

Death of Rev. Geo. Cheney.

The Hamilton Times records the death of Rev. George Cheney, M.A., of Saltfleet. He was born in the parish of Auchterless, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on the 15th day of July, 1802. He was educated at Marshall College, Aberdeen, where he took the degree of M.A., April 1, 1822—just fifty-six years to a day from the date of his death. He was ordained to the ministry in 1831, and was sent out by the Church of Scotland, the same year, to take charge of the Presbyterian Church at Amherstburg, in the Province. At that time there were only nineteen Presbyterian ministers in this country—the subject of this sketch being the last of those old worthies who have been gathered home. On his return from the Synod in Kingston in 1832, he preached in a school house where the city of London is now situated, it being then only a hamlet of log huts. The following Sunday he preached at St. Thomas, which was a place then of more note. At that early day there was no Presbyterian Church between Dundas and Amherstburg. He was in the habit of leaving his congregation for six weeks at a time, and, mounted on horseback, he would travel through the sparsely settled country, preaching to the people and baptizing their children. He laboured for twelve years at Amherstburg, and accepted a call to Birkbeck and Saltfleet in 1843, the year of the "disruption." He threw in his lot with the "disrupters," who afterwards formed the Free Church. It was a matter of great consolation to him that he lived to see the two Churches, which should never have been rent asunder in this country, so happily united together again. In 1856 he was elected Moderator of Synod at London, and in 1870 was elected the first Moderator of the Synod of Hamilton. He was Superintendent of Schools in Birkbeck and Saltfleet for many years, discharging his duty with much acceptance and great fidelity. He revisited Scotland in 1872. In 1874 he resigned very reluctantly his pastoral care on account of age and infirmity.

BESSARABIA.—The strip of Bessarabia, whose retrocession Russia demands of Roumania, has a total area of something over two million acres, and a population of about 150,000. The district is divided into three separate provinces; Kagal, inhabited principally by Roumanians; Bolgrad, whose inhabitants are almost altogether Bulgarian, and Ismail, whose population is mixed and interfused with the Russian element. Throughout the whole district, Roumanians and Bulgarians are about equally divided, and the Russians number 6,300. As for the towns, Ismail is the largest, with a population of 21,000; Bolgrad has 9,600; Kilia, 8,000; in the Danube, 7,600; Kagal, 7,000; and Wilkow, 2,300. There is a Bulgarian college and church at Bolgrad; and at Kilia and Ismail are fortifications, which, although now in ruins, might easily be restored.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The famine in the northern provinces of China is increasing.

The railroad rioters cost Pennsylvania \$700,000 for military expenses alone.

The Archbishop of Canterbury in England receives an annual salary of \$75,000.

You cannot dream yourself into a character you must hammer and forge yourself one.—Froude.

Have the courage to be ignorant of a great number of things in order to avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything.—Sydney Smith.

A late Manitoulin mail was delayed by the carriers' canoe springing a leak and the occupants being forced to take refuge on an island for eleven days, until the next mail party came along and rescued them.

Roman Catholicism is making progress in Scotland. In 1828 this denomination had fifty priests, forty-five chapels, and no "religious house." Now there are two hundred and fifty of the first, two hundred and fifty-two of the second, and twenty-two of the third.

A sailor went to a watchmaker, and, presenting a small French watch to him, demanded to know how much the repair of it would come to. The watchmaker, after examining it, said: "It will be more expensive repairing it than its original cost." "I don't mind that," said the sailor; "I will even give you double the original cost, for I give a fellow a blow on the head for it, and if you repair it I will give you two."

A credible story is told of a clerk in a French importing house in New York. The course of business one day brought a letter written with great elegance. One of the clerks admired the hand-writing openly, and a partner of the firm heard him express his raptures. The partner asked the clerk, "Would you like to write as handsomely?" "Yes, sir, I would do or give anything in my power," was the reply. "Very well, sir, I will put you in the road. Here is the letter. Take it as your copy. Copy it one hundred and fifty times, doing your best every time. Here is paper, and you can take time every day. Number your copies of it, and by the time you reach the one hundred and fiftieth your hand-writing will rival it." It proved to be the fact.

The chief discovery made by the party under Capt. Elton in their hazardous journey through the unknown interior of Africa, north of Lake Nyassa, was that of an extensive range of mountains, called the Kondi mountains, from 12,000 to 14,000 feet high. On the northern side of the range extends an elevated plateau seven thousand feet above the sea level, which descends abruptly to the valley of the Rufiji river. This discovery is one of the most important that has recently been made in Central Africa. It is doubtful at present whether the Kondi range is really continuous or not with the Livingstone chain discovered by Mr. E. D. Young on the north eastern side of Lake Nyassa, the latter trending north and south, while the Kondi mountains have almost a due east and west direction.

NEW FOSSIL BIRD FROM THE LONDON CLAY.

