ture. They treat of the general principles of combustion, the functions of the locomotive boiler, and the theory of the blast. The remaining twenty-one chapters are by Mr. D. R. Clark, who, perfectly well in the mechanical part, is also responsible for the general matter of indices and contents. It is a responsibility which does him great credit. The table of contents prefixed to the volume is full, clear, and clear: The index is a full, clear, and fair-engraved atlas that forms the second volume. The index is not very full, but is fairly adequate to the need of the professional reader.

The part of the work possessing the most general interest is, of course, the historical and descriptive portion furnished by Mr. Colburn. It bears evidence of painstaking research, of thorough acquaintance with the subject, and of much impartiality. The degree of attention that is given to the history of locomotive in America is unusual in works published in this country. The book appears to be disproportionate. The language is perspicuous; exact statement of fact being more kept in view than literary style. But, with the exception of a slight uncertainty in the use of foreign words (as in deriving locomotion from loco and motus, and in repeatedly speaking of the "Sanskrit," which is correctly spelt in the index), the manner is unassuming of the matter. It was the aim of the author to furnish a perfectly exhaustive work on railway locomotion, so far as it has at present advanced, and to confine his attention to the subject as closely as if it comprised the whole of mechanical engineering. This is the true method in which such a subject should be approached. We only regret that a couple of chapters were not added, to give the history of steam locomotion on roads, descriptions of the tractor-engines, which are now attracting such deserved attention, of the locomotives and of the locomotive propellers of the steam-plough. These important machines are germane to the subject of the work. The early pages of the history of the railway locomotive are also those of the roadsteam-plough. In Mr. Colburn's preface, the introduction of the subject, which is the very life of rapid steam traction, is said to be due to the inventor of a road-engine.

It is not stated how much of the letter-press, or what portion of the admirable cuts and engravings, have been already published in the weekly journal which was for some time edited by Mr. Colburn. The value of the complete treatise is not diminished by such preexistent publication, but it is in precisely the same way that the coals, and coal, now burned on British railways costs rather more than a million per annum; and, if the half of it could be economized, the reduction would only increase the average dividend by about a tenth. In the mechanical construction of the engine involved not only the question of its own costly repairs, but that of the structure and maintenance of the permanent way. In fact, the key to economical working, so far as it comes within the province of the engineer, and is not affected by the character of the accommodation offered to the public, lies here.

While entering into full explanatory detail, amply illustrated by diagrams, of the working parts of the locomotive, the author of the volume before us purposely abstains from attempting to formulate rules of construction. None of the sets of rules which are to be found in so many works on the steam engine are implicitly adopted by successful engineers. Ratios between weight on driving-wheels, piston area and travel, area of fire, grate of other heating surface, of blast orifice, of chimney, &c., are matters desirable to be left to the discretion of the designer, and are not to be laid down as canons. Every railway, or combined group of railways, has its own peculiarities of traffic, and thus demands special qualities in its locomotives. From the four-wheeled engines of Mr. Bury, with which the London and Birmingham Railway was opened, to the twelve-wheeled monsters constructed by MM. Gouin et Cie. for the Northern Railway of France—from the ten-footers of Mr. Bury, placed in the Hurricane in 1837, to the 3 ft. 6 in. driving-wheels, which Buxton couple under the 66 ton engine that labours up the gradients of the Semnerring (rising in 1 for 40 for 24 miles)—every variety of arrangement may be studied in Mr. Colburn's treatise. The better the outcome of this wide-spread practice is grasped, the more fully will the student be able to appreciate the inherent value of that knowledge which has been in the premature ravishment of the writer. "Should we ever realize what now appears to be the latent capabilities of the steam-engine, its weight and the cost of working, it would be greatly diminished, and its profligate and unprofitable work differ widely from those which now prevail."

THE MOABITE STONE.

YOUR article headed "Moabite Stones" (Athenæum, No. 2310) induces me to request that you will insert this paper, whose object is not so much controversial as explanatory. A few hints may teach future discoverers to avoid mistakes, which, amongst Bedawin and other bands, too often lead to catastrophes.

