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 Board of Trade of Winnipeg is opposed to granting exclusive rights to the Hudson's Bay Canal and Navigation Company.

It is now rumored that Sir Donald Smith is likely to succeed Sir Charles Tupper as Canadian High Commissioner in England.

The Italian colony in Montreal have appointed a committee to raise funds to assist their countrymen who are fighting in Abyssinia.

An Act respecting bakeshops, introduced in the Ontario Legislature by Mr. Dryden, proposes to place all bakeries under Government supervision.

Mrs. Cynthia Bell was committed for trial at Ottawa on the charge of horrible cruelties committed on her grandchildren named Short.

The Royal Victoria Hospital at Montreal has received gifts from Lord Mountstephen and Sir Donald Smith of $10,000 each to cover the expenses of the hospital last year.

Mrs. M. C. A. Hinman of Hamilton and two young ladies from Toronto, who were visiting her were nearly asphyxiated with coal gas.

The budget speech of Provincial Treasurer McMillan showed that Manitoba's finances were never in a more prosperous condition than at present. The surplus is $800,000.

The returns of the traffic earnings of the Grand Trunk railway for the week ended February 29, 1896, were $320,827, while for the same week in 1895 they were $316,523, showing an increase for February this year of $4,304.

Lieut. Barret, Royal Naval Reserve, late commander of the SS. Mongolian, has been appointed to the Parisian, with the position of Commodore of the Allan fleet, to succeed Captain Ritchie, retiring Commodore.

At the last meeting of the Town Council of Brockville, it was discovered that $10,000 which had been voted to the Canada Carriage Company had been illeghave already been paid twice over,and the remaining $7,000 will also have to be repaid.

While James Newham, aged 18, was at work in a saw mill at Woodlawn, Ont., on Thursday night, he came in contact in some way with the circular saw, which cut his foot off. He then fell against the saw, which struck his hip, cutting nearly half way through his body. He died shortly afterwards.

The report of Mr. James Mansergh, C.E., of London, England, on the water supply of Toronto, has been received at that city, and created much interest in local and civic circles. Mr. Mansergh gives an exhaustive review of previous schemes for improving the water supply, and after a careful examination of the Lake Simcoe scheme, rejects it in favour of a continuance of pumping from Lake Ontario, the present source of the water service. Incidentally the report demolishes the aqueduct "power" scheme, and recommends attention to the sewerage system.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A resolution of sympathy with the Armenians was passed in the British House of Commons.

The Glasgow Herald is authority for the statement that Sir George Newnes, the millionaire publisher, is having a yacht built to compete for the America cup.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman made a motion in the Imperial Parliament to strike out of the estimates the £1,800 special pension to the Duke of Cambridge.

Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, has attached a memorandum to the army estimates, stating that in view of recent events it will be impossible to reduce the strength of the Egyptian garrison in 1896.

Mr. Webb, the chief locomotive engineer of the London and North-Western railway,predicts that a few years hence electric trains will be run to all the great centres at a speed we can hardly now realize.

A cable despatch states that the British cheese importers desire that the Dominion Parliament should pass legislation requiring the branding of the month of the make on all ch[illegible] export to Great Britain.

A despatch has been receive[illegible] don from Bombay, saying t[illegible] Singh, Maharajah of Jhaalaw[illegible] preparing to begin a small [illegible] own account against the India[illegible] ment was deposed on Tuesday.

It is reported that the British Colonial Office has called for further details relative to the assumption by the United States of three million acres of territory, alleged to be British, on the Pacific coast, opposite Prince of Wales Island.

The Prince of Wales has been much depressed since Henry of Battenberg's death. It seems that Albert Edward and Henry had their fortunes told by a gypsy some years ago. The Prince of Wales was informed that he would never be King of England, and Henry that he would die seeking glory under a tropic sky.

UNITED STATES.

The mills and factories established in the United States by the Salvation Army give employment to 10,700 persons.

