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.

Hamilton will hold a charity concert.

Lord Aberdeen will attend the next annual games of the Dutton Caledonian Society.

W. O. Wood, a farmer of Baldur, Man., was shot in a mysterious way and will probably die.

A Hamilton policeman let the wrong man go by mistake in discharging a prisoner from the station.

Mayor Tuckett laid the corner-stone of the new Salvation Army barracks, Hamilton, last Monday.

Mr. G. E. D. Elliott, a popular commercial traveller of Winnipeg, died on Monday night from injuries sustained by falling down an elevator shaft.

The report of the Minister of Militia shows that the total expenditure for the year were $1,574,013, and 20,877 officers and men performed twelve days' drill.

Alice Ellingham, of Hamilton, twelve years of age, was struck by an icy snowball on Wednesday and died on Thursday night. An inquest is being held.

J. G. Fitch, secretary of the municipality of Calgary, Man., is short $2,300 in his accounts. He has not been arrested, and his friends are making efforts to effect a settlement.

A fire destroyed the planing mill of Mr. Charles B. Williams and a number of dwelling-houses in the eastern portion of Toronto early Thursday morning. The loss will be $20,000, with hardly any insurance.

Great excitement was created among the legal fraternity in Victoria, B. C., by Chief Justice Davie refusing to hear a divorce application, on the ground that the Supreme Court of British Columbia was not entitled to do so.

The Dominion Gold Mining and Reduction Company on Thursday waited upon the Ontario Government, in Toronto, and asked for a bonus of two thousand dollars per annum for five years, to enable them to run their reduction works at Rat Portage for a custom mill.

By the explosion of a threshing boiler near Emerson, Man., Mr. F. W. Freeman was hurled with a portion of iron work through the wall of a barn. He was badly scalded and hurt in other ways, but there are hopes of his recovery.

A large deputation of Ottawa citizens waited on Premier Bowell and Mr. Haggart to ask for a subsidy of $250,000 to he proposed inter-Provincial bridge over he Ottawa River. Mr. Haggart said 150,000 was as much as should be ask-d.

Geo. Thorndyke, a barber of Strathroy, was arrested on a charge of bigamy. It is alleged that he married Miss Lottie McWilliams, of Lindsay, on May 30, 1894, and within a year married Miss May Johnston, of Strathroy. The relatives of the Lindsay wife are taking the proceedings.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Prince of Wales is insured for £3,250,000.

The failure of Sims Reeves, once England's greatest tenor, is announced, with liabilities of more than £3,000.

Lord Leighton has bequeathed his Kensington house in trust for the use of future presidents of the Royal Academy.

It is announced that Laureate Austin is surprised and disheartened by the unfavorable reception accorded his first official poem.

The London Times thinks that very likely there is some agreement between Russia and Turkey; but that it has taken the form of a treaty is highly improbable.

During 1895 the London mint struck off 72,245,295 coins, about 10,000,000 more than in 1894. The value of the gold coins was £3,592,625, of the silver coins £1,196,165, and of the bronze £40,995.

The Right Hon. Hugh Childers, the English Liberal Statesman, formerly First Lord of the Admiralty and Chancellor of the Exchequer, is dead. He was sixty-nine years of age.

The Westminster Gazette says it is almost certain that Mr. Justin McCarthy will not resume the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary party in Parliament after the reassembling of that body.

UNITED STATES.

Neal Dow is now 91 years old, and in vigorous health.

Fifteen women's clubs were organized in Maine last year.

The United States treasury gold reserve is below the $50,000,000 mark.

A Buffalo commission house sent a barrel of evaporated apples to Jerusalem on Thursday.

Twin sisters, 70 years old, were present as witnesses in court at Columbus, Ind., a few days ago.

A monument to the memory of Hahnemann is to be erected in Washington by homoeopathic practitioners.

James Dills, who died near Paintsville, Ky., recently, was credited with being only nine days short of 105 years old.

There are 39,951 Italians in New York, the largest colony of this people in the United States. Brooklyn comes second with 9,563.

