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.

Grave robbers made an unsuccessful attempt in Peterboro' cemetery.

Valentine Shortis, the Valleyfield murderer, is now an inmate of the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary.

Mr. G. W. Gilbert was injured by runaway horses at Sarnia, and it is feared he will not recover.

The dead body of Mr.Samuel Burns, an elderly man, was found in a Barton street house in Hamilton.

An ice bridge has formed below the falls at Niagara, and many visitors and citizens have crossed on the ice.

The latest combine is for the purpose of keeping the price of sole leathers upon a paying basis and restricting if possible the output.

The Rev. Father Lacombe, the North-West missionary, received as a New Year's gift from Premier Bowell a grant of land, 150 miles east of Edmonton, to be laid apart as a Metis reservation.

John Carroll, a lad of seventeen years, fell into a vat of boiling water at Lozier's Bicycle Works, Toronto Junction, on Wedresday evening, and died from his frightful injuries four hours later.

Acting for a number of Hamilton citizens, Mr. Thos. McKeown, civil engineer of Buffalo, has prepared a report upon the T., H. & B. Railway, which states that the company has not complied with the conditions of the by-law granting the bonus of $225,000.

The death rate in the city of Ottawa for 1895 was 20.82 per thousand, compared with 21.66 for the year previous.

The River St. Lawrence has frozen over at Montreal. This has been delayed to a later date than ever before known.

Mr. George E. Tuckett, Mayor of Hamilton, has resigned from the directorate of the Central Fair Association, and the Hamilton Jockey Club.

The dead body of Wm. Cole., sr., of Strabane, Ont., was found in his house in that village. The man was nearly eighty years of age, and had lived alone for a long time.

Mr. J. A. Girard, a widely-known insurance agent and appraiser of Montreal, swallowed paris green on Thursday night, from the effects of which he died early on Friday morning.

A militia order has been issued announcing the retirement from the active force of Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General of the Militia, with a retiring allowance, and the rank of colonel on the retired list. The order contained a high and unusual tribute to his personal and official character.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir Henry Irving is to unveil the monument of Sarah Siddons on Paddington green next spring.

Lord Blackburn, a Lord of the English Court of Appeal, is dead. He was eighty-three years of age.

British trade returns for December, 1895, show a large increase over the returns for the month a year ago.

Miss Mamie Dickens, the eldest daughter of the great novelist, makes her home at Dunton rectory, in the town of Brentwood, in Essex.

Lord Salisbury is engaged upon the Venezuelan correspondence, and a full statement will be placed before Parliament as speedily as possible.

A nephew of Washington Irving is the landlord of the old-fashioned hostelry at Birmingham, England, which is much patronized by Americans visiting the midlands capital.

The commanding officer of the different regiments of English volunteers have been overwhelmed with letters from the men under their command expressing their desire to be enrolled for active service.

Mr. Chamberlain has sent a despatch to President Kruger saying that the Queen has heard with satisfaction that the President has decided to hand over the prisoners recently captured to the British Government.

The idea that a combination of powers has been formed against Great Britain seems to be gaining ground, and a despatch to the Paris Soliel says that a movement is really on foot to establish an anti-British alliance.

Great Britain is evidently determined not to be caught unprepared for war if Emperor William should proceed on his recent arrogant course. Both the naval and military authorities have been instructed to make all necessary preparations to put the navy and army on a war footing at the shortest possible notice should such a step be deemed necessary.

It is believed in London that Great Britain has purchased from Portugal Delagoa bay, the nearest seaport to the Transvaal Republic.

The movement in favor of arbitration in the Venezuelan question with the United States is increasing in London. The feeling is in favor of establishing a permanent Court of Arbitration.

UNITED STATES.

At Luke Fiddler colliery, Pa., four men lost their lives by falling out of a bucket in the shaft.

Two men in Mount Pleasant, Florida, fought a duel, in which both were killed, for the love of a woman, who was supremely indifferent to both.