A woman in Simpson county,Ky.,still spins and weaves all the cloth for the clothing worn by her husband and children.

President Cleveland and his Cabinet are strongly opposed to the present recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents.

Armour & Co., of Chicago, have contracted to furnish meat supplies to the British North American squadron for three years.

The tallest standpipe in New England has been completed at Kennebunk, Me., last week. It is 105 feet high, and some 3,600 rivets were used in its construction.

Lady Henry Somerset has sued Mr. William Waldorf Astor for $25,000 damages caused to her reputation by a remark in the Pall Mall Gazette not long ago.

Coyotes have killed all the cats in the town of Valley, Wash., and in the neighbourhood. They come boldly into the town at night, and pick up every cat they come across.

Agents of the Cuban revolutionists, working from St. Louis as a common centre, are sending from fifty to sixty men a week to join the forces of Gen. Gomez on the island.

Sir Julian Pauncefote,the British Ambassador at Washington, and the Venezuelan Minister in that city, have entered into direct communication for a settlement of the Yuruan incident.

Andrew Werten, a gypsy horse-dealer, 33 years old, and a native of Canada, murdered his wife Louise on Thursday night in her room in a Broadway lodging house, St. Louis. He cut her throat with a razor.

A telephone has been placed on the preacher's desk in the Congregational church at Norfolk, Conn., in order that members of the church who are unable to attend the services may hear the sermons as they sit at home.

Promise of an early spring is noticed in Connecticut in the appearance last week, near Hartford, of a large flock of wild geese, flying northward. As a rule the geese are not seen in that region until about the middle of March.

A reform wave has struck the city government of Woodstock, Vt., An anti-tobacco league has been formed among the members of the government, and already twelve of the town officials have joined it, and given up tobacco in every form.

A trapper of Morristown, Vt., has just received from a fur dealer in Montreal an order for 1,000 live skunks, the second order of the kind he has had. He filled the first order with comparative ease, and thinks it will be almost as easy to fill this one.

In all the world there is but one man that can read the translation of the Bible into the language of the aborigines which was made by a Mr. Eliot in what is now Paxton, in 1649. That man is the well-known antiquarian and scholar, Trumbull, of Hartford, Conn.

Hiram Lester, who died at the poor farm in Henry county, Ga., a week ago last Friday, was said to be one hundred and twenty-nine years old. A son of his, living in the same poor-house, is ninety years old, and a daughter, who lives in Heard county, is ninety-five years old.

Brewers in Germany have contracted for 2,500,000 bushels of barley from Montana next season. This barley will come from the famous Gallatin valley, which lies along the Northern Pacific Railway, eighty miles east of Helena, where enormous crops of finest quality are raised by irrigation.

The barbette for the United States battleship Iowa was completed last week. It is the largest ever manufactured in America, and has been more than a year under construction. It consists of nine plates, each weighing 95,000 pounds, in addition to a large turret. The plates are fifteen inches thick and 220 inches wide. The barbette is to be shipped to Philadelphia, where the Iowa is building, on a train of cars built for the purpose.

There will be a great decrease in the production of hops in Oregon and Washington this year. The hop industry in previous years has been one of the largest in these states, but overproduction has brought the price down to an unprofitable figure, and in the last year or two insect pests have caused great loss to the growers. A great many hop fields in various parts of the two States have been ploughed up, and it is reported that this spring more will be turned under.

Commercial telegrams from New York as to the business situation in the United States are not at all of a satisfactory rature, and this is particularly noticeable in what they leave unsaid. Except in the steel and iron industries prices are usually again lower; at present there is a light demand for all kinds of iron, but we are told that "large structural business is expected in the spring," while there is "hopefulness" as to extensive railway orders, as railroad earnings continue to improve. These small mercies are apparently the best in sight. The boot and shoe trade is not up to a reasonable average; prices of wool have declined, and sales are small, while some mills are closing or laying off their hands. Concessions in price in various lines do not appear to have produced a proportionate added demand.