Five persons were killed and nearly a score injured, some of them fatally, by a boiler explosion at Hallidaysburg, Pa., on Thursday morning.

Professor C. A. L. Totten, a former instructor in Yale, has issued a calendar for past and future time, covering a period of 67,713,250 years.

A sealing expedition is fitting out at Stonington, Conn., the first to go from there in many years. Where the sealers propose to hunt is not given out.

In the United States House of Representatives on Friday a bill was passed to extend the time in which the St. Lawrence railway can bridge the St. Lawrence river

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen G. Thurber, of Warren, R.I., aged respectively 86 and 80 years, died within three days of each other last week, and were buried together in the same grave.

Owing to the trouble in Salvation Army circles in the United States over Commander Ballington Booth's recall, General Booth is expected to visit the United States on his return from Australia.

Mr. L. J. Seargeant sailed from New York on the Campania on Saturday to assume his duties in London as advisory member of the Board of Directors of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada.

During a revival service in the Methodist church at Peru, Ind., last Thursday, a man, 40 years old, stood up to ask the prayers of the congregation. told of his belief in his conversion he Then he made some remarks, and as he fell dead, of heart failure, the doctors said.

One Vermont trapper, hailing from Houghtonville, has trapped during this season 1,600 skunks, 175 foxes, 70 minks, 200 muskrats, and 100 coons. The record seems pretty high, but it is vouched for by a local paper, and Vermont has a great reputation for game and trappers.

The Rev. J. A. Rondthaler, of the Tabernacle Presbyterian church, Indianapolis, has been forced to resign on account of his congregation's dislike to his riding a bicycle. Mr. Rondthaler decided that in such matters of personal rights he could not sacrifice himself to satisfy the old fogies.

Major-General Miles appeared before the Commission on Coast Defences in Washington on Tuesday, and stated that the cost of coast defences for the adequate protection of the United States would amount to eighty million dollars, not including the price of ammunition and projectiles.

Last Christmas a San Francisco newspaper gave a silver cup to every child born on the Pacific coast on that day. The offer was not made until some three weeks before Christmas. The Ledger of Mexico, Mo., now announces that it will give a silver cup to every child born in the county next Christmas week.

Adolph Niese and his wife, of Colville, Wash., were on Thursday sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary for beating their ten years' old son to death. Shortly after being taken from the courtroom to their cells both the prisoners cut their throats with a razor. Niese is dead, and his wife is in a critical condition.

Potatoes were selling for two cents a sack in San Francisco a week or ten days ago, and sold slowly even at that price. The potato crop all over the country last season was enormous, and most growers lost money on a considerable part of their crop. In some regions the potatoes were not taken out of the ground the price got down so low.

The telegraphed summaries of the trade situation in the United States, supplied from New York by the leading commercial agencies of Bradstreet and Dun, are of an indefinite and by no means satisfactory nature. Business is described as "waiting," and there is as yet little if any demand for leading products. The uncertainty as to the course Congress may adopt is a disturbing factor both to commerce and manufactures. There are some signs of improvement in the iron and steel trades, but the average demand is not materially changed as yet; though there has been more enquiry during the last few days. Minor metals are reported a shade more firm. The boot and shoe trade is scarcely up to expectations for this season, and leather and hides are somewhat lower. The cotton output is large, and curtailment of production is spoken of. Woollens are unchanged, and open weather has checked demand.

GENERAL.

M. Ravier, ex-President of Switzerland, is dead.

Four crops a year can be raised on Cuban soil.

In Japan the wealthy classes regard it as bad form to ride a horse faster than a walk.

The winter is so mild in France this year that daisies are already blooming in the Parisian parks.

It is announced that Emperor William will meet King Humbert of Italy in February at Genoa.

At the military hospital at Mons on Sunday a mad soldier, armed with a knife, suddenly killed two patients and mortally wounded three others.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says that no doubt arrangements point to a conclusion between Russia, Great Britain, France, and Italy for a final settlement of the Armenian question.

It is asserted in Slavophile circles in St. Petersburg that the Bulgarian question is approaching a solution, and that Prince Ferdinand's resignation is only a matter of time.