The war feeling is very strong among the Germans of Milwaukee, and they think that the present Transvaal trouble will lead to the abrogation of the treaty of London.

The New York Excise Board have increased the fee for hotel, saloon, and storekeepers' licenses. This was done because the board believes there are too many saloons in the city.

A. H. Brownley, of London, Ont., was Cal., at the point of a pistol, and forced held up on the beach at Santa Monica, to sign ten American Express Company cheques for fifty dollars each.

It is reported at New York that the marriage of Mr. Oliver H. P. Belmont and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt will be celebrated at the residence of the latter at Madison avenue and 72nd street on Monday, January 28.

The Rev. Francis W. Bates, a South African missionary, at present in Boston, says that England is the great civilizing influence in South Africa, and the world would be the better for it if Great Britain owned all Africa.

Sir Julian Pauncefote and Viscount Gough called upon Postmaster-General Wilson at Washington and submitted a proposition from the Postmaster-General of Great Britain for the negotiation of a parcel post convention between the two countries.

Mr. Henry Norman, the special commissioner of the London Daily Chronicle, cables from Washington that all the best American opinion is earnestly desirous of a friendly and dignified settlement of the Venezuelan dispute, and he considers the present moment a golden one to secure American good-will.

The German press of Detroit is red-hot for war between Great Britain and Germany.

George H. Smith shot his father-in-law dead at Ransomville, over the Niagara border. A committee of citizens pursued the murderer and shot him down in a farm house where he had taken refuge.

The suggestion of Mr. Norman, the special commissioner of the London Daily Chronicle at Washington, is that Great Britain appoint five commissioners to confer with the commissioners recently appointed by President Cleveland, and that these ten men constitute a Board of Arbitration to virtually decide the location of the disputed Venezuela boundary line.

According to commercial reports from New York business across the line is dull even for this dull period of the year. Generally stocks appear ample for immediate requirements, and doubt as to the financial course that Congress will pursue and rather doubtful political conditions at home and abroad are depressing trade and killing industry. Collections are as a rule slow, and reports from travellers during the last few days mention only a moderate demand, though activity has increased in dry goods, boots and shoes, and clothing generally. While the conditions are not perhaps as hopeful as might be wished, it is satisfactory to be told that in no direction are they worse, and in several much better, than was the case a week ago.

A despatch from Washington says that Secretary Morton is still considering the application for the opening of a new port of entry and export in New England for the transportation of Canadian cattle being shipped to Great Britain or other foreign countries. The Secretary is said to be favorably disposed towards such a port.

A wreck on the Baltimore and Ohio South-Western railway was averted on Wednesday night by Mary Och, a nine-year-old girl, of Portsmouth, Ohio, who, finding an obstruction on the track, crawled across a high trestle bridge and built a fire on the track, which warned the train hands who stopped the train, which was crowded with passengers, in time to prevent a disaster.

Henry Norman, the special commissioner of The London Chronicle in Washington, has interviewed the members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Commitee on Foreign Affairs as to the establishment of a permanent tribunal of arbitration for questions arising between Great Britain and the United States, not involving national autonomy or honor. All expressed themselves strongly in favor of such an arrangement.

GENERAL.

The recent census of Germany shows a population of 51,758,364.

Cuban rebels exploded dynamite under a train on the Nuevitas Puerto line, containing 300 passengers, several of whom were injured.

The boiler of an Italian torpedo boat on Lake Maggiore exploded on Thursday, sinking the vessel, and drowning thirteen people who were on board.

Two severe earthquakes, causing the loss of 1,100 lives, have occurred in the Khalkhal district in Teheran. They completely destroyed two villages.

News has been received in Rome that the Italians in Abyssinia hafe defeated Emperor Menelek's forces at Nakaleh. The Shrans are said to have lost heavily.

It is stated that Dr. Jameson's force, on its way to Johannesburg, marched one hundred and sixty miles in ninety hours, never halting more than two hours at a time.