GENERAL.

Germany is said to be supporting Italy's overtures to England for assistance in the present crisis.

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The Archduchess Maria Theresa of Austria is said to be the strongest woman in the world outside of a circus. She can lift an ordinary man with one hand.

Vicomtesse Houssaye, whose salon is one of the most highly esteemed in Paris by men of intellectual distinction, was formerly an American girl, Miss Ritter, of California.

A coal mine in Prussian Silesia caught fire and only eighty of the imprisoned miners were rescued. Twenty-seven dead bodies were taken out and thirty-three more are missing.

The Emperor of Russia has invited the Prine and Princess of Wales to visit St. Petersburg in May for the Imperial coronation, which is to take place at Moscow towards the end of that month.

A special despatch to the London Times from Madrid says that France will support Spain on the Cuban question and negotiate a large loan for her in return for certain commercial and other concessions.

The Italian Government has instructed the Military Advocate General to examine into the conduct of the Abyssinian campaign by Gen. Baratieri and determine whether or not the latter shall be arranged before a council of war.

Portugal, it is rumored, will back up Spain in her attitude on the Cuban question. The Commercio, of Lisbon, urges that all the nations of Europe should join Spain in resisting the pretentions of the United States.

The correspondant of the London Times at Caracas, Venezuela, reports that a private despatch has been received from Curacoa, saying that the authorities there are advised that a British squadron of five ships will shortly arrive at that port.

The Czar has delighted all classes of Russians by commanding that for the future all petitions shall be presented to him personally. The aide-de-camp on duty will accept them from the petitioners and place them before the monarch without delay.

Mahmoud Bey, who has been arrested for his affiliation with the Young Turkish party, is about thirty years old. As a boy he was extraordinarily nimble. He used then to chase a half-trained pony about the paddock of his father's house, mount it with a leap, and gallop about without a semblance of fear.

Herr Liebknecht, the veteran Socalist of the Reichstag, will have to serve four months' imprisonment for insulting the Emperor, after the Reichstag adjourns. He cannot be imprisoned while the session lasts, and as he expects to leave for a visit to England before the body adjourns he will not be placed behind bars for some time.

The general opinion in Spain, as expressed by the press and the public, is one of indignation at the resolutions passed by the United State Congress granting the rights of belligerency to the Cuban insurgents, and a general desire to resist such meddlesome interference to the uttermost.

A despatch to the New York Herald from Caracas, Venezuela, says:—Venezuela has refused the demand of Great Britain that the Yuruan incident be regarded as a distinct issue, and that reparation be made and an indemnity paid. The Government declares that to grant England's demand would be a virtual recognition of British rights in the territory in dispute between the two nations. It also declares that the whole issue must await the result of arbitration. Officials again express fear that England will try to enforce payment of damages.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

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

Mr. Oishi, managing editor of the leading Japanese newspaper of Tokio, arrived at San Francisco recently from Yokohama. He will make a tour of the world. Mr. Oishi in his youth spent eight years in the United States.

Gladstone is an early riser, but only by the exertion of his will power, for he is fond of loitering in bed. He is fond also of afternoon tea, and of a game of backgammon, and he can sleep whenever and wherever he pleases.

Prof. Stickel, of Jena, the Arabic scholar, has died, at the age of ninety-three. He had taught continuously at Jena from 1827 till last year. He was the last of the pupils of Silvestre de Sacy and of the band of young scholars in whom Goethe was interested during his last years.

Lady Parry, widow of Rear-Admiral Sir W. E. Parry, the distinguished Arctic navigator, died at Billingford Hall, East Dereham, recently, forty years after the death of her husband, and within a month of completing her eighty-eighth year. She was the daughter of the Rev. Robert Hankinson, of Walpole, Norfolk.

Sir John Millais had a patron and friend in Thackeray. Upon Millais' return from a visit to Rome on one occasion, Thackeray said to him: —"Jack, my boy, I saw a young dog in Rome named Leighton, and, if you don't look sharp, one of these days he'll be president of the Academy." This prophecy was fulfilled to the letter.

