

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1887.

A FEW WEEKS AGO Stanley's death was announced by a cable despatch from St. Thomé. A missionary at Matadi was said to have received the news from a negro who had come from the upper Kongo. A few days ago the French government received a telegram to the same effect from Zanzibar. Both these reports are utterly unreliable. The last letters from Stanley were dated from Aruwimi Falls, June 18. He informed his friends of his safe arrival there, and says that the natives report numerous falls and rapids farther up the river. Therefore he was about to begin his land journey to the Mvutan Nsige. No later news has been received at



ALVAN CLARK.

the mouth of the Kongo, and the arrival at Zanzibar of letters or news from his expedition at this date is out of the question, as the distance is very great and part of the route difficult. It is probable that at the present time Stanley is very near Emin Pacha, or has met him. The messengers who were sent from Zanzibar to inform Emin of Stanley's expedition were detained some time by Mwanga, and only recently reached Unyoro. Here they learned that Emin had crossed the Mvutan Nsige, and gone up the river which probably connects the Muta and Mvutan Nsige. They were unable to see him, and therefore were expecting his return. From these reports it appears that Emin never intended to make his way through Uganda, as was said some time ago. News from Central Africa reaches us now with such wonderful speed that we may expect to hear soon of the meeting of Emin and Stanley on the shore of the Mvutan Nsige. Emin's latest letters show that the condition of his province has greatly improved, and that at the present time peace prevails on the banks of the upper Nile; but he says that the negro tribes are at the present time much more powerful than they were before the war, as they have obtained numerous guns. Therefore Stanley's help will be very welcome, and probably enable him to carry on the work of civilization which he has so successfully begun.

TWO LOSSES TO SCIENCE.

THIS week we have to chronicle the deaths of two leading American scientific men. Spencer F. Baird, born at Reading, Penn., Feb. 3, 1823, died at Wood's Holl on Aug. 22. Alvan Clark died the same day at his home in Cambridge, at the age of eighty-three, having been born, at Ashfield, Mass., March 8, 1804. We have already told, in *Science*, of Baird's life. He was from youth interested in natural history, and so devoted his time and energies that he was early an honored companion of the best. His executive powers finally led to his being singled out as a fit head for first one and then another of the rapidly growing government scientific organizations, and it is for his good conduct of these affairs that we now best know him, and for which he received the sincere respect of the public. Of Clark it might be said that we came near losing him. He was forty before he began his life-work which made him famous. His oldest son, as many a boy has before and since, wished a telescope, and, per force of circumstances, must make it.



SPENCER F. BAIRD.

He asked his father's help in grinding and polishing the piece of speculum metal he had obtained for his reflector. The father had never seen a mirror or lens ground and polished. But, as he once said, "a father tries pretty hard when a child asks for help;" and this father did try, so that now the renown of his achievements as a maker of lenses is world-wide.

Mr. Clark had been in his usual good health up to a fortnight ago, when he complained of illness, and though no disease of an organic nature appeared, he gradually failed, and death resulted from old age. He was essentially a New England man. He labored on the farm until he reached his twenty-second year, and then, having by