

the whole thing is that I intend to reach the Pole—I say I ought to get there in 150 days, but I have allowed 180 for the purpose. If I leave Franz Josef Land when the sun rises this would still leave (allowing 180 days for the journey), ten days of remaining light for me to travel towards Spitzbergen. At the expiration of this time I should put myself in winter quarters on the ice, kill the remaining reindeer for food and all the dogs not required for the rest of the homeward journey in the spring.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

PRESIDENT FAUNCE has announced that Mr. John D. Rockefeller has offered to give \$250,000 to Brown University if a million dollars is collected. It will be remembered that a million dollars has already been obtained for Brown University, of which Mr. Rockefeller gave \$250,000.

MRS. ANNA C. HOUGH, of Los Angeles, has offered \$25,000 to the University of Southern California in case an additional sum of \$75,000 be collected.

THE proprietors of the Baldwin Locomotive Works have subscribed \$25,000 towards a new engineering building for the University of Pennsylvania.

A BILL has just passed the Senate granting the North Dakota Agricultural College one-fifth mill on all taxable property, thus ensuring the continuous support of the Agricultural College in place of the uncertain biennial appropriation. Plans are being prepared for a new chemical laboratory and for a science hall to be built during the present year, also for a new barn to replace the one recently destroyed by fire; loss \$18,000, insurance \$12,000.

THE legislature of Wyoming has made an appropriation to complete the Science Hall of the University of Wyoming and to enlarge the campus. The new building will contain the geological museum and preparation rooms, the botanical and chemical laboratories and a large lecture room. A central heating plant for all the buildings will also be built.

BEGINNING with June of the present year the

University of Michigan will confer but one degree, that of bachelor of arts, on graduates from the undergraduate courses. The degrees of bachelor of philosophy, bachelor of science and bachelor of letters, which have been conferred for more than twenty years, are to be dropped. This change is brought about by the following resolution, which was passed by the literary faculty on February 18th and by the Board of Regents on February 21st:

Beginning in June of 1901, the degree of bachelor of arts shall be conferred on any student who has satisfied any one of the four sets of requirements for graduation now in force in the department of literature, science and the arts.

THE annual commemoration day exercises at Johns Hopkins University on February 22d, were unusually impressive, as they marked the quarter centennial of the founding of the university and the formal announcement of the resignation of President Daniel Coit Gilman. The address was made by the Hon. David Jayne Hill, Assistant Secretary of State and formerly president of the University of Rochester.

THE following memorial on the subject of Coopers Hill College has, as we learn from the *London Times*, been signed by some 374 leading men of science and others interested in education:

The correspondence regarding Coopers Hill College which has been published in the *Times* of January 3, 1901, which includes Sir Horace Walpole's letter to Colonel Otley of December 14, 1900, and Colonel Otley's letter of December 17, 1900, has caused a painful shock to those engaged in higher education throughout the United Kingdom, and to all who are interested in the training of engineers.

This correspondence relates to the sudden and arbitrary dismissal of able and distinguished scientific teachers who have been doing duty in the college for periods of from nine to thirty years, and the value of whose past services is at the same time officially recognized.

Such arbitrary dismissal is likely to affect adversely the cause of scientific teaching in the United Kingdom. It cannot fail to injure the future of the college. During the correspondence which has ensued it has become apparent that the teaching staff have no voice in the educational policy of the college and are not consulted when any change in the curriculum

is contemplated. We wish to draw the attention of the Secretary of State to this unsatisfactory state of affairs, which must militate against the success of the college as an educational center.

The sudden dismissal is action of a kind which we were not prepared to expect in any institution under the control of the British Government, and we think that the seven members of the staff who are required to retire at three months' notice are justified in asking for the inquiry into the working of the college for which they have petitioned in their memorial of December 27, 1900.

We therefore desire to express our hope that the Secretary of State for India will see his way to grant their request, and to suspend proceedings until an adequate inquiry by competent persons shall have been held.

In support of this memorial a deputation waited on Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, and addresses were made by Lord Kelvin, Lord Lister, Lord Raleigh, Sir Henry Roscoe, Professor H. E. Armstrong and Dr. G. J. Stoney. Lord George Hamilton made a reply defending the action of Colonel Otley and the Board of Visitors. He stated that the Board of Visitors recommended the action unanimously after careful examination and that it included Sir J. Wolfe-Barry, Sir William Preece and other competent scientific men. Pensions had been granted to members of the staff. Thus Professor McLeod, whose salary was £600, received a pension of £466 and a gratuity of £185. Sir George Hamilton deprecated the agitation through the newspapers and refused a further inquiry. The following letter from Lord Kelvin is published in the *Times* for February 13th.

*Sir*.—Lord George Hamilton's answer to the deputation regarding Coopers Hill, yesterday, was certainly far from satisfactory in respect to the dismissal of members of the scientific staff. It gave no reason to believe that any one of those threatened with dismissal had been found in any respect incompetent or negligent in the performance of duty. Evidence brought forward by myself showed that members of the Board of Visitors were astonished to hear of seven of the scientific teachers being threatened with dismissal by Sir Horace Walpole's letter of date December 14th, and believed that the recommendations referred to in the first paragraph of that letter did not imply the supersession of more than two of the teaching staff.

Nothing in Lord George Hamilton's statement was directed to show that the recommendations for amendment in the college teaching by the Board of Visitors could not have been carried out in a thoroughly satisfactory way by the president and his present teaching staff; with perhaps some moderate change in the allocation of their duties. I had suggested in my own statement of the objects of the deputation that the official prospectus issued on January 1, 1901, which promised to the public the present staff and the present allocation of subjects, should be allowed to hold good until the end of the present session. I have ventured respectfully to repeat the suggestion to-day to Lord George Hamilton, to whom I send a copy of the present letter.

Yours faithfully,

KELVIN.

15, EATON-PLACE, S. W., Feb. 13.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY has appointed Capt. William Crosier, of the Ordinance Department, to succeed the late Col. Michie at West Point as professor of natural and experimental philosophy.

A CHAIR of irrigation has just been established in the University of California, and Professor Elwood Mead, of the United States Department of Agriculture, has been called to it. Professor Mead will not resign charge of the irrigation investigation of the United States, but will take his class into the field with him during the proper months, giving up two months to lectures at Berkeley.

ELMA CHANDLER, who has been an assistant in the botanical laboratory of the University of Michigan for the past four months, has accepted a position in the schools of Elgin, Ill.

MR. E. J. GARWOOD has been appointed to the Yates Goldsmid chair of geology and mineralogy at University College, London, in succession to Professor T. G. Bonney.

At Christ's College, Cambridge University, Dr. Alfred Cort Haddon, formerly scholar of the college, university lecturer in ethnology and professor of zoology at the Royal College of Science, Dublin, has been elected to a junior fellowship.

THE Isaac Newton Studentship in physical astronomy, of Cambridge University, has been awarded to Mr. S. B. McLaren, of Trinity, third wrangler, 1900.