

feet there were unearthed a number of interesting articles such as domestic utensils, falence vessels, engraved and fancy painted glasses, vases and kitchen pots, all in good preservation. Besides these there were onyx axes, hammers, swords, knives and lance heads; in fact the whole series of weapons in use in pre-Columbian times seemed to be represented.

Along with these there was a great number of painted clay idols, fine pearls, turquoises, and other precious stones. Among the latter was one of a magnificent green color, called by the natives *chaiculviti*, worn only by princes. One of the glasses was ornamented in colors. The statues, carved in black basalt, displayed great artistic skill, and are considered all the more remarkable from the fact that it is believed their sculptors had only stone implements. This conclusion has been arrived at from the fact that so far no trace of metal has been found in the excavation, and it is therefore held that the buried city belonged to the stone age. Further developments may modify this view.

At a depth of five feet the workmen came on the walls of the houses of the buried city. At the level of the floor of these they discovered a mass of human skeletons, some in sitting postures, some lying on their backs, and some on their faces. Among the skeletons were some of very large stature, almost indicating them to have been giants. The position of the skeletons and in fact the whole condition of the ruins, says the *New York Telegram*, "point to the conclusion that the city was suddenly swallowed up by an earthquake." Further excavations are being made by the proprietor of the estate, who has become deeply interested in the investigation.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL.

With the death of Professor Tyndall, which has been announced in our dispatches, science loses one of her most devoted and accomplished disciples. He was born at Leighlin Bridge, Carlow, Ireland, August 21, 1820. Having left the national school where the foundation for his education was laid, he went to Germany and continued his studies at the university of Marburg, and afterwards in Berlin. On his return to England he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1852 and the following year he was appointed professor of natural philosophy. In 1856 in company with Professor Huxley he visited Switzerland, chiefly for recreation, but this and following visits resulted in a thorough investigation of the structure and motion of the glaciers of the Alps. In 1859 he commenced his researches on radiant heat, and some years later his "Heat Considered as a Mode of Motion" was published, a work which, together with his previous publications, placed him in the front rank of physicists. At the death of Professor Faraday at Trinity House he succeeded him as superintendent of the Royal Institution. In the early part of 1890 he engaged in a political correspondence with Sir W. Harcourt, and since that time, though constantly busy with scientific pursuits and always sure of a respectful hearing by

reason of his high attainments, he has kept more or less retired from public view. Science owes much to him and his name will not soon be forgotten.

TO REFORM FRENCH.

The interesting news comes from France that important reforms are contemplated in the orthography of the French language. After much discussion the members of the *Academie Francaise* have resolved to propose not less than 1200 changes and to issue a pamphlet containing these, for the benefit of the public.

It is stated that the *Academie* has taken this step as a concession to public pressure in the matter. Petitions from a great number of literary institutions were received, and among others from the *Institut de France*, which is considered second in importance only to the *Academie* itself. This accounts for the promptness with which the academicians, contrary to custom, seem to have acted this time.

Among the proposed changes are the following: *Ph* will be discarded where it has the sound of *f*; plurals will be formed only by the addition of an *s* to the singular. Generally an effort towards simplification will be made. *Voix* will be *vois*, *je veus* is to take the place of *je vuez*, and so on. It has also been decided to introduce some English words for which the French language has no true equivalents, as for instance *ome* (home), *spline* (spleen). This will give some idea of the proposed reformatory measures, although a full understanding of them can be obtained only when the announced brochure appears.

One of the objects of the French academy, as set forth in its statutes, is the purification of the language. "The principal function of the academy shall be to labor with all care and diligence to give certain rules to our language, and to render it pure, eloquent and capable of treating the arts and sciences." In a letter to Cardinal Richelieu, to whom the academy owes its official recognition if not its existence, it was stated that the members proposed "to cleanse the language from the impurities it has contracted in the mouths of the common people, from the jargon of the lawyers, from the misusages of ignorant courtiers and the abuses of the pulpit." It is therefore strictly within the scope of this famous institute of learning to take the initiative in a matter of this kind.

The great question, however, is, what are the prospects of success? Experience teaches that efforts to change languages by the imposition of new laws and rules generally fail. Speech follows certain laws of development, as every other growth of civilization, but it is necessarily slow, a century often being required to mark any great difference. If people in general are conservative in anything, they are as regards the medium by which they communicate their thoughts to each other. It is much easier to continue the inconveniences with which one is made familiar almost from the earliest days of childhood, than to adopt radical changes in after years. A good illustration of this is, for instance, the present condition of the written language of Norway.

Soon after that country had been separated from Denmark, patriots conceived the idea of creating out of the various Norwegian dialects, as spoken by the mass of the people, a written language, distinct both from Danish and Swedish. Some of the linguists of the country spent years on this work. But the written language of the country is today, as it was half a century ago, essentially Danish. Similar instances might be pointed out from both ancient and modern history. The French academy itself, we are told, has repeatedly failed in its attempts to make new laws for the language of the country. Still no one will underestimate the importance of this present effort; for not only are reforms highly needed in the French, but quite as much, if not more, in other related languages; and to point out in which direction the desirable alterations must go, and to call the attention of the public to redundancies, inconsistencies, and other defects is a great step towards reform. We may therefore look, in the course of time, for these efforts for the reform of French orthography to be felt not only in that country but, to some extent, in every nation where men of learning are concerned about the language they speak.

AN EASY ONE.

A correspondent at Bannack, Montana, writes:

*Editor Deseret News:*

Please inform me through your valuable paper how the United States Congress will stand politically after the 4th of March, 1894.

Until the 4th of March, 1895, it will stand as it does now, except for such changes as may result from the death, resignation or disability of any of the present members. No living man can tell how it will stand after that.

"THOSE MORMONS who left Uta and settled in Mexico made a poor exchange of countries," says the *New York Sun*. That is exactly what smart people said when the Mormons left Illinois and settled in Utah. The fact that in the latter case they left willingly because they had to, and in the former they leave willingly because they want to, doesn't alter the main proposition, that wherever the Mormons obtain a foothold, there is "one of the most peaceful and orderly communities in the world," which is the compliment the *Sun* pays Utah.

THEY ARREST a man as a crank nowadays for asking the loan of a quarter. At least the latest White House visitor, who wanted that small accommodation from President Cleveland, was hustled off as a lunatic. Those who want real rare cranks, however, will look less for those who want to borrow quarters than for those who are able and willing to lend them.

WHEN THE empress of Russia is ill, the attending court physician receives compensation at the rate of \$350 per day. As the czar's family is not a particularly healthy one, no further explanation will be needed of the frequently recurring item that Russia is negotiating a new loan.