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.

Chatham has named a bridge after Lord Aberdeen.

Ex-Mayor Stewart of Hamilton announces that his public and political life is ended.

Mr. F. R. Lingham, one of the men arrested at Johannesberg, is a citizen of Belleville.

Oil was struck in Yarmouth Township, near St. Thomas, by a farmer digging a well. Test wells will be sunk.

Mr. E. Farquhar, of Toronto, has received the contract for the completion of the Ottawa & Parry Sound Railway.

The Metropolitan of Canada will issue an appeal to the church for aid to the Armenians and prayers for their deliverance.

John Seaton, of Strathroy, Ont., is in the county gaol under the charge of conspiring to set fire to his own property. Seaton is 75 years of age, and totally blind.

Mr. Rufus Stevenson, son of Mr. James Stevenson, M.P., has been appointed Collector of Customs at Peterborough. The salary is twelve hundred dollars.

It is stated that Mayor Tuckett of Hamilton will present the Young Women's Christian Association with a $10,000 building, and it is also rumored that he will present a music hall to the city.

Mr. George B. Reeve, Traffic Manager of the Chicago & Grand Trunk, has been appointed General Traffic Manager of the entire Grand Trunk system, with headquarters at Montreal.

Mr. McNeill has given notice of a resolution in Parliament expressing the loyalty of Canada to Great Britain and the willingness of the people to stand by the empire in any storm that may arise.

The City of London has abandoned its claim of $26,000 against the Grand Trunk Railway Company for deterioration of the London & Port Stanley Railway during its lease to the Grand Trunk.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Queen has sent an autograph letter to the Sultan, which is believed to contain an appeal on behalf of the Armenians.

The flying squadron recently put in commission has left Portsmouth under sealed orders. It is surmised its destination is Bermuda.

Canon Grey, who died the other day, was rector of Houghton-le-Spring, England, for forty-eight years. His predecessor was rector for fifty-six years.

The Westminster Gazette says that if its information is correct the Marquis of Salisbury's desire to be better friends with France has already brought forth fruit.

The British Foreign Office has received a note from Mr. Bayard, the United States Ambassador, saying that he has been instructed by his Government to tender thanks to Great Britain for her kind offices to Americans in the Transvaal.

The Manchester Guardian reports that the Government are taking steps to end the Armenian horror. There will probably be a land invasion of Turkey by Russia, and a naval demonstration at Constantinople by Great Britain and France.

George Frederick Watts, the celebrated English artist, whose eighty-second year will be completed in February is spending the winter in the United States. He is still in excellent health, and works with characteristic assiduity.

The London Graphic claims to have authority to deny the report that Great Britain has offered money to Venezuela for the latter's acceptance of the Schomburg line as marking the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who has been the ruling spirit in South Africa, and who is so rich that the Bank of England thinks nothing of crashing his cheque for $1,000,000, saved his life by going south when he was a boy, after he had lost one lung.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has declined to prosecute the Bishop of London for issuing a license for the marriage of divorced persons, on the ground that the Bishop's chancellor held that such licenses are proper, and the Bishop has a right to act on the decision of his chancellor.

UNITED STATES.

W. Hasell Wilson, president of the Belvidere railway in Pennsylvania, is the oldest railway president in the United States. He was born in 1811.

Mr. Morse proposed a reduction in the United States House of Representatives, the expressed intention of which was to "wipe the Turkish nation off the face of the earth."

John Cork, who has been making beds at the Anchor lodging-house in Buffalo for three years past, is the presumptive heir to a fortune of forty thousand dollars, derived from an estate in England.

Peter Houghaard, a Dane, killed himself, his wife, and five children, in Chicago, on Sunday night. He waited until the family were asleep, and then, turning on all the gas jets, he calmly lay down and awaited his own death.

Superintendent Craig, of the Duluth Gas and Water Company, has been indicted by the grand jury for manslaughter in the second degree for supplying the city with impure water, which caused the death of a citizen by typhoid fever.

