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.

Robert Stewart was crushed to death between two cars at Winnipeg.

R.W. Jameson was elected Mayor of Winnipeg by 339 majority over D. W. Bole.

C. P. R. employees at Montreal have received notice of an increase of 15 per cent in their salaries, to begin with the new year.

Many Canadian vessels have started out in search of the abandoned Strathnevis, believed to be floating in the Pacific. She will prove a rich prize to the craft that overhauls her.

Sir William Whiteway, Premier of Newfoundland, is at present in Montreal. In an interview he expressed great indignation at the lying reports respecting his province that have been sent to all parts of Canada and the United States.

Two men, named Smith and Broom, were sentenced at Toronto on Wednesday, respectively, to fifteen and thirteen years, on a charge of manslaughter, their crime having consisted in assaulting Mrs. Mary Atkins, in the Queen's park last May, from the injuries of which, it was alleged, she died.

A despatch has been received by the Dominion Government from Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking for full information as to the extent to which foreign imports have displaced similar British goods, and the causes of such displacement. His object is to promote trade between the Mother Country and her colonies.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Marquis of Queensberry is going to visit his hopeful son, Lord Sholto, in California.

The Italian Government has ordered in England one hundred thousand tins of preserved meats for the use of the Italian troops in Abyssinia.

The German steamer Spree stranded on Warden Ledge, near the Isle of Wight, and tugs were unable to release her. The passengers and mails were landed at Southampton.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert, the famous dramatist, was sued for libel by the Countess Bremont. The action was tried in the Queen's Bench Division of the English High Court and dismissed.

Edward Collis, who has been sentenced to prison for eighteen months in London for bigamy and cruelty, fifteen years ago, when he was a young soldier in the British artillery in India, at the battle of Maiwand, held his gun alone against a hundred Afghans, everyone of whom was firing pointblank at him, and the act was described as a "deed of daring courage as high as that of Horatius at the bridge."

UNITED STATES.

President Cleveland is reported to be preparing for another issue of gold bonds.

Two lives were lost in the burning of the Ann Arbor Railway shop at Owasso, Mich.

By a coal mine explosion at Egypt, N. C., on Thursday, forty men were either killed or imprisoned in the shaft.

The case of murderer Holmes, under conviction at Philadelphia, has been appealed to the Supreme Court. January 26 has been appointed for argument.

Professor Woolsey, of Yale, has written this sentiment to the Boston Reform Club: "Jingoism between nations is like brag and bluster between individuals. It is underbred."

A baby girl born the other day in Kokomo, Ind., is the fourteenth daughter of a fourteenth daughter of a fourteenth daughter—a record which is thought to be unprecedented.

W. Hasell Wilson, president of the Belvidere railroad, a part of the Pennsylvania system, is probably the oldest railway president in the world in active service. He is 86 years old.

More than six thousand tailors are locked out in New York, and an extension of the trouble is threatened which will deprive eighteen thousand garment workers of employment.

Professor E. Otis Kendall has resigned the chair of astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania. He served that institution for just forty years, having become its professor of mathematics in 1855.

An accident occurred at the Midvalley colliery, at Shamokin, Pa., whereby a number of men were injured, four of them fatally. A coupling broke and a train of cars dashed down a steep incline.

George Moore, a working miner of Grand Ronde, Wash., celebrated his one hundred and second birthday on December 20. He is in perfect health, and does as good a day's work at his placer as many of the younger miners.

The Michigan Central Railway Company are the chief promoters of the bridge over the Detroit River at Windsor. Besides the application to the Dominion Parliament they have a bill before Congress, and hope to be able to start the work at an early date.

The Pacific Cable Company has been incorporated in Trenton, N.J., with a capital of one million dollars. The object of the corporation is the construction and operation of electric submarine cables in the Pacific ocean, with telegraphic lines and connections for the transmission of messages.

