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 British warship Intrepid is at Halifax.

The next annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada will be held in Halifax.

Bayard Pitton, aged 7, of Hamilton, was given 7 years in the Industrial School for attempted larceny.

A project is on foot to build an electric road from Hamilton to Alberton, through Ancaster.

Dr. Wm. McN. Jones, principal medical officer of the quarantine station at Vancouver Island is dead.

Reports have been received at the Marine Department of a terrific storm on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Application will be made at the July session of Parliament to incorporate the Hudson Bay and Pacific Railway Company.

April deposits in the Government saving banks amounted to $236,905, making $17,265,259 on deposit at the end of the month.

Regulations respecting quarantine have been issued in revised form as amended by an order-in-Council passed on the 4th inst.

The by-law removing the government of the hospital from municipal politics to a board of governors was passed by the Hamilton City Council on Monday night.

Michael Horn and Mark Tompkins have each been sentenced at Hamilton to 12 years in the penitentiary for waylaying and robbing Mayor Tuckett's cashier.

Col. Stacey, owner of the St. Thomas Street Railway, has made an offer to electrify it, provided he is given an eight or ten year contract for street lighting.

Lieut.-Col. A. H. Macdonald, commanding the Guelph Garrison Battery, is about to retire after 25 years' service. He will be succeeded by Lieut.-Col. Nicoll.

A mass meeting was held at St. John, N. B., to protest against the action of the Federal Government in omitting that port from the tenders called for the fast Atlantic line.

Mr. Thomas Fred S. Kirkpatrick, brother of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who was in the Civil Service for the past twenty-three years, died in Ottawa on Thursday morning.

The Montreal coroner's jury appointed to investigate the killing of the Belgian Rousseau by Pons, his French brother-in-law, returned a verdict that Pons had acted in self-defence, and the prisoner was set at liberty.

Mr. Fitzhugh, of Montreal, representing Mr. Hays, the general manager of the Grand Trunk railway, said that there was no truth in the report that men are being dismissed from the locomotive shops because the Grand Trunk in future intended having their engines built in the United States.

A Halifax evening paper announces that the scheme of coast defence which is being prepared for submission to the Canadian Government estimates that three fast cruisers, with quick-firing guns, would be necessary on the Atlantic to cover the Gulf of St. Lawrence and coast waters of Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Prince of Wales is going to pay a visit to Mr. William Waldorf Astor at Clivedon in June.

Owing to the block of Government business in the Imperial House of Commons it is almost certain that an autumn session will be called.

The Irish National party have decided to call a national convention of representative Irishmen from all parts of the world to meet in Dublin in September.

Sir John Russell Reynolds, physician-in-ordinary to the Queen's household and president of the Royal College of Physicians, is in a critical condition, and growing weaker.

Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, of London, at one time a well known newspaper man, has been offered the post of British Ambassador to Turkey in succession to Sir Phillip Currie.

According to the report of the British Board of Agriculture, five per cent. of the Danish butter submitted for analysis was found to be adulterated, while Canada's samples were all pure.

A manifesto signed by Mr. Henry Labouchere and eighteen other Radical members of the House of Commons has been issued, announcing the formation in the House of an advanced Radical section.

At a meeting of the anti-Parnellite members of the House of Commons on Wednesday, it was resolved to make earnest effort to bring about a reconciliation with the Parnellites, and to reconstruct a united Home Rule party.

Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, presided on Thursday night at the South African annual dinner. In his address he expressed regret at the small progress which had been made towards the reconciliation of the Dutch and English in South Africa.

UNITED STATES.

The carpenters of Buffalo are on strike for an eight-hour day.

The strike among the ship-builders at Cleveland, Ohio, has ended.

A terrific storm of wind, rain and hail passed over Washington on Tuesday, and broke up the Cabinet meeting in progress at the White House.

At Washington fire swept a whole block of commercial buildings, opposite the Smithsonian Institution. Four firemen were crushed to death by falling walls.

It is stated positively in Washington that the Uruan difficulty has not yet been settled, nor any indemnity been paid to Great Britain by the Venezuelan Government.

"Aunt" Sarah Haviland has been released from the state prison at Jackson, Mich., after serving a term of 30 years. She will visit her daughter who the despatch says "lives in Canada."

Congress on Wednesday agreed to the Corliss amendment to the United States Immigration Bill, which renders all contracts with aliens to perform labor in the United States null and void.

One of the most successful mining men of Colorado is said to be Count James Portales, a member of a famous old German noble family, who has been in the west about twelve years. He is a skilled metallurgist.