When in Rome Signor Crispi has an escort of twenty-nine police officers, which costs Italy $12,500 a year. When he leaves the city the expense is increased to three or four times that amount.

The influx of immigrants into South Africa is continuing at such a rapid rate that the Cape Times fears that before many months have passed they will once more be face to face with the unemployed difficulty.

Among the decorations bestowed at the Elysee on New Year's day was one given to a Sister of Mercy known as Sister Saint-Bemi. She received the Cross of the Legion of Honour for having served thirty-nine years in the Military hospital at Rheims.

The change in the British Embassy is talked about in the diplomatic corps at Paris just now. Sir Philip Currie is spoken of as Lord Dufferin's probable successor. There have been but three British Ambassadors in Paris during forty years.

Dr. Canini, of Leghorn, the specialist on diseases of children, who died a short time ago, has bequeathed his entire estate, amounting to $460,000, for the establishment and maintenance of a children's hospital devoted to the serum treatment of diphtheria.

While King Charles of Portugal was returning to his palace in Lisbon on Thursday, an anarchist workman threw a stone at his Majesty. The missle hit the King's aide-de-camp, who leaped from the carriage and seized and held the anarchist until he was arrested by the police.

The juggle of sophistry consists, for the most part, in using a word in one sense in the premises, and in another sense in the conclusion.—Coleridge

RISING OF THE BRASS MEN

It was 9 o'clock one sultry evening early in the present year, and had, therefore, been dark some two hours and a half, as a solitary white man patrolled the clearing surrounding the factory at the mouth of Nun River. To the rear and on both sides lay the great African forest, in most places a horrible quagmire of putrid mud and slime, out of which, supported on their high arched roots, and with branches growing down and again taking root in the mire, rose the mangrove trees. In other parts where the ground lay firmer grew lofty cottonwoods, with an almost inpenetrable mass of thorny es and creepers plaited round their bases. On the remaining side flowed the Nun River, the principal of the Niger's manifold mouths, here about a mile wide, and dividing the two dense forests. On either bank for hundreds of miles stretched the mangrove swamps, the trees growing out of fathomless mud, intersected by muddy creeks winding like tunnels under the interlacing branches.

Over river and forest hung a white mist, heavy with the smell of rotting leaves and exhalations of the swamps, which no white man may breathe uninjured, and which to many brings ruined constitutions or swift death from malarial fever. After the fierce heat of the day, the white man shivered a little as the clammy mist soaked through his clothing, and lighted a cigar as some feeble attempt to counteract the probable dose of fever. Listening sharply, he passed along the strip of fetid mud which formed the river bank, and found the black sentinels at their posts half hidden by the mist and the dripping bushes. Then rapidly returning, he climbed the stone staircase rising to the factory, which, as is necessary along this coast, was supported some 20 feet from the ground, to raise it a little above the worst of the miasma (for there, if a white man sleeps on the ground level, he shall surely die), and entered the

BRIGHTLY LIGHTED ROOM.

At the table sat two men, another Englishman and a young French officer, both haggard and with the fever-smitten look of this blighted land; but while the Englishman appeared anxious and ill at ease, his companion, with the insouciance of his nation, sat smiling and careless. They had sufficient to justify any anxiety; for weeks past the Nimbi negroes, incensed at the attempt of the British company to charge them a duty on their trade, had threatened to come down and kill the white men and burn the factory; but by the self-sufficiency and contempt of every native nation, which England had so often dearly paid for, the warning had been slighted until now, when most of the black troops were away, and only some few remained with three Europeans, the blow was to fall.