A fire broke out on the German steamer Athena some distance off Cape May. While the crew were being rescued by a British ship a large quantity of naphtha on board the Athena exploded and the captain and seventeen of the crew were either burned to death or drowned.

A despatch from Albany, N.Y., says that Governor Morton has granted a respite in the case of Bartholomew Shea, convicted of the murder of Robert Ross, at Troy, on election day two years ago. He fixes the date of execution as January 7, and in the meantime will look over the application for commutation.

GENERAL.

The Cretans are said to have defeated the Turks in a pitched battle.

Signor Crispi, the Italian Premier, is expected to pay a visit to England during the coming spring.

The report is confirmed in Yokohama that China has offered Chan-Som-Bay to Russia for a winter station.

It is stated in Paris that President Faure will resign before next March, owing to the unearthing of a fresh family scandal.

The Italian forts at Massowah and on the coast are being garrisoned by sailors, in order to permit all the soldiers to go to the front.

When Stuart Cumberland, the mind-reader, recently gave an exhibition in Stockholm, King Oscar acted as his interpreter to the audience.

Nijni Novgorod's exhibition next year is to be a national one, of Russian products alone. It will be opened soon after the Czar's coronation at Moscow.

The captains of the foreign guardships at Constantinople had a conference for the purpose of arranging a concert of measures for public safety in case of need.

The Pope has sent 20,000 lire for the relief of the sufferers from Turkish misrule in Anatolia, in addition to the 50,000 lire previously given by him for the same purpose.

A special despatch from Moscow says that a conspiracy against the life of the Czar has been unearthed there. Several men and women have been arrested in connection with the plot.

M. Poincare, who has been investigating the action of the moon on the meteorology of the earth, has discovered that it has an influence not only on the production of cyclones, but also on their direction.

Advices received from Vladivostock say that the secret treaty between Russia and China is an accomplished fact, and that a survey of the proposed railway from Siberia through Manchuria has been ordered.

Cabman Moore, of Paris, who shot a pistol at M. Lockroy some years ago, will benefit by the latter's elevation to the Cabinet. Moore was sentenced to a long penal servitude, but Minister Lockroy is now about to obtain his release.

The latest despatches from Cape Coast Castle, in British West Africa, indicate that King Prempeh is preparing to offer a stubborn resistance to the British, and that the Ashanti expedition will not be the walk-over that at one time it was expected to be.

China has invited the powers to claim grants of settlements at various ports which were opened to foreign trade by the treaty of Simoneseki in order to forestall the Japanese in the exclusive exploiting of these privileges, as they claim they have a right to do.

On the ground that she was hypnotized, the St. Petersburg Court of Appeals has reduced the sentence of death imposed upon a girl to five years' imprisonment, the evidence showing that she was completely under the control of the man who compelled her to poison her father.

Japan is going to build up her commercial navy by giving subsidies to shipbuilders for every ton above 1,000, and to shipowners for all ships of 1,000 tons that can make ten knots an hour, the subsidy being increased for every 500 tons additional burden or every knot additional speed.

Lord Glasgow, the governor of New Zealand, recently attended a cattle show at Napier. He particularly admired a certain shorthorn bull. The bull did not admire the Governor, and expressed that fact by uncermoniously tossing his Lordship over a convenient fence. Then the Governor went home.

The King of Portugal, who left the country to borrow money, expended a large sum during his recent travels. In London he purchased several valuable paintings, and in Paris his inclination to my bric-a-brac, books, etc., had to be checked by his advisers. King Carlo has luxurious tastes, and is not a good financier.

Austria has the unusual pleasure of seeing a surplus in its accounts of twenty million florins for the year 1894, in spite of the unusual expenditure of twenty-four million florins in putting the currency on a gold basis, and the prospect of an equally large surplus for 1895. At the same time the public debt has been reduced by 48,000,000 florins.

HOLES IN THE CANVAS.

An Important Discovery Increasing the Efficacy of Sails.

