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.

The deadlock in the London City Council remains unbroken.

Mr. H. Wright was yesterday elected President of the Guelph Fat Stock Club.

Mr. F. W. Mathewson has been elected President of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

Mrs. Cynthia Bell of Ottawa, is charged with horrible cruelty to two of her grandchildren named Shortt.

The old drill shed at Kingston, the property of Queen's Univerity, collapsed from the weight of snow on the roof.

Mr. James Stephenson, General Superintendent of the Grand Trunk, is retiring after 40 years' of active service.

Hon. Dr. Montague, Minister of Agriculture, is in very poor health, and intends going to New York to consult a specialist.

Hon. Wilfred Laurier has accepted an invitation to be present and address the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Detroit on June 24.

At the Winnipeg Board of Trade banquet Hon. Mr. Greenway spoke strongly on the freight rates charged on Northwest produce.

At the annual dinner of the Thirteen Regiment and Hamilton Field Battery a purse of gold was presented to Private Hayhurst, G.M.

The Ontario Education Department has arranged for the establishment of a training school for French and English teachers in Ottawa.

The annual returns of the London Chief of Police show that the detective department in 1895 recovered stolen property to the value of $2,833.

A despatch from Ottawa says that it is practically settled that Col. M. Aylmer will be Adjutant-General. Lieut.-Colonel Otter, of Toronto, is to be made a full colonel.

The inquest into the death of Alice Allingham of Hamilton, whose death was supposed to have been caused by a blow from a snowball, resulted in a verdict of death from pneumonia.

Spotters have been at work on the Hamilton street cars, and, as a result, a number of conductors have been lectured by the management for accepting overdue transfers and limited tickets out of hours.

The H., G. & B. directors have secured from the Lincoln County Council the right to construct and operate for twenty years an electric railway line between Grimsby and Beamsville on the Queenston road.

John Nankiville shot Wm. Smith, his companion, while they were preparing to rob a house near Winnipeg. Smith will probably die. Both men are ex-convicts, and Smith's knowledge of an attempted murder by Nankiville was the cause of the shooting.

Russell Kitchen, a fireman employed in a factory at Galt, Ont., while oiling some of the machinery, had his clothes caught in the belting. He was hurled with great force against the beams above, his neck, both legs, and arms, being broken. The deceased was 22 years of age.

The Bankers' section of the Montreal Board of Trade are about to issue a circular to the several Boards of Trade and leading banks of the Dominion, with the object of securing, if possible, information regarding the amount of United States silver, as well as of silver certificates in Canada.

A despatch from Niagara Falls, N. Y., says that the Massey-Harris Company will remove from Toronto to Niagara Falls. This is not correct, but the story has foundation in the fact that the Massey-Harris Company are negotiating for a site in Niagara Falls, N.Y., to establish a branch, from which they can supply the United States market.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes has arrived in England.

Gen. Sir Charles Patton-Keys, G.C.B., is dead. He had been in military service in India for many years.

Seidlitz powders must not be made too strong in England. A druggist has just been fined for over-dosing the people of Brentford.

Mr. Chamberlain has invited President Kruger to visit England for the purpose of discussing reforms in the Transvaal.

The London newspapers publish and generally approve of the speeches in Parliament on Mr. McNeill's loyalty resolution.

The London Graphic says if the French mean business in their dispute with Brazil, the American jingoes will have another chance for a war scare.

The British trade returns for January show an increase of £1,780,000 in imports, and of £2,900,000 in exports, as compared with those of January, 1895.

The coming British naval programme will cost £9,500,000 with which will be constructed four battleships, four first-class cruisers, four third-class cruisers and sixty torpedo destroyers.

Lady Jane Francesca Speranza Wilde, widow of Sir William Robert Wills Wilde, M.D., surgeon-oculist to her Majesty in Ireland, and mother of Oscar Wilde, is dead.

Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, in a speech at Bristol, announced that the Government would introduce a bill in the House of Commons to increase the aid given to sectarian schools.

The condition of the tin workers in Wales is described as wretched. Scarcely one of the works has been running regularly, and at present there are nearly one hundred and seventy mills idle.

