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.

Natural gas has been struck at Lynden.

The census of Manitoba is to be taken immediately.

Mr. Owen, Street Commissioner of London, is dead.

Mr Robert Anderson, a well-known capitalist of Montreal, is dead.

Wheat deliveries show a large falling off at country points in Manitoba.

It has been officially announced that the life of Parliament expires on April 24.

Alex. Russell, a farmer of the Virden district, committed suicide by shooting.

Mrs. Agnes Forbes was arrested at Hamilton on the charge of deserting her child.

Two powerful searchlights are to be erected at Halifax by the Imperial authorities.

Mr. Jas. G. Davis will act as market clerk of Hamilton at a salary of $1,600, providing his own assistants.

Another new steamboat line is being organized to run a daily steamer from Bay of Quinte ports to Clayton and the Thousand Islands.

The Aylmer branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway becomes the property of the Hull Electric Co. and will be operated as an electric road.

Mr. John Pew, of Merritton, found his long-lost wife acting as waitress in a Buffalo restaurant. He promptly served notice in a divorce suit upon her.

The Citizens' Committee of Montreal has, it is understood, decided to report in favor of the proposal to hold an international exposition in that city next year.

The only punishment imposed on the non-commissioned officers attached to St. John's military depot for refusing to obey orders is reduction to the ranks.

Mr. W. C. Macdonald, of Montreal, has given half a million dollars to McGill University for the chemistry, mining and agriculture departments building.

The Grand Trunk announces a number of changes in its staff. Mr. W. E. Davis is the new Passenger and Ticket Agent, and the Chicago line is to be operated from Montreal.

It is reported that the C.P.R. has made an agreement with the Grand Trunk for running powers over the line between Toronto and Hamilton, which only requires to be ratified.

The Canadian and American companies holding the charters for the bridge over the St. Lawrence at Brockville have amalgamated under the name of the Brockville & St. Lawrence Bridge Company.

The Eighth Regiment, Princess Louise Hussars, King's County, N.B., have notified the British Government that they will raise volunteers out of the regiment to send four squadrons to the Nile in the proposed expedition.

The four-year-old son of Mr. Robt. Fleming, of Staples, Ont., met with a painful death on Friday during the temporary absence of his parents. discovered he was a mass of flames. His injuries were of such a nature that he died shortly afterwards.

The Japanese Consul for Canada, resident at Vancouver, B.C., has written the Winnipeg Board of Trade that he intends visiting Winnipeg shortly, and would like to meet the members of the board, and discuss the matter of trade between Canada and Japan.

Major-General Gascoigne's report on the Royal Military College at Kingston has been laid before Parliament. He recommends that the Commandant should be appointed for a limited term only, and hopes to see the military instructors chosen from the graduates of the college.

A crisis was reached in the troubled affairs of the Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto, on Thursday, when the property of the regiment was taken possession of by the Deputy Adjutant-General for the district, and handed over by him to Major Delamere, the officer next in seniority to Col. Hamilton, who has been asked to resign, but who has refused to do so.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Marquis of Salisbury has gone to Beaulieu.

Mr. Gladstone has donated one hundred pounds to the Armenian fund.

Lady Burton, the widow of Sir Richard Burton, the English explorer, is dead.

Judge Thomas Hughes, F.S.A., B.A., author of "Tom Brown's Schooldays," died at Brighton, England.

The bill to permanently exclude live cattle from importation into Britain for butchers' purposes passed its second reading.

The Chronicle publishes a report that Great Britain has purchased Delagoa Bay, East Africa, from the Portugese for £5,000,000.

It is officially denied in London that Great Britain had intimated that she would favour the active interference of the United States in Cuba.

It is reported in London that Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador at Washington, will shortly visit England, to discuss with the Government certain features of the Venezuelan question.

The National Liberal Federation, in session at Huddersfield, has passed a resolution of confidence in Lord Rosebery, the Liberal leader, and his colleagues, and has denounced the expedition to Dongola.