Timothy B. Blackstone has given a $500,000 library to his native place, the town of Branford, Conn., which will be completed in a few months. Mr. Blackstone is to present his choice collection of books to the library, and will also liberally endow it.

The number of immigrants who arrived in the United States during December, 1895, was 18,164, and during December, 1894, 14,777. During the twelve months ended December 31, 1895, the arrivals numbered 324,542, and during the preceding year 248,983.

A man who gave his name as D. V. Esmond, who arrived in Utica on Friday morning from Montreal, and attempted to get a check cashed, was arrested, as he is wanted by the Montreal police on a charge of buncoing a man out of eighteen hundred dollars.

At the opening of the United States House of Representatives on Friday, Mr. Couden, the blind chaplain, prayed fervently for struggling Cuba, and the success of her battle for independence. The sentiments he expressed were greeted with a round of applause.

It is recalled now that Napoleon, on the completion of the Louisiana purchase, said:—"This accession of territory strengthens forever the power of the United States, and I have given to England a maritime rival that will sooner or later humble her pride."

Senator Sewell of New Jersey offered a resolution in the United States Senate declaring that the Monroe doctrine was never intended to be applied in the manner proposed by President Cleveland, and that the President's action was premature and inopportune in view of the financial condition of the country.

John C. Eastland, of Danville, Ky., has a remarkable record as a Sunday school scholar. He has only missed attending school one Sunday in seven years, and but two Sundays in nine years. This is the more notable as he lives five miles distant in the country, and has had to brave some pretty bad weather at times to get to school.

Miss Ella Wilcox is the highly efficient janitor and sexton of the Church of the United Brethren in Marcellus, Mich. She has full care of the church, keeps it in order, rings the bell on Sundays, and attends to all the other duties of a sexton "in every way better than any male janitor ever has," the churchgoers say. She is good-looking, as well as accomplished, doubtless another point of superiority over the male janitors.

United States Senator Davis, of the Committee on Foreign Relations, referring to the Alaskian boundary, says there is nothing to arbitrate between the United States and Great Britain. The claims of the former country are right, and those of Great Britain are wrong and no matter how much England and Canada may desire to obtain millions of acres of tillable land and a naval station, the United States must maintain her rights.

The tone of commercial summaries as to the condition and outlook of trade in the United States is none too encouraging. The present position is depressing, and the immediate future doubtful. The financial muddle increases distrust in commercial circles, and strongly accentuates the prevalent indisposition among business men to do more than just hold on in a tentative way. Hence there is little or no speculative movement in trade, and merchants are apparently indulging in the negative consolation of being thankful that matters are no worse. Some serious commercial failures have occurred during the week in the United States. Manufacturers are unusually dull, owing to a general slackness in demand; staples are little enquired for, though stocks in dealers' hands are believed to be low. Prices in various important lines continue to decline. Pig iron is firmer, though the finished iron products are in no great request.

GENERAL.

A hundred Portuguese troops were surprised and slaughtered by natives of Goa.

It is expected that Spain's reverses in Cuba will cause a Cabinet crisis at Madrid.

The transport Victoria with 1,200 troops from Bombay has arrived at Cape Town.

Ex-Premier Floquet of France, who has been ill for several days with congestion of the lungs, is dying.

The heat in Sydney, N.S.W., is terrific, reaching the highest point on record. There have been many deaths from sunstroke.

The latest reports from China say that Li-Hung-Chang, who is living in retirement in Pekin, is rapidly failing in health.

According to information collected by the Embassies in Turkey, three thousand Armenians were killed at Orfah on December 28th and 29th.

Despatches received in Madrid state that the Cuban insurgents have cut off all means of communication between Havana and the interior.

The citizens of Havana are greatly afraid that the insurgents will destroy the water works, which are situated about five miles from the city.

