# 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.

Dr. Montague has been sworn in as Minister of Agriculture.

The convicts at Kingston enjoyed a 1,200 pound pudding on Christmas Day.

A farmer named Piche blew out the gas in his room at Montreal and died from suffocation.

Traffic receipts on the C. P. R. show an increase for the week ending December 21 of $86,000 over the corresponding week of 1894.

The distribution of 3,200 Martini-Metford rifles and 600,000 rounds of ammunition to the volunteer forces has been completed at Kingston.

A London West young woman named Mary Price swallowed an ounce of laudanum with suicidal intent after a quarrel with her intended. Her life was saved.

An inquiry is being made at Kingston penitentiary into the conduct of a number of the employees, who are alleged to have discussed with outsiders the dismissal of three of the guards.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A lifeboat was capsized in Dublin Bay and the whole crew of seventeen men drowned.

Lord Rosebery is said to be engaged on a new book which will be a striking contrast to his "Life of Pitt."

The heavy gales continue around the coasts of Great Britain, and many wrecks, accompanied by loss of life, are reported.

London is to have another Oriental visitor, the Nizam of Hyderabad. He rules 15,000,000 subjects and 100,000 square miles of territory.

M. Emile Zola will visit England again in the spring. He wishes to study the industrial and social life in such cities as Manchester and Sheffield.

A Presbyterian church in Nottingham, England, recently celebrated the installation of electric light by a special service, which attracted much attention.

Mr. Robert Barr, the author, who has recently bought a piece of ground on Surrey Hills, England, also owns houses in Florida and on the Canadian shore of the Detroit river.

Sir Henry Harland, M.P., in the Conservative interest for North Belfast, and head of the famous ship-building firm of Harland & Wolff, is dead. He was sixty-four years of age.

The Queen is greatly interested in the Ashanti expedition, and also in Barney Barnato's Kaffir booms. She has ordered the Colonial Office to keep her informed of the latest developments in these matters.

A leading London musical serial says: "It is enough to make the mouths of British organists water when they read that the organist of the Marlborough-Vanderbilt wedding at New York received £500 for his services.

It is rumored that the Japanese Government has entered into arrangements with Lord Armstrong & Company, the great English firm of shipbuilders and gun-makers, for the establishment of a dockyard and gun factory in Japan.

Sergius Stepniak, the Russian author, who was in exile from Russia and has been residing in London, was killed the other day by a passing train while walking over a level railway crossing at Chiswick. He was fifty-four years of age.

Professor Archibald Geikie director-general of the geological surveys of the United Kingdom, and author of many important works on geology and kindred subjects, intends visiting the United States very shortly on a lecturing tour.

The marriage of Miss Maple, of London, to Baron Eckhardstein is likely to be one of the events of next season, for the daughter of Sir John Blundell Maple is not only a beautiful and accomplished girl, but one of the greatest heiresses in England.

The Manchester Courier says that orders have been given at the Woolwich and Devonport arsenals for a large quantity of ammunition, together with a great number of magazine rifles, Martini-Henry rifles, and other guns for shipment to Canada in January. The Courier also learns that the defences of Canada are to be gradually strengthened.

UNITED STATES.

There were six suicides and one accidental death in New York at Christmastide.

By the burning of the saw mill of the Sutherland Lumber Company at Ashland, Wis., three men lost their lives.

Joseph L. Ingalls, of Bridgton, Me., never was in a barber's chair for a shave till last week, although he is a nonogenarien.

A duel was fought in Berea, Kentucky, in which both the principals were killed. They were named Mitchell and Johnston.

A lift span four hundred and twenty-one feet long is proposed for the new Kansas City bridge. The thing works on weights, like a window shaft.

Lieutenant Peary has learned to speak the Eskimo language with all the ease of a native. It is almost as easy to reach the pole as to acquire that tongue.

A bill has been introduced in the House at Washington authorizing the construction of a bridge or tunnel from Grand Island, on the Niagara River, to a point in Canada.

Poker playing for money is not gambling, according to Chief Justice Beatty, of the California Supreme Court, or at least there is no criminal act committed in playing the game for money stakes.

