

## Occultations of Stars by the Moon (visible at Greenwich).

August.	Star.	Mag.	Disap.	Reap.	Corresponding angles from vertex to right for inverted image.
			h. m.	h. m.	° °
1 ... 21	Sagittarii ...	5 ...	0 23 ...	1 29 ...	99 32 <sup>3</sup>
6 ... 70	Aquarii ...	6 ...	1 14 ...	1 38 ...	35 6

August 3.—Partial eclipse of the Moon. First contact with shadow 19h. 36m.; middle of eclipse 20h. 49m.; last contact with shadow 22h. 2m. Magnitude of eclipse = 0.419 of moon's diameter. The moon will rise at Greenwich at 19h. 35m.

## GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE rumour as to the death of Mr. Stanley is universally discredited in geographical circles, and among those directly interested in the Emin Pasha Expedition. The rumour seems quite inconsistent with the news as to Mr. Stanley's having left the Aruwimi River on June 3 for Wadelai. Had he been shot, as reported, it must have been after this date, and during the land journey, whereas one version of the rumour gives out that he was killed on the Congo. He may meet with Emin Pasha sooner than he expected. Emin, it seems, is at present exploring on the south of the Albert Nyanza, endeavouring to find the connexions of the great affluent he discovered on the south side of the lake, and ascertain whether it may proceed from the Mwuta Nzige. So that he and Mr. Stanley may meet half way. Letters from Mr. Stanley are expected in this country early in August.

THE Report of Dr. Hans Schinz on his exploration of the German colony known as Luderitzland (South-West Africa) has just been published. Dr. Schinz made two journeys: the first, in 1884, from Angra Pequena to Am-Hub on the Xamob, a sub-affluent of the Orange; and the second, in 1885, across Namaqua-land and Damara-land, and the little-known region which separates Damara-land from the Cunene River. The Report contains much valuable information, especially on the flora and the people of the region visited. The region is quite as sterile and hopeless as it has been painted by previous visitors. It is only on the north of Etosha (18° S. lat.) that the flora and fauna become anything like abundant—bauhinia, palms, cassia, baobab. The population becomes more dense as we approach the Cunene. But three-fourths, if not four-fifths, of the new German colony is unworkable and uninhabitable.

IN the new number of *Timehri* the valuable serial published in British Guiana, will be found a condensed translation of Père de la Borde's "History of the Origin, Customs, Religion, Wars, and Towns of the Caribs of Antilles," the first of a series of reprints of the literature of West India and Guiana red men, which it is proposed to publish from time to time in the journal. A large part of the number is devoted to Mr. Im Thurn's notes on the plants observed during the Roraima expedition.

THE last Annual Report of the Russian Geographica Society for 1886, which has just reached us, contains a good deal of useful information. An account of several interesting journeys is given. The publications of the Society were numerous and valuable. Seven fascicules of the Memoirs appeared during the year, containing the work on the geology of Lake Baikal, by M. Tchersky; a hydrological inquiry into the Upper and Middle Amu-daria, by the late M. Zuboff; on the land-slips at Odessa, by M. Jarintseff; on the exposure of thermometers, by M. Saveliëff; on a journey to North-West Persia and the Transcaspian region, by M. Nikolsky; on the province of Olonets, by M. Polyakoff; and on the Votyaks, by M. Sokolovsky. The Society published, moreover, a volume of the "Works of the Siberian Expedition," containing Fr. Schmidt's "Miocene Flora of Sakhalin," and three volumes of observations of the Polar stations on the Lena and on Novaya Zemlya. It is good news that the addenda to the capital "Geographical Dictionary of Russia," by P. Semenov, are being rapidly prepared for the press. The great gold medal of the Society has been awarded to M. Potanin for his twenty years' geographical work; and that of Count Lütke to M. Tchersky for his remarkable geological explorations around Lake Baikal and in East Siberia altogether. Other gold medals have been awarded to MM. Nalivkin for their work "On the Position of Woman amidst the Settled Population of Ferganah," published last year at Kazan; to M. Yastreboff for a work on Turkish

Servians; to M. Makaroff for his researches into the double currents in straits; to MM. Skassi and Bolsheff for cartographical work; and to M. Eigner for his work at the Lena Polar station. Many silver medals have been awarded for works of less importance. The Committee of the Russian Geographical Society for Pendulum Observations and the Meteorological Committee have done most useful work.

## THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION BILL.

## I.

THE following is the text of the Bill to facilitate the provision of technical instruction:—

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Technical Instruction Act, 1887.

2. Any local authority as defined by this Act may pass a resolution that it is expedient to provide for supplementing by technical instruction the elementary education supplied in its district, and for that purpose to put in force the provisions of this Act.

3. (1) A local authority shall, before proceeding to carry into effect a resolution under this Act, cause the resolution to be published in the prescribed manner, and within the prescribed time, not being less than two months after the publication, fifty persons entitled to vote at the election of members of the local authority, or one-third of the total number of those persons, may, by a written requisition, require a poll of those persons to be taken as to carrying the resolution into effect, and thereupon the poll shall be taken in the prescribed manner, and in accordance with the prescribed regulations.

Provided that—

(a) the poll shall, so far as circumstances admit, be conducted in like manner in which the poll at a contested municipal election is directed by the Ballot Act, 1872, to be conducted; and, subject to any exceptions or modifications contained in any order of the Department of Science and Art made in pursuance of this Act, the Ballot Act, 1872, shall apply accordingly; and

(b) all persons entitled to vote at the election of members of the local authority shall be entitled to vote at the taking of the poll; and

(c) each of those persons shall be entitled to one vote only.

(2) If the resolution is negatived at the poll it shall not be carried into effect, and shall not be again proposed until the expiration of not less than twelve months after the taking of the poll.

(3) This section shall not apply to the metropolis as defined in the Elementary Education Act, 1870.

4. (1) For the purpose of supplementing by technical instruction the elementary education supplied in its district, a local authority may in pursuance of a resolution under this Act—

(a) Provide technical schools for its district; or

(b) Combine with any other local authority for the purpose of providing technical schools common to the districts of both authorities; or

(c) Contribute towards the maintenance, or provision and maintenance, of any technical school; or

(d) Make such arrangements as to the local authority seem expedient for supplementing by technical instruction the instruction given in any public elementary school in its district.

(2) The expenses incurred by a local authority for the purposes of this Act shall be defrayed out of the local rate.

(3) Provided that no payment shall be made under this Act out of the local rate in respect of a scholar unless or until he has obtained a certificate from the Education Department that he has passed the examination in reading, writing, and arithmetic prescribed by the standard set forth in the schedule to this Act (being the Sixth Standard fixed by the minutes of the Education Department in force at the passing of this Act) or an examination equivalent thereto.

(4) Two or more local authorities may, with the sanction of the Department of Science and Art, enter into any agreement which may be necessary for carrying into effect any resolution under this Act; and any such agreement may provide for the appointment of a joint body of managers, for the proportion of the contributions to be paid by the respective authorities, and