Resolved, That we, as Instructors in the State University, extend our warm expressions of sorrow and of sympathy to the friends and relatives, the orphan children and widowed companion of our departed colleague, and commend them to the favor and care of Him who alone can comfort in the hour of bereavement.

Resolved, That we recognize this Providence as an impressive admonition addressed to us, which we should receive by girding ourselves anew to the duties and responsibilities of our earthly existence, with a wise and constant reference to the retributions of eternity.

Iowa City, February 1st, 1864. —*Press.*

PROF. AGASSIZ AND HIS LECTURE.

[From the State Press, Iowa City, March 9, 1864.]

On Wednesday evening last the people of Iowa City were afforded the rare opportunity of hearing that profound student of Science and celebrated Naturalist, Prof. Agassiz. At an early hour University Chapel was filled with an intelligent and appreciative audience. After vocal music by a choir composed of young ladies and gentlemen, students of the University, the lecturer was introduced by Dr. O. M. Spencer. He surprised the greater portion of the audience by announcing the subject of the lecture to be on the "Coral Reefs of Iowa City," most persons having associated coral with the sea, and never thought that the earth on which we now dwell was once, during the infinity of the past, submerged by the waters.

The lecturer at once proceeded to his subject, with the same familiarity of manner as though he were about to instruct a class. His lecture throughout was illustrated by the use of the black board. He said it had afforded him much pleasure to have the opportunity of visiting this locality and observing for himself the coral formations of which he had heard in the East, and fully satisfying himself with regard to the geological character of this country. He explained the process of coral

growth, by reference to the reefs on the coast of Florida, fully described the structure and functions of the coral animal, and explained the manner in which these little creatures extract the calcareous portion of the sea-water—how the new polyps appear, in the form of a bud, on the side of the first individual, and how their additions continue to be made until twelve millions of them have been known to exist in a single cluster. Coral is the stony frame which belongs to these animals as a skeleton belongs to individuals of the higher orders of animals, being formed by the involuntary secretion of calcareous matter. He explained how the great coral reefs were formed by the successive growth of Astreas, Madrepores, Meandrinas, &c., and their solidification, in process of time, occasioned by the constantly increasing pressure into a substance differing in no essential particular from the strata of limestone spread over the Western States, as well as the other different characteristics that are impressed on these formations by the different conditions in which they exist, depending upon temperature and pressure. The American continent, instead of being the "new world," was really much older than any part of the Eastern Hemisphere, an original continental form having p - peared much earlier, along the line of the great lakes, extending east and west; and with this as a basis, the coral animals had, for ages, lived, died and solidified, until this gradual process had formed the vast continent on which we live. The next projection above the water was the Alleghany mountains, extending through the eastern portion of the continent. Here, in the vicinity of our city, the evidences of coral formation were found in perfection. We do not pretend to give even an outline of the lecture, but merely to indicate to our readers something of the course pursued in the treatment of this, to most of us, very novel subject. The lecturer cannot be said to be eloquent, his oratory being altogether of the conversational and instructive style. That he is a profound master of natural sciences, there can be no doubt, and he has the peculiar faculty of making everything so plain that all who hear him wonder that they had not known the same things long ago, and

that they were not capable of elucidating them as well as the distinguished scholar to whom they listened.

After the lecture, Prof. Agassiz was handsomely entertained by Prof. T. S. Parvin at his residence, where the faculty of the University and a few invited guests had an opportunity to become personally acquainted with him, and to learn something of the true power of his mind from private conversation.

On Thursday morniug he delivered a lecture on the subject of the "Glaciers," to the students and faculty of the University, in which his vast knowledge of the transformations and changes the earth has undergone, was fully displayed. He described the process by which ice is formed, and explained the difference in the formation of ice from water and from snow—described the immense glaciers he has examined in Europe, one of which he had measured with a line to the depth of 1,000 feet—explained the causes by which these immense masses of ice are put in motion, and the effects produced upon the country over which they move. He said that the evidences of a "glacier" having passed over any portion of the earth's surface were palpable to every Geologist, and as easily distinguished as a silver coin is distinguished from a copper penny. These indications are the deposits of "drift," or loose stones upon the surface, and the polished appearance of the stones and rocks. All parts of Europe bear evidences of having at one time been under immense loads of moving ice, and the lecturer accounted for the bowlders and smooth stones that are scattered over our prairies on the hypothesis that immense icebergs had once moved down from the North over the country.

To his treatment of neither of these subjects could we begin to do justice, in a brief newspaper notice, but to those who had the privilege of hearing him, vast fields of scientific research were opened, that we have no doubt will hereafter attract their attention and investigation. There was no disposition on the part of the learned Professor to find in the lessons of Nature anything inconsistent with Revela-

tion, but on the contrary, the discoveries he has made seemed to have confirmed, in his mind, all that the Creator had made known to man in the Holy Scriptures. The effect upon all who heard him, was to beget in their minds a desire to know more of the man, and leaving the subjects and matter of his lectures to the reflection of his auditors, we shall proceed to answer, as well as we can, the question that has been so frequently propounded to us in the last few days, who is Professor Agassiz?

[For one not to know Prof. A. is to argue himself unknown.—ED.]

A COIN TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD.—An interesting discovery was made a few days since by a shepherd in a wood recently cleared, near Etain (Meuse). It is a coin of Philip, of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, and therefore more than two thousand years old. It is in gold, and weighs eight grains. On one side is a head of Apollo crowned with laurel, and on the other a personage in a car drawn by two horses. Below is a kind of vase, on which is the word PHILIPPOU in Greek characters. Before the Roman invasion, Greek coins were current among the Gauls.—*Galignani.*

RARE COIN.—A great rarity in the shape of a coin has lately been sold at Paris, namely: a silver one struck off at Breslau in 1751. Among the persons employed at that time in the mint was an Austrian, who, out of hatred to Frederick II., of Prussia, who had taken possession of Silesia by right of conquest, conceived the idea of revenging himself on that monarch in the following manner: The motto on the coin, *Ein reichs thaler* (a crown of the kingdom), he divided in such a manner as to make it read, *Ein reich sthal er* (he stole a kingdom). The King ordered these insulting coins to be all melted down, but some few of them still exist.