The United States Senate has repealed the act prohibiting Confederate officers who had held commissions in the United States army from being appointed to places in the army or navy.

At Boston one day recently Mrs. Ballington Booth made three addresses, reviewed the local Salvation Army, and attended a reception in the evening. She was at work again next day before ten o'clock.

Archie Turpie, a pier watchman in New York, has rescued his twenty-first individual from drowning. He keeps a coil of rope handy to throw to those who jump or walk off the pier. The last man saved was a drunken marine.

John O'Donnell, of Lowville, formerly a railroad commissioner of New York State, has devised a cheap form of tramway for rural roads, to facilitate hauling big loads on ordinary farm waggons. The estimate for the tram-alone is $2,500 a mile.

Florence Mack, aged seventeen years, of Detroit, ran a small splinter under the thumb nail. A physician removed the bit of wood and told her to poultice the thumb. She disregarded the instructions. On Sunday she was taken ill and on Monday became unconscious and remained so until her death.

GENERAL.

Dr. Joseph Czajkowski, a foreign bacteriological expert, is reported to have discovered the microbe of measles.

Prince Bismarck has informed Emperor William that if his health permits he will attend the State banquet at the Schloss on January 18.

The cruiser Kwan Ping, captured by the Japanese from China, has been wrecked. A number of officers and 60 men are missing.

A herd of Jersey cattle at Deposit northern New York, has been found infected with tuberculosis and condemned by the State inspectors.

Report comes from Newfoundland that there were in all 22 persons on the ill-fated schooner Victory, believed to have foundered with all on board.

An Austrian named Dr. Marmbrick, after four years' study at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, claims to have discovered a serum cure for erysipelas and puerperal fever.

Advices from Aleppo say that the town of Zeitoun, which has been held by the insurgent Armenians for some time past, has been captured by the Turkish troops, and that the inhabitants fled to the mountains.

M. Weitoff, professor of bacteriology in the University of Moscow, who recently died from the poison of a scratch of a piece of glass from a broken bottle containing bacteria, was one of the most eminent of Russian scientists.

The longest Egyptian railroad now extends to Girgeh, 326 miles from Cairo. It is soon to be extended to the first cataract, 710 miles from the coast. This means, of course, an ultimate railroad connection with the British possessions in South Africa.

It is reported that Gen Gomez, at the head of the Cuban insurgent army, numbering twelve thousand men, has turned the flank of the Spanish army, and is now marching direct on Havana. There is great excitement in the city over this insurgent success.

Among the conditions imposed upon China by Japan in evacuating the Liao Tung peninsula was one that neither Russia, France nor Germany should be allowed to occupy the territory, and a number of ports are to be opened to international trade.

The highest mountain ascents are those credited to W. H. Johnson, of the Indian Survey, between 1860 and 1865, in Cashmere. In 1865 he climbed three peaks of the Kuen Lun, one of which according to the measurement of the Indian Survey, is 23,800 feet high.

Advices from Santiago de Cuba state that yellow fever is raging there fearfully in spite of the winter season. The death rate among the officers is very heavy. In four days a commander, four captains and two lieutenants died of the disease. In the military hospital there are more than 1,000 sick soldiers, of whom from ten to fifteen die every day.

## PLATFORM AT SEA.

**An Invention That is Said to Prevent Sea Sickness.**

A steady platform at sea—most people who have been the sport of the sad sea waves will be attracted by the subject of this paper. They must not be disappointed, however, in finding that as yet its advantage is enjoyed only by searchlight projectors, but must hope, as they may, with reason, that before long it will be extended to suffering humanity.

Probably some one, at first sight of the problem will suggest that this object may be attained without much difficulty by connecting, in some way, the to-be-steadied object with a pendulum, or by converting it into a pendulum by suspending it on a pivot and ballasting heavily below and he will point to the bowl of the mariners' compass or to the swing table commonly used on board yachts as example of objects steadied by this means. But if he will look along the top edge of the compass bowl, or the table, at the horizon, he will see that the steadiness thus obtained is of the same order as that of the ship's deck. The ship itself is a pendulum kept upright in still water by ballast, and causes which make it depart from uprightness act with the like effect on pendulums placed upon it.