Much interest has been aroused in London military circles by an editorial in the St. James' Gazette, Ministerial organ, strongly urging that Imperial assistance be given to Canada in the shape of a loan, to perfect the defences of the country.

It is stated in London political circles that the difference of opinion between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain is growing so accentuated that the latter may be forced to retire from the Cabinet. If he should retire, it is suggested as a possibility that he may lead the Liberals.

It is understood that upon the reassembling of the Imperial Parliament the Liberals will challenge the Government on the abandonment of the Armenians. At a later period, on a motion to adjourn, they will arraign the Government for refusing to submit the Venezuelan question to arbitration.

UNITED STATES.

A great coal trust has been formed in New York and prices advanced 35 cents a ton.

A woman life insurance agent is doing a thriving business in and about Nebo, Ky.

A bald eagle, with a big steel trap hanging to one of its legs, flew over Licking, Ky., a few days ago.

Seventy thousand tons of the stern and rock-bound coast of Maine were shipped from two quarries alone last year.

The key of Libby prison and the flag which floated over the prison are preserved in the Soldiers' Memorial hall at Rutlard, Vt.

Two hale nonagenarians, Mr. and Mrs. Moulder, of Honey Creek, Ind., celebrated the sixty-ninth anniversary of their marriage last week.

The British steamer Laurestina, sailing from Baltimore on Dec. 6, for Sligo, has been given up for lost. She had a crew of 25 men.

Orange-growing in Arizona is declared to have passed the experimental stage, and will become an important industry in the territory.

Father John M. Fitzgerald, of Rochester, N.Y., was convicted on Wednesday of arson in the second degree. The sentence was deferred.

A fifty-foot granite shaft, the longest piece of granite ever taken out of a quarry in Vermont, was quarried at Barre a few days ago.

Last year 25,115,903 fewer cigars were made in the United States than in 1894, and 8,358,380 more pounds of smoking tobacco was manufactured.

"In honour of a young lady visiting the town," a very successful dog fight was given in Swampdale, Ky., the other day, according to a local paper.

A Woman's Rights Club has been organized in St. Joseph, Mo., and arrangements have been made for putting in a billiard table and a woman barber.

The Chesapeake oyster beds are rapidly diminishing in productiveness. Fifteen years ago they furnished about 10,000,000 bushels of oysters. The product this year will not be more than 5,000,000 bushels.

The new popular bond issue of the United States Government was a great success, the loan having been subscribed for five times over, and at prices considerably higher than even the most sanguine had expected.

Starfish have caused immense damage among the Connecticut oyster beds this season. One grower has spent $8,000 in the last few months in an effort to check the ravages of the starfish, but with no perceptible results.

Strawberries are ripe, and being picked for shipment in Hillsborough, Fla. The first crate of this season's strawberries left that place three or four days ago. The berries are in excellent condition and the prospects are good for a large crop.

The Washington correspondent of the London Times reaffirms that there is a sincere desire for a friendly settlement of the Venezuelan dispute at the White House, and that Great Britain's acceptance of arbitration would be followed by an explosion of delight in America.

A despatch from Butte, Montana, says complaints come from the settlers in that forests on the United States side that forests on the United States side of the boundary have been largely denuded of timber by Canadians, and that millions of dollars' worth of lumber has been taken during the past few years.

Commercial telegrams from New York, as to the condition of business throughout the Uuited States, indicate no decided changes yet. The success of the popular loan has not yet had time to affect business, but the consequences in greater confidence and necessarily greater activity will probably be considerable. There is a perceptible improvement in iron, and copper is also higher. The woollen mills are keeping fairly active, though lessened production is still talked of. There has been no change in cotton. The indications for the better are improved bank clearings, firmer prices in several staple lines, and an improved demand in steel and iron.

GENERAL.

General Campos has arrived at Madrid from Cuba.

Part of Dahomey is to be colonized with Alsatians and Lorrainers who have served in the French army.

The Times intimates that the situation in the Transvaal is much more serious than it appears to be on the surface.

