

## CURRENT EVENTS.

On the eve of the day fixed for the coronation, the sudden illness of King Edward, and the need of performing a dangerous surgical operation to save his life, caused the ceremony to be indefinitely postponed. Grief and anxiety took the place of rejoicing throughout the empire. The King, however, quickly rallied; and his crowning took place on the ninth of August, with much less splendor and magnificence, and with briefer ceremony, but, no doubt, with deeper religious fervor than if the interruption had not occurred. And this, perhaps, was fitting; for the crowning of an English king is essentially a religious ceremony, an acknowledgment that all rule and all authority comes from God.

A Russian chemist has invented a new process of treating wood in such a manner as to make it fire-proof. Experiments made by the German navy with wood so treated show that it will withstand the blaze from petroleum soaked faggots for an hour before taking fire.

The completion of the great dam across the Nile, at Assouan, is announced. It is about a mile and a quarter in length, and rises ninety feet above the river bed. Its purpose is to regulate the height of the river for agricultural purposes.

The Baldwin Arctic expedition, which, when it set out last summer, was said to have been better equipped than any other, has returned unsuccessful.

The campanile of St. Mark's, Venice, one of the most famous and beautiful detached bell towers of the world, has fallen. The foundations of this tower were laid in 911, and it was completed in 1591. Its height was 322 feet.

It is said that the new irrigation works in Egypt have so increased the humidity of the air that the Sphinx may become a ruin. There are now from fifteen to eighteen days of rain in Egypt annually where formerly rain was almost unknown, and the crumbling away of this remarkable monument of ancient art, that has stood through so many centuries, is believed now to be only a question of years.

The College of Cardinals, at Rome, after due consideration, has definitely refused to canonize Joan of Arc. Some of the reasons for refusal are that her capture disproves her divine mission, that she suffered martyrdom unwillingly, and that her own admissions throw doubt upon her moral character.

The abandonment by Great Britain of five small islands in the Bay of Honduras has caused great indignation among the inhabitants. These islands, which belong territorially to the Republic of Honduras, were unoccupied until about sixty years ago,

when some colonists, principally from Jamaica, made a settlement there and claimed British protection. The claim was allowed for a time, but the British flag being now withdrawn, the inhabitants who choose to remain must become citizens of Honduras.

The growing influence of Great Britain in the east is shown in the announcement that an agreement has been concluded under which Great Britain and Japan guarantee the independence of Korea.

The Marquis of Salisbury has resigned the premiership of the United Kingdom, and been succeeded by his nephew, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour. Lord Salisbury, in retiring, leaves the Empire at peace, and free from the two great dangers that threatened it in Africa, the hostility of the Soudan and the ambition of the Boers to control all South Africa and "drive the British into the sea." There have been no important changes in the cabinet, and the Balfour administration may be regarded as a continuance of the Salisbury administration.

The first of the Welsh settlers from Patagonia have arrived and been forwarded to their new homes in Assiniboia. Others will probably follow.

Among the discoveries made now that the war is over, is the fact that the Boers had a very much larger number of men under arms than we supposed.

Foreign prisoners of war taken with the Boer prisoners will not be allowed to return to South Africa when they are set at liberty.

Schools for natives are to be among the new things introduced in the Transvaal and Orange River colonies under British rule.

Good progress has been made in resettling the Boer farms. Already 9,000 families have been reinstated on their lands, though the work of replacing them is accompanied by many difficulties.

Canada is to be the great source of the world's future supply of pulp wood. Her magnificent belt of spruce, extending from Quebec to the Mackenzie River, is as yet practically untouched, except along its southern margin. Railway projects now undertaken will before long open up this belt and make its wealth available.

Steamers running between the United States and Central America are now using oil for fuel. The experiment is to be tried on a large passenger steamer crossing the Atlantic. It has already been found practicable in Russia; and it seems probable that oil will soon take the place of coal on all ocean steamers.

The premiers of the Atlantic Provinces, it is said, will hold a meeting in Quebec in September to discuss an important amendment to the British North