



NEW CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY—FRONT ELEVATION.

The pressure of labors incident to the revival of the institution, the want of some instruments indispensable to the astronomer, but especially the embarrassment of the whole work of the observatory by its unfortunate location, were very serious discouragements. Mr. Abbe urged its removal, which had been, indeed, advocated by Mitchell as far back as 1856. Having carried forward a part of his proposed plans so far as the means at his command permitted, Mr. Abbe in 1870 obtained leave of absence to accept an appointment as astronomer to the Darien Canal expedition, under Commander Selfridge, United States Navy. His call to the Signal-office in 1871 has thus far prevented his return to the observatory whose improvements he had advocated.

During the years since Professor Mitchell's leaving the institution, its future had appeared dark enough. In taking charge of the Dudley Observatory in 1859 he announced his expectation that "the Cincinnati Observatory was soon to be placed on a permanent foundation, and that each observatory would be occupied on a star catalogue down to the tenth magnitude." But we have seen how readily his highest aims in astronomy yielded to that of defending the Union. It is not surprising that the interval of the war should retard the plans he had formed, and prevent, under all circumstances, their subsequent execution by his successors.

But in 1870 a movement was originated by Abbe, which, at the time of preparing this article, promises by its development to secure results worthy of the noble founder of the observatory, and of the West. A tripartite agreement has been secured between Mr. Longworth's heirs, the Astronomical Society, and the city, by which the sale of the old site was permitted, and the city pledged to maintain the observatory in connection with the university; original investigations,

and not mere educational uses, being guaranteed as its object. The real estate on Mount Adams brought \$50,000. On Mount Lookout, one of the highest points in Hamilton County, adjacent to a park not likely to be built up to the injury of astronomical observations, the corner-stone of the new observatory was laid, August 28, by the Mayor of Cincinnati, after an able address by Hon. Rufus King. The site is free from the smoke and heated air of the

factories, which had invaded Mount Adams, destroying accurate observations. The corner-stone was the same with that laid by Adams in 1843. The observatory is to be seventy-one feet by fifty-six, with an elevation of sixty feet. It will be built of brick, trimmed with freestone. The pier of the Munich equatorial is to be of solid brick, with like capping; its height thirty-six feet, and its diameter seventeen feet. The iron revolving turret dome adds half a story. The meridional instruments occupy the wings. The front elevation, a view of which, by the kindness of Mr. Julius Dexter, present secretary of the Astronomical Society, and of the architect, Mr. Samuel Hannaford, we are able to lay before our readers, commends itself by its architectural taste.

The whole new enterprise owes its success thus far to the munificence of Mr. John Kilgour, of Cincinnati, who donated the site and a liberal grant of money. Cincinnati holds that she has good ground of expectancy of success. What they need, what every observatory needs, is, first of all, an astronomer with provision for his maintenance, that he may be, as some of our congregations say when they call a pastor, "free from other avocations and cares." A true astronomer, then, first of all—before even the most imposing edifice or instruments. And one may prove himself to be such, says Admiral Smyth in his *Celestial Cycle*, even without a spacious observatory. Kepler observed on the bridge at Prague; Schroeter studied the moon, and Harding found a planet, from a *gloriette*; Olbers found two planets, and Goldschmidt one, from an attic. Goldschmidt—at first, like our own Clark of Boston, a portrait-painter—found the planet with a spy-glass, satisfied the astronomers inside of the Imperial Observatory, had it named after the city of Paris, *Lutetia*, and received the gold medal of the year. An astronomer with a true conception of his work, with the splendid