It has been finally settled that Dr. Jameson and his officers shall be conveyed as prisoners to England, where they will be arraigned before the proper tribunals.

It is reported from the British Embassy in Constantinople that about fifty thousand pounds will be required to save the Armenians of Anatolia from starvation until spring.

As a result of his quarrel with the German Emperor, Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia has resigned his position in the army and taken his wife away to southern Europe.

The Paris Figaro says that France will not depart from the position which has made her alone the silent arbiter of the peace of the world. She will not interfere between Germany and England.

It is generally admitted in Havana that Captain-General de Campos has failed in his attempt to put down the Cuban insurrection, and his immediate recall is urgently pressed upon the Spanish Government.

According to the official figures just published. French imports for the past year decreased one hundred and fifty-two million francs, and exports increased three hundred and ten million francs, as compared with the previous year.

It is now know that the Queen of Corea, who was supposed to have been murdered and cremated, with her maids of honor, escaped, and remained in hiding in an outhouse hwile the palace was being sacked.

The Porte has decided to prohibit the distribution among the destitute Armenians of the funds collected in foreign countries for their benefit, and says that the alleviation of their distress is the function of the Turkish Government.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes, previous to leaving Cape Town for London, said in an interview that he did not intend resigning his seat in Parliament, and that he would be present at the meeting of the Chartered Company in London, when he will address the shareholders on recent events.

OUR MEXICAN LETTER.

A CANADIAN'S OPINION OF THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO.

Scenes in the Seirra Madre—How They Spend Sunday in Monterey—Music Athletic Sports, Theatres, Balls, Bathing, etc., etc.—Personals.

Monterey, N.L., Mexico, December 2nd, 1895.—People who have not visited Mexico cannot have the remotest idea of the manners and customs of the people. I will in this and future letters try and give a brief sketch of the scenes in this country as I found them.

AMUSEMENTS ON THE PLAGAS.

Sunday was a gala day in the picturesque Monterey. All the children, teachers and patrons of the public schools held their annual anniversary in the Alameda (Park) and had a jolly time. During the previous week General Bernardo Reyes, the progressive Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon, had a force of men decorating the grounds with banners, bunting and the national colors, green, white and red. In the centre of the Alameda is an ornamental "Koask" band stand. This was trimmed with bunting, wreathes of evergreen, lace curtains and silk banners; while all around the carriage drive and walks were planted ornamental poles twenty feet apart, on which were stuck the Mexican flags and the "Liberty Cap," with gold bands around it, and across the front "La Liburtad," was painted in golden letters. There are two iron fountains in it which throw streams of sparkling water. At one corner of the park there is an artificial pond which is stocked with black swans, ducks and geese, and at the other end is a deer park which contains fifteen of these noble animals. Both places are fenced in with woven wire fence twelve feet high and made fast to iron posts.

Three p.m. was the time for the schools to assemble, but long before that hour hundreds of men, women and children could be seen going there. Every street car was loaded to its fullest capacity. Each school carried their own banner on which was painted in golden letters the name and number. Some of the teachers were ahead, while the others brought up the rear. As they have separate schools for the boys and girls in this country, they pay more attention to the dressing of the girls on occasions of this kind than they do to the boys; and on this occasion there was no two of the pupils of the girls' schools dressed alike. I will describe one of them. All the children were sized up and paired. The small ones in front were dressed in red and each one of them carried a bouquet of tropical flowers and small silk banners in their hands. The next group wore cream-colored dresses, which were trimmed with green and purple ribbons, and they carried in their hands bouquets of flowers and banners. The next group wore pink dresses, which were trimmed with red, blue and orange colored ribbons. While the next group were dressed in green; and the last in black. This was designed to represent

THE NATIONAL COLORS,

green, white and red; while the black represented the dark and bloody struggle that the country passed through before they gained their independence. Each one of these groups carried in their hands silk banners, and bouquets of tropical flowers, while around their heads they wore wreaths of orange blossoms, ferns, maidens' hair, hyacinth, night blooming ceries, mantos, heliotrope, myrtle and thyme, whose sweet aroma perfumed the atmosphere as they marched along. The boys were also picturesquely dressed for the occasion, and they attracted considerable attention as they filed into the park and took their seats.