President Kruger of the Transvaal, has replied to Secretary Chamberlain, thanking the Queen for her kind expressions, and renewing his promise to hand over Dr. Jameson and the other prisoners to the British Government punishment.

The Canadian-Australian steamer Miowera, which had not been heard of since she parted company with the Strathnevis, which she was towing into safety, is safe. The Warrimoo spoke her on January 2nd, about one hundred miles south of Honolulu, and all was well.

Scouts sent forward into the Ashanti territory have returned to the British outposts and report that King Prempeh has sent a messenger to meet the expedition now on its way to Coomassie, to propose terms of peace.

The Queen of Italy, who always takes great interest in every new invention, has been lately making use of a horseless carriage in her grounds at Monza, with which she has been so much pleased that she has ordered a similar carriage for her other residences.

The Yokohama correspondent of the St. Petersburg Novoe Vremva cables that Japan has offered free and unlimited anchorage to Russian warships in all Japanese harbors, with the view of diverting Russia from her intention of acquiring a harbor in Corea.

Count de Cesti has been arrested in Paris on a charge of having obtained one million francs by fraud from the late Max Lebaudy, the young millionaire, who recently died from typhoid fever contracted while serving his three years' term of conscription in the French army.

Portugal, it is announced, will remain neutral in the dispute between Great Britain and Germany regarding the Transvaal, and will not permit the Germans or the British to land troops at Delagoa bay, or to traverse the Portuguese territory in South Africa.

The crew of the first-class Russian steel cruiser Rurik mutinied recently while that vessel was in the harbor of Algiers. The mutiny was suppressed by the French authorities, and thirty of the leaders are now on their way to Cronstadt, where they are to be executed

WHERE THE GOLD GOES.

VAST TREASURES HOARDED IN RUSSIA AND INDIA.

Russia Has $630,000,000—China Has Almost as Much—East Indian Rajahs Have Vast Stores of the Precious Metal.

How did Russia amass the immense store of gold which she is said to possess?

The answer is simple. She has been for ever so long a hoarder of the yellow metal, withdrawing from circulation not only the product of her own mines, but also the foreign coin and gold bars imported into the country. Hardly any gold leaves Russia, while she receives annually from outside $80,000,000 to $90,000,000 worth of it. Thus she has got together a gigantic heap of specie by draining the channels of the monetary circulation of the world. The Treasury of the Czar now contains about $630,000,000 in gold.

It is not known why Russia has adopted this policy of hoarding. Perhaps it may have been for the purpose of improving her credit and financial standing among the Powers. If so, the plan has been successful. It has been contended by other authorities that the gold is a war fund.

The hoarding of gold, which signifies its withdrawal from circulation, hinders the flow of the world's commerce and is an injury to the latter. It would be an immense benefit to all mankind if the stores of the yellow metal now held by individuals in India could be made available for general use. Ever since the dawn of history that country has been gathering gold and hiding it away. Pliny who died in 79 A.D., complained that India drew from the great Roman Empire not less than $2,700,000 in gold and silver yearly. A Frenchman named Bernier, in 1699, writing a report to his Government from Delhi, said that "the gold and silver of the world, after circulating for some time, finally flow to India, as into an abyss from which there is no return." It was estimated by Dr. Soetbeer that during the half century previous to 1885 India hoarded $1,500,000,000 of silver and gold—nearly one-third of the total amount of coinage in circulation in the world.

EAST INDIAN HOARDS.

