

direction, the winds taking in Queensland and New South Wales a westerly, and in Victoria a northerly, direction. The hot weather culminated in terrific dust-storms in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, and during these storms "fireballs" were seen hovering in the air. On the sea, "red rain" was experienced by several passing vessels.

The following is an abstract of what happened:—

Melbourne, Wednesday, November 13. Weather phenomenal, great heat, dust-storms, in all parts of Victoria.

At Boort, great fireballs fell in the street, throwing up sparks as they exploded. The whole air appeared to be on fire; intervals of complete darkness; lanterns had to be used in daytime, and fowls went to roost.

At Longdale, a house set on fire by a fireball.

Balls of fire burst on the poppet heads of the New Barambogie mine, Chiltern, Victoria, putting the timbering of the shaft on fire. Almost every meteorological station in Victoria sent in similar reports—fireballs, darkness in daytime, and people stumbling about with lanterns.

Sydney. On November 14, Mr. Bruggman, of Parramatta, was paralysed by a fireball bursting over his head.

Harden, Wednesday, November 13. During a storm yesterday at Murrumburrah, a huge "fireball" hovered over the houses for a considerable time and then disappeared.

H. I. JENSEN.

Caboollure, Queensland, January 1.

A New South Wales Meteorite.

ON reading the account of the fall of the Crumlin meteorite given by several correspondents in your issue of October 9, 1902, I was struck with the parallelism between this occurrence and the fall of the Mount Browne stone in this State on July 17 of this year. Mount Browne is situated near the township of Milparinka, in the extreme north-west corner of New South Wales. About 9.30 a.m. on that date, a loud explosion was heard. In the direction of the sound, a hut is said to have caught fire, this being immediately followed by a whizzing sound and the raising of a cloud of dust at some distance. The stone was picked up within five minutes, while still warm. It may now be seen at the Mining and Geological Museum, Sydney. Its present weight is about 25 lb., but a small piece has been broken off one end. The fractured surface is exceptionally light in colour, the stone being largely non-metallic.

An account of the phenomena attending the fall has been given by Mr. H. C. Russell in a paper recently read before the Royal Society of New South Wales. GEORGE W. CARD.

Sydney, December 23, 1902.

The Holy Shroud of Turin.

I AM sorry to find, from an interesting paper by the Rev. Father Thurston on the Holy Shroud in the current number of *The Month*, that I have mistranslated the passage from Chifflet's "De Linteis Sepulchralibus, &c." p. 198, in which he refers to the spirituous tincture of cinnamon and cloves being used for giving the correct colour in making a copy on linen of the Besançon shroud for King Philip II. of Spain, and not for depicting the King himself. Not having Chifflet's book at hand when writing, I overlooked the reference to the Besançon shroud, but the mistake does not affect the argument regarding the use of such tinctures by painters in the Middle Ages.

J. WATERHOUSE.

A Simple Sensitive Flame.

A USEFUL sensitive flame may be obtained from a Bunsen burner with the usual gas supply by completely excluding the air and lowering the gas pressure until the flame becomes lop-sided but quiet. Its range of sensibility extends for singing over the three octaves of the bass and treble clefs, for whistling over the middle octave of these three. The recovery is prompt enough to allow of a response to each note of a slow staccato passage. The type of burner found best is one with a brass tube three-eighths of an inch bore, with one side hole for air which is quite closed by a half-turn of its tightly-fitting sleeve. E. H. BARTON.

University College, Nottingham, January.

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THE FUNERAL OF SIR GEORGE STOKES.

THE funeral of Sir George Stokes at Cambridge on Thursday last was an impressive ceremony in which distinguished representatives of many branches of learning took part. The University church was crowded in every part, and the assembly constituted a living witness to the esteem in which the memory of Sir George Stokes is held in the intellectual world.

The coffin containing the late Master's body was first carried round the court of Pembroke College, in accordance with an ancient custom reserved for Masters, the procession being formed of the choir and officiating clergy, the fellows of the College, former fellows, masters of arts, bachelors of arts and undergraduates.