An Italian sea captain, Gio Batta Vasallo, of Genoa, has made a very interesting innovation in the use of sails of ordinary sailing vessels. He claims that the force of wind cannot fully take effect in a sail, since the air in front of it cannot properly circulate in the inflated part, and remains stationary immediately in front part of the sail proper. He avoids this stagnation of air, as he calls it, by the application of a number of small holes in that part of the sail where the depression is deepest when it is filled; these holes are reinforced like a buttonhole so that they will not tear out. Trials made in various weather have resulted as follows: ' With a light wind, a boat with ordinary sails made four knots, while the new sail increased the speed to five and a quarter knots. In a fresh breeze the respective speeds were seven and eight and three-quarters knots; and in a strong wind they were eight and ten knots per hour. It stands to reason that the doing away with a layer of air, which cannot escape past the sides of a sail, must increase the efficiency of the sailboat. Where the wind formerly struck a cushion of air which acted like a spring mattress, decreasing the actual pressure of the wind against the canvas, this current of air now strikes the sail direct, and, of course, has a greater efficiency. Vasallo has received much encouragement from practical sailors, as well as theoretical scientists.

Greenland Newspaper.

The most northerly newspaper in the world is published at Godthaab, Greenland. It appears twice a month and is the only newspaper we know of published on the lines on which a great majority of the public seems to think every newspaper is run. The editor-in-chief does personally receive and set advertisements, write the leading editorials and the brieflets, ink the type and then in actuality "gets his skates on" and peddles his product.

AT THE FERTILE NORTH.

INTERESTING DESCRIPTION OF A FAR-OFF CANADIAN REGION.

A Summer's Surveying in Northern Alberta—The Vermilion Country—Its Great Resources—Magnificent Grazing Land—Room for May Settlers—Mining and Farming Possibilities.

Mr. R. R. Holt, of Toronto, has just returned from a surveying trip on behalf of the Dominion Government in the country north-east and south of Edmonton. He has been out since last May, and during the intervening period has covered over 1,200 miles of new country in the discharge of his duties. He went as assistant to Mr. E. W. Hubbell, one of the five regularly appointed chief surveyors for the Dominion, and the object of their party was to lay out trails and survey new townships of Government land, with a view to their occupancy by settlers. The region in which they were occupied is as yet comparatively unknown to Eastern Canadians, who are not usually too well informed concerning the geography and characteristics of that great stretch of territory which forms the valley of the Saskatchewan river and its tributaries, and which will in the future, many believe, prove to be among the richest and most fertile of the Dominion. It was with a view to gaining some information concerning the resources and possibilities of this new land that a newspaper reporter called upon Mr. Holt at his home, and requested the pleasure of an interview, which was courteously granted.

THE VERMILION COUNTRY.

"We started from Edmonton on May 21st last," he said, "eleven of us, with Mr. Hubbell in charge, for the purpose of subdividing townships and laying out Government trails in the Vermilion country, the Beaver hills, and around Fort Saskatchewan. I cannot speak too highly of the Vermilion country. It lies on the banks of the Saskatchewan, about one hundred and thirty miles north-east of Edmonton, and is about 500 x 300 miles in extent. It is exceedingly good country for grazing purposes, being of rolling prairie, and watered by the Vermilion river, which flows into the Saskatchewan, and by a number of smaller streams and creeks. In addition, the district is heavily timbered toward the north with spruce and poplar; near the Saskatchewan it is practically prairie, but there is in every portion an ample supply of wood for fuel purposes. The region is entirely uninhabited, except for the presence of a few halfbreeds here and there.

"Our mission in the Vermilion country was to survey the land for the proposed colony of General Booth—the Salvation Army project—and we did survey one township; we would have covered more, but were driven back by the prairie fires, which were raging fiercely for fifty miles. Between Edmonton and the Vermilion country there are several settlements, among them Fort Saskatchewan, Beaver Lake, and Egg Lake, and in these there are quite a number of settlers. They were in many cases heavy losers by the fires, which in some instances burnt them out of house and home, destroying their crops, houses, and all they had. A German stranger was captured, and tried by Major Grisbar, at Fort Saskatchewan, on a charge of setting the prairie on fire; he was fined $150 and cost.