Treasures of almost incalculable value are possessed by many Indian Princes. Recently the Maharajah of Burdwan died and the stock of gold and silver left by him was so large that no member of the family could make an accurate estimate of it. A report made to the British Government by a secret agent stated that on the estate of the defunct potentate were a number of treasure houses, one of them containing three rooms. The largest of these three rooms were 48 feet long and was filled with ornaments of gold and silver, plates and cups, washing bowls, jugs, etc., all of precious metals. The other two rooms were full of bags and boxes of gold mohurs and silver rupees. The doors of this and other treasure houses had been bricked up for nobody knows how long. According to a custom of the Burdwan Raj family, all of these valuables were in the custody of the Maharajah's wife, the vaults being attached to her apartments, but none of them was allowed to be opened save in the presence of the master. One vault was filled with ornaments belonging to different gods of the family.

It is known that this hoard has been in process of accumulation for several centuries. Not long ago the sum of $1,150,000 was drawn out of it for investment in land, the entire amount being in Sikka rupees, none of which have been coined since 1835. Gold or other money thus hoarded is not put away with any intention to take it out again. On the contrary, only pressing necessity can force the owners to reduce the stock of wealth. It is considered a point of honor not to break into a hoard. The proprietor will borrow rather than touch it, the hoard being treated like a family picture, not to be sold if it can be avoided. One native prince in India is known to be hoarding gold at present at the rate of $250,000 a year. Every month he sends 40,000 or 50,000 silver rupees to agents in Calcutta and Bombay, who convert them into gold mohurs. A mohur is worth about $7.

Two other Indian princes, who died a few years ago, left hoards amounting to $20,000,000 each. Instead if spending these great heaps of money, their descendants will add to them

YEAR AFTER YEAR

and generation after generation. The natives of that country generally prefer to invest their means in ornamens for their families, which serve the purpose of a hoard. In fact, a large part of the savings of the people are in the shape of jewelry. Dowries are often composed of jewelry alone. The natives commonly bury their hoards, and among the poorer classes a favorite hiding place is a hole dug beneath the bed. Disused wells are sometimes employed for the same purpose. It is undoubtedly a fact that many hoards thus deposited are lost forever. It is estimated that in the Bombay presidency alone $50,000,000 worth of British sovereigns are treasured up because they bear the design of St. George and the dragon and are valued on religious grounds. India is a very religious country, and the gods take up immense quantities of gold, silver and precious stones. The temples contain vast amounts of the yellow and white metals.

This habit of hoarding seems to have been induced by ages of misgovernment, during which oppression and violence have been rife. No feeling of safety existing, it was natural that the natives should adopt the practice of reducing their wealth to a concentrated shape and hiding it. Thus in case of emergency the family savings in hard cash were always within easy reach, and robbers or other enemies were not likely to get hold of them. Meanwhile century after century, the exports of India have greatly exceeded the imports of that country, and consequently an uninterrupted stream of gold and silver has flowed thither. During the thirty-three years ended in 1892 India imported and kept about $625,000,000 in gold. That is, indeed, a bottomless well into which a stream of treasure perpetually flows, draining all the rest of the world.

It is said that there is a huge amount of hoarded gold at Pekin. The Chinese officials commonly make large fortunes out of their places, corruption in that country being the almost universal rule They are afraid to put their money into banks, because their superiors would discover its existence and confiscate the whole of it. So they buy gold bars and secrete them. Consequently, gold always commands a considerable premium at Pekin.

INVENTOR AND EMPEROR.

Edison's Interesting Experience at the Court of the German Kaiser.

By grace of the Holy Roman Empire Thomas A. Edison bears the rank of Count. But this distinction by the Italian Emperor means little to him. In fact he has a box full of emblems of royal favor, which are treasured only by his wife, and rarely gazed upon by himself. This brings to mind an experience he had with the present German Emperor.

While in Berlin he received an invitation to visit William the Warrior in his palace, and on the appointed day a state carriage, gorgeous in golden ornaments, drawn by six horses and with outriders, called for him. This display abashed the modest-minded inventor, and he said that he would reach the Imperial palace in his own way. He walked. When he reached the designated place the flunkeys in charge declined to take his card to the royal presence, his humble appearance making it seem impossible to them that he was to have an audience with their august master. Edison, no wise disappointed, returned to his hotel, where shortly he was waited upon by a court official conveying William's regrets for the mistake and a request that he would visit the palace next day and bring with him one of his phonographs. He did so. The Emperor took him into his private cabinet, no one else being present, carefully closed all the doors and then besought him to take the marvellous invention apart and explain to him all its workings. This was done, and the inventor was invited to attend a court reception next day, and to bring the phonograph with him.

