

Major-General Her Report.

The Queen is in health; the cold weather is rather more relaxed at this season...

The annual revenue of the Double Duchy will be at least £1,000,000. There is a Gothic, his income from surplus yields...

of the late Sir William Pitt. He was an extremely able man who has enjoyed a long life...

to the Paris Jockey Club. There are not long lists of names likely to be put to the ballot...

INDIANS.

Self-laceration. The practice of cutting the flesh has been greatly increased upon the death of a man...

There is a paper says Paris. "This paper says Paris. That's the bright side of the matter..."

GREAT BRITAIN IN AMERICA.

The Gilbert Islands the Latest Acquisition.

An American Views With Alarm the Encroachments of England on This Continent.

England last year declared a protectorate over the Gilbert Islands in the South Pacific Archipelago and recently has completed their annexation by taking full possession...

not only to the commerce and dominion of Great Britain on the Pacific Ocean, but for the protection and commerce of the United States as well on the Pacific coast and ocean...

AS A COALING STATION. The same month Great Britain took possession of the Johnston islands, to the northwest of Hawaii...

ALL THE TERRITORY of North America from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean should rightfully be controlled by the United States.

She has a military railway from Halifax on the Atlantic to Port Moody on the Pacific, intended to be used in military operations against this country...

FORTRESS AT HALIFAX.

He could let slip a swarm of armored cruisers that in forty-eight hours might ruin our coasting trade, and lay our unprotected seacoast under contribution.

SEAGOING BATTLE SHIPS.

a coaling station, and a vast system of earth-works, mounted with the heaviest guns. Since 1867 Great Britain has immensely strengthened the garrison at Kingston and created an entirely new one in the harbor of Castries, St. Lucia.

"Taking Halifax, Bermuda, Kingston and Castries together, a chain of offensive fortification is constituted within three days' reach of every American Atlantic seaboard city.

Surprised. A school teacher, who had been telling the story of David, ended with "And all this happened over 3,000 years ago."

WHO IS THE HEIR?

A Claimant Turns up After Thirty Years

An interesting story in real life was brought to light the other day by a suit instituted at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, by Joseph Miller of Rochester, N. Y., against Mrs. McMann of the township of Ops, Victoria County, and her daughter, Mrs. Sole.

Wm. Robertson was a farmer in the township of Ops, Victoria, and in 1847 he died leaving three children, a deaf mute son, William, and two daughters, Margaret and Catharine.

Shortly after her father's death Margaret went to Rochester, where she married a man named Miller and subsequently gave birth to a child, a boy.

Miller remained at William's place for a short time, when he returned to the States. Shortly after his departure William Robertson, the deaf mute, died, and Catharine took possession of the farm and deeded it to her daughter, Mrs. Cole.

On the other hand Mrs. McMann claims that Miller is an impostor who has by some means heard the story and is trying to obtain a farm without paying for it.

REVEALS HIS HORNS. The possession of a gravel-walk made of uncut diamonds could scarcely compensate. It might be possible to fence out many of these obnoxious beasts with barbed wire...

MUD AVALANCHES.

A phenomenon that is slowly changing the features of the Himalayas. Explorers are discovering that mud avalanches are a powerful element in determining the physical features of the Himalayan region.

His party were travelling up the Gilgit Valley adjoining the Himalayas, in the extreme northern part of India. Suddenly they heard a noise as of continuous thunder.

All this material poured over into the gorge through which the river runs. It did not reach the river, but spread out and piled up on one side of it.

A Literal Interpretation. "Well, young man," said old Mr. Breezy while you are at my house I hope you'll feel just like one of the family.

LIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A Nervous American Recounts Some of the Little Drawbacks of Life in the Tropics—Leopards Meowing on the Back Fence, and Ostriches Cackling in the Yard.

It may be regarded as absolutely certain, says a writer in Harper's Weekly, that the South African colored individual known as King Lo Bengula, notwithstanding his experience at managing sixty wives, British forces.

DIAMOND QUARRIES, and other desirable terrestrial openings. These are good and seemly things in their way, but the prudent emigrant will be apt to inquire if there is anything to eat in the country.

ON THE BACK FENCE. Of a night would care to encounter the same thing intensified fiftyfold? It would be maddening, especially if they got under the house, and bumped their heads up against the floor as they fought.

