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such teaching, where it has been given by that of sturdy common sense, based upon facts of almost daily occurrence.

HOW ASTRONOMY FARES.

Popular discussion of astronomical discovery is resumed in the January Atlantic by Dr. T. J. See, whose contributions to this subject have secured for him wide audience in both hemispheres and spread knowledge of scientific truth with great effectiveness.

Dr. See brings before us many things we have been taught to believe, but which we are now finding reason to question. Astronomers used to think, for example, that celestial investigation, given the investigator himself, was purely a question of lenses.

In astro-physics proper, or measurement of receding and advancing motions of stars, corrections are almost startling. It has been received that alternating manifestations of many bodies proved them to be not single objects, but double or binary stars.

The solar system itself has yielded noteworthy surprises. Mercury, so far from being like Venus and our moon, dead through presenting the same face continually to the sun, is proved to rotate.

Dr. See treats all these discoveries as impressive advances upon former knowledge, which they are; but he does not say anything about their general trend of correction, and it is a little striking, therefore, that the thought he has selected to end his essay is to the ignorance that still prevails as to the nature of gravity.

Some things, then, we learn only to unlearn; and others seem to baffle us as with an insurmountable wall of mystery. The surest conclusions may be set aside. Dr. Draper supported his "conflict between religion and science" by citing antipathy of churchmen to the plans of Columbus, whereas research has shown that but for the aid rendered him by enlightened and determined relatives, no such expedition as his could have been authorized by Spain.

The empiric dowager of China seems to have pressed in some way that events threaten the partition of her ancient dominions between the aggressive powers of the earth.

evident that suggestions of its true magnitude have not reached the innermost recesses of Peking, since the empress declares that the governors of the several provinces will be held strictly responsible for foreign aggression upon their territory.

A MAN OF ERRATIC GENIUS.

John Ruskin, the greatest writer of what might be called poetic prose in the Victorian age, is dead within a few days of the completion of his last year.

Thackeray was ever true and tender to women. He had not, until years ago, married life, and then after the birth of her third child, his wife became hopelessly demented.

Major J. A. Watrous, U. S. A., who is the author of a recent collection of essays in the Oregonian, whose profession is to condense the facts of history, to refresh the memories of the old, is so far distant from the civil war that his own memory would seem to sometimes play him false.

Major Watrous is a recent acquisition of the regular army. He was appointed paymaster, with the rank of major, June 15, 1898; was born in New York, and was appointed to Arkansas.

Major Watrous also remembers that the civil war, but he was a manly, gentlemanly man, who never hesitated to rebuke a friend's weakness or folly, but nevertheless was an open-handed, man to any decent appeal of distress to his sympathy.

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ained before his day, and no man has reproduced since his day. The power and beauty of his poetic expression is without peer in literature. On the other hand, Herbert Spencer, our greatest and most original thinker, lacks the sensibility to style and expression which a thinker of far less original power, Professor Tyndall, possessed in a remarkable degree.

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ligent people of the Pacific slope, and of the nation as well, recognize the prudence of enforcing measures sufficient to prevent the introduction upon the North American continent of this most persistent of all ill diseases in the catalogue of human life.

The late Rev. Dr. James Martineau, the most eminent exponent of the spiritual and ethical Christianity of our time, lived to be nearly 95 years of age, and while consenting to be known as a Unitarian, he held that the religious life depended, not upon any theological opinions, but transcended them in importance.

WORK FOR A DRYDOCK.

Seattle advices state that the disabled steamship Elm Branch is at a yard in that city, undergoing temporary repairs, preparatory to going on the drydock either at Quartermaster harbor or Port Orchard.

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THE VOICE OF THE NATION.

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