The first practical machine to insure steadiness of objects at sea was fitted up on a steam yacht and subjected to a laborious course of experiment by the Captains of M. M. ships Vernon and Excellent, the torpedo and gunnery ships at Portsmouth, England, as a means of mounting both search-light projectors and machine guns. It has in consequence been fitted to gunboats in the British navy.

On the machine, as mounted on the yacht, a seat was provided on which a person could sit and observe the steadiness by looking along sights at the horizon. The sensation of steadiness while seeing the ship rolling and pitching about under one was a curious one, and many people who tried it exclaimed that here at last was an alleviation, if not a perfect remedy, for sea sickness. It is true that the rising and falling motion is still there, but this can be to a great extent avoided by taking a position somewhere about midway between the bow and the stern. But the angular motion of pitching and rolling is equally great in all parts of the ship, and can be escaped only by some such contrivance as here considered. A small cabin kept steady by an apparatus of this kind could be easily fitted on the English Channel steamers, for seats in which many persons would be glad to pay a high price on a rough day.

# WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

**Neighborly Interest in His Doings—Matters of Moment and Mirth Gathered from His Daily Record.**

Altoona is again short of water, and the 5,000 men in the Pennsy's car shops are idle.

A plumbers' supply trust, including big Philadelphia firms, will be formed at Pittsburg next week.

Sentence of death was pronounced at Boston on Angus D. Gilbert, the murderer of little Alice Sterling.

For killing Marshal Emerson, who arrested him for theft, Abe Taylor was executed at Canon City, Col.

The potato crop in Niagara county, N.Y., is so big that the farmers are feeding their hogs with the tubers.

Eleven years after his escape from a Georgia penitentiary George Kirke, a murderer, was found serving a sentence in a Brooklyn prison.

Five years after a fall through a skylight, Daniel McCarthy, of New York, was operated upon and a three-inch piece of glass taken out of his arm.

Because Pearl Dunn, aged 18, of Evansville, Ind., would not go to the altar during a revival with George Rubright, a weak-minded youth, the latter stabbed her fatally.

Phoenix, Ariz., is congratulating itself on the metropolitan ways the town is growing into. "Five-cent shines have appeared on the streets," a local paper chronicles with much pride.

A poorly executed $20 United States note of the series of 1880 is in circulation. It has a poorly engraved portrait of Hamilton, and the paper shows red lines in imitation of silk fibre.

A man in San Bernardino, Cal., bought a ticket in a raffle for a bicycle last week, paying 50 cents for it. Before the drawing he sold his ticket for a dollar. At the drawing his ticket won the machine.

Mayor Pingree has carried out his plan to test the right of the Detroit street car company to charge five-cent fares. He refused to pay the fare unless given six tickets for a quarter, and was ejected from the car.

The use of nets in fishing for sturgeon is rapidly supplanting other methods of taking the big fish in the Upper Columbia and Snake Rivers. The nets are from 600 to 900 feet long, and the meshes vary in size between 12 and 10 inches.

Two hunters of Boise, Idaho, had a sorrowful experience last week. They spent half a day loading shells, being dissatisfied with those on sale, and next morning drove twenty-two miles to the hunting grounds. On arriving there they discovered that they had left all their ammunition at home in Boise.

On July 21 last Erastus Mills started from Quincy, Ill., with a string of horses and a waggon, with the intention of driving overland to Elsinore, Cal. Last week he reached Riverside, Cal., having driven the whole of the way from Quincy. He says he had a very pleasant time on the trip, and had no difficulty making it.

In a "competitive hunt" between two bands of farmers, some fifty on a side, near East Atchison, Kan., a few days ago, ninety-six rabbits were killed by one side and seventy-six by the other. In these competitions a bet is posted on the result, and the winning side takes all the game, as well as all the money stakes.

The fox's reputation for smartness was well sustained by a member of the tribe near Falmouth, Me., the other day. A couple of hounds and a hunter were after it, and the fox led the hounds to a frozen pond, and out on ice so thin it just supported the fox, which escaped while the hounds went through and were drowned.

