

pages, of his great work now in press in London, entitled 'Masters of Wood-Engraving.' Ticknor & Co. have been chosen to receive subscriptions for this great work in this country. — William Gibson, jun., New York, has just issued 'Some Details of Water-Works Construction,' by William R. Billings. — The Truth Seeker Company has just published 'The Order of Creation, the Conflict between Genesis and Geology, a Controversy between the Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Prof. Max Müller, Prof. T. H. Huxley, M. Réville, and Mrs. E. Lynn Linton;' 'Rome or Reason, a Memoir of Christian and Extra-Christian Experience,' by Nathaniel Ramsay Waters; 'The Bible of Nature, or, The Principles of Secularism,' by Felix L. Oswald; 'Try-Square, or, The Church of Practical Religion,' by Reporter; and new editions of 'The Secret of the East, or, The Origin of the Christian Religion, and the Significance of its Rise and Decline,' by Oswald, and of Winwood Reade's 'The Martyrdom of Man.' — *Scribner's Magazine* for August will contain another of Prof. N. S. Shaler's notable articles on the surface of the earth, entitled 'Rivers and Valleys,' fully illustrated with views of some of the most picturesque scenery in this country, and dealing in a very practical way with the problems presented by the Mississippi and Ohio River floods.

— A philosophical society has been formed at the University of Vienna under the leadership of Professor Zimmermann and Professor Meynert. Professor Höfler has been elected president. The object of the society is to bring before specialists of all classes general scientific problems having a philosophical import.

— At a recent meeting of the French Physical Society Sir William Thomson was present, and stated, that, according to his determinations, the rate of diffusion of electricity was a hundred and ten times as rapid as that of heat in the best conductors.

— The night movements of the Russian troops have recently been rendered difficult by the number of soldiers attacked with hemeralopia (night-blindness). It is well known that this affection is due generally to a lack of proper food. Meissner saw in Podolia an epidemic of this disease produced during a religious excitement, when bread was the principal article of diet, which disappeared when animal food was again taken.

— The date of meeting of the American Society of Microscopists at Columbus, O., has been changed to Aug. 21 instead of Aug. 14; this on account of change of date for the American Association meeting.

— At the last meeting of the New York Microscopical Society, Mr. George F. Kunz exhibited sand containing monazite, a phosphate of cerium, lanthanum, and didymium, and from 0 per cent to 17 per cent of thoria, from Brindletown, Burke County, N.C., and monazite sand from Caravalhas, Brazil, stating that the demand for these minerals had greatly increased of late, owing to the rare earths zirconia, thoria, glucina, etc., which they contain, and which are now used for the mantle or hood of the new incandescent gas-burner invented by Dr. Carl Auer, now 'Von Welsbach.' This increased consumption has led to a search by the collectors and dealers in minerals in England, Germany, France, Russia, Norway, and Brazil, and more especially in the United States; and so thorough has the search been, that the prices of minerals which were considered rare a short time ago, are now quoted at one-tenth to one-hundredth of former figures. The minerals containing these rare earths are lanthanite, sipylite, tysonite, uranotorite, orangite, thorite, cleveite, monazite, beryl, yttrantalite, alvite, erdmannite, cerite, xenotime, fergusonite, æschynite, allanite, zircon, eudialyte, euxenite, samarskite, gadolinite, and bodenite. Of these, beryl, cerite, monazite, allanite, and zircon have been obtained in large quantities. Sipylite, orangite, and thorite are especially sought for. Monazite has been found at the following localities: Villeneuve, Ottawa County, Canada (a crystal of fourteen pounds and a half); Alexander County, N.C., at Millholland's Mill; Amelia County, Va. (in twenty-pound lump); Norwich, Conn.; Ural Mountains; Mount Sorel (var. turnerite), Tavetch (var. turnerite), and Binnenthal, Switzerland; River Sanarka, Southern Ural; Arendal, Norway. At these localities the occurrence is of mineralogical interest only. At the North Carolina, Georgia, and Brazilian

