

OUR MONTHLY GOSSIP.

DURING the past month the City of Halifax has been honored by the presence of distinguished visitors. On the 1st of August the Earl of Ellesmere and suite arrived in H. M. Steamer Medea, and remained until the 11th. He then took his departure for England in the Leander frigate, which had brought him across the Atlantic as Commissioner to the New York Exhibition.

In the same week the U. S. Steamers Princeton and Fulton arrived in our waters, bearing despatches relating to the fisheries. A salute in their honour was fired from the Flag Ship, and also from the Citadel, and the Commander and officers exchanged civilities with the citizens and the military.

Commodore Shubrick, of the Princeton, is one of the oldest officers in the U. S. Navy, and left a pleasing impression on all who had the honor of becoming acquainted with him. The Princeton left Halifax for the Gulf of St. Lawrence on 16th. The Fulton having made a voyage to New York, returned to Halifax on the morning of the 21st with despatches, and after an hour's stay proceeded again to the fishing grounds in the St. Lawrence Gulf.

During the stay of H. M. S. Medea in our harbour, a Court Martial was held on the First Lieut. Williams of that ship, which resulted in his acquittal, when he in his turn preferred a charge against his superior officer, Commander Bayley. After a long trial the Captain was acquitted with a reprimand upon one or two points proven, many of the charges preferred against him being pronounced frivolous.

During Lord Ellesmere's visit to Halifax, a Sham Fight came off near Point Pleasant, which was an unusually brilliant affair, and reflected honour on the gallant troops engaged in it. A large number of the citizens witnessed the proceedings, both from the grounds and one of the ferry steamers, which was plying off the land during the duration of the sham hostilities.

Pic-nics and parties of every description have afforded amusement to our townspeople during the pleasant month of August, which was remarkably fine. The 10th and two subsequent days were excessively warm, and among the obituary notices recorded at this date is that of Mr. Lownds, a respected mason of Halifax, who died in consequence of the heat.

On the 2nd a Sea Serpent is stated to have been seen in the harbour, near McNab's Island, by Mr. Peter McNab, junr. The animal appeared to be of great length, and moved through the water with extraordinary swiftness.

The brigantine Alexander, Captain Wyman, sailed on the 11th from Halifax to Australia. She took a small number of passengers and an assorted cargo of lumber, &c.

In addition to the other celebrated persons that have visited Halifax during the past month, we must not omit to notice the world-renowned Siamese Twins, Chang and Eng. They remained in Halifax four days, and a large number of the curious availed themselves of the opportunity of attending their levees. The Twins are now forty-two years old, enjoying good health, and were accompanied by two of their children, the eldest of the eleven they possess. Both parents and children seemed cheerful and intelligent. Chang and Eng answered all questions addressed to them politely and fully. They are exhibiting themselves now for the last time, with the object to amass sufficient money to educate their children, who are represented as exceedingly intelligent. They all reside at Mount Airey, in North Carolina, where they have a plantation.