

SCIENCE:

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Attention is called to the "Wants" column. All are invited to use it in soliciting information or seeking new positions. The name and address of applicants should be given in full, so that answers will go direct to them. The "Exchange" column is likewise open.

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THE NEW YORK *Evening Post* published, in its issue of Jan. 9, a letter from Cornell University which has a singular tone, and makes most remarkable statements. It asserts that some of the ablest professors in the literary branches of the university are proposing to resign, because, as they state, they are unable to see that progress in their own departments which has for some years past distinguished the technical schools of the university. It is said, that, although the academic departments have been continually strengthened by the addition of new departments and of able men to the staff of professors and instructors, these departments still fall behind the others in their rate of growth. This state of things is attributed to the fact that the price of tuition has been increased, though it is not stated why this increase should affect their departments more than others. In all institutions of learning the cost of the technical instruction has been from the first, both to the institution and to the student, greater than purely literary instruction; and the flocking of students into them, in spite of this disadvantage, is as observable in other colleges as in that from which this curious complaint comes. The real state of the case is, we are confident, that the establishment of technical education meets the need and fulfils the desires of a very large proportion of young men who have no inclination to defer going into business for the purpose of getting an education of the older sort, — a mistake, we think, — but who are keen enough to see that certain branches of business must be most successfully pursued by

those who have had the professional preliminary training, not education in the usual sense of that term, which is required to give the novice a good hold upon its principles and practice. The profession of engineering, for example, has become a learned profession; and the graduates of these professional schools are more carefully and remorselessly sorted out from the great mass than are those who desire to enter either of the older, so-called learned professions. Engineering schools often graduate not more than one-third their entering classes. It is not at all likely that acute and learned professors are proposing to leave any such good positions as are held at Cornell, or other great universities, on this account. The fact is, that the state of things noted is perfectly natural and proper; and the result is, that every professor of ability and ambition takes advantage of his good fortune in having smaller classes to prosecute his studies and his researches, and thus to teach the world, as well as his own students, both better and more widely. Any such positions vacated in any of our colleges will be gladly taken by brighter men who seek just this opportunity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[Continued from p. 48.]

The Skeleton in Armor.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON was correct in saying that the skeleton, immortalized by Longfellow, was discovered at Fall River, Mass., in 1831; and not in 1837, as Mr. Beauchamp states on p. 26 of your last number (Jan. 9, 1891).

The actual date of the discovery was April 26, 1831, and the earliest account of it was published in *The American Magazine*, vol. iii. p. 434 (August, 1837). This was copied into Barber's "Historical Collections for Massachusetts," p. 123; and from that source Col. Stone transferred it to his "Life of Brant." This may account for Mr. Watson's having omitted Stone from his list of authorities. Subsequently, in 1839, several other skeletons were discovered in about the same locality, near the boundary-line between Fall River and Tiverton, R.I., accompanied by precisely similar objects as the first. The original skeleton, which had been preserved in the Museum of the Troy Athenæum ("Troy" was the old name of Fall River), was destroyed by a fire about the year 1843. Some of the relics discovered with the skeletons disinterred in 1839 are now to be seen at the Redwood Library in Newport. These different discoveries of similar interments, some years apart, have occasioned the confusion of dates.

A few years ago a skeleton was discovered at Centerville, on Cape Cod, with a brass breastplate precisely like the one originally found in 1831. This is described by Henry E. Chase in the "Smithsonian Report," 1883, p. 902.

It is worth noticing, that besides the "flat, triangular arrow-heads of sheet copper," to which Mr. Beauchamp refers as having been recently found in the Iroquois district of New York, similar in shape to those made of brass disinterred with the skeleton in 1831, like objects, also made of sheet brass, have not infrequently been met with in other localities (see ABBOTT'S *Primitive Industry*, p. 420; JONES'S *Antiquities of the Southern Indians*, p. 251; *Reports of the Peabody Museum*, ii. p. 732, iii. pp. 35, 195; *Reports of Long Island Historical Society* (1878-81), p. 40; *Smithsonian Report*, 1883, p. 901).

We learn whence the Indians procured the brass of which these arrow-heads were fabricated, from the account given in Underhill's "History of the Pequod War" (*Collections of Massachusetts Historical Society* [3d series], vol. vi. p. 17), who tells us that a Dutch trader was prevented from bartering with the Pequods on the ground that they were to be supplied in part with "kettles, or the like, which make their arrow-heads." Sir Ferdinando Gorges, earlier than this, had complained about "disorderly persons," who sold the savages "arrow-heads and other arms" ("Description of New England," *ibid.* p. 70).

The earliest notices of the Indians often speak of their arrows as being headed with brass. This was the case with those "taken up" and sent to England in the first encounter of the Pilgrims

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