It is reported at St. Paul, Minn., that the private fortune of Archbishop Ireland, estimated at $1,500,000, has been dissipated, owing to the depression of real estate in St. Paul.

The Corliss amendment to the United States Immigration bill, which renders all contracts with aliens to perform labor in the United States null and void, was agreed to in the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

GENERAL.

Mark Twain has been lecturing to crowded houses at Johannesberg.

The port of Antofagasta, Chili, was visited by a destructive cyclone on Sunday.

A despatch from Cairo says that a death from cholera is reported among the Egyptian troops at Tourab.

Cairo, Egypt, had nine deaths and 11 fresh cases of cholera on Sunday, and Alexandria 20 deaths and 73 new cases.

Emperor William has prohibited the entry of the Cologne Gazette into his castles and residences. It criticised him.

The report that the Cuban insurgents are using explosive bullets is confirmed.

A chandelier fell in an opera house in Paris on Wednesday night. In the panic that followed one woman was killed and several persons injured.

Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of Cape Colony, and Sir Graham Bower, Imperial Secretary, have sailed for England.

Emperor William has offended the clerical party in Germany by declaring that clergymen have no right to interfere in politics.

Two steamers will leave Hamburg next week for German South-west Africa, with 416 soldiers and 200 tons of war material.

Col. Liebert, of the Prussian service, has accepted the mission of organizing the Chinese army, and will leave for China next week.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes has telegraphed to Cape Town saying that if he effects a junction with Capt. Napier the Matabele rebellion will be broken.

Advocate Cloote has been appointed British Diplomatic Agent at Pretoria in succession to Sir Jacobus De Wet, who resigned a few weeks ago.

A despatch from Vladivostock says that quiet has been restored at Seoul, and that the King of Corea will return to his palace from the Russian Legation.

Several thousand persons took part in a demonstration in Paris on Sunday, near the statue of Jeanne d'Arc, demanding the establishment of a national fete in her honour.

The British, French, and Russian Embassies at Constantinople have each received cheques for ten thousand pounds as indemnity for the outrages at Jeddah in May last.

The daughter of General Hippolyte, lately deceased President of the Haytian Republic, is at present in Paris for the purpose of perfecting herself in the French language.

Archduke Charles Louis of Austria, heir-presumptive to the thrones of Austria and Hungary, the eldest brother of Emperor Francis Joseph, is dead. He was sixty-three years of age.

A German military court has sentenced Count von Kotze to two years' imprisonment in a fortress as a punishment for his duel with Baron von Schrader, which resulted in the death of the latter.

It is stated that the filibustering steamer Laurada, bound for Cuba, has on board three cannons invented by Josef C. Perrault, of Montreal, which are of such a deadly character that they could annihilate an army in a few minutes.

Minnie Allen, now in prison at Waupun, Wis., claims that she killed Montgomery Gibbs, a Buffalo lawyer, for which crime Sadie and Clarence Robinson are now suffering. Minnie Allen (nee Clarke) says she was born in Owen Sound, and passed part of her life in Toronto.

CHEERFUL PROSPECT.

What a Young Minister Had to Inspire Pleasant Thoughts.

A nervous young minister, in visiting a neighboring village, had an unpleasant experience. The old lady at whose house he stayed, in showing him to his room, said:

"It ain't anybody I'd put in this room. this here room is full of sacred associations to me," she went on. "My first husband died in that bed with his head on these pillows, and poor Mr. Jenks died sitting in that corner. Sometimes when I come into the room in the dark I think I see him sitting there still. My own father died layin' right on that lounge right under the window there. Poor pa, he was a Spiritualist, and he allus said he'd appear in this room after he died, and sometimes I am foolish enough to look for him. If you should see anything of him to-night, you'd better not tell me. It'd be a sign to me that there was something in Spiritualism, and I'd hate to think that. My son by my first man fell dead of heart disease right where you stand. He was a doctor, and there's two whole skeletons in that closet there belonged to him, and a half dozen skulls in that lower drawer. If you are up early, and want something to amuse yourself with before breakfast, just open that cupboard there, and you will find a lot of dead men's bones. My poor boy thought a lot of them. Well, good-night, and pleasant dreams."

PANIC-STRICKEN GEESE.

During a terrific but short thunderstorm at Lytham, England, on a recent evening, large flocks of wild ducks and geese flew over the town in a panic-stricken condition, screeching very loudly. They had been driven from the banks of the river, and so low did they fly in the country that farmers went out and knocked them down with sticks.

CONGO CANNIBAL KINGS.

STRANGE FEASTS OF THESE AFRICAN GENTLEMEN.

