

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Pass, of Sydney, is the possessor of a coin which passed through the mint in the early part of the Thirteenth Century.

A curious cannon was recently found by W. H. MacAlpin, of Louisburg, buried in the gravel, near the low tide mark of the harbor. This piece of artillery consists of a number of bars of wrought iron, bound together by stout bands of the same material. It is evidently a breach-loader, and from its construction, one might imagine it to be the first ever invented.

The London and China Tea Store is doing a flourishing business, despite the dull times.

ERRATUM.—Third line from bottom of first column, communication of "Silox," in last issue, read "usually" for "unusually."

The Fourth Annual Report of the Secretary, Missionary, and Treasurer of the Christian Mission to Seamen, was received with pleasure by those among our citizens interested in the noble work being carried on by the Association. The fact that thousands of seamen are annually supplied with tracts and other suitable literature, are visited by an energetic and sympathetic Missionary, and are made welcome to the prayer and gospel meetings held in the Seamen's Rest, must be a source of pleasure to those who have a care for the souls of their fellow-men. We wish the Mission the success it deserves, and trust our citizens will not be slow in filling its depleted treasury.

The bankers' regatta, which comes off on the afternoon of Saturday, will, doubtless, attract to the city many persons from Windsor, Kentville, Truro, Pictou, etc. Had the regatta been arranged to take place upon some more convenient day, a much larger number of persons would avail themselves of the opportunity, and take a run up to Halifax.

"The Pot of the Academy" performed at Music Hall, by Messrs. Fiske & Moore's Comedy Company, was, as might be expected, a second-class trashy affair. When the comic drama sinks so low as to present the spectacle of a silly hoiden squirting water into the tin ear trumpet of a deaf old man, and plastering a chair with cobbler's wax in order that its occupant may find himself in an awkward predicament, it is time for lovers of true comedy to express their disgust for such a silly farce. If those who cater to the public amusement would remember that one performance, such as that referred to, has the effect of keeping many persons from attending performances of true merit, they would, in the long run, find it pay to give all second-rate companies the go-by.

The stock of goods now displayed in Mr. Ira Eitter's jewellery store is most attractive. The prices are reasonable.

A great fire broke out in Toronto, on Aug. 3rd, and burned a large number of buildings, wharves and vessels along the lake front. The loss is estimated at a million dollars. The fire started at a glucose factory on the esplanade opposite Princess street, and travelled westward to Scott street, burning up factories, wharves, warehouses, coal-yards, vessels, steamers, etc. It was gotten under control about 4 o'clock.

The Upper Ottawa drive of square timber is beginning to put in an appearance at Ottawa. There is an unusually large quantity to come down this year.

Mr. Donald Keith, proprietor of the old brewery, established by his father, the hon. Alexander Keith, in 1820, supplied the wants of the volunteers, upon their return, free of charge. Mr. Keith has, upon more than one occasion, thus displayed his public spirit.

The report of the death of El Mahdi, from small-pox, has been confirmed from several quarters; and now the intelligence reaches us that his faithful lieutenant, Osman Digma, has likewise passed into the hands of the unknown. The Mudir of Dongola, or the gallant Governor of Kassala, should now be able, without difficulty, to establish a settled government at Khartoum.

The comet that appeared at the death of the Czar, and was supposed to be his ascending soul, or his soul's herald on its progress to the skies, and the similar portents which antiquity delighted to associate with great events, have had a parallel in the thunders that played around the death-bed of America's greatest soldier. Whether there is any sympathy between electricity and human nerves at a time of general tension, may be discussed by the curious, but had the event occurred in a superstitious age, instead of affording material for a matter-of-fact paragraph, it would have been recorded as one of the greatest and most significant of events.

VIENNA, August 4.—The Politische Correspondenz publishes a despatch from Rome, stating that the King of Abyssinia will send a large army under command of Rasalulato to relieve the beleaguered garrison of Kassala.—*Morning Herald*.

The Panama directors have asked the French Government to sanction a new issue of 500,000,000 francs worth of bonds. Premier Brisson opposes the demand, on the ground that there is a deficit in the Budget.

Dr. Hepburn, a Presbyterian missionary in Japan, makes the striking statement that he doubts whether a Foreign missionary will be needed in that country fifteen or twenty years hence, and says: "If all the Foreign missionaries were expelled to-morrow, the work would be carried on by the natives."

The Official Gazette of India reports that the number of persons killed by wild beasts and snakes in 1883 was 22,905, that is 780 more than in 1882. Deaths from poisonous animals 20,057. From tigers, 985; Wolves, 287; Leopards, 217. Loss of cattle 47,478; 771 more than 1882; only 1644 cattle were killed by poisonous animals. 19,890 dangerous animals were killed during the year.—*Canadian Science Monthly*.