Possibly some of your readers may not object to a short résumé of what has been stated by others, bien entendu, not by myself, concerning the Moabite Stone, this "peerless triumph piece of the very oldest Semitic legal record of importance," this "giant page of a previously unknown tongue," the "first fragment of Moabite literature," which "can scarcely be less or more than that of the prophetess or of the prophet, took the world of 1870 by storm."

Students do not differ much about the date of our "Egyptian augeous" before n.c. 500. The Ouvâ de Vogüé (extract from the Times, Feb. 22, on the Count's pamphlet) remarks, "If my conjectures are well founded, the characters on the stone were written some time after the 1st year of Ahaziah, King of Israel; that is, following the chronology usually adopted, the year 896 before the Christian era." Prof. Wright (p. 29 North and South, p. 118) writes about the second year of Ahaziah's reign, or at the beginning of that of his brother, Jehoram, n.c. 896 or 894; and Dr. Leffel (Num. and Antiq. Review, No. 5221, to the beginning of the reign of Jehoram, n.c. 894). Thus numbering upwards of two millenniums and a half, our "memorial" or monumental stone must have been of the greatest interest to the city of Moab. It has been supposed before to have composed cirest n.c. 850-75, writing being unknown to Greece before the first Olympiad. It has been mentioned that before the inscribed sarcophagus of Eshmunazar, cir. n.c. 600, long held to be the most ancient specimen of Phoenician epigraphy. It is the only pre-Maccabean written record extant in Phoenician alphabet, Biblical Hebrew; and its style has been pronounced to be older than two-thirds of the entire Old Testament. The question, "not to the third," finally, it shows us the very characters in which, possibly, the Law was written, and in which, probably, appeared the Psalms of David and the cords of Abraham. We cannot be surprised if this "bulletin of victory" has, as our neighbours say, "made uphill," when we consider the unique and unrivaled. But the importance attached to it by Continental scholars cannot be exaggerated. This is the difference in the way English students: let me quote but two—Sir Henry Rawlinson and the Dean of Westminster. The former, who, it will be remembered, was the first to send England to the Dead Sea inscription with the king whose name appears upon the famous black obelisk now in the British Museum, warns me not to take an exaggerated view of the Moabite Stone." The latter things that the special value of the discovery is its promise that "there are more Moabite and Edomite stones than this which has been found at Dibon."

I venture to hold with Continental scholars, that its latest details are most interesting, and that it is a real gain to paleography, philology and linguistic studies, to theology and mythology, to history, geography, and anthropology. Of the general considerations it suggests are of the highest importance. This specimen of a new dialect, the Moabitish, introduces us to a" Hebrew form of modern writing," which was probably the only cursive character* then known to the "Semitic"—that it has become is a matter that is in no sensible difference between it and the alphabet used on the metal weights and the clay tablets of Assyria, whilst it resembles the letters anciently marked lines on the north-eastern and south-eastern angles of the Jerusalem Haran. Prof. Rawlinson has shown it is identical with the alphabet of the Egyptians and Sabaeans (ab. n.c. 950-650), with the Egyptian alphabet (ab. n.c. 600), and with the ordinary Phoenician—which Mr. Deutsch would call Col. mean—alphabet of the Persian, Greek, and Roman times. Evidently dating in Phoenicia and Canaan from at least n.c. 1000, it proves the unity of the alphabet common to the Semitic population extending from Egypt to the foot of the Taurus, from Nineveh westward over the Mediterranean basin, and bounded only by the colonies of Tyre and Sidon, of Greece and Carthage.

In its presence the views of Aristotle and Plato, before universally received, concerning the eighth or sixteenth "Colossian letters," becomes obsolete. There are only two letters of the Hebrew alphabet in Mosaic times and the Book of Lamentations are here emended. Many of them, especially A, D (parch.
It names Yahweh (Jehovah) without a trace of mystic reverence, showing that the people were not yet thought of as a group distinct from foreign influences, and that the worshipers of Astarte, Baal, and Moloch had not yet been driven out of the land. It was, indeed, an ancient ritual, which was still observed in the days of Zerubbabel, when the temple was almost completed. It is probable that the word "Jehovah" was known to the people of the seventh century, but it is not found in the targums or in theSeptuagint. It was probably a religious text, and it is probable that the name was given to the deity by the priests of the temple. It is probable that this name was given to the deity by the priests of the temple, and that the worship of the deity was not yet established. It is probable that the name was given to the deity by the priests of the temple, and that the worship of the deity was not yet established. 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THE ATHENAEUM

