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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1891.

Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as 'Air pump governor, Ord's', 'Asbestos mine, a new', 'Boat, new submarine', etc., with corresponding page numbers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT No. 785.

For the Week Ending January 17, 1891.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Detailed table of contents for the supplement, listing 14 sections (Aeronautics, Astronomy, Botany, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Electricity, Forestry, Entomology, Hygiene, Mathematics, Metallurgy, Miscellaneous, Ordnance, Technology) with sub-articles and page numbers.

STUDENTS OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

History reposes on authenticated facts as proved by living witnesses or written records. To gather and digest such materials demands critical and painstaking investigation carried on with as much freedom from prejudice as possible, by men qualified to see and accept the facts of politics, society, and religious life just as they really are.

The inaugural address prepared by the president, Hon. John Jay, LL.D., of New York City, was read in his absence by Hon. Wm. Wirt Henry, of Richmond, Va. He claimed that the national importance of the work done by the society, and its improved methods of study, had been properly recognized by its incorporation with the Smithsonian Institution, and the generous privileges accorded as to collecting materials, making exchanges and distributing reports.

The papers immediately following President Jay's address were devoted to Canadian history. Dr. Bourinot, a member of the association, and clerk of the Canadian House of Commons, claimed that the Dominion of Canada is no longer a "province," as styled by Secretary Blaine, but is rapidly becoming an independent power, with a vast territory, an intelligent people, and a magnificent future of its own in a line of national development diverging more and more from that of this country.

New material was adduced by Prof. Rand as to the New England settlements in Acadia. There had been two great migrations, one of 11,000 persons between 1760 and 1770, and another in 1784 of about 23,000 disbanded soldiers and loyalists.

An idea prevails that the "village community" is the germ of our body politic. This was controverted by Dr. C. M. Andrews of Bryn Mawr, who held that it was an imported notion gaining later recognition in the original State.

A lengthy and able account was given by Prof. Cohn of the formation of the French Constitution. The fate of Diedrich Flade, the most eminent victim of the witch persecution, who sacrificed himself to save others, was fully explained from records that had been lost for a century, but had now turned up and were in the possession of Cornell University.

In a paper on "Amendments to the United States Constitution," Mr. H. V. Ames, of the Harvard graduate school, stated that upward of 1,300 resolutions, containing over 1,700 propositions to amend the Constitution, had been offered down to the close of the Fiftieth Congress, in March, 1889.

The great land speculations in the Yazoo territory, now divided between Georgia and Alabama, were described by Dr. C. Haskins, of the University of Wisconsin, who showed that, among other results, the discussion of these frauds caused the first split in the Democratic party, and that the decision of the Supreme Court as to the claims arising from them originated the present interpretation of the law of public contracts.

Miss Mary Tremain enjoys the distinction of being the first woman to lay a paper before the Historical Association, which was an interesting sketch of slavery in the District of Columbia. She stated the fact that slavery played no part originally in the choice of the seat of government.

Numerous other papers were read, and there was a large attendance at every meeting; the remaining topics being mostly with regard to the best methods of teaching history, in its philosophical, economical, political and other aspects, the organization of historical material, the co-operation of the several State historical societies, the importance of geography and archæology to the student of history, and finally the extent of governmental expenditures in behalf of studies like those espoused by this association.

VITAL STATISTICS OF JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A very interesting bulletin (No. 19), which is devoted to vital statistics of the Jews in the United States, has been issued by the superintendent of the late census. Circulars asking for census items were sent to a number of families, and returns were received from 10,618 families, representing 60,630 individuals.

Their excellent home sanitation is shown in the statistics of births and survival of children. Of children under five years the proportion is less among the Jews than among the other population of the country in the ratio of 9 to 13.

The social condition and comfortable position attained is shown by the fact that nearly two-thirds of the families keep one or more servants. Yet the poorer families show a slightly lower death rate than that of the richer ones, reversing the ordinary course of things. The occupations of 18,115 male members of these families reveal the selection of employments. Eight general classifications of occupations were made.