King's College matters are going forward. Canon Partridge has been offered, and declined the Chair of Theology. A meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on Thursday, 13th inst. Several names are before the Board for the vacant Professorships; but no decision has been reached. The President will probably again be selected from England, no names having been submitted thus far from Canada which would be likely to meet with acceptance.—*Hants Journal*.

The statement regarding immigration into the United States during the last fiscal year, just issued from the Bureau of Statistics, shows that the tide is ebbing more and more rapidly from the high water mark of 1882. The arrivals at the ten principal customs districts (which receive more than 98 per cent. of the arrivals at all points), from July 1, 1884, to June 30, 1885, aggregate 387,821, which indicates a total of about 396,500 when the full returns are compiled. During the fiscal year of 1884 the total was 518,592, which fell nearly \$5,000 short of the 603,322 recorded in 1883, and this in turn was more than 185,000 below the unprecedented figures for 1882, when no less than 788,992 immigrants arrived in the United States.

LONDON, August 3.—Despatches from Tashkend, in Asiatic-Russia, state that a great earthquake has visited that region. It damaged most of the houses in the Town of Bisheerzek, and ruined the Cities of Suluk and Belovdsk. In the latter place a church was shaken to fragments while it was crowded with worshippers, and a large number were killed. The earth opened in great fissures in Belovdsk, and many persons were swallowed up.

LONDON, August 3.—Advices from Kuchan via Tehin, dated July 2, say it is rumored that a conflict has taken place between the Russians and Afghans, near Meruchak. Whether true or false the rumours are believed on the frontier. Numerous Afghan traders have been expelled from Askabad owing to the prevailing irritation.

Advices from Cape Breton tell us that quite a large number of American and some Canadian visitors have gone down the Lakes for a holiday. At Baddeck, Margaree, and Whyecomaugh there were last week over sixty American ladies and gentlemen. Of these, many are still on the Island. Others have returned to their homes, and their enthusiastic reports of the scenery and the "happy hunting grounds" of Cape Breton will no doubt induce others to come to the fair Bras d'Or, and to the fishing resorts for which Cape Breton is so famous. The increase in the volume of travel on the Bras d'Or Navigation Co.'s boats is largely due, beyond a doubt, to the care with which everything in connection with them is arranged so as to be convenient for the travelling public. As a summer resort Cape Breton is only now becoming known. In a few years those that will resort thither for health and pleasure will be numbered by thousands. The fishing at Margaree continues to be all a disciple of Izaak Walton could desire.

PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS.—The meeting called by the Mayor, on Wednesday afternoon last, to consider the question of entertaining the American Institute of Mining Engineers, was attended by a number of the leading citizens of Halifax. His Worship the Mayor, Prof. Lawson, and Messrs. Leckie, Jammo, and Gilpin, explained the purposes for which the Institute had been formed, and pointed out the beneficial results which would undoubtedly follow from the visit of its members to Nova Scotia. Sir Adams Archibald and J. S. Maclean, promised, on the part of the Province and the City, a cordial welcome to and hearty reception of the members of the Institute. Mr. Gilpin explained that it was proposed to appoint three distinct committees—first, the General or Provincial Committee, over which Sir A. G. Archibald was to preside, and in which would be included representatives from the Island of Cape Breton and other parts of the Province. Second, a Local Committee, over which the Mayor was to preside, consisting of gentlemen residing in Halifax. Third, a Committee formed of the members of the Institute residing in this Province. Upon the first Committee would devolve the duty of planning excursions, four of which have already been outlined, including a trip up the Bras d'Or and round to Sydney; another to the Acadia, Pictou, and Spring Hill Mines; one to Windsor, thence to Spring Hill via Parrsboro; and still another to Windsor, Grand Pre, Annapolis Royal, and thence to St. John, N. B. The Mining Association of St. John, N. B., meet on Monday next to consider how they can best entertain these distinguished guests. Upon the Local Committee will devolve the duty of providing a suitable reception in the City of Halifax.—A drive through the Park, a visit to the Montague or Ronfrow Gold Mines, and a public dinner tendered to the members of the Institute, are upon the programme. A Committee, consisting of the members of the Institute, will arrange for the public and private meetings to be held in Halifax, and do what they can to make the whole affair a complete success. The Dominion Government have granted \$1,000 towards expenses, and it is hoped that the Local Government will see their way to do likewise. It is probable, however, that our citizens will be called upon for a small amount to supplement the above. The preliminary committee, appointed at the meeting on Wednesday, have been requested to present to a subsequent meeting the names of those gentlemen who are placed upon the Provincial and Civic Committees. We trust our people will rise to the occasion, and give the members of the Institute such a reception as will do credit to a country possessed of such magnificent mining possibilities.