

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.

Building operations in Hamilton last year cost \$279,070.

Ice has clogged the Merrittton water works intake pipe and the water supply is cut off.

Business in Winnipeg showed a remarkable revival for the month of December.

Mr. Dickey, Minister of Militia, will introduce a bill to arm the forces with Lee-Melford rifles.

The death sentence passed on Shortis, the Valleyfield murderer, has been commuted into imprisonment for life.

Mr. Charles M. Hays, the new General Manager of the Grand Trunk, has taken hold of the road at Montreal.

Mr. George Olds has retired from the position of general traffic agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The City Council of Kingston, Ont., has appropriated \$2,400 for relief work for the unemployed and distressed within the municipality.

J. R. Bourdon, Treasurer of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement.

Shipping returns show a decrease of fifty-five vessels in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island since 1894.

Napoleon Demers, who was accused of killing his wife at St. Henri, was declared not guilty after a protracted second trial in the Court of Queen's Bench at Montreal.

The police officials of London, Ont., claim that the Salvation Army is responsible for bringing a large number of tramps to the city, owing to the extremely cheap fare and lodging provided.

Col. Lake, the Canadian Quarter-master-General, has left Ottawa for England, and rumour connects his visit with proposed rearming of the militia referred to in the speech from the throne.

Lack of supervisions and proper inspection are the causes assigned by the committee of investigation for the deplorable condition of La Banque du Peuple. A total deficit of \$388,138 is reported.

A nine-year-old boy named Oliver St. Jean, while playing on Thursday at his home in Ottawa, tripped over a heavy hay rack, which fell on top of him. A corner of the rack struck him on the head and breast, causing injuries that resulted fatally.

The affairs of La Banque du Peuple are in bad shape. The investigating committee is expected to report that a deficiency of \$250,000 exists on the payment of ordinary liabilities to depositors, and the capital stock and rest have been completely wiped out.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Liverpool has the largest total debt of any town in England.

Great Britain pays the Continent upwards of \$70,000,000 a year for sugar, and makes not an ounce.

The Prince of Wales has the smallest fleet of any royal personage, and they are also perfectly shamed.

The British revenue returns for nine months of the financial year show an increase of over six million pounds.

Over two hundred persons have signed the appeal for peace written by Mr. Hall Caine on behalf of the British authors.

In the new home of the new Duchess of Marlborough there are said to be twenty staircases leading from the main floor to the second.

The cruiser Pallas has been put in commission at Portsmouth, and ordered to join the North American squadron.

It is reported that a syndicate is being formed in London and Berlin to take up the new United States loan of \$200,000,000.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial secretary, is preparing a paper dealing with the United Kingdom.

Lord Hawke, who visited America a few years ago with a team of English cricketers, has just started for the Cape of Good Hope with another team.

The appointment of Mr. Alfred Austin to the post of poet laureate, which has been vacant since the death of Lord Tennyson in 1892, has caused much surprise, as his poetic works have not commanded public attention.

The Rev. John Watson (Ian MacLaren), author of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" and "Auld Lang Syne," has closed a contract by cable for a lecture tour in the United States and Canada, beginning in October next.

Ex-Empress Eugenie recently deposited her will with a prominent London attorney, in which, true to her pledge, she has left a legacy to each of the 5,834 male persons of France born on the birthday of her son, Prince Louis.

Gen. Dyrenfurth, the rain-maker has a scheme to dispel the famous London fog. He has been in correspondence with leading officials of the city, and it is said a fund of fifty thousand dollars will be raised, with which to conduct the experiments.

A special from London says that it is understood that the Imperial Government fully recognizes Canada's grave peril from invasion if war were declared by the United States, and it is quite prepared to co-operate in putting the Canadian militia and defences on a first-class peace footing if Canada seeks British aid.

The telegraph lines between London and South Africa have been monopolized by the Government, and no other despatches have been received from there for four days. A number of rumors have been put in circulation, one being that Dr. Jameson was court-martialed and shot by his captors, and another that the Uitlanders have arisen in Johannesburg against the Boers and fired the city. The Foreign Office professes to have no information.

UNITED STATES.

One of Maine's curios is Machias, a town of 200 inhabitants, without a debt.

Mr. Brice has a bill before the United States Senate to raise the lake level by damming the outlets.

A series of three explosions at St. Louis laid waste the vicinity of Second and Vine streets and killed several people.

The fox-hunting championship of Vermont is claimed by John Davis, of Bennington. He is 40 years old, and has killed 251 foxes.

