

For the Christian Messenger. Chester and Oak Island.

Mr. Editor,—

During my summer holidays accompanied by a fellow-labourer, I visited the above named places, and was much impressed with the beauty of the scenery. If art had done as much for Chester as nature, it would be one of the most beautiful parts of our fair Province.

Perhaps a few remarks respecting Oak Island may not be uninteresting to some of your readers. The Island is about half a mile in length, generally low and level till you get to the eastern end, where it is more elevated and fertile. About the greatest elevation is the scene of the money pits where it is said by some that Kid buried about three millions of money, more than 100 feet beneath the surface.

We counted about a dozen pits from 70 to 119 feet deep, and the mounds of earth raised from said pits are truly astonishing. Many thousands of pounds have been expended from time to time in these excavations, which were invariably stopped by an influx of water from the sea, by a subterranean passage running from the money pits in a northeasterly direction about 300 yards to a sandbeach. There is something remarkable about this drain; at its mouth are boulders regularly laid, and covered to the extent of 30 feet with cocoon fibre six inches thick; underneath the stones, it seems hollow, though the rest of the shore beneath the sand is a stiff clay. This mouth of the drain they are now cutting off from the sea by a sort of coffer-dam made of plank. If there is no other inlet from the sea to the money pit, they will be ready before the last of this month to resume their excavations in the pit. There are men at work in the engine house getting the rust off the engine &c. By the time the drain is completed,—then—why if they get the money all will have enough, and the old engine will go down into the pit as a hidden monument. If not, probably, all will return home better satisfied that it has been sifted to the bottom, and fairly proved that Kid never put money so far down, and this will doubtless end the search forever. Time would fail me to tell you of the old man at Newfoundland, whose grandfather helped to bury the money, &c., &c.

Yours truly, G. J. R.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

MR. JOHN GRAY,

Departed this life on the 18th of July 1866, in the 86th year of his age. Our departed brother was born at Ayrshire, in Scotland, Jan. 22nd, 1781. About 50 years ago, he came to Nova Scotia, and became one of the first settlers at New Ross, (formerly Sherbrook). About 30 years ago he professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, was baptized by father Dimock, and joined the baptist church here. He was afterwards ordained as a deacon. About eight years ago, the infirmities of age and disease rendered him unable to attend the house of God, nevertheless he prayed for the promotion of Christ's kingdom, and was highly esteemed in the church and community as a brother in Christ, and as a friend. He died in the faith, and was received into glory. His death was improved from 2 Timothy iv. 7, 8. May God bless the occasion to both mourners and friends, and graciously sustain and comfort the widow in her affliction.—Com. by F. M. Munro. New Ross, July 25th 1866.

DEA. PETER MUSGRAVE.

The baptist church at North Sydney has again suffered bereavement in the recent death of our aged brother Dea. Peter Musgrave, who departed this life on Wednesday evening, Aug. 1st, at the age of about 84 years.

Bro. Musgrave delayed uniting with the church until considerably advanced in life, and for a number of years filled the office of Deacon with honor to himself, and satisfaction to the church. His talents were not brilliant, but he was always at his post of duty, anxious to do what he could.

His funeral sermon was preached by the pastor, from Psalm xxxvii. 37, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

We mourn his loss, but "sorrow not even as others who have no hope." May the Lord graciously sustain his sorrowing widow and mourning friends, and recompense our loss by raising up and fitting others to fill his place.—Com. by T. H. Porter, Jr.

HEATHEN CHARITY.—An American missionary says:—"I never heard a heathen complaining of the amount he pays for the support of idolatry." O that we might also add, Christians prize their heavenly religion so highly that they never complain of what they are asked to give for the support and spread of Christianity. But, alas, every minister has heard the cry, "Few rents too high. Too much begging in the church."

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

SHAMEFUL.—On Wednesday night last some scoundrel entered a field near Beaver Railway Station, and deliberately hacked a fine horse owned by Mr. Ellis, of this city. Three heavy blows, evidently with an axe, were given the animal. The perpetrator of this dastardly act, if discovered, should meet with a severe punishment.—Chronicle.

WAVERLY.—On Wednesday last eight persons, residents of Waverley and vicinity, were brought before Mr. Shields the Stipendiary Magistrate, charged with selling liquor without having license to retail the same. They were convicted, and fined in sums ranging from eight to twelve dollars.

