world, has done very little for astronomy, and it is with profound satisfaction we learn that commerce and navigation, on which the supremacy of New York largely depends, is to be aided by the founding of the 'New York Observatory and Nautical Museum.'

This institution will consist of two distinct departments:

1. *A Nautical Museum,* where will be collected and exhibited models of all types of vessels, safety and signal devices, nautical instruments and methods of determining position, charts, marine engines and motors, and historic instruments and relics. The museum and collections will be open to the public and will be arranged so that properly qualified persons can avail themselves of the facilities there offered for investigation and research.

2. *An Astronomical Observatory,* where will be made scientific investigations in the field of astronomy, navigation and kindred subjects, and for this purpose the observatory will be provided with a great telescope, for photographic and visual work, astrophysical instruments for the investigations of interesting problems of the sun, magnetometers, seismographs, etc. A time service will be instituted so that chronometers may be rated, all kinds of marine instruments will be tested, and tidal investigations will be taken up.

The institution is to have an endowment of not less than $500,000, and in addition to this it is expected that the city of New York will provide a site in Bronx Park adjacent to the Botanical Garden and Zoological Park, and will also erect the museum building and the domes and smaller buildings for the observatory.

The organization committee consists of such well-known New Yorkers as Frederick G. Bourne, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Edward S. Isham, George A. Cormack, J. D. Jerrold Kelley and Charles Lane Poor, and their backing means success. Dr. Poor, professor of astronomy at Columbia University, has made an enviable record for himself through his cometary researches, and by his recent discovery that the sun is a vibrating body continually changing its shape. Further researches carried out through a series of years will probably make clear the meaning of this change; and this will go a long way towards solving some of the outstanding problems of astronomy.

There is every reason to believe that the new observatory will be founded and will at once take its place among the great observatories of the world.

BILLS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST PASSED BY THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

The New York legislature has passed a bill providing for a new building for the State Museum, State Library and the Education Department, to cost not more than four million dollars. The bill carries an appropriation for the acquisition of a site and the preparing of plans. For these plans twenty thousand dollars in prizes are to be awarded to the first, second and third choice of plans submitted to the commission having the erection of the building in charge.

The legislature also passed a bill to acquire Watkins Glen, one of the many ravines running into the Finger Lakes of western New York, for a state reservation.

The following legislation was passed in regard to the protection of Niagara Falls: Four inactive charters were repealed, leaving four others still outstanding, two of which are actively engaged in diverting water. The legislature also passed the Foelker bill to prevent any abstraction of water beyond the present chartered limits of abstraction.

A referendum for a constitutional amendment to permit the flooding of parts of the state reservation in the Adirondacks for the manufacture of power by private corporations was also passed.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The work of the local committee in arranging for the Ithaca meeting is approaching completion. In addition to the usual sessions for the reading of papers the program will include the following events:

Thursday evening, June 28, an informal smoker at the Town and Gown Club.