At the gate of the College, the relatives in carriages took their place in the procession immediately after the fellows. All the other members of the College followed the carriages in their order to Great St. Mary's Church.

In the meantime, another procession was being arranged in the Senate House, comprising the Vice-Chancellor, the heads of houses, doctors, University officers, professors, and members of the council of the Senate, together with the representatives of learned societies. This procession included:—

The Vice Chancellor (Dr. F. H. Chase), with the registry (Mr. J. W. Clark), in front of whom walked the Esquire Bedells; Lord Braybrook, Lord Kelvin, Sir Richard Jebb, M.P., the Masters of Trinity, Clare, Peterhouse, Trinity Hall, St. Catherine's, Jesus, Christ's, St. John's, Emmanuel, Downing, Magdalen, and Selwyn, Profs. Allbutt, Mason, Swete, Clark, Macalister, Bvan, Ward, Hughes, Lewis, Liveing, Ridgeway, Barnes, Marshall, Newton, Westlake, Mayor, Ewing, Skeat, Stanton, Ward and Reid; the Public Orator (Dr. Sandys), Dr. Routh, Dr. Guillelard, Dr. Harmer, Dr. W. G. Lax, Dr. D. Macalister, Dr. Haddon, Dr. James, Dr. Dalton, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Baker, Dr. Langley, Dr. McTaggart, Rev. Dr. Cunningham, Archdeacon Emery, the Rev. J. O. F. Murray, Rev. H. J. Sharpe, Messrs. Berry, H. Darwin Headley, Wright, Mollison, Scott, Shipley, Grey, Durnford, Wyatt, Magmisson, and many others.

The representatives of learned societies and other bodies were as follow:—

The Royal Society—Lord Kelvin (past president), Mr. A. B. Kempe (vice-president and treasurer), Dr. W. T. Blanford (vice-president), Prof. J. W. Judd (vice-president), Prof. G. Carey Foster (vice-president), Prof. R. B. Clifton, Sir Michael Foster (secretary), Dr. J. Larmor (secretary), Dr. T. E. Thorpe (foreign secretary), Sir Arthur Rücker and Prof. A. Schuster (fellows), Mr. R. W. F. Harrison (assistant secretary), together with Profs. Liveing, J. J. Thomson, G. H. Darwin, J. Dewar, A. R. Forsyth, Sir Robert Ball and Dr. Glazebrook. The president of the Royal Society was absent by medical advice.

Victoria University—Prof. Horace Lamb.

Owens College—Prof. Osborne Reynolds and Prof. A. Schuster.

Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society—Prof. Osborne Reynolds.

London Mathematical Society—Prof. Horace Lamb (president), Prof. A. E. H. Love and Prof. W. Burnside (secretaries), Dr. J. Larmor (treasurer).

University of Oxford—Profs. Turner and Clifton.

University of London—Sir A. Rücker (principal), Prof. Tilden (Dean), Sir William Ramsay.

British Association and Royal Institution—Prof. Dewar.

National Physical Laboratory—Dr. R. T. Glazebrook.

Solar Physics Committee and Observatory—Sir Norman Lockyer, Prof. George Darwin.

Institution of Electrical Engineers—Prof. W. G. Adams.

Victoria Institute—Prof. Hull and Mr. Martin Rouse.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society—Mr. T. D. Atkinson.

Chemical Society—Prof. W. A. Tilden (treasurer).

Cambridge Philosophical Society—Dr. H. F. Baker (president), Prof. A. Macalister (past president), Mr. H. F. Newall (treasurer), Mr. A. E. Shipley, Mr. S. Skinner and Mr. H. M. Macdonald (secretaries), Prof. Liveing, Prof. J. J. Thomson and Dr. Hobson (members of the council).

Royal Astronomical Society—Dr. J. W. L. Glaisher (president).