

Their weapons are spears, bows and arrows, and occasionally guns, the latter being rude copies from the Portuguese article. Mr. Hamilton was well received by the chief, who told him that he was the first white man that had seen the tribe at home. The men and women of the Quissama are addicted to hunting; they are virtuous, practice monogamy, marry young, and are very prolific. The men largely preponderate in numbers over the women, the result, it is supposed, of infanticide, but of that practice Mr. Hamilton had seen no evidence. The Quissama believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.—A paper was read by Lieut. George C. Musters, R.N., on the races of Patagonia inhabiting the country between the Cordillera and the Atlantic, which the author had traversed during the years 1869 and 1870. The Patagonians consist of three races distinctly differing in language and physique, and partially differing in religion and manners, Tehuelches or Patagonians, Pampas, and Manzaneros, the latter being an offshoot of the Araucanians of Chile. The Tehuelches and Pampas are nomadic tribes subsisting almost entirely by the chase. The proverbial stature of the Patagonians was so far confirmed by the observation that the Tehuelches give an average height of five feet ten inches, with a corresponding breadth of shoulders and muscular development; the Manzaneros come next in order of height and strength, the Pampas being the smallest of the three races. The Manzaneros are remarkable for their fair complexions, whilst the Tehuelches are, literally speaking, Red Indians. Lieut. Musters had visited all the various tribes of those races, from the Rio Negro to the Straits of Magellan, for political purposes, and he estimated the population, which he described as diminishing, as follows:—Tehuelches 1,400 to 1,500, Pampas 600, and the remainder Manzaneros, amounting in all to about 3,000.—Dr. Eatwell contributed a communication on Chinese burials.—Mr. Josiah Harris announced the arrival from the coast of Peru of various pieces of rag, of wooden images, pottery, and other articles of great interest; and the chairman stated that the specimens would be exhibited and described at the next meeting of the Institute.—Mr. George Harcourt exhibited a flint implement found near a stream flowing from Virginia Water, and a bronze Celt discovered in the root of a tree in the parish of Thorpe, Surrey.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, May 1.—M. Chasles contributed a rather long but very important paper on Conic Sections. The illustrious mathematician gives the theorems rather than the mode of demonstrating them. It is a reminiscence of the old academy in the golden age of the seventeenth century. The theorems are very numerous.—M. Trécul read a rather long account of the analysis of the juices which can be extracted from aloes.—M. Decaisne read a memoir, which is printed at full length, on the Temperature of Children when they are taken ill.—M. Delaunay presented the second number of his monthly meteorological report for the month of April. It is to be noticed that April expired on a Sunday, and that M. Delaunay spared not a single hour, as his *résumé* was ready on the following day. The observatory had suffered scarcely any injury up to the end of the second siege. No delegate of the Commune had presented himself either to take possession of it or to blow it up.

May 8.—It was only at this late date that M. Longuet's death was officially made known to the Academy. M. Delaunay, who presided over the proceedings, gave expression to a few becoming sentences of regret at the loss the Academy had experienced. M. Longuet was a physiologist of much ingenuity and ability.—M. Duchartre, member of the Botanical Section, read a rather long paper on our knowledge of Liliaceæ.—M. Sedillat, the learned Arabic scholar, read a paper on the etymology of French words having an Arabic origin. Their number is immense, and M. Littré, in his great "Etymological Dictionary," supposes it to be even much larger. The intercourse with Arabs was very active even in mediæval times, as is proved by the history of the University of Paris, which so long defended Averrhoes. M. Sedillat gives many instances chosen from an immense number of others.—M. Stanislas Meunier sent a very interesting paper on meteorites. The experiments were made by him according to the precepts given by M. Daubrée, to whom M. Stanislas Meunier is assistant. M. Daubrée is now a refugee at Versailles. The museum where these experiments were executed is said to be safe, contrary to previous assertions. M. Stanislas Meunier explained by what process serpentine mountains can be changed into tadjerite. Tadjerite is found in some meteorites which belong to the museum collection. Specimens are also to be found in the

British Museum, Yale College, U.S., &c. M. Boilot, the scientific editor of the *Moniteur*, read a paper which was written to show astronomers that they must study carefully the different kinds of combustion on the surface of the earth, natural or artificial, to gain some quasi-experimental knowledge of the celestial phenomena of the origin and variations of star light. The doctrine was illustrated by some interesting observations.—M. Quesneville, editor of the *Moniteur Scientifique*, presented a set of his papers.—M. Tremeschini presented three drawings representing one large solar spot seen on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of May at noon. These drawings are inserted in the *Comptes Rendus*. M. Tremeschini lives at Belleville, the spot where the rebellion fought its last desperate struggle. It is to be hoped that he escaped safe, though up to this moment nothing has been heard from him.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—A Memoir of the Indian Survey: C. R. Markham (India Office).—Light Science for Leisure Hours: R. A. Proctor (Longmans).—At Last, 2 vols.: Rev. Canon Kingsley (Macmillan and Co.).—The Modes of Origin of Lowest Organisms: Dr. H. C. Bastian (Macmillan and Co.). FOREIGN.—(Through Williams and Norgate)—Lehrbuch der Mechanik: Dr. Wernicke.—Le Soleil: Sidre Secchi

DIARY

THURSDAY, JUNE 8.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—On the important Excavations in Rome during the present season: J. H. Parker, F.S.A. MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On Plücker's Models of Certain Quartic Surfaces: Prof. Cayley.—On the Motion of a Plane under certain Conditions: Mr. S. Roberts. ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—FRIDAY: Prof. Tyndall.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 8. QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, at 8. ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—On Dust and Smoke: Prof. Tyndall.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On the Instruments Used in Modern Astronomy: J. N. Lockyer, F.R.S.

MONDAY, JUNE 12.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, at 8.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30. SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30. CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—An Experimental Inquiry as to the Action of Electricity upon Oxygen: Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart. LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On British Spiders: Rev. O. P. Cambridge.—On a Luminous Coleopterous Larva: Dr. Burmeister.

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ERRATA.—Vol. IV., p. 95, 2nd column, line 30, for "R. T. Friswell" read "R. J. Friswell"; line 37, for "Fl₂" read "Tl₂"; for "FIO₂" read "TiO₂."