Amazons Killed in Battle Are Preserved to Furnish Food For Savage Monarch's Tables—A French Traveller's Experience on the Congo.

The cannibal kings of African tribes still adhere to their horrid food and indulge in it whenever they can. When one of a king's numerous wives dies her body is smoked and kept in the royal pantry until required to furnish forth a festal board. The cannibals believe that the virtues of the dead are transferred to the person that eats the flesh.

M. Xavier Pene, a member of the Societie de Geographie and Anthropologie of France, has spent thirty-five years of his life as an explorer and trader in South Africa. He has, probably, a more intimate knowledge of the tribes of the great Congo region than any other man living.

A TRAVELLER'S ADVENTURE.

The chief wife of King Dongo, the ruler of several flourishing villages on the Congo, was a famous Amazon princess, for whom, according to custom, King Dongo had paid to her father a very large sum in native commodities.

One day, returning from a trading expedition up the Congo River, M. Pene, with his negro servant, stopped at one of Dongo's villages to request additional bearers for the rubber they were conveying to the coast. King Dongo was not at the village, but was expected in the morning. During the night the village was fiercely attacked by enemies and in the fight a number of Dongo's people were slain, among others, the Amazon princess, his chief wife.

"When I opened my eyes in the morning," said M. Pene, "The first thing on which they rested was King Dongo. He had returned at dawn. From under the cot on which I slept he had drawn a short box and into this was putting the limbs, trunk and head of a woman. I judged they were those of the Amazon who had been killed in the skirmish of the previous night, but Dongo was sulky and would not tell me what he meant to do with them. Closing the box he pushed it under the cot and left the hut.

"I had no inclination to remain in such company and followed the king. I searched about the village for him, but in my absence from the hut he had returned and taken the box to a village a few miles away. I vainly waited for his return all that day, the villagers advising me that in his present mood it would be dangerous to approach Dongo.

A HORRID FEAST.

"The following morning I determined to wait no longer. The villagers were demoralizing my own negroes. Ever since the battle they had been feasting on the slain and were beginning to exhibit that ungovernable fierceness which is the result of cannibalism. They were literally drunk with blood. None of the negroes would accompany me to the other village as they were afraid of the King. When I reached the village the negroes were almost afraid to direct me to the royal abode, and tried to dissuade me from disturbing Dongo.

"As I walked towards the group of palm trees which sheltered the King's hut I noticed smoke was pouring from every crack and cranny of the walls and roof. As I neared the hut I heard a man's voice raised in hideous shrieks and lamentations. An offensive odor assailed my nostrils.

"I knocked loudly on the hut door and Dongo suspended his wailings long enough to order me away. I had no intention of going until I had obtained what I wanted, and so knocked again. Receiving no answer, I pushed open the door and stepped inside. For a moment I nearly fainted; then I rushed out for a breath of fresh air. King Dongo sullenly followed.

A STRANGE SMOKE-HOUSE.

"In the minute's glimpse of the hut's interior I saw a strange sight. Suspended from the roof of the cabin were the legs and head of a human—the head a woman's. In the centre of the room a wood fire was smouldering, and the strange odor that had assailed me on approaching the hovel was a hundred times intensified. I asked the African King in his native dialect:

"'What is the matter? Why do you so inhospitably forsake your friends and, shutting yourself in your hut, indulge i nthese unmanly tears? Is it worthy of the great warrior, the great King?'

"'Alas, no,' replied the African 'It is all for this woman. Unhappy wretch that I am, I gave nearly half I owned to buy her from her tribe. They are very powerful and may demand many ivory tusks and ostrich feathers and much cattle for her death. That is not all. She was the chief woman of my household. Never were there such farms as those she superintended. With her half my revenue is gone.'

"'Cheer up—cheer up!' I advised. 'Things may not be so bad as you think.'

"'Things are very bad indeed,' replied the monarch; 'but, since I must lose so much, I will not lose her body. When I eat of her flesh her courage will become my courage; she was braver than all the warriors of the tribe. When I eat of her flesh her wisdom will become my wisdom; she was wiser than any princess of the Congo. Thus will she cheer my heart in hours of despair, and her virtues will again be mine. When hunger of the heart comes to Dongo he will but taste of the flesh of his queen and the evil spirits must flee away. Great will be Dongo's power in battle and great will be his wisdom in council.'

"'Then,' said I, pointing to the cabin, those things suspended from the ceiling of the hut are the remains of your wife?'

"'The white man has said it,'

"'And you are smoking it to preserve it?'

"'With prayers and incantations which you have interrupted,' assented the King. 'Had it been a black man his death would have been the price of his presumption. But the work is almost finished. Will the great white man state his errand?'

