

part of the book, however, is devoted to a description of Tunis and neighboring towns. Of course whatever a Frenchman writes about such a recent acquisition as Tunis must be received with caution, and much that is here said about the Roman ruins is probably exaggerated. The old Phœnician Carthage has entirely disappeared, and of the Roman town but little remains. Utica, too, is no more to be seen, and, in fact, the province of Carthage—once the granary of imperial Rome—is little more than a desert. Still as our author says: "Although there is scarcely a vestige of Carthage remaining, its site alone attracts the tourist to the top of the ancient Brysa." In conclusion, it may not be amiss to point out that the traveller who designs visiting Tunis for the sake of viewing eastern barbarism would better bestir himself, as the French are reported to be improving the place in the true Parisian fashion.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

A DISCUSSION of the hydrographic observations made on the expedition of 1883 to Greenland seas has been published by Nordenskiöld and Hamberg in the Proceedings of the Royal geographical society. There are numerous water sections; and the discussion is of much value and interest for the hydrographer, but too extensive to summarize here.

During the past summer, Captain David Gray, the well-known whaler and explorer, visited the east coast of Greenland at a high latitude. The flocs extended this year very far west from Spitzbergen, at least 180 miles at Prince Charles Foreland. In latitude 74° the edge was in longitude 14° W.; and in latitude 71° , in 16° W. In August he sailed along the coast from Shannon Island to the entrance of Scoresby Sound, a distance of three hundred miles, sometimes in sight of the land-water, and sometimes farther off. On the Liverpool coast he passed between the land-ice, but found no whales. The land-ice was sufficiently open for a steamer to have forced her way through it, which is very rarely the case so early in the season.

The Danish expedition to east Greenland has returned to Copenhagen after an absence of twenty-nine months. The latitude reached was $66^{\circ} 8'$, about forty miles farther north than Nordenskiöld's vessel attained in 1883. There have been no casualties, and the health of the party is excellent. Many photographs and interesting ethnological objects were brought back. Lieutenant Holm, commanding, considers that it is now settled beyond a doubt that no early Scandinavian remains occur on the east coast.

'Island, land und leute, geschichte, litteratur und sprache,' by Dr. Ph. Schweitzer, has been published by W. Friedrich in Leipzig. There has been no complete work on Iceland in the German language hitherto; but the present one does not seem in all respects satisfactory, and parts of it are characterized as unscientific and fanciful by German critics.

A very useful and complete atlas of Russia has been prepared by J. Poddubnyi, and published by A. Deubner, St. Petersburg, under the title of a 'Russian school atlas,' at the small price of one ruble. It would seem to be far more than an ordinary school atlas in the sense commonly understood, and to be well worthy a place in the library of all interested in geography; being full of maps showing meteorology, distribution of races, religions, etc., and many diagrams.

J. Hughes and F. Dunsmuir have returned to Juneau, Alaska, from the head waters of the Yukon. They descended the Lewis branch to the Salmon River, which was ascended to its head waters. Good placers were found on the bars. Some twenty prospectors will remain in the region all winter. They were said to average seven or eight dollars a day per man in gold dust. These diggings are mostly in British territory.

News from the whaling fleet to Nov. 3 states that one hundred and seventy-four whales had been taken. No further casualties are reported, and the vessels are beginning to arrive at San Francisco.

Lieutenant Allen and party of the Copper River expedition, now returned, are said to be seriously affected by scurvy, due to their privations.

The revenue cutter Bear, formerly of the Greely relief expedition, has sailed from New York for the western coast, where she will be employed in Alaskan waters on revenue duties, and to assist disabled vessels of the whaling fleet during the season. She will hardly reach San Francisco before February, 1886.

Lieutenant Greely is in Scotland, the guest of Lord Roseberry, and is to deliver an address before the Scottish geographical society Nov. 19. His health is said to be improving.

Dr. Stejneger of the national museum has an illustrated article on the Commander Islands, containing much of interest, in the last number of the *Deutsche geographische blätter*.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

Spectral analysis of atmospheric elements. — M. Janssen announces (*Comptes rendus*, ci. 649) that he has taken up the special study of the absorption spectra of gases, mostly those composing