THE TELEGRAPH CABLE between Newfoundland and Cape Breton has been under run and repaired. That portion of it lying in water over six fathoms deep was found imbedded in mud, and in a splendid state of preservation. It was found to have been broken in two places by the anchors of fishing vessels.

OUR CITY COURT.—Hugh Latimore, an officer of H. M. S. Duncan was charged on Thursday last before the City Criminal Court, with robbing Mary Holmes, a prostitute, of a cash box containing about \$40. He pleaded that he did it out of a joke and was acquitted!

OUR GOLD MINES.—We learn from the Colonist that a large number of gold claims at Tangier have been purchased by an American company, who intend commencing operations forthwith on a large scale.

GENEROUS.—The annual Pic-nic given by Dr. Aimon at Rosebank to the children in the Poors' Asylum was held on Wednesday last. An abundance of refreshments were provided by the Doctor, and the children enjoyed themselves in swinging, racing &c., to their heart's content.—Chronicle.

OUR MILITIA AND VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED.—The last Royal Gazette contained the following despatch:—

Downing-street, 1st August, 1866.

SIR,—In accordance with the intention expressed to you in my despatch (No. 4) of the 18th July, I had much pleasure in laying before the Secretary of State for War a copy of your despatch (No. 59) of the 4th of July.

I have now to express the gratification with which Her Majesty's Government have received from you so satisfactory a report of the exemplary conduct and discipline of the Militia and Volunteers of all arms when called upon to share, with the Queen's Troops, the Garrison duties of Halifax. They have thus well answered to the high expectations which Her Majesty's Government had been led to form from the well-known spirit of loyalty and attachment to the British Crown, which has always been characteristic of the people of Nova Scotia. I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient Humble Servant, CARNARVON. Lieut. Governor Sir W. F. Williams, Bart., &c., &c., &c.

GOING FURTHER AND PERHAPS FARING WORSE.—We learn from the Sun of Wednesday last that "about twenty of the immigrants by the Havelock, having earned money enough since their arrival to pay their passages to the States, left for there to day. This fact is suggestive; the Government should think over it." It is also reported that considerable numbers have been leaving New Brunswick for the same destination.

THE WEATHER.—The heavy rains of the past week have done great injury to the hay crop in many places where it had been recently cut.

We regret to learn that the potato blight has commenced its ravages. In the neighbourhood of Halifax, they are being dug and brought to market as rapidly as possible. The disease has not yet reached the root but it left in the ground they would doubtless soon be destroyed. A great storm of wind and rain occurred here on Thursday night. Many trees were much damaged thereby.

MURDER.—A resident of Margaret's Bay wishes us to correct a statement made in our last issue, relative to the alleged murder, said to have taken place in that locality. He affirms that it did not happen at the Bay, but eight or nine miles this side of it, towards Halifax.

The whole affair at present appears to be involved in mystery and uncertainty, but we trust the investigations now being made will bring the guilty parties to justice.

BEARS.—We are informed that an immense black bear has been prowling about the Truro Road, near Mrs. Marshall's, (Portabelle Inn). It appears he has destroyed several sheep, and was seen last evening by some boys about 7 o'clock, near Mrs. Marshall's. Here is a chance for some of our sportsmen to have a shot.—Express.

GOLD.—We have been shown yet another "brick" from the Ophir Company's Gold Mines at Renfrew, which weighs 215 oz. 16 dwt. This company is in a most flourishing condition.—Sun.

CHARLOTTETOWN.—Incendiarism has been attempted three times since the late fire, and much alarm prevails in consequence. Citizens patrol the streets every night.

If you want books and stationery, at a reasonable price, go to the Intercolonial Book Store, 92 Granville Street, where you may find a very great variety of well selected reading matter, and you will receive the most agreeable attention. Go to the Intercolonial Book Store, where entire satisfaction is ensured to all customers.

BUILDINGS are being erected at the Quarantine Station, McNab's Island.

A society, called the "Halifax Branch of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals," has been recently formed in this city. The following gentlemen comprise the officers, viz:—

President—The Hon. Wm. Young, Chief Justice.

Vice Presidents—The Hon. J. W. Ritchie, Solicitor General; Colonel Francklyn, (Emscote).

