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ET DES BEAUX-ARTS.

SCIENCES MATHÉMATIQUES, PHYSIQUES ET NATURELLES.

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## Reports

### Meeting of December 11, 1878

Notes on the tides of the Lesser Syrtis, by M. Chauvey, employee of the telegraph office in Sfaks.

The small town of Sfaks<sup>1</sup> is a seaport located 245 kilometers to the SE. of Tunis, in a straight line, to which for a number of years it has been connected by a telegraph line . An employee of the telegraph office, M. Chauvey, makes weather observations which are transmitted every morning to the department in Algeria and from there to Paris, where they appear every day in the International Bulletin. M. Chauvey, though his place is quite far from the port, has studied the tides of this coast and contributed to the bulletin of the Royal Society of Climatology in Algiers a short notice on this subject.

We know that some people have claimed that on certain coasts of the world the theory of Laplace has been in error. It is certain now that this theory is applicable to all countries, and the note of M. Chauvey offers proof for the country he inhabits.

But the tide is often subject to considerable local influences. It is modified by the shape of the coasts, the bays and the direction of the winds. It is much lower in Mediterranean than in the ocean; and, in the enclosed sea, it is only observable in deep gulfs, while at Toulon and Algiers it is barely visible. In Sfaks M. Chauvey has observed a tide of 1.65m, and finds that the high tide is delayed by 48 minutes from one day [322] to another, that is to say that it follows the passage of the moon to the meridian of the place.

We hope that M. Chauvey continues his valuable research.

<sup>1</sup> We write a Sfaks, because it is written in Arabic as well. The letter x in which it often ends this name does not exist in the Arabic alphabet, where it would be as useless as in ours.