Upon this occasion the great inventor found the Emperor surrounded with a brilliant throng of nobles, each one decorated with the insignia of his rank. When he produced his mysterious invention the Emperor took it in hand, eyed it critically, as though he had never seen it before, then took it apart and explained to the amazed courtiers exactly how it performed its wonders. He never said a word about his instruction the day before.

Beneath his breath Edison whispered of the German Kaiser, "An unmitigated fraud."

PEARLS OF TRUTH.

Upright simplicity is the deepest wisdom.—Barrow.

Tears are sometimes the happiest smiles of love.—Stendhal.

If there were no future life our souls would not thirst for it.—Richter.

He that swells in prosperity will be sure to sink in adversity.—Colton.

Valor would cease to be a virtue if there were no injustice.—Agesilaus.

Gambling is the child of avarice, but the parent of prodigality.—Colton.

The highest manhood resides in disposition, not in mere intellect.—Beecher.

Our deeds determine us as much as we determine our deeds.—George Eliot.

Walk in the light and thou shalt see thy path, though thorny, bright.—Barton.

Where there is room in the heart there is always room in the house.—Moore.

There was speech in their dumbness; language in their very gesture.—Shakspeare.

Remorse not only turns God against us, but turns us against ourselves.—Thomas.

There is no gain so certain as that which arises from sparing what you have.—Publius Syrus.

Nature knows no pause in progress and development, and attaches her curse on all inaction.—Goethe.

To-morrow I will live, the fool does say; to-day itself's too late; the wise lived yesterday.—Martial.

Pleasure and revenge have ears more deaf than adders to the voice of any true decision.—Shakspeare.

Nature is the time-vesture of God that reveals him to the wise, and hides him from the foolish.—Carlyle.

Nuptial love maketh mankind; friendly love perfecteth it; but wanton love corrupteth and embaseth it.—Bacon.

The sweetest honey is loathesome in its own deliciousness, and in the taste confounds the appetite.—Shakspeare.

The decline of literature indicates the decline of a nation; the two keep pace in their downward tendency.—Goethe.

The contagion of crime is like that of the plague. Criminals collected together corrupt each other.—Napoleon.

Prayer is the wing wherewith the soul flies to heaven, and meditation the eye wherewith we see God.—Ambrose.

They who do speak ill of themselves, do so mostly as the surest way of proving how modest and candid they are. —Anon.

An Unfortunate Frenchman.

Giovanni Caserio, the youngest brother of Santo Caserio, who assassinated President Carnot, has been extremely unfortunate since his brother's inhuman crime. He has been kept under police surveillance, though he did not share in the least the anarchistic ideas of his brother. This espionage prevented him from finding work; and finally he entered a Capuchin convent, at Borgo San Donnino. But after three months' residence there, when he was to be accepted as a regular monk and brother, the Superior, who is a Frenchman, having been apprised of the identity of Caserio, drove him out of the convent. The young man is now asking the French Government permission to change his name.

WARS OF THE NEW YEAR.

IN CUBA, ARMENIA, ASHANTEE AND SOUTH AFRICA.

As Well as a Great Big War Scare—The Prospect is That 1896 Will See More Bloodshed than 1895—War in the Transvaal.

The prospects of the New Year are highly satisfactory from the jingo point of view. It is reasonably certain that 1896 will be marked by more bloodshed than 1895, that there will be no deviation from the European policy of maintaining the heaviest possible armaments and that these forces will be employed in destroying the weakest communities. Whether the great military powers will turn their forces against one another is a question too uncertain to discuss.