"Jack-the-Ripper" is the subject of a new opera about to be produced at Verona, music and words by an Italian named Gioma.

A despatch from Constantinople says the Turkish officials continue to impede the relief of the Armenians. The officials want all the money entrusted to them.

Sixty Anarchists have been arrested in Libson in connection with the recent bomb-throwing. The Government has determined upon strong anti-Anarchist measures.

Advices received in London from Blantyre say that the Sikhs, under British officers have gained two brilliant victories over the slave raiders of British Central Africa.

The Government of Saxony has prepared a bill changing the election system, and virtually disfranchising the working classes, the object being to exclude Socialists from the Diet.

The intention of introducing a navy bill at the present session of the German Reichstag has been abandoned, but the idea has not been relinquished, and a bill will be drafted in readiness for the next session.

General Count von Schouvaloff, the Governor General of Russian Poland, has decided to submit to the Czar a liberal programme for the government of that country, and if it is rejected he will tender his resignation.

Prof. Borchgrevinck, the Norwegian explorer, who recently visited the Antarctic, says the Antarctic continent is about four million square miles in extent. He says the country is habitable, but he does not think anyone is living there.

The correspondent of the African Critic at Johannesburg cables that he has collected damning evidence of the refined torture of a captain and a trooper of Dr. Jameson's force by the Boers, whose commander afterwards ordered the two prisoners to be shot.

The resolution of belligerency of the Cuban insurgents of the United States Senate has created a great sensation in Spain. The Madrid Epoca says President Cleveland surely cannot forget the traditions of American policy. The Confederates during the late war were not recognized as belligerents, nor were the Chilian insurgents in their last war.

A despatch from Kingston Jamaica, says that four British warships are anchored at Port Royal, at the entrance to Kingston Harbor, and that no foreign warship is allowed into the harbor. It is probable that the British are laying down a system of mines, and of course it is important to keep their position a secret.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has authorized the President of the Republic to accept the proposal tendered by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, that in the event of a disagreement as to the choice of an arbitrator for the Canadian sealers' claims the President of Switzerland shall designate an arbitrator.

A new Russian transport company, under the direction of a Russian admiral, will begin trading in the Black Sea forthwith, and will extend its operations abroad when the fleet is large enough. Seven steamers ordered from England will be built to serve as transports or cruisers in time of war, and to provide a large addition to the Russian navy.

WARDROBE OF A MONKEY.

HIS OWNER A RICH MAN, HAS HIM FITTED OUT BY POOLE.

He Is a Veritable Beau Brummel Now—Has Pajamas and a Bath-Robe and All Other Clothing Accessories of a Howling Swell.

It was in London recently that the owner of a monkey conceived the idea of providing his monkey with decent clothes. Man, he argued, owed a certain debt of gratitude to dead monkeys, which they could repay in no better fashion than by showing a decent courtesy to living ones. And to this forcible reasoning Brummel owes his wardrobe.

His master sent to Poole. Mr. Poole is the most fashionable—which means the most expensive—tailor in London, and therefore in the world. One has to be introduced before Poole will make clothes for one. This was the talk:

"You make children's clothes."

"No," replied Mr. Poole.

"Won't you make an exception to your rule, in this particular case?"

"I'm sorry," answered the tailor, "but we haven't got a man in the place who can make a decent suit for a boy."

"To be fair with you," was the hesitating reply, "it—it isn't a boy."

"Oh," said Mr. Poole.

"Yes," the Ambassador went on, "it isn't a boy, it's a monkey."

Mr. Poole drew himself up to his full height, and with considerable hauteur replied:

"That's different. I thought it was a boy. Will you bring the monkey kere, or shall I measure him at his rooms?"

"I guess you'd better send to his rooms," was the reply; "he's not accustomed to tailor shops."

"What kind of a suit do you want?"

"Oh, I want several suits. A whole wardrobe, in fact. Brummel needs a dress suit, an ordinary everday suit, a golf suit, a dressing gown, pajamas and a bath robe."

"How about a watch and chain?" asked the great London tailor, with a rare burst of British humor.

