say a few words about it.

TORPEDOES.

From the Pall Mall Gazette The strides which have been made within the last ten or fifteen years in the application of acience to warlike purposes are nowhere more science to warlike purposes are nowhere more marked than in the use of electricity as a mill-tary agent. It is applied to military telegraphy, to signalling and reconnoitring purposes, to the determination of the ballistic powers of guns, to many naval uses, such as signalling and the simultaneous discharge of broadsides; to various experimental purposes, including the proof of guns; last, but not least, to the explosion of land and submarine mines. The history of the subject, and its most recent phases, were treated a few nights ago at the Royal Intreated a few nights ago at the Royal Institution by the gentleman to whom, above all others, we are indebted for the development of this special branch or application of the science. The interest of Professor Abel's excellent lecture control become fessor Abel's excellent lecture centred, however, in his account of what has been done in this country toward the establishment of a system of torpedo defense. It was the first authoritative utterance on the subject which has yet been heard, and the immense importance of the question, combined with the secrecy in which it has thus far been enshronded, suggest the desira-bility of taking advantage of the occasion to

Torpedoes form the most important class of those marine obstructions which are now generally admitted to be indispensable to coast and river defense. They are the active as contradis-tinguished from the passive obstructions. The importance of obstructing roadsteads, rivers, and harbors—of placing, so to speak, an outer bed or circle of defenses, external to the chain of forts and even where no forts existed—has long been understood. It would be difficult to assign a date to the first employment of rude appliances of some sort for effecting this object: even submarine mines, which are a more advanced type of defense than piles and artificial barriers and fire-ships, were used as far back as the sixteenth century, when they were employed, in 1583, by the Duke of Parma at the siege of Antwerp. The English used them against the French ships off Rochelle, in 1628; and during the long lapse of years be-tween 1628 and 1854 the subject was never wholly lost sight of. Always there were men, with contrivances more or less ingenious, more or less impracticable, ready, when the opportunity offered, to revolutionize with their torpedoes the art of coast defense. But science was during that time in its infancy. The torpedoes in occasional use prior to 1854 were rude and imperfect, and the development of the subject was cramped by the absence of sufficient knowledge or study to enable electricity to be usefully employed as the agent of ignition. Thus the first torpedoes were of the mechanically exploding class. All sorts of plans were devised, and all sorts of agents were employed—percussive, frictional, chemical, and clockwork. It is evident, however, that mechanical torpedoes can never be altogether satisfactory. They are open to one salient objection, viz., that once in position and ready for action they close the navigation alike to friend and foe, and there is always a certain amount of danger attending manipulation. These evils have been attempted to be mitigated by various safety rarangements, so called, the application or the removal of which, however, as often as not proves so dangerous as to furnish a formidable objection to their employment. Thus, when the Russians employed, for the defense of Cronstadt, mechanical torpedoes with a safety arrangement which should have been removed at the last moment, they generally, for very good reasons of their own, neglected to remove it, and the torpedoes in consequence proved absolutely innocuous. Again, the removal of the torpedo is frequently a source of danger; and several instances have recently occurred in America of loss of life under these circumstances. Nevertheless, mechanical torpe-does will probably always possess a certain value, as on remote foreign stations, where the means of defense have to be extemporized on an emergency, or for what are called "drifting" or movable torpedoes. This abortive employment of torpedoes in the Russian war of 1854-5 marks the first systematic use of the instrument in European warfare on a large scale. In 1855 electrical torpedoes were attempted; and by 1859 the Austrian Government had succeeded,

without results, at Yenice. lately the Austrians may be said to have headed the science; and their exhibition of a complete system of torpedo defense formed an teresting part of the display at Paris the great value of torpedoes was furnished until the late American war, when these agents were employed in many forms, chiefly by the Confederates, and with remarkable results. No less than twenty-five vessels of the Federal navy were destroyed, and nine others were injured, by the explosion of torpedoes; and thus an impetus was given to the subject similar to that which breech-loading derived from the Bo-hemian campaign of 1866. If any one wishes to study the detailed application of torpedoes dur-ing the American war, he can hardly do better than consult Von Scheliha's "Treatise on Coast Defense," where he will also find the following important deductions from the experience ob-tained during this contest. "No forts now built can keep out a large fleet unless the channel is obstructed." "No fleet can force a passage if kept under fire by obstructions." "In no single instance did a naval attack succeed when the channel had been obstructed, and in no single instance did it fall when the channel had remained open.

