

*M. ALBERT LACROIX*

At the meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, held June 7, M. Albert Lacroix was elected perpetual secretary for the class of physical and natural sciences, by 37 votes against 22 cast for M. Ternier, his only opponent. This merited honor will afford the greatest satisfaction to the many friends and admirers of Professor Lacroix. Still comparatively young for a scientific man (he was born in 1863) M. Lacroix began his special career in the petrographic laboratory of the Collège de France, and soon published, in collaboration with M. Michel-Levy, a valuable study entitled: "Les minéraux des roches." His great work "La Mineralogie de la France et des ses Colonies," has just been completed, and ensures to the writer a foremost place among the mineralogists of the world. Special studies on the granites of the Pyrenees and their contact phenomena, as well as the invaluable records of his investigations when sent in 1902 by the French government as director of the mission to Martinique after the fearful disaster from the eruption of Mont Pelee, constitute additional titles to high consideration. In the course of the Martinique expedition, M. Lacroix more than once exposed his life in the interests of science, notably on one occasion when, while in the flames of the death-dealing mountain, an emission of poisonous vapor passed within a hundred feet of where he was standing, destroying everything in its passage. Fearlessly utilizing this terrifying spectacle in the interests of science, the undaunted explorer photographed the phenomena, thus preserving a unique record of the appearance. He has explained that this "burning cloud" was the result of a formidable explosion, that it might, indeed, be regarded as a sort of projectile hurled out by the mountain, half-solid, half-gaseous, of very high temperature, and which in contradistinction to most volcanic emissions of vapor, although thrown up vertically into the air, descends upon the slopes of the volcano, under the duplex influence of the initial explosion and of the force of gravity, and sweeps everything before it. Its

speed often exceeds fifty meters a second, and its convolutions are so dense and closely bound together and its outlines so clearly defined that only a few meters separate the zone of total destruction from that in which nothing is harmed.

The election of M. Lacroix as a member of the Academy of Sciences in 1904 was a fitting recognition of these and other labors in his special field. In 1906 he was entrusted with another mission for the study of volcanic phenomena, Vesuvius being this time the chosen locality. At present M. Lacroix has the professorship of mineralogy in the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, and his laboratory in that institution is a favorable resort for all French explorers who are investigating the mineral riches of France or her colonies. The unfailing courtesy and amiability of the distinguished mineralogist contribute not a little to the advantages derived from a visit to the scene of his activity.

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*THE LASSEN ERUPTION*

A REPORT forwarded to the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, by geologist J. S. Diller reads in part as follows:

Mount Rainier and Mount Shasta, the beautiful cones so much in evidence to the traveler on the Pacific Coast north of San Francisco, are now finding an up-to-date rival in Lassen Peak, which is plainly in view from the railroad for many miles in the Sacramento Valley between Redding and Red Bluff. Lassen Peak is the southern end of the Cascade Range, and it stands between the Sierra Nevada on the southeast and the Klamath Mountains on the northwest. Its lavas erupted in past ages reach the Sacramento Valley on the one side and on the other form a part of the vast volcanic field, one of the greatest in the world that stretches far across California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho to the Yellowstone National Park.

Of all portions of the Cascade Range Lassen Peak still retains the largest remnant of its once vigorous volcanic energy. Morgan and Suppan Hot Springs and Bumpass Hell on