

Compare with this the extent of knowledge expected in other subjects. French and German, for example, together form one subject: to succeed, the candidate must be proficient in dictation in each language; translation from unseen authors; the grammar, history, and etymology of the languages; translation from English into French and German, besides translation from books appointed. For the last examination, books which might be chosen were—in French, Pascal's "Provincial Letters;" in German, Goethe's "Faust" and "Italiänische Reise."

The relative value attached to different branches of science is also worthy of remark. Chemistry, for example, is supposed to be so far inferior to Botany as an educational study, that the slight subject of *Heat* is added as a make-weight.

It is really hard to determine whether the compilers of these Regulations (the head-masters of one or two of our most important schools being amongst them, if report errs not) have acted simply in ignorance of what physical science in a school ought to be, or whether this is an ingenious device to strangle science as a school study, and to get rid of the obnoxious interloper by driving the weak and idle to it, and thus giving it a bad name as "the refuge of fools."

N. MARSHALL WATTS

PROF. MAX MÜLLER

IT was decided at a Convocation held at Oxford on Tuesday that an inducement should be offered to Prof. Max Müller to continue to honour Oxford by remaining connected with that University. It would certainly have been a disgrace had no effort been made to retain the services of so eminent a scholar, which other countries are eagerly anxious to obtain. The proposal made by the Dean of Christ Church, which was carried by a large majority, was to relieve Prof. Müller of the obligation to lecture, and to provide for the appointment of a deputy, who should receive one-half of the salary of the present Professor. This scheme is confessedly somewhat of a makeshift; time was of importance, and the proper course, by statute, because lengthy, was not available. Vienna had offered the Professor a Chair of Sanskrit and provision for the publication of his books; and to this offer an immediate answer was necessary. The present, the Dean wished it to be understood, was a provisional arrangement in view of impending changes. The Dean was authorised to state that the Government "Universities" Bill would constitute an Executive Commission, with powers to receive schemes from Colleges, and to base upon them the new University and Collegiate organisation. He pledged himself there should be an opportunity given for considering in constitutional form the permanent arrangement of the matter at present in hand. He defended the decree from the charge of robbing Comparative Philology, for Sanskrit studies were an essential part of it, and the arrangement would give an admirable opportunity for some young man to make out his claim to the Professorship. He could have wished the arrangement had been more liberal, but, in fact, the University had come to the end of its tether. The Dean then dwelt on the high value of the Professor's services. He told how Mr. Max Müller had "audaciously" projected, when but a youth and a pupil of Burnouf, an edition of the Rigveda. For this he was forced to come to England, for which purpose he raised funds by translations, &c. Bunsen, on whom he called without introduction, had forwarded him to Prof. Wilson, and the India House, with sagacious liberality, took him up. Dean Gaisford had bidden men read Homer, with some ancient commentator, as the key to Greek literature. If these had been only accessible in manuscript, involving the reading, indexing, and perpetual annotation of infinite other MSS., who would have undertaken the task? And this was what Max Müller had done. Dean Liddell knew not whether to admire and

wonder at most—his ardour in commencing, his perseverance in continuing, or his genius in the execution of his work. With regard to a recent statement as to Prof. Müller's future work, the Dean stated the fact to be that the University had accepted the offer of publishing a choice selection of translations from Sacred Books—at the utmost, twenty-four volumes. But this, it was obvious, was sufficient to prevent the Professor from enjoying the position of a sinecurist. The Dean concluded by enumerating a list of the Professor's distinctions, and urged the University to keep him if it could, how it could, while it could.

We must say that most of those who spoke in the discussion which followed missed the [real point at issue. Prof. Max Müller has already rendered such important services to Oxford, to England, and to Science, and proved himself so competent to continue these services, that there should have been no hesitation whatever about endowing him sufficiently to enable him to continue his valuable researches unhampered. But we must be thankful for small mercies at present, hoping from the hint dropped by the Dean that better things are in store.

PROF. NORDENSKYÖLD ON THE JENISEI¹

I HAVE before mentioned the great abundance of extraordinarily delicate varieties of fish which Jenisei yields, and that during our river journey we made as complete a collection of them as possible. The steamer's tedious voyage was, besides, employed by me in collecting statements regarding the names of the most important varieties, the price paid for them on the steamer, and their size.

	Common weight.	Greatest weight.	Price.
Njelma ² ...	13 lb.	50 lb.	80 kop. per pood.
Tschir ...	6 "	25 "	10 " each.
Omul ...	1½ "	3 "	2 " "
Muksum ...	4 "	12 "	9 " "
Salmon ...	16 "	80 "	—
Sterlet ...	3 "	30 "	} ... 150 kop. per pood.
Surgeon ...	16 "	280 "	
Silj ...	—	—	40 " "

The trade, however, is carried on here in this way, that the goods to be purchased are valued in coin, but payment is made in goods at the merchant's valuation, on which account the true price is perhaps considerably below that which is here stated.

After the numerous crew on the *Alexander* and the "lodjors" had attended with great devoutness a festival service in the church of the monastery and a neighbouring chapel where the holy founder's dust and work-harness are preserved, after we had seen several of the remarkable things belonging to the monastery, and among them an exceedingly well-preserved Slavonic Bible from the sixteenth century, and after I had paid a visit, along with the captain, to an aged cripple who in his youth had made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, we steamed on. Our progress, as was commonly the case, was slow, in consequence of the strong current and the frequent stoppages, which of course we turned to account by making excursions to examine the natural history of the region, by conversing with the inhabitants, &c. The latter consist partly of Russians who have settled there, partly of natives, "Asiatics," who frequent the rivers during summer, partly on their own account, partly as employed by Russians. In such circumstances their dwellings consist of tents of quite the same form as the Lapp "kota." The Samoyede tent is commonly covered with reindeer skins, the Ostiak tent with birch bark. A number of dogs are always found in the neighbourhood of the tent, which during winter are used for general draught purposes, and in summer for towing up boats against the current—a means of transport on water which greatly surprised our seal-fishers. For this purpose a sufficient number of dogs are harnessed to a long line, one end of which is fastened to the stem of the boat. The dogs then go forward upon the level bank, where in this way

¹ Continued from p. 277.

² Njelma, Tschir, Omul, and Muksum are varieties of the Gwyniad. Silj is the fry, or young, of the same fish.