A fund is being raised in London to provide for the translation into Russian of the principal works of the late Sergius Stepniak. Stepniak has long cherished the wish that a Russian edition of his books might be given to the world. Several prominent Englishmen have given countenance to the project, among them being Sir Charles Dilke, John Burns, C. E. Schwann, et al.

Nothing pleased the late Prince Henry of Battenberg more than to go to a German concert and sup with the performers on onion soup, sauerkraut, and other homely delicacies. At one of these suppers in Paris he met some old Hessian comrades with whom he he had gone around Swabia when a youth on a pedestrian tour. When funds fell short they gave street concerts in little German-band style, and played in inns in return for board and lodging. Prince Henry spoke of this tour as giving him some of the happiest days he had ever known.

An amusing story appears in a contemporary about one of the best-known English judges. His Lordship was recently sitting in chambers. In the course of the proceedings before him he had occasion to refer to some papers. Not finding them on his desk, he left his chair, and searched for them behind a screen, during which operation he was of course hidden from the people in the room. Enter a noisy individual who, glancing toward the vacant seat, exclaimed in very audible tones, "What! Has the old fool gone to luncheon?" "No, he has not gone yet!" came from the judge, as he reappeared to public view.

"Hang Theology" Rogers, rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, who died recently at seventy-seven, had been for over fifty years at work in London. He was the pioneer at the philanthropic work in the East end where he was very popular. He got his nickname from crying out at a School Board meeting, where the discussion of economic and religious questions prevented progress: "Hang economy! Hang theology! Let us begin!" A characteristic story is told of him as a boy by the late Lord Iddesleigh. A new boy came to school dressed in a light blue jacket, faced with velvet, white trousers and waistcoat, and a turned-down collar and frills. Rogers went up to him and asked him his name. The boy replied:"I am Charles Stuart Vane, Viscount Seaham, and my father is the Marquis of Londonderry." Whereupon Rogers kicked him three times, onc efor Vane, once for Seaham, and once for Londonderry.

HER HAND, DOUBTLESS.

Why, she faltered, did you hasten to pick up the glove I had dropped?

Because, he answered, boldly, I thought there might be something in it for me, some time.

And his worst suspicions were subsequently confirmed.

NEW THINGS IN TABLE LINEN.

Among the new designs in napery which command attention is the fleur-de-lis in Empire style. On a smooth satin damask surface are woven the miniature fleur-de-lis forming a narrow panel a yard wide through the centre of the cloth. Around this is a border of the species of lily known by that name. This narrow border rests on the table, and on that portion which falls below the board are festoons of the flowers in a pattern describing deep scallops. Such a dinner cloth is worth $16, and the napkins to match are $8 a dozen.

The linens come in complete sets, consisting of breakfast, luncheon and dinner cloths, with napkins in three sizes. The more elaborate ones have fringed doilies for the finger bowls and bread plates, and in these the same designs are repeated.

What ranks as the newest pattern of the season is that of a graceful plume scattered promiscuously over a plain damask cloth the border of which is formed of Prince of Wales feathers arranged in a garland. This unique design merits popular approval because of its novelty and elegance. Now scroll weaves resemble undulating waves and form a panel through the centre. A Grecian border accentuates the idea of this odd conception and is consistently artistic. Another scroll design of connecting circles has a deep border of lace work and is an equally pleasing conceit.

An exceedingly pretty dinner set comes in a bow-knot design, adhering strictly to the panel scheme, which characterizes the most exclusive styles of napery. Its beauty is further increased by the effective construction of the border, which is a continuous vine of larger bow-knots caught at the four corners by a ribbon band tied with loops and long ends.