Mrs. Alva S. Vanderbilt, the divorced wife of Mr. William K. Vanderbilt, is engaged to be married to Mr. Oliver Belmont, who is divorced from his wife.

At a meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce, on Thursday a resolution was carried in favour of arbitration in the Venezuelan boundary dispute.

By the burning of a small dwelling in the mining town of Frontenac, Kansas, four boys, Robert, Will, John and Archie McTaffan, lost their lives.

Governor Rickards, of Montana, has left Helena for Washington to make a protest against the invasion and depredations of Cree Indians from Canada.

Justice Jarvis Blume, of Chicago, was attacked by two robbers at an early hour on Thursday morning. He shot and made his escape.

John B. Blair, who was ninety-five years of age, died on Wednesday in the Chicago Home for Incurables. Fifty years ago he invented a bicycle made on the same lines as the safety of today.

An Arizona prison has an extensive apiary, which is under the charge of the inmates. A single hive is said to have produced 200 pounds of honey last year, and it is expected that the industry will prove exceedingly profitable.

It is authoritatively stated by the United States Administration that the Venezuelan Commission will be absolute master of its own procedure, and that the United States Government will occupy the position of a neutral body.

One of the first white settlers in Northern Michigan, E. F. Dame, of Northport, says that since 1841 the water in Traverse Bay, at the northern end of Lake Michigan, has lowered sixty-three and a half inches by actual measurement.

In the United States Senate on Friday Mr. Squire offered a resolution for the negotiation forthwith of a conference between Great Britain and the United States for making the boundary line between Alaska and British North America.

All the brewing companies doing business in Chicago have perfected an agreement by which the price of beer will be advanced one dollar a barrel. It is estimated that this will result in the closing of some two thousand small saloons.

Recent statistics show that the increase of divorces exceeds in percentage the increase of population in nearly all of the United States. The causes are such as indicate a growing disposition to regard marriage as a mere contract, instead of a sacred union.

The death is announced in New York of Alfred Ely Beach, Editor of the Scientific American, at the age of seventy. Among Mr. Beach's earlier inventions was a typewriting machine, which obtained a medal at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London in 1859.

President Cleveland has named the following five commissioners on the Venezuela boundary line:—Judges Brewer of Kansas and Alvey of Maryland, Messrs. Andrew D. White, Frederick R. Coudert, New York, and President Gilman of the Johns Hopkins University.

Mrs. Elizabeth G. Kelly, of Chicago, who has already endowed the University of Chicago with a woman's dormitory costing \$60,000, has decided to erect on the university campus a chapel to cost one hundred thousand dollars, to be known as the Kelly Memorial chapel, in memory of her brother. The university has no chapel building now.

As is usual, business for the week has been dull, both in Canada and the States. The holiday, added to the general slackness in demand just after Christmas, has caused a sharp falling off all round. Commercial reports from New York say that there has been a noticeable slackening of activity in several important lines of manufacture, and that collections are unsatisfactory, except in a few districts in the Southern States. Usually the outlook is regarded among business men with confidence, though anxiety is general among commercial circles in the chief cities of the States as to the ability or otherwise to secure the necessary financial legislation to place the finances of the country on a sounder basis. Prices, which have been unprecedentedly low for the past few months, are more steady, and occasionally advancing.

GENERAL.

M. Bourgeois, the French Premier, is a cyclist.

There are 13,000 school masters in Germany whose salaries fall below \$200 per annum.

The Italian army in Abyssinia is short of supplies and the troops are suffering from dysentery.

The Paris museum contains more than 20,000 stone implements, all of which were gathered in France.

The Valparaiso press lectures the excitable Venezuelans on their folly in provoking Great Britain.

The Emperor of Japan is an all-round sportsman, devoted to riding, shooting, fishing, tennis, billiards, and football.

An explosion took place in a coal mine in Prussia Silesia. Twenty-one miners were killed, seventy injured, and seventeen are missing.

Mr. Jules Coutant, a member of the French Chamber of Deputies, has been shot and seriously wounded by his former election agent.

Eight hundred Russian fishermen, with their sleighs and horses, were carried out on an ice flow on the Sea of Azov. They were rescued.

There are 48,000 artists in Paris, more than half of them painters. The number of paintings sent in to the exhibitions last year was about 40,000.

A despatch from Swatow, Province of Quang-Tong, China, says that the ring-leaders of the mob which plundered the German mission at Moilin have been beheaded.

Enquiries made in Rome have elicited the information that the rumors to the effect that the Duchess of Marlborough was ill with typhoid fever are without foundation.

