THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

St. Catharines ministers object to Sunday funerals.

Rossland objects to the immigration into the town of any more Chinese.

The penitentiary commission is investigating the recent escapes at Kingston.

Miners near Rat Portage recently mobbed a surveyer sent out to survey land.

Thomas Hall, a Hamilton moulder, attempted to commit suicide by taking laudanum.

Capt. Sinclair, Lord Aberdeen's secretary, will leave for England to enter political life.

Mr. A. Person, of the C.P.R. bridge department was drowned in a well at Virden, Man.

Francis Robinson is under arrest at St. Catharines charged with improper use of the mails.

Mary Matuska, aged three, was burned to death in Brandon on Monday, during the absence of her parents.

William Curran, sentenced one year ago at Regina to five years for arson, has been released by Executive clemency.

The building permits issued in Hamilton during the year amounted to $414,455, an increase of $117,385 over the previous year.

It is rumored that the C.P.R. are closing a deal for all the steamers of the Columbia & Kootenay Navigation Company.

This year nearly 91,000,000 bushels of grain passed through the Soo canal, an increase of 36,000,000 compared with last year's movement.

Mr. Richard Bryan of Merritton fell from a Grand Trunk train, breaking his leg. He lay out in the cold all night and was badly frost-bitten.

The Rossland Record published a list of 50 mining properties in the immediate vicinity of Rossland. The estimate foots up to nearly $13,000,000.

The Department of Trade and Commerce is confident that next season vessels will undertake the voyage from Montreal to Australia for the carriage of Canadian goods.

The Dominion Government is being asked to adopt a new ballot for the Dominion elections, as it is said the Dorocher ballot is not such a success as was anticipated.

The Minister of Agriculture and Prof. Robertson will attend Ontario dairymen's conventions in Brockville, St. Mary's, and Brantford during January, and will deliver a series of lectures.

Mr. L. H. Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, expects to have the Hudson Bay expedition, for which Parliament voted twenty-five thousand dollars last session, ready to start out early next spring.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company has offered to convert the Victoria bridge at Montreal into a double-track structure, with a track for a trolley service, if the Dominion Government assists it.

By the recent arrangement made by Hon. Mr. Fisher in Washington the 90 days' quarantine on cattle and horses will be abolished by both Canada and the United States and a rigid inspection at the border substituted.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, interviewed on leaving Washington, expressed his satisfaction at the arrangements made with Secretary Morton for a modification of the cattle quarantine regulations with the United States.

If the Dominion Government decide upon the enlargement of the St. Lawrence canals at the coming session of Parliament, it will mean the addition of two steamers to the fleet of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company.

Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, of Montreal, who has made an extensive tour through the North-West, says that he has never seen business better than it is to-day in Winnipeg, and throughout the entire North-West the farmers are contented.

Another attempt on the part of the United States to further restrict the operations of the Canadian sealers in the Behring Sea is anticipated, and according to information in Ottawa derived from a Ministerial source, this will be resisted on the part of Canada.

Dr. Geikie, treasurer for the Armenian fund in Canada, has requested the co-operation of the teachers and scholars of the Public schools and colleges in his efforts to aid the suffering Armenians. The appeal has been cordially received and approved by some of Ontario's leading educationists.

The Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway Company is applying to Parliament for an act to authorize the issue of debentures and preferred stock, to change the headquarters from Toronto to Hamilton, and to sanction the agreement with the C. P. R.

The Hamilton Police Magistrate fined James Shaw $50 or a month in jail for keeping a gambling house at 15 Macnab street north. His counsel intimated that he would take the case to Toronto and have a test made of it. The cases against ten young men found in Shaw's room by the police were dismissed.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Tom Mann has tried to start another dock strike in England.

Lo Feng Lun, the new Chinese Ambassador to England, is very popular in London.

The Hon. George Edwin King has been gazetted British Commissioner for the Behring Sea arbitration.

The St. James Gazette says the Queen will personally dictate and revise a biography of her Majesty which will appear in 1897.

The London Chronical on Monday contained a long interview with Capt. Mahan, of the United States navy, retired, which is eulogistic of the British navy and its long service system.

Earl Russell's residence at Maidenhead, on the Thames, was gutted by fire on Monday morning, and there is strong suspicion that some one connected with his libel suit against Lady Scott is guilty of incendiarism.

Three convicts who were returning on Wednesday at Dartmoor prison from outside labor made a desperate attempt to escape. One was shot dead, the second was wounded and captured, and the third got off.

UNITED STATES.

The National Bank of Illinois in Chicago has failed.