Round and oblong cloths with circular borders come in various sizes for the dining-tables, so shaped. Floral designs obtain largely in these, the clover-leaf, the pansy and chrysanthemum taking the lead as favorites. However, the handsomest ones of the kind are of plain linen, known as "butchers' linen," and are ornamented by a three-inch-wide insertion of renaissance lace, a hemstitched strip and an edging corresponding with the renaissance. Others are tastefully decorated with bands of Cluny lace in linen alternating with Mexican drawn work in fanciful designs. These are difficult to construct.

Hemstitched cloths are never out of style and grow more diversified in design and mode of embellishment each year. Several successive rows of hemstitching, which form the panel of a dinner cloth, are done in a stitch indicating a lattice work. Under this a suitable ribbon for the "pink tea," the "violet luncheon" or the "chrysanthemum dinner," may be placed to advantage.

Centre pieces and carving cloths conforming to the shape of cloth of the same texture and design are included as part of the outfit. Napkins for dinner use are three-quarters of a yard square, and breakfast and luncheon serviettes are a trifle smaller and always fringed.

Frequently handsome tablecloths are richly embroidered in white silk or tinted floss in all sorts of elaborate designs, but this is done by the skilful needlewoman of the parish church, or else in the leisure hours of the mistress of the mansion. Such a one is produced only on state occasions and is the treasure of the linen closet.

The selections of plain damask denotes a taste for quiet elegance. It is considered chic, and no weave in this respect can supplant it. The floral designs are not conventional, and mosaic patterns are seen in tea cloths, either supplying the entire decorative scheme or furnishing the border for polka-dot panels.

Irish linen damask is the most durable; that of an ecru shade is unbleached and is considered even a more advantageous buy. Shrewd shoppers purchase the out-of-date designs in a heavy quality of linen for the same price that an inferior grade in novelty patterns will bring.

No fixed rule as to what constitutes a linen outfit has been established, and the number of pieces used in laying the table depends largely upon the resources of the individual and the style kept up by the hostess. An ordinary set may be bought for $20, and an extraordinary one may cost $500 at least.

Flax has been at a premium for the past year, and the Irish peasant and the Scotch agriculturist failed to produce the expected crop last year, hence there is a rise in the price of linen.

BLACK RAIN.

The meteorlogical records of the world chronicle several instances of this phenomenon. One would always like to see these things for oneself, however, before accepting them as gospel truth. The most historical fall of black rain took place in Ireland, extending altogether over an area of about 400 square miles. The raindrops which fell were as black as ink. The shower took place in broad daylight. It was preceded by a darkness so dense that it was impossible to read without the aid of artificial light. After the darkness had continued for some time a terrific hailstorm set in attended by lightning, but without the least resemblance of thunder. Then the black rain began to fall. This rain had an evil smell. Those who tasted it repented their rashness. Cattle refused to drink it, or even eat the grass on which it had fallen, until, fortunately, another shower came and washed the unpleasant traces away. There is no doubt that the rain was black for this reason, that all light-colored animals and all articles of clothing exposed to the storm were stained.

A GENEROUS LANDLORD.

Tenant—That chandelier in the parlor is so shaky I'm afraid some time, when the children are romping under it, the whole thing will fall.

Landlord—Well, that chandelier ain't worth more than its price for old brass anyhow. It doesn't matter whether it gets broken or not.

SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE.

ANECDOTES ABOUT PROMINENT MEN AND WOMEN.

President Faure's Fad—Ex-Empress of Germany May Reside in England—Great Orchid Growers—Mad King Otto—The Czar and the Poor Girl, &c., &c.

President Faure's particular fad is the collection of autographs. He began the collection some years ago and has greatly added to its value since he became President. The collection embraces the signatures of every living sovereign, author, inventor and actor of importance.

The Prince of Monaco has just completed a wonderful fishing machine of his own devising. It is constructed of wire netting and iron and, while it is very easy for the fish to enter the machine, it is next to impossible for them to leave it. In fact, they have no wish to leave their trap, a skilful arrangement of electric light completely dazzling them till they are drawn up from the nets.