Committee.—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop, J. C. Cogswell, Esq., the Hon. C. Tupper, Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Justice Johnston, Hon. M. B. Almon, Rev. Dr. Hannan, Hon. S. L. Shannon, His Worship the Mayor, Wm. Cunard, Esq., Rev. G. M. Grant, Lieut. Col. Chearnley, Rev. G. W. Hill, J. C. Haliburton, Esq., Stephen Tobin, Esq., Hon. E. Kenney, with power to add to their number. Honorary Secretary.—P. Carteret Hill.—Ex.

Canada.

New York, Aug. 17, p. m.—The Herald's Ottawa (Ca.) despatch says extensive preparations are making to resist another Fenian invasion, as the Fenian Picnic on Grand Island will be attended by about 15,000 armed and equipped Irishmen under the lead of Gen. Dick Taylor.

New York, Aug. 20.—Ottawa, Canada, despatch says:—"The Canadian authorities continue their preparations to resist the Fenians. The troops at Quebec are ordered to be in readiness, and 10,000 canteens are being manufactured."

THE LOCAL CONSTITUTIONS FOR UPPER AND LOWER CANADA, have passed the Canadian House of Assembly. Upper Canada is to have but one Legislative Chamber; Lower Canada is to have two. In one of the resolutions of the Constitution of the latter there is a clause which provides that no change shall be made in the Electoral Divisions—numbering sixty-five—without the concurrence, in the second and third readings of any Bill proposing such change, of the majority of the English speaking divisions be obtained. These divisions are the counties of Pontiac, Ottawa, Argenteuil, Huntingdon, Missisquoi, Brome, Shefford, Stanstead, Compton, Wolfe and Richmond, Magentic and Sherbrooke. An attempt was made to prevent the introduction of this reservation but it failed, the numbers of members voting against it being limited to twenty-four, principally Rouges, acting with whom was Mr. Cauchon.—Colonist.

THE FENIANS TO BE WATCHED.—We learn by a despatch from Toronto to New York, on Thursday last, that 3000 volunteers have been ordered to Fort Erie to watch the movements of the Fenians at the Buffalo Picnic. The volunteers manifest a very mutinous spirit—a part of them refusing to obey the order. Inadequate pay and bad treatment are the ostensible causes of their action. Three gunboats have arrived at Toronto, and others are expected.

This is the opinion of the person sending the despatch to New York.

A fire occurred in Toronto, C. W., on the 9th, which destroyed property to the amount of \$12,000.

The steamer Union sailed from Quebec on the 7th inst., for Shediac, Pictou, and Halifax. She is said to have a large number of passengers and a heavy cargo of freight.

The Government of Canada have provided \$250,000 for the purchase of improved firearms for Volunteers. Communications have been addressed to the Home Authorities with a view of getting a supply of breech-loaders.

LATEST FROM THE U. STATES.

Washington, Aug. 18.—President Johnson has issued a proclamation declaring Maximilian's blockade of Matamoros null and void so far as the U. S. are concerned.

A dreadful political revolution took place in Matamoros on 12th inst., resulting in the overthrow of the Government of Carajaval, who escaped to Brownsville, Texas. Gen. Pedro Jose Juarez was commander of military forces in the city.

New York, Aug. 18, p. m.—A Herald despatch from Troy says, an immense Fenian demonstration took place there last night. Col. Roberts, President of the organization, and others made addresses.

The Administration interpretation of the new Treaty Laws was severely criticized.

A special despatch from Buffalo says it is believed that the announcement through the Cable of the plan of the Canadian Confederation being settled is an error. The Quebec scheme was not accepted by the other Provinces. Nothing can be consummated this year.

New York, Aug. 20, p. m.—FIRE IN JERSEY CITY.—A large fire in Jersey city, yesterday, destroyed a large cotton and oil wharf together with a number of vessels. Loss about two million dollars.

FIRE IN CHICAGO.—A fire in Chicago, yesterday, property valued at half million dollars. CHOLERA IN ST. LOUIS AND CINCINNATI. About six hundred deaths by cholera in St. Louis last week, and nearly 500 in Cincinnati.