In the House of Commons on Friday, when Mr. Cuzon, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was asked if there was any truth in the report that Great Britain had purchased Delagoa Bay, he declined to answer.

Dr. William Playfair, a fashionable London doctor, told his wife that Mrs. Arthur Kitson, whom he was attending, was unchaste. Mrs. Playfair repeated the statement, and Mrs. Kitson brought an action for libel against the doctor, and was awarded twelve thousand pounds damages.

The Colonial Agents in England, including the Canadian Agent, had an interview with Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the purpose of which was to obtain from the Government of England of marriages to deceased wives' sisters, which are legal in the colonies. Mr. Chamberlain said that he was willing to support the request.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech on Wednesday night, before the Canada Club in London, recommending a zollverein of the Empire on the basis of revenue tariff, with duties against foreigners, creates much stir. Mr. Chamberlain explained that he spoke for himself alone, but it is not believed that he would propound such a radical change of British policy and suggest an Imperial conference without the assent of the Cabinet.

UNITED STATES.

There was a terrific explosion of gas in a new coal mine at Dubois, Pa., by which fourteen miners were killed.

A New York newspaper has offered H. H. Holmes, the condemned murderer, seven thousand five hundred dollars to write a detailed and truthful story of his criminal career.

The Rev. J. D. Thornton, living near Sharon, Texas, was warned to preach no more in that section. He refused to obey the order, and on Saturday night he was taken out by a mob, who whipped him severely with switches.

Ambassador Bayard will not receive official notice of the censure passed upon him by the United States House of Representatives last week unless Secretary Olney should decide to bring the matter to his attention, which is considered improbable.

The bill before the United States House of Representatives authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Detroit river is practically dead. the House Committee on Inter-State and Foreign Commerce having reported that such a bridge would interfere with the navigation of the lakes.

The remains of William Q. Judge, president of the Theosophical Society of America, were cremated on Monday at Fresh Pond, L.I., and the ashes were taken to Aryan hall, the headquarters of the society in New York, where they will be placed beside the urn containing part of the ashes of Mme. Blavatsky.

In the United States Senate on Monday, Mr. Mills, of Texas, introduced a joint resolution directing President Cleveland to request Spain to give local self-government to Cuba, and in the event of Spain's refusal the President is authorized to take possession of the island and hold it until the people of Cuba can establish local self-government.

Telegrams from the New York commercial agencies as to the condition of trade throughout the United States are again not cheerful reading. During the week closed yesterday no changes for the better have occurred in the commercial circles of the country. Uneasiness has been added to by some failures of magnitude, and the general business situation is in no sense encouraging. The dry goods trade is unusually quiet, and in the clothing trade labour disputes have caused a disruption that amounts almost to stagnation in certain important branches. In iron and boots and shoes a slight improvement is reported, and women's woollen dress goods are in active demand. The average state of business is a light demand and lower prices everywhere.

GENERAL.

The fire at Colon destroyed 90 houses.

The Czar will visit Berlin after his coronation.

Count Mortera, the leader of the Cuban Reform party in Spain is dead.

The official crop report for India shows that the export surplus is practically wiped out.

The Matabeles of the Inseza and Filibusi districts have revolted and massacred the white settlers.

The report of the death of General Hyppolite, President of Hayti, has been confirmed.

Emperor William, who is at present visiting Italy, is desirous of going to the Island of Elba, where Napolean was imprisoned.

On account of the excessive demands made by King Menelek, it is improbable that peace will be concluded between Italy and Abyssinia.

The Boers in the Transvaal are reported to be arming for a fight, and President Kruger's proposed visit to London has been abandoned.

It is reported from Havana that two columns of Spanish troops, mutually mistaking each other for insurgents, opened fire with serious loss of life.

The Turkish Government has issued an appeal, addressed to France and Russia, asking them to intervene with the object of regulating the affairs of Egypt.