Emperor William has telegraphed to President Kruger, congratulating him upon having repelled the invaders of the Transvaal without having to call for the assistance of friendly powers.

Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia has been installed Grand Master of the Prussian Masonic lodges. This dignity was last held by the late Emperor Frederick when he was Crown Prince.

The Turkish Government has accepted the offer of the representatives of the Porte and the insurgents of Zeitoun, who are surrounded by the Turkish troops.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Standard says that he has excellent reason to state that the reports of an agreement between Russia and the United States about Venezuela are unfounded.

A severe shock of earthquake was felt at Cicciaco, near the city of Nola, in the Province of Caserta. A number of houses were blown down, and several persons were killed and many injured.

The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople is having private conferences with the Sultan, and it is said that Russia has veered around and is now supporting Turkey, financially and otherwise.

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.

The Marquise de Plaumartin, who recently died in Paris, bequeathed 50,000 fr. to the Paris Deaf and Dumb Institution and 4,000,000 fr. to the Brussels municipality for the erection of an asylum for the aged.

The Turkish Government has ordered the commander of the Turkish forces surrounding Zeitoun to suspend hostilities pending the negotiations which the representatives of the powers have entered into in order to bring about the surrender of the Zeitoun insurgents.

At the request of Sir Philip Currie, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, instructions have been sent by the Turkish authorities to the Vali at Kharput to permit the distribution to the destitute Armenians of the relief fund subscribed for them in England.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

Decency of behavior in our lives obtains the approbation of all with whom we converse, from the order, consistency and moderation of our words and action.—Steele.

Through certain humors or passions and from temper merely, a man may be completely miserable, let his outward circumstances be ever so fortunate.—Shaftesbury.

Few things are more important to a community than the health of its women. If strong is the frame of the mother, says a proverb, the son will give laws to the people.—T. W. Higginson.

God alone can know how wide are the steps which the soul has to take before it can approach to a communion with him, to the intercourse and friendship of higher natures.—Goethe.

Some intermixture of vainglorious tempers puts life into business, and makes a fit composition in grand enterprises and hazardous undertakings. For men of solid and sober natures have more of the ballast than the sail.—Bacon.

Whatever can lead an intelligent being to the exercise or habit of mental enjoyment contributes more to his happiness than the highest sensual or mere bodily pleasures. The one feeds the soul, while the other, for the most part, only exhausts the frame, and too often injures the immortal part.—Anon.

The way of fortune is like the milky way in the sky, which is a number of small stars, not seen asunder, but giving light together; so it is a number of little and scarce discovered virtues or rather facilities and customs, that make men fortunate.—Bacon.

An assembly of the States or a court of justice shows nothing so serious and grave as a table of gamblers playing very high; a melancholy solitude clouds their looks; envy and rancor agitate their minds; while the meeting lasts, without regard to friendship, alliances, birth or distinctions.—Bruyere.

There is but one pursuit in life which it is in the power of all to follow, and of all to attain. It is subject to no disappointments, since he that perseveres makes every difficulty an advancement, and every conquest a victory; and this is the pursuit of virtue. Sincerely to aspire after virtue is to gain her; and zealously to labor after her ways is to receive them.—Colton.

In the schools of the wrestling master, when a boy falls he is bidden to get up again, and go on wrestling day by day till he has acquired strength; and we must do the same, and not after one failure suffer ourselves to be swept along as by a torrent. You need but will and it is done; but if you relax your efforts you will be ruined; for ruin and recovery are both from within.—Epictetus.

FIGHTING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Force Under Dr. Jameson is Utterly Routed.

A despatch from Capetown, says:—The Cape Times has a despatch from Praetoria, saying that the latest news from that there had been fighting between the Boers and the force led by Dr. Jameson, and that the latter had suffered heavy losses. The British agent at Praetoria telegraphs that he had seen General Joubert, commanding general of the Boer forces, who reported that Dr. Jameson had been driven from several positions. Twenty-two burghers were wounded and 23 prisoners were taken. At that time no force had moved out to Johannesburg to assist Dr. Jameson. It is reported that a further British South Africa Company force is being mobilized for the purpose of entering the Transvaal. A Kaffir "commando" is forming on the Bechuanaland frontier of the Orange Free State, with the object of assisting the Boers should such assistance be needed.

Another Smash-up.

Hannah, asked Mrs. West, where did all those broken dishes come from? I dropped the tray of indestructible china, ma'am, answered Hannah meekly.