Idahos' population has increased from 80,000 to 125,000 in the five years since the State was admitted, and the assessed valuation of property has increased from $25,750,000 to 29,332,210. These figures are just given out by the Governor. There was a boom in 1893 when the assessed valuation ran up to more than $33,000,000.

Boring for natural gas was begun in the heart of the city of Sacramento, Cal., last week. A company with a capital of $120,000 has been formed to carry on the work, and it expects to make a great deal of money supplying the city with natural gas. There has been quite a boom in natural gas exploiting on the Pacific coast lately.

After several years of tireless warfare, and the payment of many thousands of dollars in bounties, the farmers of Berien county, Mich., have given up fighting the English sparrow pest. The sparrows are more numerous than ever, despite the best efforts of the farmers, and, in the belief that matters can't possibly be worse, the farmers are going to quit and see what Providence will do about it.

Hunters returning from the Okefenokee swamp, in Georgia, where comparatively few hunters go, say it abounds with game of all sorts—deer, bears, alligators, turkeys, wild fowl, and fish. The people who live in the swamp district know little or nothing of the world outside, and apparently care nothing. They supply all their wants from the products of the swamp region, and though by no means wealthy are exceedingly independent.

A woman moonshiner with a Winchester rifle gave the revenue officers a lively tussle near Clermont, Fla., last week. She was at work with her illicit still when the officers surprised her. She caught up a Winchester and brought it to her shoulder before the officers could seize her, but one of them knocked up the gun before she could pull the trigger. Then she drew a big knife and slightly wounded several of the men before she could be disarmed and secured. She is about 30 years old.

David Jones, of Elwood, Ind., has become known to medical men in that region of late years because of the peculiar periods of sleeplessness that come upon him at irregular intervals. One of these began on Nov. 12, and from that day up to last Monday he had not slept at all, day or night. His health continued excellent, and he is usually but little disturbed by these peculiar attacks. He was serving as Circuit Court juror during the third week of his sleeplessness, and his faculties apparently were in no way clouded by his inability to sleep.

The proverb about an ill wind had a curious illustration in the course of the long drought last summer and fall. It was thought everybody suffered from it, but it was a great thing for the owners of the coal mines in Hopkins county, Ky. Because of the drought the Ohio River became closed to navigation, and the Pennsylvania coal was shut out of Louisville and other important Kentucky markets. As a consequence there was a great demand made upon the local coal mines, and they were all run at their extreme capacity for three or four months.

## WINTER WRINKLES.

Hoax—Does your dentist take pains with his work? Joax—"No; he gives them."

Alice (the friend)—"I don't see how any one can help loving Blanche." Gertrude (the rival)—"She can't help it herself."

"Boy, are there any fish in this pond?" "I don't know, sir." "Why are you fishing in it, then?" "To find out, sir."

"Tommy, do you love your teacher." "I would if she wasn't my teacher," said Tommy, "She's awful nice."

"She talked so fast that I could not get a word in edgewise." "You should have resorted to sharper language."

A Talker.—Briggs—"You know Gablets, don't you?" Braggs—"Oh, I have a listening acquaintance with him."

He—"That's a very extravagant cook you have got." She—"Yes, she seems to think we have victuals to burn."

Guest—"Bring me some canvas back duck." Waiter—"We are just out." Guest—"Well, make it canvas back ham, then."

"Men'll do anything fur money," said Plodding Pete. "Yes," replied Meandering Mike." "Some fellers'll even work fur it."

A Frenchman declares he has discovered a process by which wood can be made palatable. He ought to tackle some kinds of board.

Lonesome Luke—"Does yer ever wish for a bicycle, Wally?" Wally Wiggins—"Nope; I would ruther walk a-foot than ride a-foot."

Fuddy—"There goes Grabwell. He's what I call a self-made man." Duddy—"Yes; people who know him intimately say he is all self."

He—"What leads you to call Mrs. Smilax eccentric?" She—"She was telling a story the other night and began it: 'When I was a girl.'"

Attorney for the defense—"Now, what time was it when you were held up?" Complainant—"I don't know; ask your client—he took my watch."