"To tell you the truth," was the reply, "he had a little silver watch once, but he couldn't digest it and it required two doctors to get it out."

Mr. Poole sent Dent, the famous Dent, his head cutter, to measure Brummel, and within two weeks the monkey had the neatest little wardrobe that ever mortal monkey possessed.

His dress suit is made of costliest broadcloth, faced with satin, and stitched throughout with silk. His walking costume is of heavy English tweed, and when you see Brummel with his cap perched jauntily upon his head and a walking stick in one hand you have a vivid impression of having seen something like it before—probably upon a translantic liner.

His pajamas are of the lightest, finest Chinese silk, and the monkey has become so accustomed to them that he refuses to go to sleep without them. The bath robe, which is of some fleecy material, soft to the touch, pleased Brummel so much that he actually learned to take a bath every morning, for the pleasure of feeling it upon his back.

Of course, Brummel has a valet to look after him, and you may depend upon it this valet earns his wages. There is no monotony in his life. His first task in the morning is to run to Brummel's little bed and see if Brummel is still alive. With Brummel's inordinate fondness for eating everything that shines, from hand-mirrors to silver hair brushes, this is always problematical. The owner, however, is very fond of the little fellow, and spares neither trouble or expense to make him comfortable.

Brummel's position in life is truly enviable. He has all that he requires and has no responsibilities.

Substitute for Gold.

In France a new substitute for gold has been formed by combining ninety-four parts of copper with six parts of antimony, and adding a little magnesium carbonate to increase the weight. It is said that this alloy can be drawn, wrought and soldered very much like gold, and that it also receives and retains a golden polish. It is worth about twenty-five cents a pound.

"Did you fall?" said a man rushing to the rescue of a woman who slipped on the icy pavement this morning. "Oh, no," she said. "I just sat down to see if I could find any four-leaf clovers."

WINTER WRINKLGS.

Although a girl may be bright enough to know that "kiss" is a noun, she's frequently unable to decline it.

A Clear Conscience.—"Don't some of these old songs haunt you?" "No; I've never murdered any of them."

"Do you know Bilk?" "Know the infernal scoundrel! Why, he——" "Ah, I see, you do know him."

Effie—"Jack, papa said we must not see each other any more." Jack—"Indeed! Shall I turn the gas out?"

First Debutante—"My cheeks are all on fire." Second Debutante—"I thought there was a smell of burning paint."

"My fuel gas bill amounted to $20 this month," said Hiland. "You must have money to burn," replied Halket.

Will some one tell "A Curious Reader" why the pictures of horseless carriages show that many of these new vehicles are provided with whip sockets?

She—"Yes, that is Mr. Gamboge, the artist. He is wedded to his art." He—"Judging from his appearance, I should say that he didn't marry for money."

"What! You say that Herr Schmidle, the merchant, has gone blind? Here's a pretty how d'ye do—I have a bill on the man which is made out 'payable at sight!'"

"For the life of me," said the young man, "I don't see why a woman was not born with the same capacity for swallowing excuses that she has for ice cream!"

"Katie, why haven't you warmed my study better? The thermometer shows only 58 degrees!" "But, professor, for so small a room it seems to me 58 degrees are enough!"

"Excuse me, sir," said Barker to a boorish traveler, "but what is your business?" "I am a gentleman, sir. That's my business." "Ah," said Barker. "I see. You are taking a vacation."

"Maid of Athens, ere we part,
Give me back my silver heart,
"I can't the clever damsel cried,
"My new beau's picture is inside."

Miss Playne—"Is it true that you said the mere sight of my face would make a man climb a fence?" Hargreaves—"I—er—meant of course, if the man was on the other side of the fence."

"John," said the frightened wife in the middle of the night, "there's something moving down cellar, I'm sure." John listened intently. "Oh, its nothing but the gas-meter pegging away," he said, with a sigh of relief.

Hobson—"I don't hear you, nowadays expressing the wish that it would snow good and hard. Haven't you got your cutter still?" N. Peck—"No! I'm married now, and we have a snow shovel in the cellar."