Suva, the capital of the Fiji Islands, was destroyed by a hurricane on March 6. The storm was the worst ever known in the southern Pacific.

The news from Cape Town is very alarming. The Transvaal is being fortified, the burghers are arming to the teeth, and other warlike preparations are being made.

A terrible explosion of fire-damp has taken place at Brunnerton, N.Z. Five persons were killed outright, and sixty more are entombed with no hope of their being rescued.

Gen. Ellena, who was wounded at the battle of Adowa, says that the Italian troops are utterly demoralized, and that if the war is continued in Italy will be exposed to great disillusions.

M. Lockroy, the French Minister of Marine, announces that the Northern squadron would not go to its usual cruising grounds, but would shortly proceed to the English Channel and the Bay of Biscay.

The Commission of the Egyptian Debt met in Cairo and decided to advance five hundred thousands pounds to meet the expenses of the British-Nile expedition. The French and Russian commissioners dissented.

The St. Petersburg Novoe Vremya and Novosti admit that England has a mission to protect the Nile valley, and that Dongola, Kassala, and Berber, the three keys of the Soudan, must eventually fall into English hands.

The Egyptian Debt Commissioners on Thursday paid the first instalment of two hundred thousand pounds of the money required for the expense of the British-Egyptian expedition up the Nile.

It appears that the revolt in Matabeleland is much more serious than at first reported. The disturbance is spreading among the natives, fanned by German agents, and it is feared an attempt will be made to drive the British out of Africa.

There is a renewal of the murder of Christians on the island of Crete, and it is believed that the Turkish troops are waiting for the Christians to retaliate when they will seize the occasion to begin a general massacre of Christians.

Hostility to Great Britain is openly and freely expressed at Pretoria, and emissaries have been sent to the Orange Free State and to Cape Colony to stir up, it is stated, race feeling. Germany and France, it is said, will guarantee the independence of the Transvaal if necessary.

Prof. Brogger of Christiania, and Baron Toll, of St. Petersburg, believe that Dr. Nansen has discovered the North Pole, and is returning by the way of the New Siberian islands, and he will likely reach Norway in the autumn. Should he not return by then, there would still be time to send an expedition in search of him.

The Madrid Epoca, in an article which is supposed to reflect the opinion of the Cabinet, challenges the United States to doff its mask and display its true colours. If they want war, Spain is ready to face it with becoming dignity. Otherwise it advises the United States politicians to desist from their vexatious debates and covert hostility.

THE RATS KNOW RILEY.

He Shares His Luncheon With Them, and They Have Confidence in Him.

Addison Riley, a blacksmith in Indianapolis, has a small company of rats that come at his call each noon hour. As with the celebrated Pied Piper of Hamelin, the rats come from their holes at his bidding; but with the case of Mr. Riley, it is food and not music that attracts them. By careful treatment, however, he has taught them to know him, and they are no more afraid of him than of a bushel of corn. Each noon, as Mr. Riley sits down to his lunch the rats begin to come, and so great is their confidence in him that they will climb on his lap, eat from his hand, and allow him to stroke them. After the meal they will scamper back under the worn floors of the shop.

The process by which Riley has succeeded in training the rats has been a tedious one. He commenced by getting them to come a little way from their holes for crumbs. He then increased the distance between the food and the rat's retreat. They finally learned that he meant them no harm, and now he is regarded by them as a great friend. The novelty of rats coming from their places of safety to eat from the hands of a man has attracted many people in the blacksmith shop during noon hours. The rats will not venture far out when any strangers are near at hand. A stranger may stand a few feet away, but it is observed that all the while the rats are running about Riley they have an eye on the stranger, and at the slightest move they run away as fast as possible.

Riley has seven or eight animals trained not to fear him. He knows one from the other. There are three or four old rats with white whiskers, but the hot-blooded young ones are the most daring. Occasionally a visiting rat to Mr. Riley's colony will come out as far as the hole, but will fly back with dismay.