"As I have said, the Vermilion country is specially adapted for grazing. There is an amplitude of wild grass, similar to that which covers the prairie in the Calgary district, and the water facilities are unsurpassed. There is land there for thousands upon thousands of herds of cattle. I have seen lands in California, British Columbia, Ontario, and elsewhere, but I have never seen a country which to my mind equals Vermilion for stock-raising purposes. The land, too, is superb. It is mostly what we call black loam, running three or four feet deep, and very rich. There has been as yet no attempt made to grow cereals, but I am confident that the Red Deer and Edmonton countries do not equal the Vermilion in fertility of soil."

ITS MINERAL PROSPECTS.

"Are there any mineral indications?" asked the reporter.

"We found, along the banks of the Saskatchewan, lots of indications of bituminous coal, though no regular veins, and at Edmonton coal of this kind is selling at $2 per ton. It is taken from croppings right in the vicinity of the town, and is similar to what we noticed in the Vermilion region. During our trip, too, we came upon places where men had been washing for gold in the bed of the creek, but there are no parties at work there now. As a matter of fact, there are in many places in that district faint indications of gold in the soil, but it has not been shown yet, by the experience of any of the prospectors who have gone into that country to look for gold, that it exists in paying quantities. There has, of course, never been any attempt at quartz mining there, and no veins have been found. As a mining country the district has no claims, outside of what may be shown in coal discoveries. There has never been any attempt to locate oil beds in Vermilion, and their existence is not indicated, so far as we saw, though at Arthabasca landing, about 300 miles north of Edmonton, the Dominion Government has been engaged in boring for oil since last July with a diamond drill. They have sunk 1,700 feet, but had not struck oil up to a short time before we left.

A RAILWAY ADVOCATED.

"While, however, the Vermilion district is useful chiefly as a grazing country, I think it will also prove, as a farming country, unsurpassed in the North-West. What I would advocate would be the construction of a railroad running from Battleford, which is 300 miles north-east of Edmonton, in a south-westerly direction through the Vermilion and Beaver Lake regions, and on to Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton to connect with the C.P.R. There is no doubt in my mind that by that means a stretch of country would be opened up which would be among the most valuable in the North-West, and the people there are hopeful that this project may be taken up."

In further conversation Mr. Holt gave many interesting details of the other explorations and surveys in which his party was engaged, and of the country through which they passed. He concluded an interesting interview with a warm reference to the kindness and great ability of Mr. Hubbell, for whom he expressed great esteem.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Readable Paragraphs About Some Great Folks of the World.

Speaking of Hall Caine, a United States contemporary says, "Caine is an able man."

King Humbert of Italy has absolutely no sense of humor, it is said, and regards a joke of any kind as a gross breach of etiquette.

Herbert Spencer never accepts a college degree nor any other honorary trade-mark from any society. He wants to stand wholly on his own merits or be forgotten.

It may not be generally known that Du Maurier, the artist and the author of "Trilby," made the fantastic and inartistic drawing upon the labels of Apollinaris water bottles.

King Otto of Bavaria, who has never once since his accession gone beyond the lofty walls of the castle of Furstenried, where he resides under the strictest surveillance, has just entered his 48th year.

Mrs. Keeley, the venerable actress whose ninetieth birthday was recently celebrated in London, sang the "Mermaid's Song" in a performance of Oberon, conducted by Weber himself, in 1826.

John W. Mackay, the millionaire, claims that he can run, jump, or hop against any other millionaire in the United States. In his early days, when he was engaged as miner, Mr. Mackay was noted for his athletic performances.