No. 2330, APRIL 13, '72

parten. It is only the conflicting version that can be prevented from being burned from a Moabitic
chronicle. We would willingly also see the text of an alleara lecto applied to the raid of David against the Moabite so laconically told (2 Sam. viii. 2.) and its chroniclers, who give how much the
lower clause. To measure the amount of difference, let us compare the statements found in 2 Kings iii., with
the Moabitc Stone, this chapter of realistic local
information will give how much the
chronicle. The former offers, in a single chapter, a "prophet," a miracle, and a phenomenon, the latter as to its
miracles; the latter deals throughout with the world as we still know it. And the unprejudiced
will find in 2 Chronicles ii. 19, which is the romance of
history! Professor F. Burton.

THE HIGHER MINISTRY OF NATURE

With reference to our review of Mr. Leitchfield's "Higher Ministry of Nature," the author sends us a letter, in which he says, "only in the last few chapters of a work of about five hundred pages does Mr. Leitchfield offer us anything positive, except the most general positions of Natural Theism, supported by the most
fervent, and arguments, &c. I have written twenty-three chapters in this volume. Suppose I take the
few last chapters, that is to say, five or six, but the reader must hesitate to credit anything".

The Italian Professor has also discovered a so-called "colossal" muscular system in pyromoso, by which he means to show that the exaltation causing a wave of phosphorescence is achieved in these animals is transmitted. In his entirely new and able work, we find instances of the rapidity of phosphorescence (he has already published memoirs on that of Penstoma, Phasos, Beros, and Chotopterus), Prof. Panzer is doing a work worthy to be compared with the researches of the great Neapolitan naturalists, Cavallo, Pello, and Delia Chiala.

SOCIETIES.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—April 5.—Lord Talbot de Malahide was the chair. The Secretary read a letter from Sir J. Lockbocb, giving some particulars of the acquisition by him of the land at
Campden. This is to be regarded as a very fortunate purchase, and there is every reason to hope that it will be
added to the collection of the Institute. The letter is read, and in the discussion which followed, Mr. Lotise added some bibliographical details, and made remarks on the early printed and MS. books exhibited by Sir W. P. Wilson, which were read, and in the discussion which followed, Mr. Micklethwaite, on behalf of Mr. Söck, gave some particulars about the discovery of the remains of the Substructure of the Shrine of St. Alban's, which were illustrated by drawings and photographs. Nearly the whole of the substructure had been built up to the east end of the church, and this had probably taken place early in the reign of Elizabeth, when the grammar school of the town was formed in the Lady Chapel of the Abbey. Some of the old buildings and other buildings joined in an animated discussion upon several points of the account given by Mr. Micklethwaite. The Lambeth portion of the MS. Bible was also exhibited, by permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Mr. Henderson brought two beautiful metal caskets of Persian work, damascened with gold and silver; one was of late thirteenth century work, and on it were the lines of seated figures which had been covered with
silver; the other was of unlike work, and may have been of the sixteenth century, and of unusual form. Mr. O'Grady presented a Roman fibula and spear-head of bronze of good size, but not unusual, type, also a brooch of silver and a bronze gilt of very original form, presented by Mr. Orkney. Mr. Corbet sent some early Norwegian coins; and Mr. Sparrow-Bayley exhibited three Augustan coins, one of great size and fragments of some very fine, and fragments of some pottery which had been found on the shores of the Thanes, near the ancient ferry at West Tilbury, Essex.

CHEMICAL.—March 30.—Anniversary Meeting. Mr. P. S. Carew delivered his address, congratulating the Fellows on the increase of their numbers, but pointing out at the same time the comparatively

written. No mention of this miraculous water-system.

No mention of this phenomenon, which is reckoned as if the semi-half-breeds Moabitc had never seen a miracle.