THE CANNIBALS' BELIEF.

"I promptly stated it. As he listened Dongo went into the hut to cut down the portions of smoked flesh. He brought out the box in which the body had been placed to convey it from the scene of battle, and, for all I know, King Dongo may to this day be fortifying his courage by an occasional nibble of smoked wife.

"Certain it is he became one of the most powerful chiefs along the Congo, and added by conquest many villages to his possessions. The negroes feared him greatly, and no doubt Dongo himself ascribes it all to that horrible cannibal tonic which he keeps stored in the chest under his cot. This occurred only two or three years ago."

INVITATIONS.

BY ELIZA R. PARKER.

The progress of our people and the improvements in the social code of even our small towns and rural districts require that a knowledge of the prevailing rules of etiquette should be acquired. In no particular is this more important than that of invitations for various occasions, as a vague idea upon the subject leads to errors which are, many times, mortifying, showing as they do the ignorance of those sending or receiving them.

During the season of entertainments, many notes and cards of invitations are received by people who go into society which require answers, but regarding the sending of which they are very negligent.

In sending out cards of invitation for a formal party, an idea may be given of its style. If only a small affair, it may be so announced, "Small and early" being placed on the cards. "Dancing" may be placed in one corner of the card. "R.S.V.P.," which stands for the request, "Repondez s'il vous plait," is also often added, though the request in plain English for an answer is quite as much used, and may have more force in it.

A hostess should arrange to send her invitations out systematically, or confusion will ensue. When a large party—dining or luncheon—is to be given, a list of the guests to be invited should be prepared, and as each invitation is addressed, the name should be marked off.

It is now good form to send invitations by mail, if more convenient than by a messenger.

In small places, for an informal entertainment invitations may be written on a visiting card, or in the form of a friendly note. If more convenient, friends may be given personal invitations. To such an answer is not expected, as it is presumed absence upon such occasions causes no inconvenience to the hostess.

For house-parties, now becoming popular in our country homes, less formality is indulged in. It is necessary, however, to send such some time in advance, and to specify the length of stay expected—as, from Thursday to Saturday. This is an English custom, much to be commended. It relieves a guest of all dread of staying beyond a season of welcome, and does not prevent the invitation being extended, if so desired on the part of the hostess.

All formal invitations require an answer whether accepted or refused. It is not at all necessary to give a reason for refusing an invitation, unless one wishes to say a previous engagement prevents acceptance. No well-bred person will offer excuses of length, or mention personal reasons for declining an invitation.

Wedding invitations, are, of course, the most formal given. They should be sent out two weeks before the event, and should either be accepted or declined, except upon the occasion of a church wedding, unaccompanied by an invitation to the home of the bride's parents.

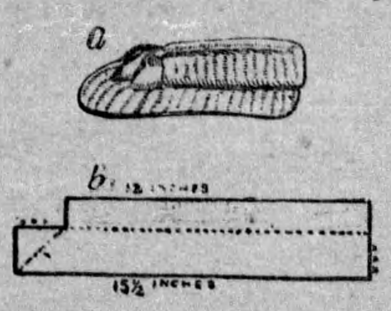
Invitations which meet with no recognition, either by attendance, an excuse, or after-call, should never be repeated, as to ignore such a civility on the part of a friend is an unpardonable breach of courtesy, to say nothing of the want of good manners displayed by such neglect.

When doubts as to the propriety of replying to an invitation are entertained by persons unaccustomed to the rules of society, the better plan is always to be on the safe side, and answer such. If not exactly in keeping with the requirements of the occasion, the well-bred hostess to whom it is sent will certainly regard the mistake with a degree of indulgence and good will which would not be extended to an omission of courtesy in the opposite direction.

Common sense has far more to do with the observance of minor points of etiquette than is usually supposed, and when combined with kind feeling, will not lead its possessor far astray.

COMFORTABLE SLIPPERS.

The requisites are, one pair sheepskin soles, one yard of one-inch ribbon, one hank of Germantown yarn, two large steel knitting needles. Cast on forty stitches, and for No. 3 soles knit back and forth till the strip is 12 inches long.



Bind off sixteen stitches and knit till the entire strip measures 15 1-2 inches. The dotted lines in Fig b show where the slipper is folded and the crosses, where the two edges are joined together. Fig a shows the slipper complete.

MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON.

The mountains of the moon are immensely larger in proportion than those of the earth. The moon is but one forty-ninth the size of the earth, but its mountain peaks are nearly as high. Twenty-two are higher than Mount Blanc, which is within a few feet of three miles high. The highest is a little more than four miles and a half.