About the House.

Training Children.

With many, the idea of training a child consists in strict discipline, crossing them in their little plans whenever they do not happen to conform to some idea or whim of the parent, when often the child's plan is just as near right as the parent's. Provide good conditions for the child's development. See that it has a sound, healthy body, as nearly as possible. Provide for all its needs, so as to make the little one happy, and give it plenty of love, for love is to the little child what sunshine is to the plant. Set it a good example in self-control, goodness, and all other virtues you wish the child to possess, and there will be very little need for any harsh discipline. When we see the little one's wishes set at naught and their feelings wounded by harsh words or perhaps by striking it, oh! I wonder how strong men and women dare to crush and hurt that little soul.

Of course it may be necessary sometimes, with strong-willed children, to use some strict discipline, but if the child is brought up in the right atmosphere, physically, mentally and morally, it will naturally grow right, some old theologians to the contrary notwithstanding. It will love the good and beautiful just as naturally as the flowers love the sunshine and pure air.

Let us understand more of the laws governing the child, physically and mentally, and if we provide the right things for its development in both respects we need not have much fear of its growing wrong.

Possibilities of Onions.

Baked Onions.—Boil salted water until almost tender. Lift out and lay in a baking pan; salt and pepper to suit the palate, an onion each put a bit of butter. Bake in a hot oven fifteen to twenty minutes. When tender and brown serve on a hot dish.

Onion Sauce.—This is nice to serve with warmed over meats. Slice and fry three or four onions in a large spoonful of butter, stirring frequently so they will not burn. When nicely browned add a large spoonful of flour and a pint of gravy or stock. Simmer gently for a few moments, add salt and pepper and strain. If more flavoring is liked add a tablespoonful of mushroom ketchup, a little pepper sauce or Worcestershire.

Stuffed Onions.—Peel medium-sized onions and punch out the hearts. Mince a little beef or mutton, parsley and bread crumbs. Beat with an egg, salt and pepper. Stuff the onions with this, and lay in a baking dish with a little gravy. Bake until the onions are tender, and serve very hot. Baste the onions frequently to prevent burning.

Onion Cream Soup.—Slice four onions very thin, fry to a pale brown color in a tablespoonful of butter, add three tablespoonfuls flour and three pints milk, a little salt and pepper, one-half teaspoonful sugar, and a blade of mace. Cook slowly one hour, and strain over two eggs beaten up lightly with a cup of cream. Do not heat after adding the eggs or it will curdle. Serve with croutons of bread.

Onion Tart.—Peel and slice the onions thinly. Line a dish with pastry, place a layer of onions in the bottom, sprinkle over pepper, salt, a little flour, then more onions, then salt and pepper, until the dish is full. Pour over some sweet cream or butter and milk and cover with pastry; bake until the onions are tender. This is a delicious accompaniment to baked or boiled meats. Another method is to use alternate layers of sliced onions and potatoes, both raw, season with salt, pepper, butter, and pour over a little milk or water and bake until done. No pastry is used in the latter recipe. Both should be served very hot.

A Few Hints.

Kerosene is one of the best things known for polishing silver.

If you want your brooms to last put them for three minutes in hot suds once a week, and let them stand with the broom end up.

To prevent the incrustation in kettles caused by hard water put a flat oyster shell in the kettle. This will attract the particles of chalk that are in the water and prevent the kettle becoming incrustated.

The dining-room should be a cheery place, not the dark, dimly religious lighted room some folks affect. It should be flooded with sunshine, have bright pictures on the walls and be a pleasant place to eat in.

Some of the new tablecloths have deep bands of drawn work set at intervals from the hem to a distance of 12 inches from the center. Others are simply hemstitched and have no ornamentation except the monogram, placed a little distance from the center.

China cups can be protected from injury by hanging them in rows by the handles on small brass hooks screwed in just below the closet shelves, instead of following the usual custom of piling them three or four deep one inside the other, which so often results in a fall.

A pretty "catch-all" for the sewing room can be made by hanging a bag of bright cretonne in a camp stool from which the seat has been removed. The bag is gathered some distance from the top to make a frill that stands above the frame, and at either side are large bows of satin ribbon.

A capital paste for cleaning steel and iron is made by mixing together brick-dust and whiting in equal quantities with enough paraffin to convert them into a smooth paste. Rub this on with an old cloth or wash-leather, and it will be found to give a brilliant appearance and leave no marks.

"What is a kiss?" her lover sighed. "Grammatically defined 'Tis a conjunction," she replied "And cannot be declined."