with the assistance of Baron von Ebner, in per-

fecting a sufficiently simple and practical system

The attention of our Government was directed to the subject towards the close of 1863, when a committee was appointed, at the suggestion of Colonel Jervois, R. E., for the thorough practical investigation of the whole question of marine obstructive defense. From that time until the latter part of last year, the committee was actively engaged in an experimental in quiry, and the result has been the compilation of a report which is likely to prove the most complete and exhaustive treatise on the subject yet produced. Hitherto the report has been treated as confidential, and it is no doubt desirable that the committee's recommendations should remain secret. But no objection can be urged against the production of so much of the report as would inform the public in general terms of the successful termination of the committee's labors, and of the broad results purchased at a not inconsiderable expenditure of time and money. It would be satisfactory to have some definite and authoritative assurance that the national interests have not been no glected in this vital question of defense-as well as an assurance that the recommendations of the committee will be duly and practically accepted. We observe that the very inadequate sum of £2000 has been taken in this year's estimates for the provision of torpedo equipments, and for further inquiry and instruction. The gunnery ships of Portsmonth and Plymouth, Engineers' School at Chatham, now regularly include the use and management of torpedoes in their course of instruction.

To return to the torpedoes themselves. We have stated that mechanical to pedoes, however occasionally useful, are necessarily imperfect, and, to a great extent, dangerous appliances. The advantages which attach to the application of electricity to the explosion of torpedoes are great and manifest. Torpedoes of this class may be placed in position with absolute safety to the operators; they may be rendered active or passive at any moment, as desired; they thus do not close to friendly vessels the channels which they guard; they can be stationed at any depth be-neath the surface; their action is generally very much more certain than that of a mechanical torpedo; and they can be removed with perfect As in the case of torpedoes of the mechanical class, the arrangements for securing action may be almost infinitely varied. Frictional, voltaic, dynamo-electric or magnetic electricity may be employed, each possessing specific advantages or objections; and the circuit which determines the explosion may either be completed by the contact of a passing vessel or at the right moment by an operator on shore. sodifications, is probably the more simple; but

it imposes the necessity for great vigilance, promptness, experience, and harmonious co-operation on the part of the operators. It is also inapplicable at night or in thick weather, and might even fail under the dense smoke of a hot action. A more generally efficient plan is that of contact-exploding torpedoes, which are either exploded by their collision with a ship, or by the vessel striking a circuit-closing arrangement mbored near the surface of the water, whereupon either the torpedo, moored at some depth beneath, is instantly exploded, or a signal is furnished to a station on shore, which indicates to an operator the particular torpedo to be fired, and when to fire it. It is essential in this arrangement to adopt a plan which, while sensitive to the passage of a vessel, shall not be disturbed by the simple action of the waves. These conditions include the necessity for sim-plicity of mechanism and a combination of sufficient but not excessive delicacy of action with permanence during long immersion; but the problem, though difficult, is not insoluble, and one or two plans have been suggested which appear to satisfy the required ends. It seems to have been established that voltaic electricity is, of all the means available for the purpose, the one which presents the greatest advantages. And the substitution for the old platinum wire fuse of the Abel fuse, in which the electric spark is generated by the interrupted passage of the current through a priming material of sub-sulphide of copper, subphosphide of copper, and chlorate of potassa, permits of the use of elec-tric batteries which were before inapplicable, and of the explosion of torpedoes with perfect certainty at distances before unattainable. Indeed, the introduction of this fuse has rendered possible the development of torpedo science which has now been attained. The batteries may be of the simplest character, and a very efficient one can be readily extemporized with a piece of hard timber, a little zinc and copper sheet, an old blanket, some vinegar and common salt. A battery of this sort, weighing only 25 pounds, and about 7½ inches square, will remain in good action for at least twenty-four hours, and can be easily cleaned and recharged. Such a battery, from its small size, weight, and great simplicity, is especially well adapted for oat operations.

The explosive agent to be employed in torpedoes may be gunpowder, nitro-glycerine, or gun-cotton. Of these, gun-cotton is on many ac-counts preferred; and since the recent discoveries s to the susceptibility of gun-cotton to explosion by concussive effect, and the great resulting increase of power, its normal advantages have be-come more decided. There still remain a vast number of points, such as the nature of case or envelope to be employed; its thickness; the depth to which the torpedo should be sunk; the positions in which it should be fixed: the proximity of one torpedo to another: the size, form, etc. The bare enumeration of these points will suffice to indicate that the subject is one which admits of an immense deal of working out, and will, per-haps, account for the length of time occupied in its investigation.