No mention of the barbarous language referred to by the scribes.

No mention of this sacrifice.

No mention of this blessed is the son that shall reign in the city, and offer him a burnt-offering upon the altar.

No mention of this terrible loss to the fate of God.

No mention of this terrible loss to the Israelites.

Dilito.

Dilito.

The "givcr remarkable" of the Bible might have been in a better place. It is evident that in the Book of Kings we tread upon enchanted ground, whereas, in the Psalms, we find a chapter of realistic, local, and con-

The Phosphorescence of the Sea.

The phosphorescence of the transparent compound, consisting of ammonia, which occurs floating in occasional shoals both in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as well as the Mediterranean Sea, has long excited the admiration of voyagers. The fishermen of Naples know the phenomenon by the name of "lantara." Though its phosphorescence is so intense, yet zoologists have not hitherto

rightly ascertained what are the organs which produce the light. Prof. Paolo Panceri, of Naples, has since commenced the most admirable researches on the phosphorescence of certain species of pyromos, and he has lately studied that of pyromos, and conclusively demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Dr. Krahn and other hydrobiologists now at the light-emitting organs are two large granular patches, placed on either side near the mouth of each of the compounds of the compound organ. By cutting a section of the pyromos, placing it in fresh water, and then under the microscope in a darkened room, it is at once seen that the light is issuing from these two patches, which, at the same time, made important observations on the development and anatomy of pyromos, which have been published in the recent volumes of the Rinn, 55, and 9 Chronicles, xii. 9), an apparently
causeless outburst upon a people connected with him through both blood-ties, and to whom his far loves and deep gratitude.

Lines 4 and 5 mention only Israel and the mass of 190 pages of studiously considered matter, my kind critic dismisses contemptuously as the last few chapters. He does not exaggerate them as unverifiable suggestions, and as "meagre results." . . . When I am charged with having presented only "meagre results," I am not surprised, since the work is nothing but a research for a research's sake! In the super-phenomenal region, it is plain that little can be formulated with scientific precision. Not even in the natural science precision attempted as to many things believed. Whenever moves in the super-phenomenal world, we are not justified in saying, "This is a fact, and not a fiction." After all the questions from direct revelation, the very basis of certitude is in doubt and dispute. The whole result is snatches of opinion, of belief, of sentiment, of analogical, and not demonstrative, reasoning. How, under such limitations, are my results meagre? Are exci-

attacks on him, the King of Judah, saying, "The King of Moab hath rebelled against thy brother the king of Judah, and hath removed his border to the Arnon, and hath offered war against him. Behold, by that way they shall go up to thee; the king of Moab shall come up as thy horsemen do. And his cities shall be given thee, and thy soul shall reign over them." Then Jehoshaphat said, "The king of Arimmon send me a word that I may know who shall go up with me to battle against Moab?" And the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go up, for the Lord will deliver Moab into thy hand. And all that meet thee in the land of Moab, thou shalt way against them; and the Lord shall give them into thine hand. And they said, That is good counsel. And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites put on their Saul, and came upon the Moabites, that they said before them. And when the king of Moab was来看, and said, "Now called every man for his donkey, and they brought off their goods, and stopped all the wells of water, and cut off the streams also. And they said, "If you will give us water, we will not fight against you to day, or make you fall back; go your way to peace to us." And he said, "Well, I will give you water. And they said, "Come, we will offer sacrifice to the Lord one hundred bullocks, and seven thousand sheep, to offer sacrifice to the Lord." And they did so, and sacrificed. And when the king of Moab saw that the fought not against him, he fought against the cities of the pillars, and came even unto Jordan, and halted in the mouth of Jordan. And they said, "Go up, and help against us, for with whomever the Lord helpeth, he shall prevailed." And when the king of Moab saw that the was not forthcoming, he gathered all that were in the best cabins of Moab, and they stood up and came against the king of Israel. And the king of Israel said unto his servants, "Ye see how this Javanite artificer reads like the word of the Bible might have been in a better place. It is evident that in the Book of Kings we tread upon enchanted ground, whereas, in the Psalms, we find a chapter of realistic, local, and con-

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