Since most fossil-bearing rocks are nothing but ancient marine sediments, it is evident that the remains of birds, however thickly the air may have been saturated, would stand but little chance of being preserved in such deposits. In fact the proverbial imperfection of the geological record is nowhere more strikingly seen than in the scanty data which it offers to the student of ancient bird-life. Hence the discovery of a new fossil-bird is always worth the notice of geologists. Remains of no fewer than five or six species have at different times been discovered in the London clay of the Isle of Sheppey—a deposit which was evidently formed in an Eocene sea not far from land. Of these birds the most notable is Prof. Owen's *Odontopteryx Tolivassius*, since this creature, by the possession of a good set of teeth, must have differed widely from any existing birds. Dr. Bowerbank many years ago found in the Sheppey clay the remains of a large bird which he believed to have resembled the Australian emu, and which he therefore named *Lithornis emusianus*. Prof. Seeley afterwards found part of a bone of a very large bird, which he termed *Megalornis*. Quite recently Prof. Owen has given to geologists the benefit of his study of several bird-bones which were discovered a short time ago in the Sheppey clay by Mr. Shrubsole, of Sheerness. The bones are portions of two humeri belonging to opposite sides of the same species—possibly, indeed, of the same individual. It is believed that they represent a large bird of flight, with wings measuring, when fully stretched, upwards of ten feet from tip to tip. Probably it was a marstonian bird, not altogether unlike the gigantic albatross, but even larger. As the representative of a new species and genus, Prof. Owen has bestowed upon it the appropriate name of *Angliornis longipennis*.

SECRET OF HAPPINESS.—Men and women wed each other to be happy. And why not, if they marry wisely? The man should always be a little bigger than his wife, and a little older, a little braver, a little stronger, a little wiser, and a little more in love with her than she is with him. The woman should always be a little younger, and a little prettier, and a little more inconsiderate than her husband. He should bestow upon her all his worldly goods, and she should take good care of them. He may owe her every care and tenderness that affection can prompt; but pecuniary indebtedness to her will become a burden. Better live on a crust he earns than a fortune she has brought him. Neither must encourage sentimental friendships for the opposite sex. Perfect confidence in each other, and residence concerning their mutual affairs, even to members of their own families, is a first necessity. A wife should dress herself becomingly whenever she expects to meet her husband's eye. The man should not grow slovenly, even at home. Faultfinding, long arguments, or scolding, end the happiness that begins in kisses and love-making. Sisters and brothers may quarrel and "make up." Lovers are lovers no longer after such disturbances occur, and married people who are not lovers are bound by red-hot chains. If a man admires his wife more in print, she is silly not to wear them. If she likes him best in black cloth, he is a fool if he neglects to indulge in it. They should contrive to please each other, even if they please nobody else, for their mutual happiness can only be the result of their mutual love, and that love will never fail to exalt its object.

TO MOTHERS.—It is uphill work sometimes, is it not? Your work is heavy, and your cares are heavier still. Sometimes you get angry with your husband, and think, a little while you drop into your grave. Then you wonder if anybody would care—if your husband would care—and you think that you would rather die than go on all your life with this endless washing, scrubbing, ironing, baking, mending, and tending babies—there are three of those babies now, and nobody knows how many more will come to claim your care. And, then, unless you are careful, you sink into a low, nervous state, and see nothing bright in life. But don't allow yourself to come to this. Bear your burdens cheerfully, and do all that you can to make life bright and good for your husband and his little ones. God will not ask of you more than you are able to bear. When your children come to you with their childish griefs, don't turn them away with a cross word because you are tired; remember, that which seems a little matter to you, means a great deal to them, and that "mamma" can "love away" a great deal of pain from a little heart. Keep a sunny, cheerful face for your children, if you can; don't bring your cares and trials into their lives. It is a weary road that leads from the cradle to the grave, and many of the steps must be taken with bleeding feet in thorny paths; all the mother-love, and all a mother's prayers, cannot save your little ones from the sorrows that come to all sooner or later. But you can give them their happy childhood, and it will be a blessed memory for them in the years to come.

THE REFINING INFLUENCE OF MASTERS ON CHILDREN.—There are children who accept their lessons as tasks to be learnt, without much considering the future use they are to be put to; whose keener interests are for what they see and hear; whose minds are present to the scene around them; who respond with dutiful alacrity to the training of manners; who are obedient to rule, courteous, friendly, hospitable to strangers in their small innocent way; who greet with a simple welcome company, and brighten under it; who watch their mother's eyes and obey her behests, and so doing catch the grace of air and movement. These are children, whatever their literary attainments, who will grow into gentle, refining influences; who will perpetuate good traditions, and maintain the charm as well as the virtues of family life. And, moreover, whatever their store of exact knowledge, they will have a diction and facility of expression which perhaps will more than stand comparison with others deeper read but less practised in social intercourse.—Blackwood's Magazine.

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