It is said that the Dowager Empress of Germany contemplates residing permanently in England. As far as the German Emperor is concerned the arrangement is said to be perfectly satisfactory—even more so. But the German Chancellor has yet to give his consent, which is unlikely, unless Empress Frederick consents to give up part of her German allowance. Queen Victoria refuses to consent to such an arrangement, and so the matter remains in statu quo. From England the Empress Frederick receives an allowance of $40,000 a year. But from Germany she receives, "all told," a larger allowance than comes into the coffers of Queen Victoria as reigning sovereign of England.

It is said to require $4,000 a year to keep Blenheim Palace in putty alone. This extraordinary statement was made by the late Duke of Marlborough.

The Duke of York's collection of postage-stamps, which he recently sold to one of the Rothschilds, bore an insurance of $600,000.

It is commonly supposed that Mr. Chamberlain is the greatest amateur orchid grower in the world, but this is far from being the case. His collection is worth from $75,000 to $100,000. The collection of the Dowager Empress of Germany, however, is worth nearly double that of Mr. Chamberlain. Miss Alice Rothschild is a most enthusiastic horticulturist, her collection of roses alone being valued at $50,000. The Archduke Joseph of Austria owns $200,000 worth of flowers. W. W. Astor recently paid $6,000 to an English grower for the stock of a single variety of rose-tree. Baron Schroeder, of Egham, possesses the distinction of owning the most valuable garden in the world. If his orchids alone were put upon the market they would unquestionably realize $500,000.

King Otto, the insane monarch of Bavaria, recently celebrated his forty-seventh birthday—or rather it was celebrated for him. Since his accession to the throne the mad sovereign has never left the Castle of Fuerstenreid. Once a year his Prime Minister pays him an official visit in accordance with a certain law. His latest report says His Majesty's physical condition leaves nothing to be desired, but that his mental condition is simply pitiable.

It seems to be a new fad among women artists to hate a certain city. Dose hates Chicago and Calve hates London. "No, no, no," says the famous impersonator of Carmen, "not for the crown of England and all the wealth the country contains would I consent to live in London. Ten times rather would I be a peasant, with a little cottage on the slope of the Apennines and the beautiful sunshine of Italy all about me."

The Pope, it is said, intends to come to the rescue of the bankrupt King Humbert with a good, substantial loan. Italy's little business with Abyssinia well nigh emptied her already depleted coffers, as is substantially proved by the King's entertaining for a moment the prospect of a loan from the Vatican.

Mr. Dickens, Q. C., the son of the famous novelist, seems destined to encounter in the law courts the names made famous by his father in fiction. He has several times appeared for a Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Samuel Weller he also met in a professional way. And a recent client was a member of the firm of Dombey & Son, a large tailoring firm in the Strand. Mrs. Gamp and her mysterious friend, Mrs. Harris, he has yet to meet.

A kind-hearted act of the Czar at a recent charity bazaar at the Winter Palace has excited much comment in St. Petersburg. On a certain day the school children for whose benefit the bazaar was held were permitted to see the works of art and each child was presented with a lottery ticket as a present. One of these tickets happened to draw a valuable prize, the picture of "Charity," by the French artist Berthier. And the happy winner was a little girl belonging to one of the poorest families in the city. The Czar had greatly admired the picture and made inquiries as to who had won it. Hearing that it had fallen to the share of a poor little girl in humble life, the Czar offered to buy it, and the sale was closed for $4,000. The money will be invested in a marriage portion for the child, who already finds herself an object of much juvenile attention.

Cecil Rhodes has such decided anti-matrimonial views that he will not have any but bachelors as members of his private staff. He recently made the announcement that "marriage is a more difficult game than politics."

Within a year Lady Henry Somerset has attended 115 meetings and 27 conferences, traveled over 8,000 miles and spoken in twenty different countries to over 200,000 people.

Queen Victoria will wear none but black gloves since her widowhood, and those of only the two-buttoned length. Her Majesty's glove bill for an entire year is less than $100.