Soon after all were seated the band discoursed sweet music, after which short addresses were delivered and premiums awarded to the successful pupils. At 5 p.m. there was a sham battle fought between the pupils of the high school and the College Civil or State University. That wound up the entertainment for the day. There were fully 10,000 people in the park during the afternoon.

At night there was music on the zaragoza plaza (this is the main plaza), and the lite of Monterey were there. The rich and the poor, the saints and the sinners, the Governor and staff, the army officers with their bright uniforms on, the Jew and Gentile, the state and federal judges and officers, the foreigners and the fashion drummers, bald-headed men and ladies with flowing hair, newspaper men and philosophers, miners and prospectors, and your correspondent were there marching round the plaza, keeping step with the music, inhaling the odor of the orange and rose, sipping from the sparkling fountains until the clock in the tower struck twelve, when the music ceased and all retired to their respective homes.

Thus it will be seen that the citizens of picturesque Monterey enjoy outdoor exercise on Sundays, and that they do all in their power to promote the education and comforts of their children. They instil into them a spirit of refinement, patriotism, music and sociality.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

While the public schools were celebrating their anniversary at the Alameda, the Monterey Athletic Club were engaged in giving an exhibition of the manly arts at their park. This consisted of a sparring match between two Americans, and a sword contest on horseback and on foot between the champion swordsman of the world, Capt. Duncan C. Ross, of the British army, and Capt. George Laporte, also of the British army, but now a citizen of Monterey. Capt. Ross had the advantage in size and weight, but he failed to overpower the light cavalryman, for he gained the most points and Capt. Laporte was awarded the honors. The next was sword and bayonet contest, and two mules pulling against each other, etc.

It is customary in this country to have bull fights and theatres on Sundays. In fact, Sundays are their breathing days, and they devote those days to all kinds of outdoor entertainments. All the banks, stores, and places of business are opened until 12 m. on Sundays. All kinds of business is carried on the same as on week days. They have no Sunday laws in this country. The people do just as they please. The farmers can plough and plant, reap and sow, without fear of being disturbed. You can go to church or not, just as you feel like it.

In my next letter I will give a description of one of the largest caves in the world.

PERSONALS.

I frequently meet Canadians in this city. Many of them have located here and are doing well. Last Sunday morning I paid a visit to Mr. L. H. McDougall, a native of Mariposa. He is superintendent of a large furniture factory in this city.

EDMOND LEVAN.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Items of Interest About Some of the Great Folks of the World.

Henri Rochefort never drinks or smokes, and has no Bohemian habits. No wonder he is considered eccentric.

Employes in the British Home Office are to be retired for age at 60. The Under Secretary who signed the order is himself 60.

Mr. Gladstone thinks that the surest way for Englishmen of wealth to earn fame and immortality is to build cathedrals.

The latest reports from China say that Li-Hung-Chang, who is living in retirement at Pekin, is rapidly failing in health.

Although Sidney Cooper, the English artist, is 93 years old, he is painting pictures for the spring exhibition at the Academy.

It is a curious fact that, after eleven years' captivity in the hands of the Madhi, Slatin Pasha's greatest difficulty was to walk up stairs—an art which he had almost forgotten.

William Morris, whom the world usually thinks of as artist and poet, is a practical printer, and the inventor of printing press which has turned out the most beautiful work, technically, of the day.

Lord Beaconsfield's brother, Mr. Ralph Disraeli, is still living. He bears no resemblance to his distinguished brother, and has always lived a quiet, retiring life, having been for many years clerk of the House of Lords.