All day strange canoes had been seen coming down the river to disappear among the mangrove swamps, and the few rivermen, who worked among the Krooboys round the factory, by that singular means which all natives have of transmitting news faster than it can be carried by any mail-canoe or steam launch, were whispering that a fleet of large canoes and at least 900 men from the Brass river, another deltaic arm of the Niger, would that night wipe out every man around the factory and utterly destroy it. In front of the factory a small redoubt was hastily made out of salt bags, and a machine gun mounted in it; the few black troops were supplied with as much ball cartridge as they could carry; and when night fell with the suddenness of the tropics, all waited with anxious hearts for what might befall. Besides the three Europeans, there were some 200 or 300 colored hands around the factory, clerks from Sierra Leone and Lagos, and the ever-cheerful and generally to be depended upon Krool laborers. These were, however, in the same peril as the whites, as one negro tribe hates another with a deadly hatred; and the river men, who form powerful nations and possess cities of 40,000 inhabitants, are a

CRUEL AND VINDICTIVE

race, and allow no interlopers in their dominions. The only one at ease among them was the black printer, who had been to the Brass city, where he had friends and relations, and where he assured his envious listeners he would be treated as an honored guest.

Hour and hour passed slowly, the fireflies flashed and sparkled in the wet grass, and no sound was to be heard except the rapid rush of the ebb-tide and the croaking of frogs in the swamp. The moon rose and the mist grew lighter, showing on the one side patches of the gleaming river, and on the other the dark wall of the forest. One by one the natives, with the happy carelessness of the negro, dropped off to sleep; but above, the three Europeans kept close watch on the veranda, taking turn about to see that the outlying sentries were awake at their posts. So the night crept on until in his gay manner the Frenchman began to abuse the Brass men for keeping them waiting. "Don't be impatient, Daddy," said companion said, "if they come, the brutes will be here an hour after midnight." Then as the time was drawing near, the lamp in the room was turned low, spare rifles taken from the rack and laid on the table, besides a supply of opened cartridge packets, and then with rifle in hand the three sat quietly in the shadow of the veranda.

"Listen," said the doctor; and up the river they could plainly hear the "chunk, chunk" of paddles. In another moment there was a loud report from a good-sized gun in the bow of a canoe, and then with howls and shouts the Brass men rushed upon the factory from the bush and river simultaneously. With their sharply filed machets the factory Krooboys made as brave a stand as they could, but they were outnumbered six to one, and the Brass men were armed with guns. Ball or shot they rarely use, but prefer a handful of broken cast iron potlegs, which at close quarters makes

A GHASTLY WOUND.

In a few minutes the black laborers were mostly killed, and the remnant broke and fled for the salt shed. Here they were met by another company of their enemies, and were taken between the two. It was an indiscriminate slaughter. Many were unarmed, and those who had weapons had no chance against numbers. After a few minutes there was not a Krooboy left standing, except those who saved their lives by timely flight into the bush.

Then the fiendishness of the river men found an outlet. In front of the salt shed grew a large tree. On either side of the trunk stood a huge negro with a machete. His companions, dragging such as were not killed outright to their feet, hurled them against the tree; and as they did so, the two machetes came down, shearing through skull or neck, and the victim fell a mangled corpse at the roots of the tree. One after another were so killed, many with the negro's apparent carelessness of death, and the others with fearful shrieks. When all were killed, and only a pool of blood and a ghastly heap lay at the foot of the tree, a rush was made for the clerks' quarters; and in spite of a feeble revolver fire, an entrance was made, several killed on the spot, and the rest tied hand and foot and hurled through the windows.

Then the United body moved toward the Europeans' house, a grotesque procession, most of them dripping with blood from their own or their victims' wounds, all tall, strongly made men, with their hair knitted up into many fantastic plaits, many armed with guns, some with machetes, and some with the horrible African spears with barbed edges and sharp hooks. As they came, the two or three black soldiers left pointed and fired the Nordenfelt gun from the salt-bag redoubt. After the flash of the gun and a yell which told of the result, the whole force with a wild rush swept up to the house and over the redoubt. Bravely standing to their post, the two black soldiers struggled with the gun; but the discharge had jammed the breech-lock, and it was useless. Stabbed and

HORRIBLY MUTILATED,

they fell at their post, while the savage mob swept round to the stone stairs leading to the veranda. Up the first two o rthree steps they swept, a disordered crowd, firing their long guns indiscriminately wherever the crush would allow them to move an arm. Then the three white men appeared at the head of the stairway standing in the shadow, while the blacks below were in the bright moonlight. They were not soldiers taught to shoot with a wooden, mechanical movement, but sportsmen who knew their weapon, balance and pull-off; and as the repeating rifles flashed and flashed, the lower steps became a shambles, savage after savage fell, blocking the way for his followers, until they turned tail and bolted for cover. Then the defenders dropped back against the wall and hurriedly refilled their magazines. In a few moments the attack began again, this time the Brass men coming on in a thinner body. Still, not one gained more than a few steps before he fell back on the writhing heap below. It was too hot to last; no one could stand against the repeating rifle in such hands, and again the crowd broke and fled.