The Musician's Wife—"Have you thoroughly practised the accompaniments you are to play for Miss Amatoor to-night?" The Musician—"No, but it doesn't matter, you know. It's a society musical and nobody ever listens."

"Waiter," said the guest, "I'm a little afraid of this milk. Haven't you any boiled water?" "We can boil you some, sah," replied the water, "but the milk is all right. We use nothing but artesian well water here sah."

Uncle Josh—"I ain't sure whether eddication done me any good or not. Mebbe I'd a done better if I didn't know how to read or write." Aunt Samantha—"How so?" Uncle Josh—"Well, I wouldn't a read any 'hints to Farmers.'"

Huggins—"Hello, Kissam, had your hair cut?" Kissam—"Yes, dear boy. I found a place where they cut your hair while you wait." Huggins—"That's good. A barber shop is usually a place where they cut some other man's hair while you wait."

Wilsey Walker—"Say, Ragsey, dere's a guy out west curin' people of tings by just layin' his hands on 'em." Ragsey Tatters—"Wonder if dat's the same bloke what told me last summer if he ever laid his hands on me he'd cure me of dat tired feelin'?"

Mother—"Now, Willie, you've been eating mince pies till you've made yourself ill. I shall have to send for the doctor." Willie—"I say, if you are sending for the doctor may I have another mince pie? It won't make any difference, you know."

Gotrox—"I think young Cheekly is a foreign nobleman in disguise." Wigwag—"What makes you think so?" Gotrox—"Well, he has succeeded in borrowing a thousand dollars from me, and now he wants to marry my daughter."

Old Quiverful—"And so you want to take our daughter from us; you want to take her from us suddenly without a word of warning?" Young Goslow—"Not at all, sir. If there is anything about her you want to warn me against, I'm willing to listen."

Wife—"They say that Sarah's suitor is a man of very indolent habits. Is that so?" Husband—"On the contrary, my dear, he is a hard worker." Wife—"In what line?" Husband—"Well, he has the hardest kind of work trying to live without doing anything."

Yabsley—"I saw another one of those stories about a man losing his watch and not finding it for two years, and when he did find it it was still running." Mudge—"Well, I know I found an old tailor's bill I had mislaid seven years ago, and it was still running."

Dismal Dawson—"I see a funny thing in the paper some days sence. It said that Queen Elizabeth always wanted to run away when she seen a sheriff's officer. I got the same complaint." Everett Wrest—"I wonder ef it is possible that royal blood flows in your veins?"

Sure Weed Killer.

The latest method of killing weeds is by electricity. Prof. Woodworth, of Michigan Agricultural College, has been making experiments which show that the new method is both cheap and effective. A wheelbarrow or wagon is loaded with storage batteries from which long wires trail along the ground. The wagon is then taken over the land to be cleared and wherever the wires touch a weed it is instantly killed clean down to the roots. The professor claims that electricity is preferable to almost anything else for destroying the dreaded Russian and Canada thistles. These hardy pests resist most weed-killing compounds, because the roots are not destroyed and the plants spring up again with renewed vigor. The electric current, however, runs down to the lowest root and destroys it. A drawback to the scheme is the initial cost of the batteries and apparatus, but in the long run it pays for itself.

LIFE'S GREAT LOTTERY.

SOME VERY ODD MARRIAGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

Matrimonial Ventures of Many Peculiar Kinds That United Menials to Titles.

Old Sir Henry Parkes, who, at the age of 81, has just married a 20-year old chambermaid in his household, is by no means the first titled Englishman to seek a matrimonial alliance in the servant's hall. As a rule, the bridegrooms in such cases have been of less mature age than Sir Henry, who is the most distinguished of all Australian statesmen, and has repeatedly held the office of Prime Minister of New South Wales. Among the most notable cases are those of Sir David Evans, who was knighted during his term of office as Lord Mayor of London, and whose wife was a chambermaid at the Seven Oaks Hotel in Kent, where he was in the habit of staying on his fishing excursions. Sir Henry Hawkins, the eminent English judge of the Supreme Court, married his housemaid, while the second wife of the late Lord Bramwell had previously filled the office of cook in his establishment. The late Earl Stamford married his general servant, a negress.