NELSON'S OLD SHIP.

The Foudroyant to be Purchased by a Syndicate of Englishmen.

The cable brings news that Admiral Nelson's old line of battle ship, the Foudroyant, which has lain for several years in a German shipyard, has just been purchased by several Englishmen, imbued with a truly patriotic spirit, and it is their purpose to restore the grand old vessel as nearly to her original condition as possible and then exhibit her in all the ports of the world. Thus there is a commercial as well as patriotic motive behind the action.

All Englishmen treasure Nelson relics, and it is not to be wondered at, therefore, that they have an especial fondness for the Foudroyant, for it was said Nelson regarded it as his favorite ship and loved it, "as a father loves his child."

Not long ago—only in 1892—the English newspapers and periodicals teemed with articles about Nelson and his ship, because at that time the British Admiralty had sold the hull of the Foudroyant to a German firm, at the Baltic port of Swinemude, to be broken up for the timber in it. The ship was built of wood throughout, for she ploughed the seas at a time when steel and iron craft had not been thought of.

The announcement of the Admiralty's purpose created

A GREAT SENSATION.

in all parts of England, and public spirit was so aroused in favour of preserving the ship as an historical relic that a fund was started for its repurchase, the sum necessary for that purpose, it was estimated, being about $30,000. Money was freely contributed, but before the full amount was realized it was announced by the London agents of the German line that they had disposed of the ship by private sale to a few Englishmen, and that it would soon be sent back to England. There was great rejoicing therefore when the Foudroyant was towed into the Thames and anchored.

It seems, however, that a German who makes a specialty in dealing in such relics subsequently bought what remained of the famous old fighter, and it is from him that the hulk has just been purchased. They intend to spend a good deal of money in refitting the ship in the style prevailing in Nelson's time, and will even go to the extent of reproducing the furniture of the great Admiral's cabin.

Englishmen still speak fondly of the Foudroyant, and hardly ever mention Nelson's name without linking hers with his. She was a great high, bulky ship, with guns on every deck, and a massive carving of Jupiter for her figurehead. When she was towed into the Thames a few years ago there was but little left of her, and her grand, broken-nosed old figurehead had been sawed off and stood pouting, as it were, in the midst of the ruins of the main deck.

ABOUT THE FOUDROYANT.

She was, in 1798, one of the squadron of Commodore Sir John Borlast Warren, who frustrated Commodore Bonapart's plan to land troops in Lough Swilly, and took the French 74-gun Hoche and three frigates. The Earl St. Vincent sent the Foudroyant in 1799 to reinforce Admiral Nelson's fleet at Palermo, and on June 8 Nelson hoisted his flag to her mizzenmasthead.

It was in his room on the Foudroyant that Lord Nelson annulled the treaty made by Captain Foote with the French garrison, which had surrendered with the condition that they should be sent to France. It was on board of the Foudroyant also that Francisco Coracciolo, who had commanded the Tancredi in the fleet under Hotham, but who deserted to take service in the Parthenopian Republic, was convicted by a court-martial and sentenced to be hanged at the yard arm of the Minerva.

The Englishmen who have undertaken the work of refitting the Foudroyant believe it will be completed before next fall, and that next spring she will be in shape to be taken to the various ports of the world for exhibition.

TYPEWRITERS.

Miss May H. Ashworth is at the head of a typewriting department introduced May, 1895, for the benefit of the members of the English House of Commons. She has a staff of five young women, who are proficient typewriters and stenographers. Some of them are also expert linguists. The nature of the work required is thus described by Miss Ashworth: "There are many occasions when a member of Parliament wants some lotters, or a speech, or a note to his constituents typewritten, and, when he does, we are at his service. He may also have a foreign letter, written in a language with which he is not conversant; again we are at his service. Or he may be in a hurry, and have several letters to write; so he sends for one of my staff, dictates them to her, and they are written down as quickly as he speaks." This employment of women in the British House of Commons is an innovation that attracts much attention. One day, after the head clerk had written dictated letters for an old member, he rushed out of the room, seized the arm of a friend, and, dragging him in, cried excitedly, "Just think of it! This young lady has written ten letters for me in five minutes. It's marvelous! Simply marvelous!"

TELEPHONE IN WAR.

The telephone was put to a novel use recently during the Cuban war. A Cuban General, Pablo Olivia, arriving at the outskirts of a town in which was a Spanish garrison, found a telephone, and, ringing up the Spanish commander, called on him to surrender within the hour, under penalty of having the town burned. At the end of the hour he called up the fort again, and found the garrison ready to surrender, upon which he entered the town without firing a shot.