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tary station on the Bahir el-Jebel. The travellers were engaged in exploring the Nyam-Nyam district, between the tributaries of the Nilo and the Upper Nilo. Nothing had been heard of them for a long time, and it was feared that the Mahdi had cut off their retreat.

—The exhibition of metal-work at Nuremberg was opened on the 16th of June. The Japanese exhibits arrived late, in over fifty packing-cases.

—A new exhibition was opened in Paris July 21st; it is called the Exhibition of Industry, and presents some analogy to the English inventors. It will remain open till the 22d of November. It is to be held at the Palais de l'Industrie; and, naturally, electrical matters will be of primary interest. The commission-general of the undertaking is Mr. de Bodin; and the committee includes some well-known names, such as those of Lemoine, Tarrat, Mille, Botelle, de Mérisses, Cauchy, etc. Electricians, in fact, form a considerable majority.

—Nature states that the third session of the International botanical congress, which was postponed last year on account of the cholera on the continent, is fixed to be held this year on Sep. 20th, at Berlin, under the honorary presidency of the veteran geologist of Rhineland, Dr. H. von Döben. The president of the organizing committee is Professor Beyrich; and the general secretary, M. Haasreychen, 44, Invalidenstrasse, Berlin.

—The New-York Evening Post publishes the following: I just learn from a newspaper that the commission which investigated the coast-survey reflected upon me in their report as follows: "That for several years, beginning in 1872, C. S. Peirce, assistant, has been making experimental researches with pendulums, without restriction or limitation as to times and places; that since 1873, expenditures on account of these experiments, aside from salaries of chiefs and assistants, amount to about $31,000; that the mean value of those experiments to the bureau have been substantially destroyed." I have immediately addressed a letter to the secretary of the bureau, in which the following is the substance: 1st. My expenditures, aside from compensation of myself and assistants, during the period specified, have not amounted to one-third of the sum named; and I appeal to the secretary to ascertain this by the addition of the amounts of my original accounts now on file in the department. 2d. All my operations have been carried on under specific instructions, and therefore have not been "without restriction or limitation as to times and places." I ask to be informed what operation does not appear to be covered by instructions on file in the office, and promise to show, in any instance, that it really is so covered. 3d. Records have been destroyed. 4th. I maintain the value of determinations of gravity in general, and the excellence of mine in particular. 5th. I tender my resignation if the opinion expressed as to the negation of my services is accepted by the department. Until my letter is acted upon, it might perhaps be considered a breach of official etiquette for me to make it public; but I wish you, as a friend and scientific man, to know that I have a defense against the accusations made.

C. S. Peirce.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Aug. 16.

—The Banqui weekly is a journal recently established in Japan, with the object of introducing the use of the Roman alphabet to spell phonetically the Japanese words. The journal is primarily supported by the government, and is the official organ of a society of some twenty-three hundred members, which aims to do away with the Chinese characters in Japanese literature.

—A late report upon the Cambridge (Eng.) local lecture, by Mr. Robert, contains (says the London Graphic) an interesting story of the pursuit of scientific knowledge under difficulties. Two miners at Blackworth, in Northumberland, in order to attend a course of lectures on chemistry at Crumlington, five miles off, walked after their day's work to that place and back in order to attend every lecture. They made sufficient notes to enable them on each occasion to recall what they had heard in a class formed by them at Blackworth, and actually repeated the experiments, so far as rough apparatus and their means would allow. The lecturer visited this little class (there were only seven in all), and found upon examining them that they had acquired a sound knowledge of the first steps in chemistry. This germ has now blossomed into "The Blackworth students' association," consisting entirely of miners. It is not often that such a splendid instance of self-help is offered for our admiration, and, we may add, imitation.

—The death of the distinguished zoologist, Henri Milne-Edwards, so long connected with the Peiser museum, was announced to have occurred on July 20th. He was a Belgian by birth, and spoke English fluently. His son Alphonse has been, in recent years, almost as well known, his father's age (he was born in 1809) preventing much literary activity.

—We learn from Nature, that, on July 10th, at about noon, a wonderful eclipse was seen on Lake Wetteren, in Sweden, by a number of people between the villages of Fogensta and Vassen. A small island in the lake appeared as if covered with the most gorgeous tins, and tall gigantic trees, forming great groves, between which buildings having the appearance of the most splendid palaces were seen. The Sandi, another little island, seemed to rise out of the sea many times its actual height, its sandy shores looking like lofty castellated walls. It had the utmost appearance of a medieval fortress enclosed by four walls. Two other little islands, Alfbiden and Bliden, appeared also as lofty towers above the water. The eclipse lasted for nearly half an hour, when it disappeared somewhat rapidly.

—Inspired, apparently, by the success of Mavou's 'Russians at the gates of Hare,' Mr. Archibald Ross Guelph has — the author of 'Across Charybdis,' and special correspondent of the London Times in China — has written a little book of fifty-eight pages on Bur-