Mr. Reed is the fourth Speaker of the United States House of Representatives re-elected to that office after an interval during which other persons occupied the chair of the presiding officer of the House. The preceding Speakers thus re-elected were:—F. A. Muhlenburg, Henry Clay, and John W. Taylor.

King Bomba's executioner has just died. He was a Sicilian named Gaetano Impallizeri, who was condemned to death for a murder, but pardoned on agreeing to become executioner. When Garibaldi entered Naples he had to flee to avoid lynching, and had lived ever since on a small island near Palermo.

Captain McClure, who, with a commission from the Chinese Government, is visiting various countries where war vessels are constructed, with a view to the creation of a new navy for China, is at present in England. It is stated that when he decides what firm can best supply the needs, he will place the most extensive single order for warships ever given.

Paderewski, who is now in New York, it is said, looked somewhat stronger and a little heavier than when he was last in the United States. All the reports to the contrary notwithstanding, Paderewski's hair is almost, if not quite, as long as ever, and stands out from his head in the same careless profusion. He also is in the best of spirits, and looks forward to his long American tour with pleasure. He will spend almost a year on this side, and his concert tour will be of an unusual extent, taking in the South and Canada.

The death of Baron Larrey, the third Napoleon's surgeon, recalls an adventure of his father, the first Napoleon's medical adviser, at Waterloo. The elder Larrey bore so striking a resemblance both in physique and in dress to the Little Corporal that when he was taken prisoner by the Prussians they thought they had captured the Emperor, and ordered him to be shot. But the doctor who was ordered to bandage his eyes recognized him as his old instructor in medicine, and at his request Larrey was sent to Blucher, who gave him some money and dismissed him.

IRON IN FOOD.

Spinach Contains More of It Than Eggs or Beef.

Prof. Bunge, in the course of a paper on iron as a medicine, read before the German Congress of Internal Medicine, has been ventilating some ideas which are as much matter of general science (and therefore extremely important) as they are details connected with the physicians' domain. He is strong on the point that iron should reach our blood through the medium of our food, rather than through the druggist's specialities. Iron, as everybody knows, is a food element absolutely essential for the proper constitution of the body. It is as rigidly demanded by the plant as by the animal; and it is from plants that Prof. Bunge shows we should chiefly receive our iron supply. Spinach, he tells us, is richer in iron, than the yolk of eggs, while the yolk contains more than beef. Then succeed apples, lentils, strawberries, white beans, peas, potatoes and wheat, these substances being given in the order in which they stand as regards the plentifulness of their iron constituents.

Cow's milk is poorer in iron, but, as balancing this deficiency in the food of the young mammal, it is found that the blood of the youthful quadruped contains much more iron than the adult. Thus, in a young rabbit or guinea pig one hour old, four times as much iron was found as occurs in these animals two and a half months old.

Their Different Opinions.

The little dear is lost again, she said, as soon as he got home.

Oh, that pug!

Yes, that pug, if you must talk like a brute, and I want you to advertise for him.

And this is the ad. as it appeared:

"Lost—A sausage-shaped yellow dog, answering, when hungry, to the name of Baby; a reward will be paid for his return to 37 Blank street, dead or alive."

DRINKING AND MURDER.

MURDERS BY DRUNKARDS ARE UNPREMEDITATED.

Mental States Due to Liquor—The Mind is Easily Inflamed and Quick to Avenge Fancied Insult by Violence.

England is discussing the statement of a well-known physician of Liverpool, that murder is largely due to drunkenness. He says the number of instances of murder would be reduced one-half if the evil of drinking to excess could be stamped out. Many men, he says, who commit this fearful crime are peacable enough in their rational moments, but seem to undergo a perversion of nature as soon as their minds are confused and excited by liquor.

The testimony of all physicians who have made a careful study of the effects of drinking on the brain goes to show that liquor does not, as so often erroneously stated, "bring out a man's true nature." The doctrine of "in vino veritas" is not sound. Some men, it is true, only excite their natural propensities by over-indulgence.