It cost New York $60,000 to clear away the snow fall last week.

A bill to protect areial navigation has been introduced into Congress.

The Masonic hall at New Brunswick, N. J., has been burned at a loss of $400,000.

The port of Boston has been opened for the export of Canadian and other cattle.

At Guthrie, O. T., Fred Hornela, 16 years old, killed another boy to get his money.

Tuberculosis is reported to have infected every herd of cattle in the State of Maine.

The late Henry L. Pierce, ex-mayor of Boston donated $533,000 in charitable bequests.

Miss Frances Willard, President of the W. C. T. U., is seriously ill at Castile, N. Y.

James Scrift, 63 years old, a Crimean veteran, died last week at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Twenty-five cavalrymen at West Point have been seriously poisoned by eating head cheese.

A serious race war is in progress at Mayfield, Kentucky, arising out of recent lynchings of colored men.

At Buffalo the body of Jerome Kelly was held for debt, but finally released and sent to Michigan for burial.

Thirty men employed on Government work at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, have left to fight for Cuban rebels.

A bill to protect aerial navigation bridge let 40 persons down into a creek, when two were killed and a number injured.

Speaker Reed is of the opinion that the House of Representatives will not pass the Cameron resolutions in favor of Cuba.

The 276 anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock has just been celebrated at various places.

It is said that Hermann, the magician, made $600,000 in the last twelve years, yet he died without leaving a dollar.

About half of the four thousand miners employed in the coal mines of St. Clair and Madison counties, Illinois, have struck for higher wages.

Mr. E. B. Mackay, professor of Greek in the Sioux Falls, N. D., Baptist College, committed suicide by hanging himself on Wednesday.

The mayor of Chicago vetoed a resolution of the City Council for four-cent car fares, and his veto was sustained by 27 majority.

The Bank of Minnesota has failed and a number of Chicago monetary institutions are suffering from a loss of public confidence.

Trouble exists between the president and employes of the Boston Street Railway Company, which is likely to result in a serious strike.

New Zealand has raised a contribution of $300 for "Harris," of Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," who is at Lexington, Ky., destitute.

The big Dupont powder mills at Carnegie's Point and Gibbstown, N. J., are working night and day to fill large orders for the Government.

Mr. Dingley on Monday, speaking of his Tariff bill, said that protection is the great purpose of the bill, and that all the protection which is needed will be given.

Fire on East 33rd street, New York destroyed property valued at nearly a million dollars and rendered 100 people homeless. Four buildings, including Sohmer's piano warehouse and the New York Polyclinic Hospital, were destroyed.

The commercial outlook in the United States has been for some time past none too good, and at this season of the year we do not look for activity, but the average business has been considerably dulled by several serious failures, among which the Bank of Illinois has been prominent, not only for its actual commercial position (which was a good one), but for the financial institutions which are wrecked with it.

GENERAL.

Signor Crispi's daughter has eloped with one of her servants.

Spain taxes English and South African visitors to the Canaries.

The Sultan has granted amnesty to 2,000 Armenians convicted of crime.

It is said that nearly all educated Cubans sympathize with the insurgents.

Berlin police raided a number of Anarchists' lodging-houses and made several arrests.

It is stated that Spain is making active preparations for a possible war with the United States.

Matters are tranquil in Hayti at present, but it is stated that a revolution is bound to come later.

Admiral Beranger, Spanish Minister of Marine, denies that the Government is purchasing warships.

The condition of the sugar crop in the West Indies will be enquired into by the English Government.

Floods are reported in Greece, which have destroyed a large amount of property and caused some loss of life.

A motion will be introduced into the Chamber of Deputies at Rome sympathizing with the Cuban insurgents.

An explosion occurred in a confectionery manufactory at Casino, in the Province of Caserta, Italy, killing seven persons.

Many lives have been lost by the capsizing of a ferry boat in the River Dnieper, in the Province of Ekaterinoslaff, Russia.

It is reported that Juan Fernandez, famous as the fabled home of Robinson Crusoe, has been completely destroyed by volcanic action.

The Epoca, of Madrid, declares that together with the reserves, the Spanish army is fully capable of maintaining an international war.

Brazil makes the claim that the territory in dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela belongs to her, and that she can establish her claim by documentary evidence.

At Santiago, Cuba, several large calibre Krupp guns have just arrived, and are being placed at strategic points to defend that port against a possible attack from a foreign enemy.

Gen. Gallieni, the French commander-in-chief in Madagascar, says that the insurrection is virtually mastered, and that only a few remaining bands are hiding in the forests.