As to the practical value of torpedoes we have furnished some illustrations. But, in truth, it is unnecessary to multiply illustrations, for the value of these instruments may almost be regarded as self-evident. There are two points in very ship absolutely unprotected: the deck and the bottom. Of these the torpedo attacks onethe bottom. And it is a question if any ship can ever be made so strong as to resist the effect of powerful submarine mine exploding directly under it. The use of torpedoes is not limited to serving as auxiliaries to forts, or as a means of keeping vessels under the fire of batteries. They are useful also on their own account, as a means of defending positions independently on a coast or in small channels and rivers which are quite unprovided with defensive works. Their invisibility forms another element of their importance, to which we may add their comparatively small cost and ready applicability to almost all positions. But it is necessary to guard against the impression that torpedoes are destined to super-sede other and more old-established means of defense, as ships and forts and guns. In-valuable as auxiliaries, and even as independent means of defense, their value is limited by two considerations. In the first place, the sphere of action of a torpedo is small, as compared with that of a fort or ship exceedingly small; and an attacking vessel is safe as long as it contrives or chances to keep outside that area of destructive effect. In the second place, no torpedo can set more than once, and when it has exploded, the

of electrical torpedo defense, wideh was applied, area of water which it guarded becomes defense-But with these limitations their value car hardly be over-estimated; and it is satisfactory to know that the subject has been thoroughly and practically considered, and that we possess on paper at any rate a scheme for their use so complete as to relieve us from all anxiety on this score. It would, however, be more satisfactory still to know something definite as to the recommendations of the committee, and we hope that some men ber will think proper to ask in the House for such portions of the report as can be discreetly made public.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE .- THE ANNUAL MEETING OF the Sternolders of the PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER Of COMMERCE will be held in Office No. 10, of ager building on THURSDAY, the 25th inst., between the hours of 11 A. M. and 1 P. M., for the election of a President, Treasurer, and eight Managers, to serve for the ensuing year.

SAMUEL L. WARD,

Philadelphia, April 22, 1869. PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT,

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA., April 2, 1969. TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE PENNSYL-VANIA RAILROAD COMPANY.

All Stockholders, as registered on the Books of this Company on the 30th day of April, 1869, will be entitled to subscribe for 25 Per Cent, of their respective interests in New Stock at Par, as follows:-

First, Fifty per cent, at the time of subscription, between the 15th day of May, 1869, and the 36th day of June, 1869,

Second. Fifty per cent, between the 15th day of November, 1869, and the Sist day of December, 1869; or, if Stockholders should prefer, the whole amount may be paid up at the time of subscription, and each instalment so paid shall be entitled to a pro rata of the Dividend that may be declared on full shares. Third, That every Stockholder holding less than

four shares shall be entitled to subscribe for one share; and those holding more than a multiple of four shares shall be entitled to subscribe for an additional share.

Fourth. All shares upon which instalments are yet to be paid under Resolution of May 13, 1868, will be entitled to their allotment of the 25 Per Cent. at par, as though they were paid in full.

THOMAS T. FIRTH. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEM-

bers of the Corporation of the "Lincoln Institution" will be held at No. 368 S. FLEVENTH Street, on WEDNESDAY, 28th inst., at 11 A. M. Alteration of by-laws proposed. By order of seven members of the corporation.

MARY MCHENRY,

422 ft First Directress of the Board of Managers.

TO A R C H I T E C T S.—
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ERECTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

PHILADELPHIA, April 5, 1869.

Designs for new Public Buildings, to be erected on Independence Square, in the city of Philadelphia, with specifications and estimates for the same, will be received at the OFFICE OF THE "DEPARTMENT OF SURVEYS," No. 2:24 South FIFTH Street, until the FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER NEXT, at 12 M.

Architects intending to submit plans will receive circustrated.

No. 224 South FIFTH Street, until the FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER NEXT, at 12 M.

Architects intending to submit plans will receive circulars containing full information as to the general character of the proposed buildings, the amount of accommodation to be provided, etc., by applying, either personally or by letter, to the undersigned. Secretary of the Board of Commissioners, at the southwest corner of Walnut and Fifth streets.