FROM THE WASH-BOARD.

Nor are such marriages as these confined to the English aristocracy. The Dowager Duchess of Rochefoucauld, mother of the head of that illustrious house, was a laundress, while the Dowager Countess of Waldstein, whose son now dead, married Princess Metternich's daughter Pasaline had been a chambermaid in her husband's household.

Count Eugene Kinsky married his laundress, and old Count Octave Kinsky, whose death at the age of 82 had just taken place, disgusted his relatives by wedding a wholly uneducated and exceedingly objectionable woman who had filled the position of scullery maid in his kitchen. After marrying him she rendered herself so abhorrent to the people of the district, especially to the peasantry, that on two occasions she was shot at. The Count himself was placed under legal restraint a couple of years ago by his relatives to prevent him from dissipating his vast estates and ruining his property in order to satisfy the greed of his plebeian-born wife.

WOMEN OF RANK.

Yet another nobleman who has married a servant is Prince Gregory Stourdza, the Roumanian general, senator and statesman. There are two instances of women occupying menial positions wedding royalty, one being Rosina, the morganatic wife of the late King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, who was a chambermaid at an inn when she attracted his attention. The other was that of the consort of Peter the Great, who was elevated to the dignity of Empress of Russia, and from who is descended the present occupant of the throne.

Still more numerous are the instances of women of rank seeking mates in the kitchen or stable. Princess Adolph Chimay is married to her English butler, who rejoiced in the name of Jobson before she purchased for him the Italian title of count, and the Duke of Fife's sister, Lady Ida Hope, first eloped with and then married her groom. Princess Elizabeth Hohenlohe married one of her father's assistant gamekeepers just a few weeks before giving birth to a child of which he was the father.

Besides these there are a good many families of rank who are descended from servants. Sir Horace Rambold, the British envoy at The Hague, and one of the most distinguished diplomatists in the service of Queen Victoria, is descended from a man who worked his way up

FROM THE BUTLERSHIP

of one of the clubs in London to the post of Governor of Madras, and it was for his services in the latter capacity that he was created a baronet, the dignity now borne by Sir Horace. Then there is the Marquis Hervey de Saint Denis, one of the leaders of Parisian society, and an intimate friend of the Countess de Paris, who is the daughter of an English groom named Ward, who, commencing as stable-boy, ended by becoming the Prime Minister of the Duke of Parma. Prince Henry of Battenberg's sister-in-law, the now widowed Princess Alexander of Battenberg and Countess of Hartenau, is the issue of a union between the valet and the cook of old Field Marshal Count Martini. The entire princely house of Murat is descended from King Joachim of Naples, who began life as a stable boy, while the first Prince Kutusoff, the founder of the powerful Russian family of that name, achieved his greatness by the skill which he displayed as valet and barber to Czar Paul.

The Dukes of Marlborough are descended from a chambermaid, while the first Duchess of Marlborough lived to see a man who had been in her service blossom into a Secretary of State and a Postmaster-General.

Brougham's Ready Wit.

Lord Palmerston on one occasion took the chair at a meeting in connection with University College, London. He was not so familiar, writes Mrs. S. E. de Morgan in her reminiscences, with the sort of speech expected in such a place, as he would have been at Westminster, and, meaning to adapt his rhetoric to the occasion, began very appropriately, "It has been said that 'a little learning is a dangerous thing,' but it is better than—better than—better than—" Here came a dead stop. Lord Brougham, who sat beside the speaker, came to the rescue, speaking with his peculiar nasal twang, "Better than a great deal of ignorance." This of course brought down the house, and during a volley of laughter, cheers and Kentish fire, Lord Palmerston recovered the lost thread of his speech, and finished it with the usual ease and fluency.

Waiting for Developments.

First Villager—How do you like your new neighbor.

Second Villager—Can't tell yet whether I like him or hate him.

Why so?

The first thing he did was to put up a high wall, and I haven't been able to discover whether it is to keep his chickens in or my chickens out.