This time a few only remained in front of the factory, firing as fast as they could reload their guns at the veranda, where they supposed the garrison to lie. The rest went round to the rear of the building and underneath, and commenced to shoot through the wooden floors from below and through the building from side to side while others, dragging up a good-sized cast-iron gun from one of the war canoes, fired large shot and handfuls of stones through the floors and walls, while the little garrison lay down in the deepest shadows they could find. For a time the fusillade continued steadily, while the white men, unable to reply, crouched anxiously in their shelter. Then it ceased, except a few dropping shots, and the cries and groans from the compound mixed with wild howls of delight, told that the Brass men were killing their prisoners and looting the stores.

Slowly the time passed, until after the usual brief African dawn the sun rose, and the three Europeans looking round saw

THE GHASTLY HEAP

at the foot of the stairway, where still some one moved an arm from time to time, or moaned faintly, all around them the wooden sides of the house were torn and riddled with shot. The worst was that, in clear day light, they could not stand at the stairhead, but had to retreat into the room facing it. By and by the blacks again gathered in front of the house and moved towards the stairs; but after a few moments' quick firing, during which a number of them fell, they retired, leaving the Europeans still unhurt, but with less than a dozen cartridges left. It was then suggested that three should be put on one side, so that at least they should not fall into the hands of their enemies alive. Here the Frenchman interposed, saying that in any case they could only die, and that it were better to fire every single shot, and no one knew what might happen at the very last moment.

So they stood with parched mouths and throats, and smoke-grimed faces, waiting the end, till the boom of a gun rang out, followed by the deep tone of a steam whistle and the R. M. S. Bathurst slowly steamed round the point close inshore. In a few moments the negroes were in full flight. Away they went, dragging with them bales and boxes, wounded comrades and prisoners; and ten minutes after the arrival of the steamer, a fleet of large canoes in full flight were all that remained, and the plucky defense of the factory came to an end.

The poor prisoners, however, fared worse. They were carried away two days' journey through the rivers and creeks, nailed to the bottom of the canoes through the hands, feet and arms; and on reaching the town of Nimbi were killed and eaten; the printer, in spite of his reliance on his friends there, suffering the same fate, after untold agony from heat and thirst, lying for two days in the fierce glare of the African sun, with the rusty nails eating into his flesh.

The last scene of the tragedy was enacted when her Majesty's gunboats went up the river and burned the town.

I have never met anyone by whose side I have felt my invisible goodness aroused without his becoming at the same instant better than myself.—Maeterlinck.

About the House.

HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

Old matting may still be serviceable by putting it under carpets.

A lump of sugar saturated with vinegar will cure hiccoughs.

To keep celery firm, put it in a tin pan of cold water, else it soon becomes limp.

Salt makes an extra fine tooth powder; it keeps the gums hard and rosy and makes the teeth brilliantly white.

A bruise may be prevented from discoloring by immediately applying hot water; or a little dry starch, moistened with cold water and placed on the bruise.

For neuralgia, make a small muslin bag and fill it with salt, heat it and place against the aching spot; it will retain the heat for a long time and will greatly relieve the pain.

Put a teaspoonful of Ammonia into a quart of water, and wash your brushes and combs in this, and the dirt and grease will disappear. Rinse well, shake and dry.

The air in a room may be greatly purified by setting a pail of water in in it for a few hours. It will absorb all the poisonous gases, and the air will be pure and the water utterly bad. The colder the water is, the more perfectly it will absorb impurities.

Stained Silver.—Medicine often leaves a bad stain on silver spoons. To remove this rub them with sulphuric acid, and then wash with hot soapsuds.