Riley has a fixed place for eating his lunch. He has a small stool on which he sits, placing his dinner basket in a window casement. At his feet he places some crumbs and dainty bits in a cigar box, and while he eats the rats gather round the box. They

CROWD AND JOSTLE

one another, and while they are eating Riley could kill all of them if he wished to, but he would not harm one of them. There is nothing about the shop which can be damaged by rats so the colony is not a nuisance.

The rats seem to know when it is time to dine. Riley will take his lunch backet and commence his meal, throwing a few crumbs near the rat holes. He is teaching them to come out by a call, but as they usually seem ready to come out when work in the shop ceases it is hard to tell just how much they are learning about the call. After they have consumed their daily meal in the box they will run up Mr. Riley's legs and across his lap, bits of food being the rewards. The other workmen have tried to exert the same influence over them, but all attempts have been in vain. The rats only come out for Riley, and the other workmen can only stand off and look at the interesting exhibition. They do not object if he strokes them or picks them up, but the raising of a hand by some one else is the signal for a scatterment.

During the last week the rats have been shy. Monday they would not come out. Tuesday two rash fellows ventured a short distance from their holes. Wednesday the colony would come out for food placed very near the holes. Thursday they ventured again to the feet of Riley, and showed their old-time confidence. Riley was at a loss to explain the timidity of his friends, but only a possible explanation could be found. Last Sunday the employees of a livery stable but a few yards away made a raid on the rats about the place. Traps were set and several dozen caught. The rats were brought to the street and turned loose at the mercy of a number of dogs. It was a slaughter for rats. Riley thinks that perhaps his colony received news of the slaughter and became alarmed lest the same fate awaited them. The suggestion was made that perhaps some relatives of Riley's colony were killed in the slaughter and his friends were in mourning. Anyway, the pets remained under the shop floor and out of sight for two or three days. Riley has been unable to train them any more than to have no fear of him. He says they are friendly simply for the food there is in it.

WRITTEN IN ENGLISH.

Two-thirds of all the letters which pass through the post office of the world are written by and sent to people who speak English.

HOUSEHOLD.

CARE OF GLASSWARE.

No matter how beautifully a table is set, if the china and glassware are not clean and bright looking it bespeaks a careless and negligent housekeeper. It is certainly as essential to have this part of the service as beautiful as the silver. It is no difficult task to keep the glassware in good condition if only proper care is given it. A perfectly clean pan with not a trace of grease in it should be used to wash the glassware in. Soap is not necessary, but many people put just a little in the water. The water should be very hot, and after the glass is washed it should be wiped and polished until it shines, with a soft towel, preferably one of cotton, as the linen ones are apt to leave particles of lint clinging to the glass. Glassware and china should never be placed on the table without first being polished with a clean cloth, thus removing all traces of dust, lint or grease.

Decanters and water bottles are often difficult to clean. A good way is to thoroughly soap small bits of newspaper and put them inside. Pour some warm water upon them and shake well after ten or fifteen minutes and then rinse. Tiny bits of potatoes or tea leaves are just as effectual for the purpose.

THE VALUE OF OUR MISTAKES.

It is always a pleasant thing to be right, but it is generally a much more useful thing to be wrong. If you are right, all that you do, as a rule, is to confirm your previous opinion, your previous habits of reasoning, and your previous self-esteem. But if you are wrong, you generally gain in knowledge and gain perception of the way in which your method of diagnosis needs improvement, and the influence on self-esteem is not likely to do you harm.

At least that is my own experience, and I think I have observed it confirmed in others. But the result is dependent upon deliberate effort.

There is a strong temptation to smooth down error, and it is very easy not to gain from its precious lesson. It is more easy to fancy that there is some accidental cause for the mistake than frankly to perceive that it is a fault. But if you make a deliberate effort to realize and to face in your own mind the mistake you have made, to discern its cause, and to employ this perception as far as you can to remove the cause and prevent a like mistake in the future—if you can do this, almost every error becomes one of the precious experience of your practical life.