"Where are you going my pretty maid?"
"To my Christmas shopping, Pa," she said.
Pa drew a check and wiped his eye,
And thought of the coming buy and buy.

The heiress—"I'm afraid papa will never consent." The impecunious—"Is your father down on me?" The heiress—"No; he says he's up to you."

The sleigh bells soon will jingle,
And nose and ears will tingle,
And arms and waists will mingle—
What a picnic to be single.

"I have always given our first mother, Eve, credit for one thing," said Mr. Chugwater. "She didn't hyphenate her name when she married Adam."

Proprietor—"Where is the bookkeeper?" Office Boy—"He isn't in. His wife sent him word that the baby was asleep, and he's gone home to see what it looks like."

She—"She's just about your age, isn't she?" He—"No, I'm much the older." She—"What makes you think so?" He—"We were born in the same month of the same year."

She put her little hand in mine—
Some might have thought her bold—
And yet there was no romance for
She's hardly two years old.

Weary Watkins—"My folks always told me I was cut out for a gentleman." Hungry Higgins—"Mebbe you was, pardner, but ef you was you sure belong in the misfit department."

Oh, August is the month for me,
I prize it more than all the rest—
That is, just now. When summer comes
Oh, then I like December best.

Mrs. Snaggs—"I was out after tips this afternoon." Mr. Snaggs (who has had expensive experiences with tips)—"Not tips on stocks, surely?" Mrs. Snaggs—"No; ostrich tips."

"You walk as if your shoes were too tight, old man." "Oh, no. They're very large." "Oh, that may be." "Well, then, what——" "I wasnt' referring to their size. I merely said they were tight."

Violinist (proudly)—"The instrument I shall use at your house to-morrow evening, Mein Herr, is over 200 years old." Parvenu—"Oh, never mind that. It is good enough. No one will know the difference."

Mr. Dunn—"I called to see about a little bill I left here about a month ago." Mr. Short—"Oh, it's all right; you needn't be alarmed. I've laid it away where it won't be disturbed. No need for you to call again."

Maud—"Do you really love Tom?" Madge—"Oh, no; not in the least." Maud—"Then, why are you going to marry him?" Madge—"Oh, he's such a good fellow I couldn't think of letting anybody else get him."

"I believe," said the young man, "in giving the devil his due." "Um—yes," replied his father, who was looking over the stubs of his check-book. "Still, I don't quite see the propriety of your paying him at my expense."

Jinks—"I am always embarrassed when I want to say the word v-a-s-e. I don't know whether to say vaze, vace, vahz or vawse." Blinks—"You might take a hint from our servant girl. She simply speaks of all ornaments as 'them there.'"

Wayworn Watson—"W'y, w'at you runnin' fer? Did she set the dog on ye?" Perry Patettic—"Naw. But she set me out a whole half chicken, bread, butter'n jelly an' a pack of cigareets. I bet she wants to marry me!"

"You seem sad, my redskinned brother," said the missionary. "Redskinned brother's heart heap bad," said the noble son of the prairie. "White man shoot better, fight better, and now Injun hear college yell, he know Injun cant 'war-whoop for sour apples. Waugh!"

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet,
As truly would, I ween, a dozen such;
But just to make the sentiment complete,
A rose by any other name would cost as much.

# DIVIDING THE EMPIRE.

## HOW TURKEY IS LIKELY TO BE CUT UP BY THE POWERS.

**The End of the Sultan's Rule Can Not be Far Off—Cities, Kingdoms and Principalities, With Millions of Inhabitants to be Divided Up.**

The days of the cruel Sultan of Turkey are numbered. There is little doubt that in the near future the Turkish Empire will have passed into history. Whether the assassination of Abdul Hamid or the forcible overthrow of his Government by internal revolution, or the dethronement of the Sultan by the combined powers, will end the Turkish dynasty, no human being can predict. But one thing is certain—that it is only a question of time when Turkey will be dismembered and divided up among the great nations of civilized Europe.