THE CHINAMAN AND JAP.

A SEAMAN'S EXPERIENCES WITH THE ORIENTAL NATIONS.

The Chinese Think We Are Barbarians of the Worst Kind—Think Their Civilization the Finest in the World—The Jap is only a Veneered Barbarian—The Vices of the two Peoples are of the Worst Description.

Mr. Thornbury, late chief officer of the C. P. R. steamship "Empress of China," who has been stopping in Montreal for some time past, has made intimate acquaintances with the Japanese and Chinese character during the past number of years, and indicate traits and idiosyncracies of an interesting and sometimes curious character.

Mr. Thornbury was in command of the "Empress of India" when that ship, some years ago, went round the world. Subsequently he was promoted to the "Empress of China," but contracting an acute form of sciatia through constant exposure to storms, he has been obliged to resign and is now on his way home to England.

Mr. Thornbury does not believe the war will teach the Chinese anything. "The Chinese are willing to allow that the western nations know how to build and handle ships, but outside of this they regard us as barbarians, hopelessly sunk in ignorance. The brighter ones are willing to learn English in so far as that tongue will help them to make money, but all the same, they regard their civilization as the finest in the world; nor has missionary effort shaken that belief. During the war the greatest apathy prevailed in the population; the men had neither patriotism nor fight in them. The Chinese think it strange that you should charge a poll tax upon Chinamen in your country, while you insist upon getting into his country free. He cannot see the justice of this one-sided arrangement, and I do not blame him. The Chinese make better merchants than the Japanese. They are

MORE HONORABLE

A Chinese merchant will never lie about his goods. If he sets a certain price upon them he will charge that price and no more, even if he loses money. A Japanese will cheat you, and when you find him out he will laugh and say: 'I will get the best of you next time.' He does not appear to have a moral sense.

"The Japanese are clever, but, after all, if you scratch them you find the barbarian. Their civilization is only a veneer. Unquestionably they have made great strides during the past twenty years and now claim to be a first-class power. They are now making their own warships; they are putting up cotton factories all over the country; they are thrusting out the Chinese who, curiously enough until the war broke out were at the head of most of the business houses in Japan and they are competing with the west in many essentials in which, until recently, the west was supreme.

"But for the alliance between Russia, France and Germany, Japan would have fought Russia rather than lose a single fruit of her victory over the Chinese."

Mr. Thornbury was at Hong Kong during the great outbreak of the plague, which first appeared at Canton, but which, travelling to Hong Kong, simply decimated the Chinese pent up in a quarter of the city which reeked with filth. The houses in which the Chinese lived were owned by Europeans, but, rented by Chinese, and sublet by the latter. Thus a fairly sized room would be cut up into eight. In every one of these eight rooms there would be a large family. There were no sanitary arrangements; there could be no privacy; the conditions were horrible. When it came at last to a sanitary inspection the men engaged in this work had to cut their way through the noisome abominations with

PICKAXES AND SHOVELS.

The vices of the Japanese and Chinese are such as would be unthinkable to the western mind. These are indulged without the slightest sense of shame, the moral sense not having been awakened in their nature. Parents will sell their daughters without any sense of wrong-doing. Promiscuity breeds disorders and conditions which make to the western mind life in the East seem like a nightmare.

Mr. Thornbury thinks the Chinese character well nigh inscrutable. He considers himself in sympathy with the missionary work, but doubts whether a superficial acquaintance with the language, and a few months' residence is sufficient qualification for the unrooting of the hoary systems which have the sanction of ages.

Mr. Thornbury thinks there must be a more thorough identification with the life and habits of the natives on the part of the missionaries before they can realize any considerable success. And the sectional divisions among Christians are a feature which the natives are at a loss to comprehend. He believes the Chinaman will pretend a good deal for material benefit, and he has conversed with not a few who have told him they would try Christianity for a year. If they found it pay they would remain in it; if not, they would go back to their old faith.

In a word, Mr. Thornbury thinks it would need a deeper study of the Chinese and Japanese character on the part of missionaries before effectual converting work could be done amongst them.

On the other hand the work of teaching the children English, and bringing up a young generation familiar with western thought, Mr. Thornbury deems to be of the greatest value, because in time this will prepare the way for a genuine civilization.

The Domestic Burglars.

Stimpson lost twenty dollars last night after his supper with the boys. How did it happen? Robbers. On the highway? No, at home.

She—"I think I will do the cooking myself awhile." He—"H'm! That was what you wanted me to take out more life insurance for, was it?"