ORANGE DESSERTS.

Orange Ice.—Take the juice of 6 large oranges and 2 lemons, allow 1 1-2 lbs. sugar and 3 pints of water to simmer together until the sugar is well melted, cool and freeze.

Orange Sherbet.—Take 2 dozen oranges, peel off the yellow rind, then take off the white skin and strain through a seive, add 3 cups of sugar, heat together and strain through a flannel jelly bag, then freeze.

To Glace Oranges.—Take fresh, solid fruit (the navels are very nice for this), peel carefully, separate the parts so as not to break the skin, set them on a dish near a fire to dry, add 1-2 cup of water to 1 lb. of granulated sugar, mix well together and set over the fire in a porcelain-lined kettle. Let it come to a boil slowly, never stir after it has dissolved; when it has boiled about 12 minutes, dip up a little on the end of a spoon and drop it in very cold water, take it out and break it quickly. If it is sticky it must be boiled longer. If it breaks off brittle it is cooked enough. Remove from the fire and add one spoonful of lemon juice, set the kettle in a pan of cold water. Take the pieces of orange on a hat pin and dip in the syrup and out again, lay on a piece of greased paper on a tin, and set them in a warm oven, or in the sun to dry.

PREPARATIONS FOR CABBAGE.

Hot Slaw.—Slice with a sharp knife from a solid head of cabbage enough to cook, put in a kettle over the fire with half a cup or more of hot water, cover closely to keep the steam in, cook 20 to 30 minutes, then add salt and butter. Just before taking it up add a few spoonfuls of vinegar.

Dressing for Salad.—Beat yolks of 2 eggs thoroughly, add 1 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons white sugar, 1 teaspoon mustard, 1-4 teaspoon pepper, 1 tablespoon butter, 4 tablespoons cider vinegar, mix well together and put in a double kettle over the fire, stir until it thickens, set away until very cold; when ready to use, take the cabbage from the ice box and shave, put in a bowl and pour the dressing over it. Mix with a silver fork and set in the ice box until ready to serve.

Cabbage Salad, No. 2.—Half a large head of solid white cabbage, 6 eggs, 1 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon melted butter, 1-4 teaspoon mustard and 1-2 cup of cider vinegar; shave the cabbage fine, leaving out all the hard or wilted pieces. Boil the eggs 5 minutes or more until they are hard-boiled, then put them in cold water. When cold take the shell off and chop fine, leaving one whole. Mix with the cabbage after the other ingredients are mixed through it. Pour in a salad dish, slice the whole egg and garnish the top. Keep in the ice box until ready to serve.

Creamed Cabbage.—Chop part of a solid head of cabbage fine in chopping bowl, put in a kettle with a cup of hot water, keep covered and cook quickly. When tender drain off the water, if any remains; season with butter and salt, then add one cup of sweet cream; if you have no cream, stir in two spoons of flour in cold milk until smooth, then add a cup of milk and stir all in the cabbage; remove and serve.

CARE OF THE PIANO.

It is sad to see in many homes the ill usage given the piano. An instrument so delicately and intricately constructed should receive the best care to keep it in perfect condition. This is true of any and all musical instruments. The piano, as a rule, is placed in the parlor. Unless used daily this room is kept dark and cold, and is oftentimes very damp. Then too, the instrument is closed probably from one week's end to the other. It is no wonder that very often strings sound out of tune when frost, damp and darkness are permitted to play havoc with them. In many houses the piano is decorated with vases, books and other picknacks, and often hats and wraps are cast on it. Pins are placed carelessly about and fall in, sometimes between the keys, causing them to stick; sometimes inside, which causes a most annoying buzz. The piano was meant to afford music and nothing else.