localities it can be obtained in quantity for commercial use. In the North Carolina gold gravels of Rutherford, Polk, Burke, McDowell, and Mecklenburg Counties, monazite is found in considerable quantities in small brown or greenish or yellowish brown monoclinic crystals associated with chromite, garnet, zircon, anatase, corundum, menaccanite, xenotime, fergusonite, epidote, columbite, samarskite, and other minerals. With these associations have been found several of the North Carolina diamonds; and at the Glade Mine, Georgia, diamonds have been found with the monazite, which exists in some abundance also. These localities will furnish tons of monazite within the next twelve months. The Brazilian monazite is found at Caravalhas, Bahia, where its existence was made known about eight years ago by Dr. Orville A. Derby, geologist of Brazil. It occurs in large quantities as a beach-sand, almost free from other minerals, as if concentrated. As it occurs on the coast, it can easily be shipped to any point where it is wanted, and a number of tons have been sent to the United States. The best North Carolina zircon locality is on the old Meredith Freeman estate, Green River, Henderson County, N.C., which was leased for twenty-five years in the hands of Gen. T. L. Clingman of that State, who, as early as 1869, mined one thousand pounds of it, and during that whole period never lost faith in the incandescent properties of zirconia; but when the time of its adoption actually came, through some legal difficulties the general had forfeited his leases, and hence failed to reap his reward. In Henderson County, N.C., and in Anderson County, S.C., zircon is found in large quantities loose in the soil, as the result of the decomposition of a feldspathic rock. The crystals are generally remarkable for their perfection, being distinctive of each locality, weighing occasionally several ounces. The recent demand has also brought to light the existence of enormous quantities of zircon in the Ural Mountains and in Norway. Although in Canada, in Renfrew and adjoining counties, enormous crystals have been found up to fifteen pounds each, yet they are so isolated, that it would be impossible to obtain a supply there. The new demand has brought together more than twenty-five tons of zircon, ten tons of monazite, six tons of cerite, thousands of pounds of samarskite, and tons of allanite and other minerals. As a consequence, zircon is now offered at less than ten cents a pound, monazite at twenty-five cents, and samarskite at fifty cents.

— While Australia is complaining of rabbits, Russia is invaded by the marmots. In certain provinces in Odessa it has been proposed to try Pasteur's system of inoculating them with chicken-cholera, but the administrative authorities have not given the scheme their approval.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### Negro Dialect.

A WRITER in the *North American Review* for June, 1888, mentions certain words in use among the negroes of the Southern States, and inquires after their origin. The words are *buccra* ('white man'), *goober* ('peanut'), *brottus* (used in Georgia in requests for small presents, as, 'What are you going to give for *brottus*?'), and *lagniappe* (used in New Orleans in somewhat the same sense as *brottus*).

With regard to *lagniappe*, there seems to be no good cause to dispute the derivation from the Spanish given by Mr. George W. Cable. He says, "The pleasant institution of *ñapa*, the petty gratuity added by the retailer to any thing bought, grew the pleasanter, drawn out into the Gallicized *lagnap*" (*The Creoles of Louisiana*, London, 1885, p. 114). The derivation of *brottus* may be similar to that of *lagniappe*, from the English perhaps, but one cannot speak with certainty.

The word *goober* ('peanut') is, I think, of African origin. In Hausa (a West African tongue), *guja* is 'ground-nut.' The following passage, however, from a rare and interesting work of the beginning of the eighteenth century, goes far, I hope, to settle the matter.

In the English translation of Bosman's account of Guinea we read, "Here is also another sort called *Gobbe-Gobbes*, which grow

two together in a Cod under the Earth, and shoot out a small Leaf above the surface of the Earth; these are the worst of all the sorts of Beans, and yet they are eaten by several" (*A New and Accurate Description of the Coast of Guinea, etc. . . . Written originally in Dutch by Wm. Bosman. . . . And now faithfully done into English*, London, 1705, p. 301). From *gobbe* to *goober* is not far, and the object named is the same, beyond a doubt. The origin of *buccra* ('white man') is not clear; but in Hausa, *bultra* means 'master.' I would appeal to those acquainted with the negro dialects to publish short lists of words, such as those dealt with, which will be of great value in determining the ethnological relations of the ancestors of the present negro population of the United States.

A. F. CHAMBERLAIN.

Toronto, July 2.

### Object-Lessons in Oriental Faiths and Myths.

A REMARKABLE collection will soon be opened to the world in Paris. The municipality has given a plot of ground that cost two hundred thousand dollars on the Avenue d'Jéna, and a large and beautiful stone structure has been erected on it by the state, under a law passed while the present president, Carnot, was finance minister. This law secures over three hundred thousand dollars for the erection of a building, and endows the establishment thus formed with a perpetual annuity of nine thousand dollars for purposes of maintenance. The glass cases for the collection are partly placed and filled, and the public will be admitted in a few months.

The collection is primarily intended to teach the history of the development, and the characteristics, of the Oriental religions. The importance of this study strikes us forcibly when we reflect that these forms of faith still deeply influence the daily lives of more than one-half of the human race, and that they have solaced and guided tens of thousands of millions of our fellow-creatures.

The originator and collector of this unique series of objects is the well-known student of Oriental languages, M. Etienne Emile Guimet, the son of a wealthy citizen of Lyons. He has spent more than twenty years of an active scholarly life in voyages to, and residences in, China, Japan, and other Asiatic lands, and has devoted several millions of francs from his large fortune to this work of public instruction. In his native town he is also known for his persistent and munificent efforts to secure high-class musical entertainments for the people; and, if his efforts are measured by the exquisite congregational singing that I recently heard in one of the Lyons churches, his efforts have been signally successful.