Eugene Kranz, the Alsatian, has held the position of chef in the household of the Czar of Russia for some years, and he is said to be the most accomplished cook in the world. His staff numbers some 1,200 persons.

The Duke of Marlborough's cigarettes must have a stopping of cotton to keep the nicotine from his mouth. In England this is said to be the keynote of the Duke's character—his health is not the most robust, and he coddles himself most carefully.

Dean Farrar, of Canterbury, thinks it "perfectly erroneous to talk of the failure of missions, when they started with 120 despised Galileans, and when now there are 120,000,000 Protestants, and they have in their power almost all the resources of the world."

Robert Louis Stevenson's history of his own family will appear in the forthcoming edition of his works now being prepared in Edinburgh. It ends with the great achievement of his grandfather's life in the building of the Bell Rock lighthouse.

Sir Henry James, who might have been Lord Chancellor had he liked, wears the shabbiest clothes, perhaps, of any celebrity of the day. His tall hats are, however, always conspicuous for their immaculate glossiness. He is a great favorite with the Prince of Wales.

One of the most enthusiastic women horticulturists is Miss Alice Rothschild, whose collection of roses alone is said to be worth $50,000. The Archduke of Austria owns flowers to the value of $200,000, and Sir Trevor Lawrence's collection at Dorking is worth over $250,000.

The Prince of Wales and the Duc de Chartres have just exchanged birthday presents, according to their custom of many years past, as their birthdays fall on the same day. The Orleans Prince is the elder by a year, however. The Prince sent the Duc a fine gun, while the Duc's souvenir to the Prince was a gold cigarette case.

WEATHER PROPHETS.

How Fish Can Foretell the Approach of a Storm.

By some particular instinct certain animals are able to foretell the weather. But of all, the fish is probably the best prophet in that direction. When storms are about to happen there is called into use this wonderful sense (of foretelling the weather) which appears to be electro-magnetic, and some hours before the storm comes on the herrings will leave the shore and move out into deep water. Being able to detect when a storm is coming on, herrings are also able to tell what way it will blow. Thus, if a storm is approaching from a direction the wind from which does not much affect the water where they lie, they do not move. On the approach of storms from any other direction they make off at once. The fish on these occasions leave their haunts full 10 hours before the violence of the storm reaches their locality. These facts have been known to the fishermen in Megavissey Bay fully 30 years, and are acted on every winter by them. Many other kinds of fish, the pilchard, mackerel, cod, etc., have this sense well developed. It is supposed that the sense in question is affected by electrical currents in the ocean. The organs of the sense are believed to be the "lateral lines" found in nearly all fishes, and consisting of a kind of tube filled with nerves. These have long been known to be organs of sense, though up till quite recently no one could tell what purpose they served.

Skin Diphtheria.

Diphtheria of the skin, a very rare disease, has been cured by the use of antitoxin in a little two-years-and-a-half-old Berlin girl recently. She had been badly scalded with boiling water, and as the skin was healing, was kissed by her mother on the wounded spot. The mother had diphtheria, and thus communicated it to the baby's skin; the throat was not affected.

SOME ODD HAPPENINGS.

PECULIAR AND INTERESTING FEATURES OF ACTUAL LIFE.

Deaths From a Rattler's Bite—In a Long Trance—Full of Lightning—A Splinter Caused Her Death—Snow is Bullet Proof, &c. &c.

One day last summer Thomas Horton of Binghamton, Ala., was passing through a piece of cleared land when he was bitten by a rattlesnake. The reptile was shedding its skin, and, therefore, in its most venomous condition. The serpent's fangs had penetrated the cowhide boot, and it was easily killed. Horton took off his boots, and his wife gave them to Napoleon Meeker, a negro who worked on an adjoining farm. He wore them and died. Archibald Hooker, a nephew of the dead man, wore them 48 hours, and he also died in great agony. The boots next passed into possession of an old trapper. The second day he wore them he was attacked with a pain in his leg. His experience told him it was the result of rattlesnake poisoning. He applied a remedy in time and recovered. On examining the bootleg he found a small point of a piece of bone embedded in the hide. It was the fang of the rattlesnake, placed in such a way that on drawing out the foot the fang, which curved upward, would not injure it, but on putting the boot on it would be almost impossible to escape a slight scratch from the poison-covered tooth.