War is now going on in Cuba, in Armenia and in Ashantee, among other places.

The war scare which the United States has just experienced, and the effects of which have by no means passed away, must be counted as of more importance than some of the actual wars. That is partly on account of the appalling magnitude of the conflict which if threatened, partly on account of the evil results which it may have in the future and for other similar reasons which will be apparent to thoughtful persons.

The war scare will have many of the results of a real war, turning the public attention to the question of increased ararmaments. It is highly probable that the United States will set about the construction of a great navy. Venezuela has already begun her war-like preparations, and the news of an armed attack on British subjects either in Venezuela or British Guiana will be no surprise.

Until a few months ago the continuous and wholesale slaughter which was going on in Armenia could only be described as massacre. Now, by the vigorous resistance of Zeitoun it has assumed the

CHARACTER OF WAR.

This is the one war which all humane and civilized people must approve. The more war the Armenians can make on their murderers the better. That is their only chance, but it is not worth much.

For more than three months they have defended the little town of Zeitoun with heroic valor against a strong body of the regular Turkish army. Owing to the situation of the place, surrounded by hills, with narrow defiles between them in which are lurking many compatriots of the besieged townspeople, the Armenians have been able to make a prolonged resistance. The Turks have lost many soldiers in fighting the besieged garrison, and it is said that as many as a hundred a day are perishing from cold, lack of provisions and disease. If the Armenians have hitherto been massacred for nothing more than their profession of the Christian religion, it is naturally to be expected that the punishment for rebellion, will be, if possible, more brutal.

At the same time the process of massacre is going on steadily in Armenia and in other parts of the Turkish empire in Asia. The Armenian inhabitants of the important city of Erzeroum have been early exterminated. Trebizond, another important city, has suffered similarly.

In the Provinces of Sivas, Van and Bitlis daily massacres have been reported. No sane man can avoid the conclusion that the total extermination of the Christian population of the Turkish empire has been decided on. Judging from the attitude of the Christian powers up to the present, there is every reason to believe that it will be carried out. No estimate places the number of Christians massacred during the past year below 100,000.

In Cuba the opening of the year 1896 has seen a marked improvement in the prospects of the insurgents. They have extended their operations over a wider territory and in all their encounters with the Spanish they have not received

A DECIDED CHECK

It is true that the Spanish report nothing but victories, but in a war of this kind, where the regularly organized army does not cripple, exterminate, or capture the enemy it cannot be said to have gained any great advantage. As a matter of fact, the revolutionists have carried the war into the neighborhood of Havana. Capt.-Gen. Martinez Campos is reported to have said that the Spanish cannot hope for permanent success. A British army officer has written that the Cubans are bound to win.

Another war which excites considerable interest is that which England is carrying on against the King of Ashantee and his people, who are called Ashantees.

Ashantee is a country in the interior of Africa, behind the British colony of the Gold Coast and adjacent to Dahomey, recently annexed by France. The Ashantees made some raid into British territory. The British proclaimed a protectorate over the King of Ashantee's domains and he prepared to resist. The King's capital is at Coomassie. The principal object of interest to visitors to this metropolis is a grove a short distance without the city limits, where human beings are sacrificed on many public occasions. Innumerable bones lie here. A British expedition has already started for Coomassie, and has no doubt occupied it by this time. The King will probably fly into the interior, wearing the silk hat which is his emblem of sovereignty, but the British protectorate will no doubt be established.

Fighting has already occurred in the Transvaal in South Africa, and the situation threatens more trouble. The Dutch inhabitants of this republic keep all political power in their own hands to the exclusion of the English and other foreign immigrants. A force of Englishmen under Dr. Jameson invaded the Transvaal ostensibly to aid the foriegners, and were defeated with severe loss —possibly seventy or eighty—by the Boers. The temper of the English colonists of Cape Colony and the Boers of the Transvaal is in a bad condition and a general South African war is not improbable.