If a cover can be secured it is better for the piano. A vase or two, providing they are not very heavy, with very few other ornaments may be placed upon the piano. It should be opened every day and closed at night, so the keys will not turn yellow. If it is possible to have it against an inside wall it should be done. If there is no inside wall in the room, place it at least six inches from the wall. A piano sounds better when not too close to a wall, as this permits of a circulation of warm air around it. No matter how much care is taken to avoid it, steam will penetrate even into the parlor and take the gloss off the new piano. Not oftener than once every three or four months the piano can be washed with lukewarm water in which a little pure castile soap has been dissolved. An old piece of soft silk or linen is used, and only part of the instrument is washed at a time, care being taken that the cloth is not too wet. It is then wiped dry immediately and polished with a piece of chamois or soft sheep skin. Great care must be exercised that no harsh or coarse material is used to rub the piano with, for on account of the high polish put on such furniture the least mark or scratch is always noticeable. Keep the instrument free from dust, and never use a feather duster on it. Keep a cloth or skin exclusively for that purpose and wash it frequently as the dust left on it is apt to mar the polish.

If the piano is used much it should be tuned every six months to keep it in good order. Children should never be permitted to drum on it. Such an instrument is no plaything. They are apt to hurt it more in five minutes than an accomplished player would in a year.

When sweeping the room always close the piano and cover it if possible. Do not put it too near the stove as intense heat is apt to crack it; neither place it where it is cold. Try to have a temperature of at least 60 degrees in winter; and if other care is taken of it, it will keep in good condition for years.

It is far more necessary that the teeth should be properly brushed in childhood than in later life, because at the time the permanent teeth are taking the place of the temporary teeth the fluids of the mouth are of an acid nature, and the enamel and dentrine have not become hardened. Therefore, decay is much more rapid and liable to occur.

FIRE BRIGADE OF PARIS.

A Powerful and Efficient Body, but Badly Managed.

Most people will be surprised to learn that the Paris Fire Brigade is simply an infantry regiment let out to the town by the Minister of War. Seventeen hundred men, divided into two battalions of six companies each, make up the powerful and efficient body. Each sapeur pompier is a picked man, recruited from the general army, where he must have already served at least eight months. Unfortunately, the regiment is broken up, the men being distributed over twelve Parisian barracks. As may be easily imagined, this state of things leads to endless annoyance and difficulty. Each company or half-company is supposed to attend to fires in its own district, and in every one of the twelve barracks are a fire-engine and fire-escape, the cost of which is twenty-five thousand francs. In Berlin and St. Petersburg, as in London, the Fire Brigade is entirely a civil matter, having nothing directly to do with the Government. Russian firemen are peculiarly courageous, and go about their work quite silently. M. d'Almeras considers that the French provincial fire brigades are very badly organized, and he would like to see an inquiry made into the whole matter. In Paris alone there are each year three times as many fires as occur in Vienna, five times as many as in Berlin, and twelve times as many as occur in London; and all this, he says, is owing to the absolute lack of reasonable precautions taken by the owners of large houses and manufactories.

THE JAPANESE WAY.

Feeling drowsy in a public conveyance and not being able to lie down, a Japanese woman will lift her long sleeve before her face ere she begins to nod. In this second class railway carriage there are now three women asleep in a row, all with faces screened by the left sleeve and all swaying together with the rocking of the train, like lotus flowers in a soft current, writes Lafcadio Hearn. (This use of the left sleeve is either fortuitous or instinctive—probably instinctive, as the right hand serves best to cling to strap or seat in case of shock.) The spectacle is at once pretty and funny, but especially pretty, as exemplifying that grace with which a refined Japanese woman does everything—always in the daintiest and least selfish way possible. It is pathetic, too, for the attitude is also that of sorrow and sometimes of weary prayer, all because of the trained sense of duty to show only one's happiest face to the world.

A HEAVY DEBT.

Mrs. Lightpurse—Here is an article in this paper entitled "The world's Debt to the Jews." Shall I read it?

Mr. Lightpurse—No; that's a chestnut, I guess. Nearly everybody is in debt to the Jews; we all know that. Here, put this last pawn ticket with the others.