directorship, and will assume control in 1888. The students, of whom there are at present nine, assume all of their own expenses, and all that is now asked for is an amount sufficient to defray the cost of excavations and the annual running expenses. R. A.

Athens, March 12.

## EXPLORATION AND TRAVEL.

*The Stanley Falls Station.*

During the past few months the Stanley Falls Station has been attracting considerable attention. According to O. Baumann, member of Dr. O. Lenz's African expedition, who staid several months there (*Mittheil. Vienna geogr. soc.*), the station is situated on the west point of a long island which is separated from the mainland by a branch of the river, about sixty feet in width. A path leads from the station to the numerous huts of Singi Singi's village. The island rises gradually from the river; but the right bank of the Kongo is formed by a steep wall like cliff of red sandstone, the strata of which lie horizontally. Its top is covered with luxuriant vegetation, which surrounds Nsaki's village. Tippo-Tip's village is established on two islands above the seventh cataract, the houses being scattered over his extensive plantations. Be-