About ten days ago Miss Nellie Ryan was going from Amesbury to Newburyport, Mass., on the street cars. She grew suddenly ill and became entirely unconscious. She was carried to her home, and has since remained in the same state. Friends and relatives believed after 24 hours had elapsed that she was dead. Physicians who have been in attendance upon the young woman refuse to take this view of the matter, and declare that there is life in the body and that she is simply in a state of trance. The features retain color, as if alive, and the rigid condition of the limbs of a corpse is not apparent. Miss Ryan has always enjoyed the best of health, but is of a highly nervous constitution, which fact many of the physicians assert, is the cause of her present state. The case is attracting widespread attention, and eminent physicians have been sent for by the local doctors to view the patient.

Chris Boyk, of No. 1743 York Place, Chicago, had an exciting experience early the other morning. He was driving a horse attached to a delivery wagon for one of the early morning papers, and drove on the wet approach to Madison street bridge from the Pennsylvania Depot. Electric wires are strung under the bridge, and the nails in the bridge planks had become charged with an electric current. When the horse was driven on the bridge he fell down, being overcome by the current, and was unable to get on his feet. When Boyk attempted to assist it he was also affected by the electricity and had to leave off the attempt. The horse lay on the bridge for ten minutes, when several men wearing rubber boots appeared and gave the necessary assistance. The animal was in no way injured.

A splinter caused the death the other day of Florence Mack, daughter of V. N. Mack, of Detroit. The splinter produced lockjaw. On last Saturday morning Miss Mack ran a small splinter under her thumb nail. It broke off, leaving only a quarter of an inch imbedded in the flesh. She was unable to remove it, and was sent to the family physician, who removed the bit of wood and told her to poultice the thumb on returning home. She disregarded the instruction. She was taken ill Sunday, and Monday became unconscious, and remained so until her death occurred next morning.

Thirty years ago J. B. Garrison, of Plant City, Fla., a machinist, ran a small sliver of steel into his right hand at the base of the thumb. The wound was treated, and finally healed, the doctor saying that the steel had been expelled. But ever since that time Garrison has suffered with severe pains in his right arm, which he attributed to rheumatism. Last week the pains became very acute in his right shoulder. He went to a doctor, and the doctor drew from just under the skin of the shoulder the steel sliver that entered his hand in 1865.

Mrs Elida Dawley Beebe, of Sandusky, N. Y., died the other morning from exhaustion, due to a hemorrhage that followed the extracting of a tooth. Mrs. Beebe had been troubled for several days with a severe toothache. Wednesday afternoon Dr. Merrill pulled the tooth and an artery was ruptured in the operation, causing a hemorrhage, which resulted in her death.

An informal test was made at Leavenworth, Kan., of the power of resistance of packed snow, against the penetrative force of a bullet from the new and old Springfield rifles. From a distance of 30 yards the guns were fired into an immense ball of snow. In no case did the bullet penetrate beyond five feet, and in some instances less than four feet.

Mr. John W. Williams, of Chase City, Va., is 6 feet 6 3-4 inches high, 45 years old, and weighs 195 pounds. He had six brothers; four are now living, and none of them less than 6 feet 2 inches. His uncle, Patterson Jennings, was 7 feet. On his maternal side all are very tall people.

Lightning.

In describing recent photographs of lightning a well-known scientist names three types of flash—band lightning, tube lightning and water-spout lightning. The first two he found to occur in all storms; the third he met with once only. From the measured width of the band lightning on photographs and the computed distance he estimates the actual widths to be from about 15 to 80 yards.