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.

City Engineer Haskins of Hamilton, died there on Sunday afternoon.

The Canadian Pacific Railway will become a member of the Joint Traffic Association.

The will of the late Godfrey P. Payzant of Windsor, N.S., bequeaths $100,000 to Acadia College.

A daring plan to rob the Bank of Commerce in Winnipeg was frustrated by its premature discovery.

Robert Stewart, an employe of the Welland canal was drowned in Lock No. 1, new canal, early Sunday morning.

A despatch from Vancouver states that the water in the Fraser River is rising and that much damage has been done upon the low lands.

Mr. Wm. McCammon, youngest son of ex-Mayor McCammon, of Kingston, Ont., was drowned at Clayton, N.Y., on Saturday night. The deceased was 22 years of age.

Peter Wheeler was convicted at Kentville, N. S., on Wednesday of the murder of sixteen-year-old Annie Kampton at Bear River, and sentenced to be hanged on Sept. 8th.

Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson before leaving Montreal for England expressed his belief that Grand Trunk affairs were progressing under the management of President Hays.

Josiah Hanson, the original of Uncle Tom in Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, died in Dresden, Ont., in 1872, and was buried in the negro cemetery near that town.

Mrs. Catharine Lawless, a patient in the Insane Asylum in Hamilton, committed suicide by hanging herself from the bars of the window in her room. She had made several attempts previously to commit suicide.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The death of Baron Fitzhardinge is announced. He was seventy years of age.

The Irish land bill was passed by the British House of Commons by a vote of 292 to 140.

The sale of the estate of the late Col. North the Nitrate King, realized five hundred thousand pounds.

The Duke of Atholl is the only nobleman who clothes his men-servants in Highland dress in London.

The sale of the estate of the late Col. North, the "Nitrate King," is reported in London to have realized $2,500,000.

The wedding of the Princess Maud of Wales and Prince Charles of Denmark has finally been fixed for the 22nd inst. The Queen will attend the ceremony.

The British revenue returns for the first quarter of the present fiscal year show an increase of £1,698,000, one million pounds of which is derived from the excise duties.

As a result of the meeting of the imperial Cabinet on Saturday, the second battalion of the King's Royal Rifles, now at Malta, has been ordered to the Cape of Good Hope.

Miss Charlotte Smith, of Washington, head of the Rescue League, has written a circular denouncing the use of the bicycle for women, as being destructive of health and leading to immorality.

The Imperial Government has acquiesced in the demand of the Opposition for the appointment of a Select Committee of Parliament to investigate the affairs of the Chartered South Africa Company.

There is a prospect of a general coal strike in England. The employers are trying to effect a 10 per cent. reduction in wages and the miners of Derbyshire and Lancashire have already refused to accept the proposition.

The lash was recently applied to the back of a man in England who had committed highway robbery. He knocked down a young woman and stole her purse. Justice Day, of the Kent Assizes, expressed his disapproval of long sentences for first offenders. He thereupon sentenced Ellis to a month's imprisonment and thirty lashes from the "cat."

It has been decided that a review of troops will be held at Aldershot camp in honour of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Boston, who are on their way to visit England.

Important conferences have been held lately between the officials of the British Admiralty and War Department and members of the Cabinet, showing that the Government views the present state of the Venezuelan question with the gravest apprehension.

Political unrest and the usual "midsummer dulness" have together produced in the United States much more than the ordinary cessation of movement which usually marks this period of the year in commercial circles. Prices all round are unprecedentedly low, and the markets largely overstocked, so that mills and factories, both north and south, are closed for terms varying from a couple of weeks until the end of August. Some threatened "labor troubles" have fortunately, in various quarters, been amicably arranged. The output of iron has been large, and works are closing for repairs.

UNITED STATES.

Cattle are dying by thousands on the Arizona ranges owing to the drouth.

A boiler explosion at Houston, Tex., killed three people and seriously injured a fourth.

An enterprising cracker bakery of Washington has now placed upon the market a "bicycle biscuit."

Benjamin Huff, an old soldier living near Niles Mich., shot his daughter-in-law, and then killed himself.

A daughter of James Mullin, of Miami, Saline county, Mo., died from eating mulberries that had been stung by locusts.

The Cheyenne Indians have donned their war paint, and are holding powwows, preparatory to a general uprising.

Robert Lansing, of Watertown, N.Y., has been appointed counsel on the part of the United States to the Behring Sea Claims Commission.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was stricken down with congestion of the brain and died on Wednesday.

In a fight between Sheriffs men and strikers near Berea, O., one man was killed and another fatally injured. Many shots were exchanged.