IMPALED ON HIS HORN. will be calculated to drive a housewife mad. The possession of a gravel-walk made of uncut diamonds could scarcely compensate.

Sir John Macdonald. The late Premier of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, owed much of his success as a political leader to judicious strokes of humor, which he knew so well how to apply.

Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto, spent his early years in the priesthood in the backwoods of the County of Simcoe. Much of his extensive reading was done by the light of the log fire and the tallow candle.

Lieutenant-Governor Frazer, of New Brunswick, was, prior to 1867, an anti-Federalist. He was a colleague of Sir Albert Smith, and went out of office with him when Mr. Tilley and Mr. Mitchell were successful on the union cry.

Mabel—"What an interesting talker Mr. Gusher is? He always holds one when he speaks." Mrs. Gusher—"Does he? That accounts for the hair I found on his shoulder last night."

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE.

Premier Peters, of Prince Edward Island, is a grandson of Sir Samuel Cunard, who founded the Cunard Line.

General Middleton is writing a personal account of the Riel rebellion. In the course of his brief history he speaks with admiration of the Toronto Grenadiers.

Dr. Hawke, of Stratford, has in his possession an interesting relic of one of the patrons of '37. It is a pair of fire tongs made by Samuel Lount, the blacksmith, who was executed in Toronto in 1838.

Miss Eliza White, who recently died in Ottawa, left \$400 to the "Poor Saint of India or the Poor Labourers, whichever is most deserving, to be distributed as the Lord may direct."

Rev. Isaac Constantine, who died recently at Exeter, England, was until last autumn a clergyman in the Eastern Townships. During the epidemic of ship fever, while visiting immigrants, Mr. Constantine voluntarily abandoned his more lucrative occupation to do his Master's work.

It is recorded by the Hamilton Spectator that after the resignation of Sir John Macdonald in 1873, Sir John wanted to withdraw from the leadership of the party.

De Grasse is a very common name in Gloucester county, New Brunswick. All who bear it belong to the family at the head of which was Count de Grasse, the French nobleman who assisted Washington in the War of Independence.

Mr. Hugh Taylor, of Montreal, whose death is announced from London, England, was probably the oldest living member of the Colonial Bar, his admission as an advocate of Lower Canada, now the Province of Quebec, dating from 1829.

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TAKING AN OATH.

Various Forms Used in Binding Witnesses.

Ever since there have courts-martial particular stress has been placed upon the matter of administering the oath to the witnesses. In order that it may be binding and the loophole of informality may be, as far as possible, reduced it has been the custom to swear witnesses in the manner considered the most binding in their native lands.

PROTESTANT WITNESSES. before a court-martial are sworn by laying their right hand, ungloved, on the Bible, closed or open, while the oath is recited. Kissing the book is frequently required in addition to the laying on of the hand.

IN SWEARING CATHOLICS. the Bible is closed and has marked on the outer cover a cross, generally cut out of white paper and pasted on. Sometimes a crucifix is placed upon it, which the witness, after the oath is recited, kisses when there is any suspicion in the mind of the president or the court martial or in that of any of its members.

THE JEWS. are customarily sworn by the five books of Moses and the Great God of Israel, that the evidence they give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Frequently, however, there is no departure in the methods used with this race from that which ordinarily obtains.

THE CHINESE. In this country the Chinese do not insist upon the same methods that were once in force. Very likely the chinaware dealers wish they did, as they are so much more numerous than when the following was their custom: In England, at the old Bailey prison, a Chinaman was presented as a witness in an important case, and for some time the nature of an oath and all that it implied could not be impressed upon him.

Journey in Central Asia. A remarkable tour of exploration into Central Asia has recently been carried out by a young English officer in a private capacity, and without any official support or credentials. The tour was remarkable, not so much for the region traversed as for the exceptional facilities placed in the English officer's way by the Russian authorities, with the result that he acquired a better knowledge of Russia's present position in Central Asia than any traveller of recent times.

As General Kuropatkin freely discussed all political questions, including his famous scheme for the invasion of India, Mr. Coningham's narrative of his conversations at the Russian headquarters in Central Asia should be especially interesting, more especially as General Kuropatkin is said to have unfolded to him the plan by which England and Russia could alone become friends in Asia.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Coningham will be permitted to publish his account of all he saw and heard.