

of the local *Evening Mail* contained two whole columns of news dispatched entirely by wireless telegraphy. The notable event is undoubtedly the germ of an important development of wireless telegraphy in the near future.

THE Duke of Abruzzi is about to issue a book describing his recent ascent of Mount St. Elias. The author's and illustrators' profit upon it are to be devoted to a fund for assisting needy Italian guides.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It was announced last spring that \$500,000 had been given to the Medical College formed by the professors resigning from the Medical School of New York University and annexed to Cornell University. The gift was at the time made anonymously, but was supposed to be from Colonel Oliver H. Payne, one of those who resigned from the Council of the University after the difficulties. It is now definitely announced that Colonel Payne is the donor and that the gift to the Cornell University Medical College amounts to \$1,500,000. Plans for a building to cost \$500,000 are being made by McKim, Mead & White, the architects, and work on the structure is to be begun within thirty days. The plot of land which has been purchased is the entire block on the west side of First Avenue, between Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Streets. It is expected that the new building will be ready for occupancy by October, 1899.

THE late Rowland Hazard, of Peacedale, R. I., has bequeathed \$100,000 to Brown University. This sum is not to be paid for three years, and if the estate should depreciate in value the executors are empowered to reduce the amount to not less than \$50,000.

MR. GEORGE A. GARDNER has given \$20,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to be added to the general endowment fund.

DR. D. K. PEARSONS, of Chicago, has offered \$50,000 to Fairmount College, Wichita, Kans., on condition that \$150,000 can be raised.

MR. H. J. PATTERSON has been elected Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, *vice* R. H. Miller, resigned. The State

Legislature has appropriated \$14,000 for the erection of a Science Hall, to be used jointly by the College and Station. It has also appropriated \$10,000 for inaugurating State work in entomology and vegetable pathology, and has provided for an annual appropriation hereafter of \$8,000 for its maintenance. C. O. Townsend has been elected Botanist and Pathologist in the College and Station and State Pathologist.

PRESIDENT KELLOGG, of the University of California, has resigned.

MR. J. M. POOR has been appointed instructor in astronomy in Dartmouth College, but we understand that Professor E. B. Frost, now of the Yerkes Observatory, will have supervision of the department and will spend part of the year at Hanover. Dr. G. H. Gerold, of the Dartmouth Zoological Department, has been given a year's leave of absence to be spent abroad, and Dr. H. S. Jennings, last year instructor in the University of Montana, will temporarily take Dr. Gerold's place. Other appointments at Dartmouth are: Dr. C. H. Richardson, to be assistant in chemistry and instructor in geology, and Mr. J. B. Proctor, to be assistant in mathematics.

DR. E. EMMET REID, of Johns Hopkins University, has been elected professor of chemistry and physics in the College of Charleston, S. C.

DR. O. BREFELD, professor of botany at the Münster Academy, has been called to the University of Breslau.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### AN UNUSUAL AURORA.

LAST evening (September 11th) I witnessed at this place what I suppose to be an aurora, and which, if such, showed features so unusual as to seem worthy of record. The air was remarkably clear for the climate of this region and no perceptible wind was blowing. At 7<sup>h</sup>50<sup>m</sup> E. S. T. I walked out to a good point of view, free from artificial lights, to look for the zodiacal light and the 'Gegenschein.' I soon noticed in the south what I supposed at first to be a white cloud, which, however, soon disappeared. Later the supposed cloud repeatedly