Succi, the Italian faster, who has been giving exhibitions of his endurance, became insane on Wednesday evening, after a performance, and was taken to a hospital.

It is asserted in Rome that the abdication by Don Carlos of his pretensions to the throne of Spain in favour of his son, Don Jaime, is only postponed until the terms can be arranged.

The State Department at Washington has received information which leads Secretary Olney to believe that Gen. Gomez and other insurgent chiefs are willing to accept automony for Cuba.

It is reported that the body of Hubert Crackenthorpe, the English author, who mysteriously disappeared in Paris during the month of October, giving rise to the suspicion of foul play, has been found in the River Seine.

Fresh proposals of reform have been presented to the Sultan of Turkey, and the Ambassadors at Constantinople have been inrusted to act in unison If the Sultan refuses to comply, force may be employed.

A special from Paris says it is suggested that Great Britain, France, and Italy offer their services in the Cuban question, in order to prevent a conflict between Spain and the United States and to terminate the revolt.

A regiment of Turkish troops being conveyed from Yemen to Constantinople mutinied on shipboard for arrears of pay. The men were determined enough to force the Vali of Brousa to provide them with funds and new clothing.

A letter from Havana to the Times dwells upon the fact that the white element now predominates largely in the insurgent ranks. The worst elements have disappeared, and an independent Government, if weak, would at least be in the hands of educated and responsible men.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

A Few Notes About Some of the Great People of the World.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey are to begin a series of revival services in Cincinnati on March 5.

The Empress of Russia was very popular with the Parisians during her visit to the French capital.

Miss Nellie Patterson, Mt. Carmel, Ct., has completed a four-years' apprenticeship to the machinist's trade.

Verdi is at work on an oratorio to keep himself busy. He denies that he has any intention of writing an opera.

Mr. Gladstone is disappointed at the small sale of his edition of Bishop Butler, only 2,000 copies having been sold.

The Aberavon (English) town council unanimously elected as mayor Mr. Henry Richards, who is totally blind.

Lady Jane Harriet Swinburne, mother of Algernon Charles Swinburne, the poet, has just died in England at the age of 87.

The Hungarian caricaturist, Jarko, who died a few weeks ago, made more than 80,000 drawings in the 63 years of his life.

Dickens' daughter, before she died, had completed a book called "My Father as I Knew Him," which will be published soon.

Three English duchesses—those of Cleveland, Sutherland and Bedford—have at one time or another contributed articles to magazines.

M. Nicolini and Mme. Patti-Nicolini have returned to Craig-y-nos castle. They will leave England shortly after Christmas for the Riviera.

The late Mrs. Scott-Siddons, the celebrated actress and elocutionist, had lived in retirement for fifteen years previous to her death in Paris, November 19.

A Wurtemburg parish priest, having collected 9,000 pounds of postage stamps in eighteen years, has sold the lot for $5,000 and given the money to charity.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts, whom Kipling has immortalized as "Little Bobs," has written an important two-volume work called "Forty-one Years in India."

Miss Ethel Belle Appel is one of the best known designers of book covers in New York. She says the greatest need in her profession is originality that is practical.

A Scotch member of Parliament has just been brought to book by his constituents for playing golf, or conducting golf exercises on Sunday, while away from home.

There is but one monarch of Europe who can sshow the scar of a wound received in war. It is King Humbert, who received a severe saber cut at the battle of Custozza.

Israel Zangwill, the novelist and essayist, has just concluded a successful lecturing tour in England. He is said to be contemplating a visit to the United States next year.

Capt. Macready, youngest son of the tragedian, after winning the Telel-Kebir clasp for gallantry in the Egyptian campaign, is acquiring fame as an amateur actor in Aberdeen.

Miss Agnes G. Scott, of the Alexandra college, Dublin, has been awarded the gold medal for first place in mathematics, in the senior grade, by the board of intermediate education.

Mornington Cannon heads the list of winning English jockeys again this year, owing to T. Loates' bad luck in falling with his horse and breaking his leg in the Liverpool autumn cup race.

Dr. Edward S. Holden, director of the Lick observatory of the university of California, has received the decoration of Knight of the Royal Order of the Dannebrog of Denmark.

Otto Shobert, a German machinist, who lives in Brooklyn, is a claimant on behalf of his wife of a fortune left by an East Indian nabob, named Paul Hofman, who died without leaving a they were used in the Rast as fight-will. Mrs. Shobert is his neice. The fortune is said to be $50,000,000.

