

this period reached a very advanced development indeed, as may be seen from the appended figure of a golden cap found in Tipperary. It is most beautifully ornamented in *repoussé*.

Silver and gold ornaments in this age became abundant. The concluding chapters in the book are on the Overlap of History (the Egyptian, Assyrian, Phœnician, and Greek Influences) and on Britain in the Historic Period (the Exploration of the British Coasts, and Roman Britain). We cannot follow the author further, but commend his book to our readers as one that will well repay perusal throughout.

#### THE HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

WE observe that some of our contemporaries have opened their columns to certain strictures upon a public department standing well, and to our knowledge deservedly so, in the estimation of scientific circles in this and other countries.

It would appear that a Lieutenant of the Royal Navy, unknown, as we are informed, in his profession from the fact of his having retired from its active service at an early age, amused himself some few years back by a yachting excursion on the shores of Norway, in a small and crazy decked boat, undergoing, as might have been anticipated, some hardships in this excursion, which extended into the rigorous winter of that region. Gaining thus some knowledge of the coast traversed—but necessarily, from its great extent and intricate character, knowledge of a very superficial kind—the Lieutenant's experiences have recently formed the subject of an evening's entertainment at the Royal Geographical Society. Somewhat unfortunately for the ends of science and navigation, this adventurous cruise in a crazy barque has been in consequence dignified into a hydrographical survey, an appellation ludicrously inapplicable from the conditions under which the cruise was made, as related by the adventurer himself.

The ambitious *voyageur*, now extending his operations, under the leadership of an official of the Royal Geographical Society, has just addressed an audience at the Society of Arts on the "Trade Routes between England, Norway, and Siberia." We had expected at least some shreds of information on this topic, but find ourselves treated instead to a rude and ungenerous attack on the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty, for some supposed shortcomings in its dealings with the officer, to whom the department had confided—mistakenly it seems—the revision of the sailing directions of that part of Norway on which the Lieutenant claimed to be an authority.

The Society of Arts commends itself to all reasonable men for the breadth and strength of its operations; we regret that it should in this instance have been exploited and made the arena, under cover of a legitimate object, for an attack, from personal motives, on a public department which has done and is doing good and honest service for the seamen of all nations. We believe we are only performing an act of merited justice in directing attention to the endeavours of a small, obscure, but self-asserting clique, bent apparently on discrediting a valuable and efficient department, affiliated in many ways to science, and well known to many of its ablest workers.

#### NOTES

PROF. W. H. MILLER died at Cambridge on Thursday, May 20, in his eightieth year. He graduated in 1826, being Fifth Wrangler, and shortly afterwards became a Fellow of St. John's College. He served his college as tutor during several years. On the resignation of Dr. Whewell in 1832 he became Professor of Mineralogy. He published his celebrated "Treatise on Crystallography" in 1838. This work was at once adopted by

some of the most eminent foreign crystallographers, and may now be said to be universally accepted. It was translated into German and French. His "Manual of Mineralogy" appeared in 1854, and, like the former book, forms an era in the history of the science. It is full of the results of his own careful research. He is the author of several other books, and of numerous memoirs published in the various scientific journals. The memoir on the standards of weights is a classical research on the subject of weights, and is a monument of delicate and careful research. He was Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, and was presented with the Society's gold medal in 1870 for his numerous contributions to science. Cambridge has especial cause to be grateful to him for the very splendid collection he has brought together. The collection consists almost entirely of donations; and the two noble gifts of the Hume and Brooke collections mark in a striking manner the appreciation in which Prof. Miller was held by lovers of minerals.

ON the same day as Prof. Miller died Prof. David Thomas Ansted, F.R.S., at the age of sixty-six years. Prof. Ansted was born in London in the year 1814. He graduated at Jesus College, Cambridge, was a Wrangler in 1836, and was elected in due course a Fellow of his college. In 1840 he was appointed to the Professorship of Geology in King's College, London. Five years later he became lecturer on geology at Addiscombe College, and also at the Civil Engineering College at Putney. About the same time he was made assistant secretary to the Geological Society, whose quarterly journal he edited for many years. From about 1850 down to a very recent date he was extensively engaged in the application of geology to the engineer's work, in mining, and in various other departments of industry. He has also been frequently employed as an examiner in physical geography under the officers of the Government Department of Science and Art. Prof. Ansted's works are very numerous; among them may be mentioned—besides his contributions to the transactions of learned and scientific societies—his "Application of Geology to the Arts and Manufactures," his "Physical Geography," his "Elementary Course of Geology and Mineralogy," and "The World we live in." Prof. Ansted was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1844.

GENERAL MYER has sent a letter to his numerous correspondents, requesting, on behalf of the United States, that the hour for taking the simultaneous meteorological observations, from which are constructed the U.S. Weather Maps, be changed to a time thirty-five minutes earlier than at present; in other words, as regards the British islands, that the observations be made at oh. 8m. p.m., instead of oh. 43m. p.m. Greenwich mean time, and that the change be made to take effect on September 1, 1880. The proposed change being rendered necessary by the exigencies of the Signal Office, the request will doubtless be gladly acceded to.

THE second example of *Archæopteryx* is, we are informed, at present merely *on deposit* in the Geological Museum of Berlin, under the care of Dr. Beyrich, although it is expected that arrangements will shortly be made for its purchase by the authorities of that institution. It was bought from Dr. Haeberlein, of Pappenheim, by Herr Siemens, of Berlin, for the sum of 20,000 marks (1,000*l.*), in order to save it from an impending transfer to America, and to secure this valuable specimen for German science.

THE "Leopoldinische-Carolinische" Academy of Naturalists at Halle has presented this year's Cothenius medal to Dr. A. Michaelis, Professor of Chemistry at the Polytechnic High School of Karlsruhe, in recognition of his valuable researches in organic substances containing phosphorus.