FENIAN CONGRESS.—President Roberts has called a Fenian Congress to meet at Troy, September 4th. Gold 148.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The following are the telegrams from Europe since our last:—

Berlin, Aug. 13.—The treaty of Alliance forwarded by Prussia to the German Governments, with which she is on terms of friendship, has been partly signed and will be completed by the remainder in a few days. Preparations for the contemplated annexation are progressing rapidly. A committee has been appointed to report on the Frankfurt contributions.

Florence, Aug. 13.—General Menebra has left for Germany via Paris. He is entrusted with the mission for the conclusion of peace. The armistice which commences to-day, will end September 19th, with a day's notice on either side.

The provisioning of Venice is to be free and prisoners are to be exchanged.

Brescia, Aug. 13.—Garibaldi has issued an address to the Volunteers, in which he expresses the hope that they will respect the conditions of the armistice and conform to the orders of the Government.

London, Aug. 13.—The Prince of Wales reviewed thirty thousand Volunteers in Yorkshire, on Saturday.

Cholera is decreasing in London. Mr. Bates, an iron-master of Tunsdall, has failed;—liabilities half a million dollars—half of which is secured by the works which were owned by Mr. Bates.

Paris, Aug. 13.—The Constitutionnel says:—While France has a right to compensation from Prussia, her true interest is not insignificant territorial aggrandizement, but to aid in the reorganization of Germany and of Europe. Gold 151.

London, Tuesday Evening, Aug. 14.—Advices have been received from the Continent, indicating a probable renewal of the war between the Prussians and Bavarians, upon the territory of the latter power, and great fears are entertained of such an event.

London, Tuesday, noon, Aug. 14.—The Prussian Government has informed the Emperor of France that his demands for the extension of the Frontier of his Empire to the banks of the River Rhine cannot be complied with,—that the Prussian territory there situate will never be added to France.

Paris, Aug. 14, noon.—The Moniteur of this morning argues that the course of Napoleon in the recent negotiations has been guided entirely by his endeavors to preserve the peace of his own Empire and of all Europe.

Fleensburg, Aug. 14.—An appeal has been issued by the President of the National party to the people of Schleswig asking them to willingly acquiesce in Prussian rule. The only party favorable to Denmark has demanded Foreign intervention.

Paris, Aug. 14.—Prince Napoleon has gone to Switzerland. The Emperor went to Camp at Chalons on Saturday. The Patrie this P. M., has the following telegram:—Constantinople, Aug. 14.—The Porte has resolved to send fresh troops to the Frontiers of Greece. Some go on the 12th to the Gulf of Valo in Eageunza.

London, Aug. 15 noon.—It is announced to-day that the plans for the Confederation of the British Provinces of North America have been definitely arranged by the Government. The statement is also made that the terms of the loan from the Government for the building of the International Railroad from Halifax, N. S., to a point in connection with the Canadian Grand Trunk Railway, has been settled.

Paris, 15th, noon.—It is reported to-day on good authority that the French Government has abandoned the idea of extending the frontier of France by the annexation of certain German provinces on the Rhine.

London, Aug. 15, P. M.—The following despatch has been received:—

Berlin, Aug. 15, P. M.—The Council of State is holding sittings in the capital, and are re-engaged in the consideration of the question of the re-annexation of Southern Germany to the German Confederation. Consols 87 1/2; 5-20's 68. Gold 151.

Hastings, Aug. 15.—The little ship Red, White and Blue, two and a half tons, from New York, with two men on board, passed here to-day, having made the passage in thirty-seven days. All well.

Paris, Aug. 15.—The Emperor received the Prussian Ambassador to-day, who delivered the reply of Prussia to the French note, asking an extension to the frontier of France, which Prussia declared to be inadmissible.—Napoleon replied that the demand was made to satisfy the public opinion of France. He deemed it just, but acknowledged the fairness of the argument of the Prussian Cabinet. He also said that the present relation should, in no case, be disturbed, and hoped that Prussia would not overstep the boundaries of the Maine.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 15.—The officers of United States squadron have been received at the Imperial Palace of Trarskoelro. Twenty of the officers dined with the Governor at the Palace at Paulaffski; the entire population was in the Gardens of the Palace, which were illuminated. There was also a display of fireworks, and United States national airs were played by the band. The officers visited the Emperor's Palace and public buildings yesterday.