SLAVE TRADE'S HORRORS

MR. HELLCHATELAIN MAKES SOME STARTLING STATEMENTS.

He is a Noted African Explorer and Describes What He Has Seen—Human Beings Are Still Bought and Sold and Killed and Tortured in Africa Under the Flags of Many Civilized Nations.

The great continent of Africa, 5,000 miles long by 4,800 wide, has been seized and portioned off among the European powers, and therefore these powers are now responsible for all that occurs in the territories which they claim as their own. Among the 200,000,000 Africans who have, by no choice of their own, become the subjects and wards of the Christian Governments of England, France, Germany and Portugal, 50,000,000 at least are still slaves.

A few years ago the explorer Cameron estimated the number of victims killed every year by the African slave trade at 2,000,000. The last estimate of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society still speaks of 500,000 dying year after year in this inhuman traffic.

In Morocco naked women of white as well as negro blood are sold at auction in public markets. Moroccan merchants, who as infidels are not allowed to hold slaves, place themselves under the protection of the American flag in order to trade in human flesh. The attention of the United States Government was called to this fact by the British Anti-Slavery Society last July.

In Tripoli and Egypt a trade in slave women and eunuchs for the supply of harems is still carried on with more or less secrecy.

Along the Red Sea, says the explorer Theo Bent, Arabs and Mahdists carry on

A BRISK SLAVE TRADE

with impunity, and they will continue their contraband trade until that section of the Soudan is reconquered from the Khalifa and placed under a settled government.

In his "Fire and Sword in the Soudan" Slatin Pasha gives vivid pictures of the man-hunt as practised by the Khalifa and of the horrors which accompany the transport of the slaves—many of whom are Christian Abyssinians—from the places of capture to the capital and thence to their destination.

In British Nyassa-land the principal slave raider, Mlozi, has been captured and hanged, but as Mr. Crawshay, Magistrate of Northern Nyassa-land, says, the traffic is still carried on by the native tribes themselves, of whom the Angoni are the worst offenders. "These Angoni," says a missionary, "possess from 100,000 to 150,000 slaves, whose sole possession is a goat or cat-skin around their loins, frequently only a little bark fibre. They are kept in subjection by the spear and the poison ordeal, which is administered to the friends and relatives of fugitive slaves. In one village the other day eleven persons lay dead from this cause."

In Madagascar slaves were sold in the public market of the capital up to the last day before its capture by the French. The freedom-loving Boers of the Transvaal subject the natives in their territory to such a degradation that all who can flee from the country. Although slavery is legally abolished in all Portuguese colonies nearly all the plantation laborers and many of the domestic servants are bought and sold like cattle.

CANNIBALISM PREVALENT.

On the Mobanghi River, which forms the boundary between the Congo State and French Congo, cannibalism and slavery go hand in hand. Animal flesh is despised as coming from dumb, irrational creatures; human flesh is said to be noble, refined meat. Only slaves are eaten. They are far more numerous than the free men. They are so cheap that free men sometimes kill some of their human chattel just to show off their wealth, in the same manner as a young lord may throw a handful of pennies to London street Arabs.

Young slaves are the regular currency. Some children who were redeemed by the Catholic missionaries at Liranga had been the property of more than twenty masters. When a rich man goes hunting a little slave between ten and twelve is sacrificed to the river spirit in order to insure good luck for the chase.

A missionary writing from Liranga said that when he arrived his neighbors at Nyange, Butome, Busmide and Irebu indulged in two or three human sacrifices every week. These executions were regular holidays. The chosen victims had to be patient spectators of all the merriment. When the time of a victim was come he would be untied, seated on a low block, his hands fastened to the ground by means of forks, his legs stretched out and also fixed to the soil, and his back tied to stakes. His head was attached by bush-rope to an elastic pole stuck in the ground some seven feet away and bent over so as to

STRETCH THE NECK

of the prisoner. All being ready, the executioner, after much gesticulation, dancing and singing, draws with white chalk around his victim's neck the line where he intends to strike. Twice he brandishes his knife and brings it close to the marked line. Then he recedes. Silence reigns. Suddenly he leaps again to the victim; twice he swings the sword to test his arm; the third time the severed head flies afar off, and the sanguinary crowd rushes on the lifeless body. A moment after all return with happy faces to their homes.

Since the arrival of the white men and of European authorities, these horrible public exhibitions have been discontinued in the immediate neighborhoods of the stations. But slaves are still killed and eaten. Now they are gagged and silently speared to death.