A premium of \$2000 will be paid for the design possessing the most merit, \$1500 for the second best, \$1000 for the third, and \$500 for the fourth. The decision upon the merits of the plans to be made, and the premiums to be awarded, by the Board of Commissioners, on or before the first day of October next, at 12 M.

All rejected plans will be returned.

By order of the Board of Commissioners.

H. C. PUGH,
Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The stated Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company will be held at the HOARD OF TRADE ROOMS, CHESNUT Street above Fitth, north side, on TUFSDAY, the 4th day of May next, at 10% o'clock A. M., after which will be held an election for President and Board of Managers to serve for the angular year.

ensuing year.

The polis will close at I o'clock P. M.

4 26tuthe3 d8t

E. W. Clark P. President

SPECIAL NOTICES

BET FREE CUBA.

HALL TO THE NEW REPUBLICA WELCOME, THRICK WELCOME, CUBA. AMONG THE NATIONS

THE PEOPLE OF PHILADELPHIA WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF PARTY, ARE INVITED TO ASSESSED IN WITHOUT ON THE PARTY, ARE INVITED TO ASSESSED IN THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, ON FRIDAY EVENING, AN ENGLE OF CHARLES OF CUBA IN THEIR HEROIC STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY, AND TO CONCERT MEASURES FOR DECURING TO THEM POSITIVE AND AND THE IMMEDIATE SECULING TO THEM FOSITIVE AID AND THE IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF THEIR RIGHTS.

SENOR MORALES LEMUS AND OTHER CUBANS; HON N. P. BANKS, HON, CARL SCHURZ, HON SAMUEL J. RANDALL, HON WILLIAM D. KELLEY GENERAL JOSHUA T. OWEN, HON A. K. MCCLURE, THEODORE CUYLER, Esq., JOHN GOFORTH, Esq., and other Distinguished Speakers have been invited to address the meeting.

COME all who hate wrome, barbarity, and tyranny. Come all who love Linearty. Come and assist in Redeeming Cuba from the threatton of the whest despotism that corrotreral humanity.

ortured humanity.

REMEMBER, CHILENS, that the patriots of Cuba have proclaimed and enforced EMANCHATION—they have extinated SLAVEBY—BLACE men and WHITE men—the freedmen and the planters are now brethren in arms, battling shoulder to shoulder for FREEDOM AND INDEPEN.

DENCE.
They appeal to us; they invoke the AMERICAN PEOPLE to interpose and stay the bloody hands of the murderous myrmidons of vengetul SPANISH TYMANNY. It is the Macedonian ory, "COME OVER AND HELLE US."

Reminding us of our Revolutionary straggle, they

"As you, O great Americans, were some ninet, "years ago, even so are we now. Hell us now were milled. Nations gave you sympathy, money, arms, shelter in their perts and co-operation "long before your freedom was a fixed fact—when it had yet to be fought out and won on the hattle-field." POLAND gave you her PULASHI and KOSCHUSEO.

TRELAND her MONTGOMERY. SCOTLAND her PAUL

GERMANY her STEUHEN and DE KALE.
And FRANCE her BEAUMARCHAIS and LAYAY-

"Germany her Steudien and De Kala.

"And France her Beaumarchais and Labay."

Ette.

"Be to us in our perilous struggle as France and other nations were to you in the days of your bleeding agony and trial. Within the space of six "months, with scanty means, but with invincible "courage and inexorable will, we have rescued more "than half our lovely hand from Her Descoulens."

"We shall triumph.

"For Freedom's battle once begun,

"Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,

"Though baffled oft, is ever won."

"And as our own Cuban poot has sung —

"Quiero a Cuba, feliz separada "De esa imbecil nacion de tiranos,

"De esa gente que I laman Hispanos, "Que nos quieren aun mas degradar."

Shall we, citizens, be deaf to this affeat, "Shall we, the great people of modern times the world's teachers in all that belongs to Humanity and Liberty—shall we der suffix when the wors of the docurroudlen ring in our surgers Shall we be inert when the fierce duel between Descotism and Liberty is convulsing the garden island of the world—almost within our sight—within a few hours sail from our coast?

All OUR HETORY THUNDERS NO! OUR Mission is the the world—almost within our signt—within a lew boars sail from our coast?

