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(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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A COMETARY RETROSPECT.

From recent calculations of the elements of Coggia's comet by Mr. Plummer, an English astronomer, there appears to be a close similarity between them and those of Comet II of 1737.

There will doubtless be many who, in gazing at the comet night after night as it gradually augments in brilliancy, will ponder as we have over the vast progress which the world has made since the era of the former visitation.

Looking at the condition of Science in 1737, from our present standpoint, it is easier to regard the circumstances negatively, to imagine our own condition if deprived of the results of discovery and of progress which have accumulated in the intervening years.

districts, and the boy, who sat beside it and worked the condenser valves, had not been struck with the brilliant idea of making catches and strings perform the labor in his stead. The Marquis of Worcester and James Watt were unknown to fame.

Whale oil was burned in the lamps, which formed the sole means of illumination when candles were absent. Petroleum, paraffin, and illuminating gas were yet to be found.

Laplace had not given his labors to the world. Saturn's rings and satellites had not been discovered, and the path of that planet was supposed to be the outer bound of our solar system.

India rubber had been discovered one year. There was no definite system of botany, and Cuvier's researches in natural history had not appeared.

Our retrospect already extends beyond intended limits, and we have far from even summarized the great discoveries of the past century and a half.

TAXING POWER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Law, in its true sense, is the product of the highest reason coupled with the most exact justice. The Civil or Roman Law and the Common Law of England are to be admired as models.

The most notable instance of this may be found in such legislative acts as provide for the disbursement of large sums of money in making public improvements, and then charging the whole cost as a tax on specific individual property without the consent of the owners.

This doctrine is so arbitrary in form and so destructive of individual rights that it becomes a relief to know that our sister State of New Jersey, through Chief Justice Beasley, of its Court of Errors and Appeals, lays down a much milder and wiser rule for that State, in a recent decision made

by him at the suit of "The Mayor and Common Council of Newark vs. The State, Agents et al.

The facts were that a certain street in Newark had been repaired under an act of the legislature which provided that two thirds of the cost should be imposed on the owners of lots fronting on the line of the improvement.

" * * * That the effect of such laws may not extend beyond certain prescribed limits is perfectly indisputable. It is upon this principle that taxes, raised in counties, towns, and cities, are vindicated.

If such prerogative has no trammel or circumscription, then it follows that the entire burthen of one of these public improvements can be placed by the force of the legislative will on the property of a few enumerated citizens, or even on that of a single citizen.

So far as the particularized property is specially benefited, an exaction to that extent will not be a condemnation of property to the public use.

Speaking on this subject, Chief Justice Green says: 'The theory upon which such assessments are sustained, as a legitimate exercise of the taxing power, is that the party assessed is locally and peculiarly benefited, over and above the ordinary benefit which, as one of the community, he receives in all public improvements.

A full review of this able decision and the cases it cites would interest and instruct all lovers of sound law. It imparts the good old doctrine that States and Legislatures are only the product of an aggregate of individuals.

RECENT PRINTING PRESS IMPROVEMENTS.

In the working of nearly all printing presses the sheets of paper are supplied by hand, the workman being known as a "feeder." Each sheet must be taken up singly and exactly placed on the feed board.