The cutting up and distributing of Turkey will very much resemble the cutting up of a carcass among a lot of hungry dogs. Every nation concerned will fight for as much as it can get, but the whole operation must be performed if possible without bringing on an actual war or the disturbance of that mysterious thing known as "the balance of power."

The most valuable part of the Turkish Empire will, of course, go to the strongest powers. But a few bones will be distributed here and there to keep up the bluff of the rights of peoples and the interests of Christianity.

Some Kings may spring into existence as a result of this operation. But they will be Kings only in name, without as much real power as the King of Ashantee, and tolerated by the large Powers only so long as suits the convenience of the latter.

Nobody has proposed to find out what the people of Turkey think of this operation, nor are they likely to be consulted. The Sultan, it is true, has been heard from.

A lot of big men-of-war, the property of the Powers, are anchored in the Dardanelles, with

THEIR GUNS POINTED

at the Sultan. Their decks are cleared for action, and charges of smokeless powder, with large shots, are in the guns.

A diplomat, experienced in European affairs, has cut up Turkey in this fashion. Divested of the usual diplomatic terms like "the barrier to civilization" and the "demands of justice," his scheme seems a plausible one.

"It is certain," says this gentleman, "that Russia, probably backed by France and the Sclavonic kinglets of the Balkan peninsula, will demand the lion's share. Russia has one eye on Constantinople and the other on Armenia. The latter may probably be given to Russia without demur.

"But as far as Constantinople is concerned there is no doubt that Russia will meet with stubborn opposition. To substitute one autocrat for another would be a political crime, which Austria, Germany, Italy and Great Britain would never tolerate.

"Some suggested that in lieu of the Turk there should be established a Balkan Republic, but this is impracticable. The Danubian principalities, Bulgaria and Servia, are satisfied with their present status and loath to be merged in one which would cause them to abandon their respective nationalities.

"Bulgaria will probably absorb Eastern Roumania and the whole peninsula, with the exception of Constantinople, south of the Rhodope Mountains and the Gulf of Lagos. Constantinople will be

A FREE PORT

under the protectorate of the allied great Powers. Austria will extend her dominion to the south of Bosnia and Servia down to the Gulf of Salonica, and in lieu thereof she should cede Trieste to Italy.

"Montenegro," continues this diplomat, "should get the adjacent northern part of Albania, and to Greece should be allotted the southern part of Albania and part of Monastir, reaching to Salonica, also the Turkish Islands in the Aegean Sea and the Islands of Rhodes and Crete. Armenia should be the Danubian principalities and Servia the Russian protectorate.

"Austria, Bulgaria and Greece have more claim on European Turkey than the Danubian principalities and Servia. Bosnia came into Austria's possession only eighteen years ago, yet its mixed and turbulent population are thoroughly pacified and contented.

"The Bulgarians have also, in a marked manner, progressed in that short period dating from the Treaty of Berlin. Were it not for Russian interference they would undoubtedly have shown to the world that they could manage their own affairs very well. They were the owners of the land before the Turk invaded Byzantine. Bulgaria was a kingdom as far back as the tenth century. They are a peaceable and most industrious people. Unlike the Servians they have long borne the Mussulman yoke without a murmur. They are now proud of their nationality.

"Small Montenegro will be greatly benefited by the addition. Her valiant people were never subjugated by the Turk. They owe their independence to the mountain fastnesses. The Turk tried hard during a period of 400 years to subdue them, but never succeeded. The strip of Albania will enable them to descend into the plains and engage in agriculture and other industries."

## Mother-sin-Law up North.

A committee which has just returned to England from British Columbia, where it has been engaged in making investigations among the savages for the enlightenment of the anthropological section of the British Association, reports the discovery of a tribe known as the Ts'ete'a'ut. This tribe, though in most respects outrageously barbarous, has made one extraordinary stride forward towards civilization, for among them this committee "found the custom of avoidance between mother-in-law and son-in-law. This custom is entitled "matuo ha," a term which bears some resemblance to "mutual hate." This habit was common to all the Tinneh tribes. The savage son-in-law and mother-in-law were not only ashamed to take to each other, but even carefully avoided seeing each other. The reason for this curious avoidance could not be discovered.