

M. ANTOINE THOMSON D'ABBADIE.—The family of Abbadie, which is of ancient descent, appear to have left their home in the South of France at the end of the last century, and to have settled in Ireland, where Antoine was born in 1810. At the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty his father returned to France. M. d'Abbadie made a voyage to Brazil in 1835, and on his return in 1837 he and his brother Michel started for Ethiopia, and remained in Central Africa until 1848. The results of their journey were communicated to the French Geographical Society in 1849, and excited much interest. M. d'Abbadie observed the solar eclipse of 1857 in Norway, and examined the light of the prominences for polarisation; the observations were repeated in Spain in 1860, and no trace of polarisation was detected. In 1882 he took charge of the French station at Port au Prince, in Saint Domingo, and made successful observations of the transit of Venus. He became a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in 1850, Member of the Academy in 1867; he has been on the Board of Longitude since 1878, and was elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1895. His property is left to the Academy of Sciences, on condition that they publish a catalogue of half a million stars within the next 50 years. (Nat., April 1.)