Yesterday I spent the morning with M. Guimet, examining the collections already in place. We first passed through two long halls, carefully arranged, and lighted from both sides with high windows, — halls, let me say, that would form admirable models for the future architects of the Metropolitan Museum. Here we found two comprehensive collections of pottery, — one from China and one from Japan, — each arranged geographically and historically, beginning, in the case of Japan, with the southern provinces, and ending with the northern. These most valuable gifts of M. Guimet, however, do not belong to my present subject.

From these halls we entered the lofty library, where are already placed twelve thousand volumes of books and manuscripts containing official statements in the original tongues of the dogmas, creeds, and myths of all the important Oriental forms of belief. Thence we passed to an extensive hall, in which the Japanese religions are illustrated and classed.

Illustrations of the earliest form of the Shinto nature-worship begin the extensive series. First we have the round metal mirrors resting upon mimic waves of sculptured wood, that stood high in the temple to catch the earliest rays of the rising sun; then figures of the simply clad priests; then the implements for making the primitive offering of fire and incense to the unembodied god. In order of time follow the paraphernalia of the Buddhist priests, who, crossing from Corea, brought with them their gorgeous ritual and imposed it upon the nation. Then we have innumerable figures of Buddha and attendant deities in gold, silver, bronze, lacquer, and clay, representing the ideas of the important contending sects into which Buddhism was soon divided through the agency of sacerdotal ingenuity.

In the middle of the hall, under the skylight, is a representation

of the interior of a Japanese temple of the first class, with original images of all the gods before whom worship is usually conducted. Here we may see, how, in the imagination of the Japanese (the sacred Buddha sends forth four great agencies that save men through persuasion), they are shown to the popular eye in the form of golden figures of prophets in silken robes; and also how four other emanations from Buddha, symbolical of darkness, compel men to do right through fear, shown as carved images of black devils with gnashing teeth.

Beyond this group are series of cases containing thousands of objects explaining Japanese myths, lives of saints, and the stories told about their sacred people and places. Another extensive hall contains a series of figures and other objects elucidating the forms of belief, the myths, and the folk-lore of China. In another the Greek mythology is systematized, in another the Roman, in another the Egyptian. One of the most interesting cases is that containing original images from many places in the countries and islands bordered by the Mediterranean, showing the various steps by which the Egyptian gods were accepted and adopted under new names successively by the Greeks and by the Romans. The rooms containing the collections from the western lands are as yet but partly arranged. Enough can be seen, however, to show how important and complete the series of objects must be, — enough to show that the world furnishes no other collection of the kind nearly so large, or so well prepared for the serious study of the development of Oriental and ancient civilization.

M. Guimet declared that he had no theory to support in forming his museum. He has excluded the Christian and the Hebrew forms of worship from his scientific treatment, and has confined himself to those lands where religion dawned upon mankind, and where great faiths that dominated extensive territories were developed. He simply presented the authentic documents and the authorized symbols for the use of the scholar.

L.

Paris, June 20.

### An Army of Myriopods.

I am in receipt of a letter, bearing the date July 6, 1888, from Mr. W. H. Cleaver, East Bethlehem, Penn., in which he states that the 'worms,' specimens of which he sends, are at the present time very abundant in his neighborhood.

To quote from the letter, "they are travelling eastward in countless millions. They travel at night or in the cool of the morning and evening. They camp during the day by getting under sods, boards, stones, or any thing to protect them from the heat of the sun. In some places during the day they are piled up in great numbers. They do not seem to destroy any thing on their journey, but go harmlessly along. Fowls will not eat them, and birds do not appear to molest them."

The specimens which accompany the letter are, I think, the common *Polydesmus erythropygus*. In the absence of any complete systematic work on the *Myriopoda*, I am not able to identify the species with absolute certainty. The species is very common in this vicinity, but I have never before heard of its occurrence in such numbers as reported by Mr. Cleaver.

EDWIN LINTON.

Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Penn., July 7.

### The Old South Work.

YOU credit me, in your last number, with instituting the lectures in Chicago, like our 'Old South' lectures here in Boston. That credit does not belong to me. I have for some years been concerned in the direction of the 'Old South Work' in Boston, which is so liberally sustained by Mrs. Hemenway; and recently I gave the opening lecture in the Chicago course. But the credit of instituting the work in Chicago belongs to Mr. H. H. Belfield, the principal of the Manual-Training School in that city. He has labored with rare devotion and energy to establish these 'Old South' lectures in Chicago, and his success has certainly been very great. If every city had a man of equal patriotism and equal practical power, we should see much done to bring our young people up to higher ideas of citizenship, and to elevate the general political tone throughout the country.

EDWIN D. MEAD.

Boston, July 9.