Soot on a Carpet.—When soot gets spilt on a carpet, throw salt over it and brush up together into a dust pan.

Egg-Spoons.—The sulphur in the egg very soon discolors both silver and gold-plated spoons. To remove this, rub them with salt on a damp cloth.

To Clean Looking-Glasses. — After washing them with warm soapsuds and water, polish with a pad of soft newspaper covered with kitchen rouge. This will give them a polish of great brilliancy.

Spots on Furniture.—White spots on varnished furniture can be taken out by holding a hot iron over them, or by rubbing with a flannel dipped in equal parts of spirits of turpentine and sweet oil. If the varnish has been taken off in small spots, it can be restored by rubbing with a cloth moistened with sweet oil. Spirits of salts six parts, salts of lemon one part, mixed, and poured a little at a time on the spot, will remove stains from mahogany. The spot should be rubbed briskly until it disappears.

A Bruised Spot or Bent.—May be removed from fine furniture in this way: Double a piece of brown paper five or six times, soak it in water, wet the bruised place, and lay the paper on it; apply on that a hot flat-iron till the moisture is evaporated. Two or three repetitions of this process may be necessary to raise the bruised spot in the level of the surface.

To Remove Grease.—One ounce of pulverised borax and half an ounce of gum camphor; put into one quart boiling water, and bottle for use.

To Restore Color.—When the color has been destroyed by acid, apply ammonia to neutralize the acid, the saturate with chloroform, and the color will usually be restored. Table linen and clothing are subject to all kinds of spots, from all varieties of substances, and these require widely different treatment for their removal.

To Take Out Tar. —Rub repeatedly with spirits of turpentine.

DISHES FOR EVENING PARTIES.

Scalloped Oysters. Mayonnaise Sandwiches.
Olives.
Chocolate Jelly. Whipped Cream
Orange Cake. Rolled Sponge Cake.
Coffee.

Scalloped Oysters.—Take one quart of oysters and drain them. Strain the liquor and add enough water or milk to make a pint, salt to taste and set where it will heat. Mix half teaspoonfull of pepper and the same quantity of mace with a heaping pint of cracker crumbs. Melt half a cupful of butter and stir into the crumbs. Put the oysters and crumbs in a dish in layers. Crumbs first and last. Pour the liquor over the top and bake one hour.

Mayonnaise Sandwiches.—Cut fresh bread into the thinnest possible slices. Trim the crust all off. Cut into three-cornered pieces and place between each sandwich a small fragment of lettuce or a bit of celery. Spread with a little thick mayonnaise dressing. Be careful to have it thick and do not put enough in to drip out of thee dges and make the bread look mussy.

Chocolate Jelly.—The receipt for this jelly has been tried many times, it is always a success if made carefully, and is sure to be pronounced delicious by everyone who is fond of chocolate. Take half a box of gelatine, dissolve in a quart of milk. When the gelatine is dissolved strain, then add four heaping tablespoonfuls of grated chocolate and one cup of sugar. Boil eight minutes, stirring all the time. When almost cold beat five minutes with an egg beater, flavor with vanilla and pour into a mold. Let it stand all day or over night. When ready to serve place in a glass dish and cover with half a pint of cream stiffly whipped.

Orange Cake.—One and a half cups of sugar, two and a half cups of flour, (scant) three eggs, a large spoonful of butter, and a heaping spoonful of baking powder. Bake in four pans. Beat the white of an egg and stir in one teaspoonful of corn starch, the juice and rind of one large orange, three-quarters of a pound of powdered sugar; put some of this mixture between the cakes and with the remainder stir in two large spoonfuls of powdered sugar for frosting.

The following menu is more elaborate and expensive than the one just given, It is suitable for a more pretentious entertainment. The different quantities of materials given in the receipts can be altered according to the number of guests expected.

Lobster Salad. Sandwiches.
Chicken Croquettes.
Charlotte Russe. Wine Jel
Ice Cream.
Chocolate Cake. Angel Cake.
Fancy Cakes.
Coffee. Chocolate.