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(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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No. 957.

For the Week Ending May 5, 1894.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newdealers.

Table listing contents of the supplement, including 'I. ARCHITECTURE.—A Great Barn', 'II. ASTRONOMY.—A Remarkable Cometary Collision', etc.

A NEW THEORY OF LIGHT SENSATION.

Two recent numbers of Mind contain articles upon the new theory of light sensation devised by Mrs. Christine Ladd Franklin, a graduate of Vassar College and the first alumna of that institution to receive the degree of Ph.D. from her alma mater.

The former of these supposes that the judgment picks out of a mixture of colors all the even red-green-blue sensations, and deceives itself into thinking them to be a new sensation called white.

But while Hering supposes that some parts of the spectrum produce construction and others destruction of the tissue of the retina, Mrs. Franklin considers that the sensations of the black-gray-white series must be regarded as the fundamental ones, and attributed to the dissociation of certain molecules, which she provisionally calls the gray molecules.

ITALIAN COLONIZATION IN AFRICA.

As the European nations divide Africa among them, Italy is taking her share and has established a protectorate over Abyssinia. The eastern portion of this country, bordering on the Red Sea, is called Eritrea.

The company consisted of nine families, fifty-seven persons in all, twenty four of them strong laboring men. They are from Lombardy, Milan, and Sicily, and were under the leadership of Baron Franchetti, who was authorized by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to take command of the expedition.

The peasants themselves were pleased with the country from the first. Much had been said to intimidate them before they left their homes. They had been told that "on the Red Sea fire would rain upon them from heaven;" but they saw no fire and felt no more heat than that of an Italian June day.

Their steamer landed at Massaua, the largest town of Eritrea, on an island of the same name near the coast. Those who wished to deter the colonists from starting had told them that they would "die of suffocation at Massaua," but they were actually very little affected by the tropical temperature.

The officials who received them at Circolo were very kind; wine was offered to the adults and cakes to the children. The men were melted to tears, and the women said, "It is too good to be true!"

When they saw the fine grain which was being harvested at the colonial farm and the variety of pro-

ducts raised, their last fears vanished and they agreed that the success of the undertaking was sure.

The fact is that the Eritrean plateau is very similar to Italy in fertility and climate. The various altitudes will admit of their raising tobacco, coffee and cotton, besides grain. The country is so large that there is plenty of room for the emigrants without encroaching upon the rights of the natives.

The best promise of success for the colony is in the selection of the emigrants. They are honest people, and they understand that they must not expect help except so far as it is necessary in the first months; their own labor is to give them the ownership of the land.

Baron Franchetti's form of contract, approved by the foreign minister, is based upon the two following fundamental articles:

1. Gratuitous grant in perpetual ownership of a farm of twenty ettari (equal to sixty acres) for a family is subject to the condition of residence and labor on the same for a period not longer than five years.

2. Money advanced for seed for the first planting, food for the first year, farming tools and a house, is all to be returned at an annual rate in the form of labor, produce, cattle or money, with interest at three per cent.

Baron Franchetti has overcome great difficulties and much opposition in the furtherance of this scheme. If this nucleus of a colony is contented and successful, so that large numbers of families join it, the social problem which is at present so seriously disturbing Italy will find a most happy solution.

Was There a Flood?

One of the largest meetings ever held by the Victoria Institute, of London, England, took place in the third week of March, to hear that well-known "Nestor among Geologists," Professor Prestwich, F.R.S., read a paper on "A Possible Cause for the Origin of the Tradition of the Flood," in which he treated the subject "from a purely scientific standpoint."

The Yellow Calla Lily.

The white calla lily of our gardens is well known, it still retaining the original name of Calla, although botanists have in modern times removed it to another genus, which is called Richardia. Calla will, however, long be its common name. It has been frequently hinted that there are species with other colors, which would soon come into cultivation; but, so far, these have been mere rumors.