A naturally garrulous man will often be so acted upon by the drink that his garrulousness is increased ten-fold. He will talk until he is absolutely powerless to speak further. A man of solemn temperament will usually be moved to tears. A man of belligerent tendencies will defy the world to mortal combat when in his cups. A man of poetic fancies will rival Milton in his imaginative eloquence.

In support of the English doctor's theory many instances have been cited from the police records and the "family histories" of murderers have been

CLOSELY EXAMINED.

The result is a powerful argument for temperance. In seventy-five cases out of a hundred it has been found htat men who have committed an apparently uncalled-for or unprovoked murder have been quiet and well-behaved citizens in their sober moments, but had been drinking to excess just before committing the crime. In the other cases the crime could be attributed to some set motive. The motive which largely predominated was robbery.

An analysis of the cases in which drunkenness has preceded the commission of murder seems to show that an excessive use of liquor produces a condition of nervous tensity. The drinker, no matter what his previous and normal temperament may have been, suddenly grows excessively irritable. He is annoyed to the pitch of desperation by trivial causes.

In an insignificant remark he detects an insult. The playful banter of a companion is interpreted as serious hostility. A friendly slap on the back is regarded as a challenging blow. The inflamed mind, like the law, has no room for trifles. Everything is magnified. A slowness to obey on the part of one who is accustomed to obey is construed as a defiance of authority. A wordy altercation is instantly transformed into a pitched battle, in which deadly weapons are employed, absolutely regardless of consequences.

In fact, the drinker pays no heed whatever to the probable results of his violent acts. Whatever the fancied cause of his sudden wrath may be, it turns him into a frenzied beast.

While under this fearful influence he has been known to kick his wife in the breast and stomach until she dies (a by no means infrequent case), to beat his mother to death, cut the throats of his children, to

GOUGE OUT THE EYES

of a companion. Such acts do not constitute murder in the sense that murder is a crime involving premeditation. It is no doubt true that in very many instances of the sort the unfortunate person had no idea whatever of committing a murder two minutes before the violent act was accomplished.

A case which illustrates the force of the proposition that murder is due often to drink occurred some months ago in England. It is only one of thousands of similar cases that have occurred in this country, but is especially interesting from the fact that the judge in his charge to the jury lamented the many cases on the calendar which were plainly due to intemperance.

The prisoner was a militia man, who had just been discharged from his annual training. The victim was a domestic servant, to whom he had been paying attention, and whom he had treated with the greatest kindness up to the day of the murder. On that day the prisoner, the deceased and others were drinking together. One of the company, a married woman, let fall out of her pocket a razor which she had kept to prevent her husband doing harm to himself or anyone else.

The prisoner picked it up and put it in his pocket, saying that he would take care of it for fear of danger. Later, the prisoner, who had pawned his coat to pay for more liquor, became annoyed because the servant refused to come down stairs when he called her, and, going up, he forced open the door, dragged her down stairs and cut her throat with the razor.

The medical evidence showed that the man had been in a frenzy of excitement when the murder was done. There were two cuts, penetrating to the spine, severing all the large vessels and causing almost instantaneous death.

At the trial Medical Officer Beaman, of the prison, made a rather curious statement which, if true, throws valuable light on this subject from the point of view of phrenology. He said that there were three depressions on the right side of the prisoner's head, and that persons having such depressions in their heads were more "susceptible to drink" than ordinary people. Whether this is true or not will bear investigation. If so, it would be interesting to know exactly what causes a connection between such depressions and a desire to drink.

High Enough.

Miriam—Don't you think my new hat a poem, Ned?

Ned (critically)—From its height, dear I should instead compare it to a short story.

Wise, Indeed.

Bunkins, I guess, is about the smartest man of his years in this community, said the citizen who observes.

Knows a great deal, does he?

Knows a great deal? I should say so. Why, sir, that man knows almost as much as his nineteen-year-old daughter, who is in the high school.