ALL OUR HISTORY THUNDERS NO! OUR MISSION is the regeneration of Nations; OUR DUTY—to secure LIBERTY for all men. DESTINY HAS DEDICATED US TO DEFEND, PROTECT) AND PRESERVE HUMAN RIGHTS.

COME, then, AMERICANS, native and naturalized; COME, CITIZENS, without distinction of party, COME with high resides, could with the indexible determination to make

olves, COME with the inflexible determination to make CUBA FREE AND INDEPENDENT. 4 26 2t OLD OAKS CEMETERY COMPANY

OF PHILADELPHIA. OFFICE, No. 518 WALNUT STREET. This Company is now prepared to dispose of Lots on REASONABLETERMS. The advantages offered by this ed by any other Cemetery.

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MICHAEL NISBET, Secretary.
1116m

HAVE A GOOD HAT; THE SECRET

of your looks
Lies with the beaver in Canadian brooks.
Virtue may flourish in an old cravat,
But man and nature scorn the shocking hat.
The place to get the "good Hat," Mr. Holmes should have added, is R. S. WALTON'S New Establishment, No. 1006 MARKET Street, second house above Tenth.
One of the finest assortments of BOYS' HATS to be found in the city.

413 w One of the tine found in the city.

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CYRUS CADWALLADER, 216

Treasurer.

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY.—A
Special Meeting of the Stockholders of the Cambria
Iron Company will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 28th
day of April, proxime, at 4 o'clock P. M., at the Office of
the Company, to take action upon the act of Assembly approved March 16, 1869, amending the Charter of said Company, and the exercise of the power therein granted.

Be ender of the Board.

327 14 28

JOHN T. KILLE, Secretary.

DRY COODS.

E. & L. OPEN, TO-DAY,

SPRING COODS.

NEW SILKS. NEW SHAWLS - NEW PERCALES, POPLINETTES.

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MADEIHAS.—Old Island, South Side Reserve.
SHERRIES.—F. Rudolphe, Amontillado, Topaz, Vallette, Pale and Golden Bar, Crown, &c.
PORTS.—Vinho Velho Real, Vallette and Crown.
CLARETS.—Promis Aine & Cie., Montferrand and Bor deaux, Clarets and Sauterne Wines.
GIN.—"Meder Swan."
BRANDIES.—Hennessey, Otard, Dupuy & crious vintages.

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Just arrived, per "Favour," a cargo of LOUIS KOES-Celebrated Burgundy Ports and other Wines and Sherries.

From the Spanish house of MULLER, BONSAM & BA COB, for sale from wharf by the Importers. WALDEN, KOEHN & CO.,

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Inventors wishing to take out Letters Patent for New Inventions are advised to consult with C. H. EVANS, N. W. corner FOURTH and WALNUT Streets, Philadelphia, whose facilities for prosecuting cases before the Patent Office are unsurpassed by any other agency. Circulars containing full information tion to inventors can be had on application. Models

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STATES AND EUROPE.

EDWARD BROWN,

SOLICITOR OF PATENTS,

No. 311 WALNUT Street. INITED STATES PATENT OFFICE. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16, 1889.

On the petition of JOSEPH A. PEABODY, of Philadelphia, Pa., praying for the extension of a patent granted to him on the 17th day of July, 1855, for an improvement in Machine for Mortising Window Blads, it is ordered that said petition be heard at this office on the 28th day of June next. Any person may oppose this extension. Objections depositions, and other papers should be filed in this office twenty days before the day of hearing.

ELISHA FOOTE.

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Offers for sale a large assortment of Hosiery, for Ladies', Gents', an Children's wear; Socks, three-quarter Socks, and Long Hose, of English and German manufacture.

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Of Cartwright & Warner's manufacture, acknowledged to be the bes ...morted. Also, the Norfolk and New Brunswick, acknowledged to be the bes of American Goods.

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Spring and Summer Wear.

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For the better convenience of her patrons, MRS. M. A. BINDER HAS REMOVED HER DRESS TRIMMINGS AND

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with ease and elegance. Orders executed at short notice. Embroideries, Handkerchiefs, Laces, Rib-bons, Bridal Velis and Wreaths, Fine Jewelry, and Fancy Goods. Pinking and Goffering. Cutting and Fitting. A perfect system of Dress Cutting taught; price \$2.50, with chart. Patterns sent by mail or express to all parts of the Union. Do not forget our new location, N. W. corner ELEVENTH and CHESNUT Streets.

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