In the heart of the Sodan, around Lake Tshad, no attempt has yet been made to check slave-raiding. Of the road to Kuka, the capital of Bornu, the German explorer Rohlfs said: "The bones of the slaves abandoned on either side of the road are so thick that a stranger who does not know the way has only to keep the middle between the two rows of bones; he will not miss his goal."

When an Arab slave-trader sees that one of his human chattels is unable to keep up the march with the others, the thought of losing his money enrages him so—said Livingstone in his last journals—that he "vents his spleen" by murdering the poor wretch.

SLAVES SLAIN BY THOUSANDS.

In 1894 the acting Governor of Sierra Leone told Rev. C. H. Robinson that a few days' journey inland "he had passed for seven days at a time through burnt villages and country which had been desolated by the Sofa savages. In one place he came across a heap of bodies of slaves who had just been killed, their owners having heard of his approach."

By far the largest portion of slave dealing is done without violence by the natives in the regular working of their social institutions. Slavery is a constituent element of native African society. It was not introduced by African or American slave hunters. The natives everywhere think that if that pillar is their social fabric be removed the whole edifice will fall to the ground.

In many sections slaves are the regular currency, in others they are the only labor to be found for certain kinds of work. They are very largely the beasts of burden in a country deprived of horses and carriages. When a person gets sick or dies, or if any public calamity happens, somebody is accused of being the cause through witchcraft, and somebody is killed or sold into slavery. If a man suspects one of his wives of adultery he frequently sells her far away. Any one convicted of a crime or any insolvent debtor may be sold by legal action. Slavery takes the place of jails and penitentiaries. Children are valued not only as reproductions of one's self but as marketable property.

Of all the slaves I have questioned not one of those who were enslaved by one of these legal methods ever complained as having been wronged. Those who complained were those who had been kidnapped or who were detained by civilized people.

Of the famous Arab slave-raiders Mlozi was hanged in December, 1894; Tippo Tib enjoys the fruits of his captives at Zanzibar, and so does Rumaliza, whose name signifies "he who utterly destroys." Rashid, Tippo Tib's nephew and successor at Stanley Falls, is a prisoner of the Congo State somewhere in the Southern Congo Basin.

A QUESTION OF LUCK.

Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle Have an Argument on the Question.

"I hate to hear people say there's no such thing as luck," remarked the melancholy Mr. Doolittle.

"I don't see why," his wife responded.

"Because it isn't true," he returned with asperity. "A man can go on trying and trying and never get along. And some other person will go ahead and tumble into good things without making any effort whatever."

"Hiram, no great man has succeeded without hard work."

"That's the kind of talk you always hear. But nine times out of ten it is all owing to the opportunity that presented itself. Fortune just seems to lie in wait to kidnap some men. Look at Sir Isaac Newton. His name is handed down from generation to generation. And why? Simply because he was sitting under a tree and an apple happened to drop on him. You can't pretend that a man is in a position to claim superior merit simply because, through no action or preference of his own, he gets hit in the head with an apple, can you?"

"No, Hiram."

"Then don't tell me about there not being any such thing as luck."

"It seems to me that you've chosen a poor example in support of your argument. The case of Isaac Newton goes to show that the difference is in the people. If it had been some men that I know of instead of Newton, the first thing they would have done after the apple fell would have been to go into the house and moan for the arnica bottle; then they would have spent two or three hours of precious time talking about their bad luck."

JENNY LIND AND THE QUEEN.

There is a pretty story told of Queen Victoria and Jenny Lind. It belongs to the year 1848, and shows how the modesty of two women, the Queen of England and the queen of song, made a momentary awkwardness which the gentle tact of the singer overcame.

It was on a night when Jenny Lind was to sing at Her Majesty's Theatre that the queen made her first public appearance after the memorable Chartist day. For the great artist, too, this was a first appearance, for it was the beginning of her season at a place where, the year before, she had won unparalleled fame.

It happened that the queen entered the royal box at the same moment that the prima donna stepped upon the stage. Instantly a tumult of acclamation burst from every corner of the theatre. Jenny Lind modestly retired to the back of the stage, waiting till the demonstration of loyalty to the sovereign should subside.

The queen, refusing to appropriate to herself that which she imagined to be intended for the artist, made no acknowledgment, either from the stage or the royal box.

At length, when the situation became embarrassing Jenny Lind, with ready tact, ran forward to the footlights and sang "God Save the Queen," which was caught up at the end of the solo by the orchestra, chorus and audience. The queen then came to the front of her box and bowed, and the opera was resumed.

HIS DUTY.

Now honestly, Lawman, do you think your client is innocent?

Of course not. All I care for is to clear him.