

ner's direction. This explorer made a circuit of the great mountain Kinchinjinga, delineated the boundary between north-east Nepaul and Tibet, fixed the peak of Nuijin Sangra, and completed the sketch of the Zemu River. Colonel Tanner's surveys are particularly interesting as establishing the accuracy of those made by A. K. Our brief account will serve to indicate how much interesting matter is contained in this report.

A SALT-MINE IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

MR. WILLIAM FOSTER, jun., of New York has at last succeeded in sinking a shaft to the salt deposits of central New York. As I was permitted a few weeks ago to descend to the mine, I will, by the owner's permission, give the facts to the public so far as they are of scientific and general interest.

This is, I believe, the first successful attempt to mine the salt deposits of this region. In the neighborhood of Syracuse no salt deposits have been found; but the dependence is wholly upon salt springs which derive their salt from unknown sources. In the valley of the Genesee, in Livingston county, about thirty miles south of Rochester, deposits of salt were penetrated some years ago, in boring for oil, at a depth of about a thousand feet; and numerous wells have been bored from which brine is pumped, both there and in Wyoming county to the west. Previous attempts to sink shafts to these deposits in Canada have encountered so much water, that the projects have proved impracticable; but the present attempt seems to be entirely successful. The shaft was sunk 1,013 feet; and the mine is perfectly dry, with the exception of a little water which drips down the shaft. An inch-and-a-half pipe removes all the water. When I visited the mine in April last, they had drifted about 300 feet in each direction. The stratum of salt in which they are working is twenty-two feet thick, and fourteen feet of it is pure salt. The miners remove it by blasting (boring holes with augers specially adapted to the purpose, and inserting small charges of dynamite). I collected some of the dust which was coming from one of these holes, which had penetrated about four feet horizontally and about midway between the top and the bottom. This has been analyzed for me by Professor Jewett of Oberlin, with the following result:—

	PER CENT.
Sodium chloride.....	97.84
Calcium sulphate.....	1.04
Moisture.....	.08
Residue insoluble in water43
Magnesium sulphate.....	trace
Total	99.39

This is remarkably free from impurities, even for refined salt. Doubtless, by selecting specimens, a still greater purity might have been obtained. The above specimen fairly represents the purity of a stratum fourteen feet thick, which is now being mined without hinderance from any causes.

Other strata of salt were found both above and below this one. The upper stratum was reached at a depth of 991 feet, and was so mixed with shale as to be unprofitable. The lower stratum was reached at 1,047 feet, and is fifty feet in thickness, being practically clear salt. Between these two there was also a four-foot stratum of clear salt. Thus, in all, there is, within a distance of two hundred feet, not far from eighty feet of solid salt at a depth of a little over a thousand feet below the surface. The shaft begins in Hamilton shale. The following is the record:—

	Thickness in feet.	Depth in feet.
Shale.....	407	407
Corniferous lime rock.....	148	555
Shale.....	223	778
Limestone and shale.....	70	848
Shale.....	102	950
Lime rock.....	11	961
Shale and salt.....	30	991
First bed clear salt.....	22	1,013
Lime-rock and shale.....	28	1,041
Second bed clear salt.....	4	1,045
Rock.....	2	1,047
Third bed clear salt	58	1,105

This mine is at Piffard Station, Livingston county, on the Buffalo, New York, and Philadelphia railroad.
G. F. WRIGHT.

LONDON LETTER.

THE movement previously referred to in this correspondence, for promoting such changes in the University of London as will bring the teachers of the various colleges into closer relations than at present with the examiners, has just made a great step in advance. At a meeting of convocation (i.e., of the general body of graduates) on June 29, a scheme was adopted, and sent on to the senate (the executive body) for consideration. It proposes, 1°, that the constitution of the senate be enlarged by the direct representation thereon of certain educational bodies in and near London, such as University college and Kings college, London, the Royal college of physicians and of surgeons, the Royal society, the council of legal education, etc; 2°, that certain colleges shall, under the title 'constituent colleges,' form a part of the university; 3°, that a council of education shall be established, consisting of repre-