you any account of the battle, of which the Gazette will tell, I dare say, give us the first distinct information. I understand that it is nothing more than a lucky shot, which the Duke has been able to make, and that the whole affair is now over.

I suppose that the Cossacks have evacuated the place.

S. L. L. E.

Camões

In the Athenaeum of November 13 (No. 2768) I read as follows:—"With the one exception of Petrarch, no great poet depends upon his nation for his reputation. The Portuguese declare that if Luís de Camões were not born in Portugal, his sonnets would have immortalized him; and they prefer many of his, especially the "autobiographical," to those of the love of Luís de Camões.

I am accordingly uncertain as to his nation."

The reviewer pursues, "Mr. Charles Tennyson... is the master sonneteer of the present century... by virtue of his 341 sonnets which have already appeared."

The great edition of Camões by Visconty Jurumena contains 322 sonnets, and possibly more will be found.
The professor’s income, says Mr. Sayce, has been set down at the “lowest possible minimum.” There is a number of ways of looking at the problem, but it is clear that the incomes of most of the heads of the college boarding-houses, or with the professors of divinity, is unusually small; compared with those of the college tutors, it is both larger and more provided with wider liberties, for I must presume to differ on this point from your correspondent. If one compares it with similar positions elsewhere, it is, to say the least, not inferior, and perhaps the whole superior.

The third paragraph of a letter is yet to come. In all those proposals of the Commissioners there is no word about research. There ought, it seems, to have been a clause in the regulations that the professor ought to have been one only and all-sufficient clause:—It shall be the duty of a professor to study the “art or science” committed to his charge; to learn about it all that has already been ascertained, and is to the professor still unknown; and to search for more, pushing out the boundaries of knowledge farther and farther for the world. Yet, if there be any professor who had not in some dim way become familiar with the problem, then there are difficulties to the whether a statement by the Commissioners would have been to him more than “sound and fury, signifying nothing.” To those who urge that research or even learning is incompatible with a position in the University, for four hours a week during twenty-one weeks a year, it may be said that teaching is one of the best touchstones for securing genuine research, and that a professor in Germany, it cannot be supposed that English professors are incapable of the tasks accomplished by their brethren in Berlin. If Mommsen, Zeller, Heine, Rott, and Vivchow can write as they do, with an assistant who is only a man, appointed by the Oxford University Commissioners, there is ground to hope that what has hitherto, not wholly through its own fault, been nearly the illusory professorate in Christendom, will be made a reality. The professorate in Germany is a profession for which the best touchstones are there. It seems no grudging bondage even for a professor to state towards the end of one year what branches of his subject he proposes to teach upon in the course of the next. If a brand-new course of subjects arises, nobody is likely to resist a lecture upon it, and I think one may promise the professor immunity even from the visitatorial board.

It is possible to find fault with many details in the proposed statutes, and if this were the proper place, to suggest modifications. But the first duty of every well-wisher to Oxford and to knowledge is to recognise with pleasure an attempt to provide for a college whose professors a real voice and a predominant place in the educational system of the university, and to put them on rapport with the teachers who, however ignorantly, have hitherto conducted the educational work. And if one, though not a Commissioner, may propheesy—in the university of the next generation, while the heads of houses sit tranquilly reigning in their cloisters, and the professors rule the educational world as gods of the younger clan, I see the tutors and lecturers doomed—though by what precise instrumentality is obscure—to insignificance and the place of assistants to the professoriate. But these things are on the knees of the professors, and no signs can be seen how the enormous waste of teaching power in Oxford colleges is to be checked.

W. WALLACE.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

Monday, Nov. 29, 7.30 p.m. Actuaries: Presidential Address, by A. T. Bailey.
5 p.m. Royal Academy: “The Skeleton of the Horse,” by M. W. McNeice.
8 p.m. Society of Arts: Three Points of Contact between the Scientific and Artistic Aspects of Pottery and Porcelain, by II. Poor, the Rev. H. Church.
Tuesday, Nov. 30, 8.30 p.m. Zoological: “On a Collection of Japanese Shellfish and Orange Free State,” by Dr. Maurice Yate.
Wed., Dec. 2, 8.30 p.m. British Archæological Association: “Exploration of the Roman Station of Vinovium (Blindsells),” by Dr. S. A. Murray; “On the Remains of Nursing, Home,” by Dr. Wake Smart.
Friday, Dec. 4, 8.30 p.m. Antiquarian.
5.30 p.m. Society of Antiquaries: “On Some New Latin and Greek Butterflies,” by Prof. J. K. Forthman.

SCIENCE.


On the 3rd of May 1866, Sir B. Brodie read a paper before the Royal Society entitled “The Calculus of Chemical Operations: being a Method for the Investigation by Means of Symbols of the Laws of the Distribution of Weight in Chemical Change.” This, the first part of a much more extended memoir, occupies seventy-eight quarto pages in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. In the vast field of chemical symbols, a little more than a year afterwards the author delivered a lecture before the Chemical Society, in which he gave, as far as was possible in the space of an hour, an abstract of his views; and it is this which has now appeared in a separate volume. The lecture is published now—thirteen years after its delivery—because the author believes that the views which it advocates will have a wider interest and be more fully appreciated than at the time when they were first promulgated. This applies especially to three topics which are important, and which have not been elsewhere discussed in the same manner—viz., (a) the application made of the symbol xy regarded as the chemical symbol; (b) the meaning to be attached to such a symbol; and (c) the suggestion of the possible decomposition of certain elements at the high temperature of the sun, and of the existence in that luminary of the constituents of these elements in independent forms.

Symbols, used in most remote periods by the Egyptians and other peoples, have been introduced into alchemy by the astrologers, who frequently professed both sciences, and who transferred both the names and the symbols erst given to the seven