

speed of a little more than twenty-two miles per hour, the centre arriving at St. Thomas about 4 P.M. on the 21st. What was the speed and force of its rotary motion, I have no means of correctly ascertaining; but there is no doubt that near the centre it very greatly exceeded that of its progressive motion. The diameter of the storm was about eighty miles, the outer circles taking in at the same time Montserrat in the south, and Barbuda in the north; but was not felt beyond those islands. In its progress towards the west and north it may have extended itself, as is frequently the case with these storms.

On the afternoon of September 25, we again had indications of an approaching cyclone, though not so marked and distinct as on the former occasion. The gale set in about 10 P.M., from N. by E., and continued till 10 A.M. on the 26th, the wind changing to N.N.W. and S.W. The centre just touched the north of the island at 4 A.M. on the 26th. The force of the wind was at no time very great, and did not prove destructive on land—though causing much anxiety and alarm during its progress. The barometer did not fall on this occasion more than half-an-inch.

G. W. WESTERBY

Antigua

PROFESSOR S. F. B. MORSE

INTELLIGENCE has already been received in this country of the death of Samuel Finley Breese Morse, the eminent electrician, who died at New York on the 2nd inst. at the age of eighty-one. Prof. Morse was the son of the Rev. Jedediah Morse, well known as a geographer, and was born at Charlestown, Massachusetts, on the 27th of April, 1791. He was educated at Yale College, but, having determined to become a painter, he came to England in 1811, formed a friendship with Leslie, and in 1813 exhibited at the Royal Academy a colossal picture of "The Dying Hercules." He returned to America, and for a few years followed the profession of a portrait painter. In 1829 he again visited England, and on his return voyage was accompanied by Prof. Jackson, the eminent American chemist and geologist, through whose influence he turned his attention to the conduction of electricity through metallic wire, a subject in which the chemical tastes displayed by him while at College gave him additional interest, and to which he now devoted the whole powers of his mind.

Between 1835 and 1837 Prof. Morse invented several machines which more or less foreshadowed the electric telegraph; and obtained from Congress a vote of 30,000 dollars, with which to make an experimental essay between Washington and Baltimore. The first electric telegraph completed in the United States was the line between these cities, which was finished in 1844. Since that time the Recording Electric Telegraph of Morse has been adopted over the whole country, and at the time of his death there were not less than twenty thousand miles of electric wires, stretching over the States between the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean.

Prof. Morse received during his life recognition of his services to science from a large number of foreign Governments and scientific societies, not the least remarkable being the one inspired by the late Emperor of the French. At his suggestion delegates from France, Russia, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Sardinia, Tuscany, the Holy See, and Turkey, met at Paris, and voted an award of 400,000 frs. to Prof. Morse as a testimonial of appreciation of his services.

A record of Prof. Morse's scientific career would not, however, be complete, without referring to a controversy which some years ago occupied the attention of the scientific world in the United States, in which he was engaged with Prof. Henry, now President of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. So much personal matter was introduced

into the dispute that a special committee of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution was appointed to investigate the matter, the report of which now lies before us. The result of this investigation is summed up as follows:—

"We have shown that Mr. Morse himself has acknowledged the value of the discoveries of Prof. Henry to his electric telegraph; that his associate and scientific assistant, Dr. Gale, has distinctly affirmed that these discoveries were applied to his telegraph, and that previous to such application it was impossible for Mr. Morse to operate his instrument at a distance; that Prof. Henry's experiments were witnessed by Prof. Hall and others in 1832, and that these experiments showed the possibility of transmitting to a distance a force capable of producing mechanical effects adequate to making telegraphic signals; that Mr. Henry's deposition of 1849 is strictly correct in all the historical details, and that, so far as it relates to Mr. Henry's own claim as a discoverer, is within what he might have claimed with entire justice; that he gave the deposition reluctantly, and in no spirit of hostility to Mr. Morse; that on that and other occasions he fully admitted the merit of Mr. Morse as an inventor; and that Mr. Morse's patent was extended through the influence of the favourable opinion expressed by Prof. Henry."

The conclusion therefore which must be arrived at, and it is one of no small importance in the history of electrical and telegraphic science, is that to Prof. Henry, and not to Prof. Morse, is unquestionably due the honour of the discovery of a principle which proves the practicability of exciting magnetism through a long coil, or at a distance, either to deflect a needle or to magnetise soft iron.

Prof. Morse's services to science as a successful applier of this principle in its practical details are so unquestionable, that we feel we are but doing a duty in setting this question right on this side the Atlantic.

NOTES

THE following are the names of the candidates who have been selected by the Council of the Royal Society for admission into that body at the forthcoming annual election:—Surgeon-Major Andrew Leith Adams, Prof. W. G. Adams, F. Le Gros Clarke, M.R.C.S., Prof. John Cleland, M.D., Dr. M. Foster, Dr. Wilson Fox, Dr. Arthur Gamgee, Rev. Thomas Hincks, Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, Prof. T. Rupert Jones, Dr. George Johnson, Major T. G. Montgomerie, R.E., Dr. E. L. Ormerod, E. J. Routh, and Dr. W. J. Russell.

AT the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held on Monday evening last, a letter was read addressed to the President by Dr. Kirk, H.B.M. consul at Zanzibar, in which that gentleman expressed himself very hopefully of Dr. Livingstone's safety. He thinks there is nothing discouraging in the last news received of him, and that we cannot expect to hear again until the war at Unyanyembe is closed.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH will hold a reception on Saturday evening next in the Picture Galleries of the International Exhibition and in the Royal Albert Hall, on behalf of the Prince of Wales and the Royal Commissioners.

WE understand that Lieut-Colonel Strange, F.R.S., will exhibit at the ordinary meeting of the Royal Society on Thursday, May 2nd, the Great Theodolite designed by him for the Great Indian Trigonometrical Survey of India, and will read a paper descriptive of it.

THE electors of the Waynflete Professorship in Chemistry at Oxford have given notice that it is their intention to proceed to the election of a Professor some time in Act term next. The endowment assigned to the Professorship is 600*l.* per annum,