"Hungry Joe," the famous bunko man, recently released from a Baltimore prison, must report to the New York police every morning as long as he remains in that city.

Gen. Lawton, who served in the Confederate army with Stonewall Jackson and who for two years was United States Minister to Austria, died at Clifton Springs on Thursday.

For the first time the flag of the United States was flown on July 4th with forty-five stars on its blue field, indicating the admission of Utah to the sisterhood of States.

A systematic system of robbery, by which passenger train conductors, station agents and Pullman car porters have already stolen $15,000 from the Chicago & Alton railroad, has been discovered.

The United States treasury statement for the fiscal year 1896 discloses a deficit of $25,500,000. The deficits for the past three years aggregate $137,500,000. The deficit for July is estimated at $10,000,000.

GENERAL.

Forest fires are raging in northern Newfoundland.

The Khedive of Egypt is preparing to visit England.

Smallpox and yellow fever are causing great loss of life in Cuba.

Queen Margherita of Italy is about to publish her Alpine experiences in book form.

It is reported that a brother of Dr. Jameson has been killed by the Matabeles.

A despatch from Cairo states that during June there were 3,598 deaths from cholera.

The total number of cases of cholera in Egypt to date is 7,550, which proved fatal in 6,216 instances.

An official denial has been issued of the report that an attempt was recently made to assassinate the new Shah.

Emperor William has gone for a six weeks' cruise in northern Norway seas aboard the Imperial yacht, Hohenzollern.

The packet boat Rahmanieh, bound from Suakim for Suez, went on a reef and foundered. Sixty persons were drowned.

The number of horses killed for consumption as food in Paris last year was 23,186, this being exclusive of 43 mules and 383 donkeys.

The Cretan insurgents defeated the Turks on Wednesday, killing two hundred of them, and capturing three of their cannon.

Brazil has not yet assented to England's offer to submit the question of the occupation of the Island of Trinidad to arbitration.

By the explosion of ammunition in an arsenal near Fort Moselle in the Province of Lorraine 42 men were killed and 100 badly injured.

Notwithstanding that the American Government is confronted by a big deficit, it is proposed to spend many millions on a new army rifle.

At the launching of the new German ironclad last week the Kaiser expressed the hope that Germany will yet have a navy worthy of her armies.

The massacre of white people in Matabeleland continues, and it is expected than an assault will shortly be made upon Buluwayo by the rebels.

In an engagement between Dutch and Chinese in the Dutch Indies the Chinese lost 112 killed. Of the Dutch forces 9 were killed and 39 wounded.

It is stated in Copenhagen that the Government would be prepared to sell some of its West Indian colonies to the United States at a suitable price, for a naval station.

The Czar and Czarina made their formal entry into St. Petersburg on Saturday, and an immense concourse of people acclaimed their Majesties with great enthusiasm.

Exhaustive statistics have been compiled in Berlin to prove the success of the serum treatment of diphtheria, which has been followed in one of the largest Berlin hospitals for the past two years.

Senor Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish Premier, in discussing the difficulties which the Cuban parties have created for the Government, said they would have accepted autonomy for the island before the outbreak of the insurrection, but it could not now be granted as the price of ending the rebellion.

SNAIL'S WONDERFUL VITALITY.

The vitality of the snail is remarkable. One that was glued to a card in the British Museum for four years came to life upon being immersed in warm water. Some specimens in the collection of a naturalist revived after they had apparently been dead for 15 years.

WATER PIPES OF GLASS.

An experiment was lately tried at St. Helen's, Lancashire, of making water pipes of glass, with asphalt covering to prevent fracture. It is claimed that they give thorough protection against moisture in the ground, against the action of acids and alkalies, and that they cannot be penetrated by gases.

THE HEAT WE CAN STAND.

The human system can endure heat of 212 degrees, the boiling point of water, because the skin is a bad conductor, and because the perspiration cools the body. Men have withstood without injury a heat of 300 degrees for several minutes.

CYCLING INNOVATIONS.

Among the cycling innovations in Battersea Park, which is still the centre of London cycling, is that of a woman who carries a parasol in one hand while steering her machine with the other, and of a young woman who appears followed by liveried groom on another bicycle.

A MAN IN POSSESSION

I.

"What outrageous conduct!" exclaimed Mrs. Fielding, gazing at her daughter with wide-opened eyes.

"Very extraordinary!" agreed Ethel. "I never heard of such a thing in my life!"

"I should hope not!" returned Mrs. Fielding; "what would your poor, dear father have said if, during his lifetime, a young man had come to propose for your hand, and, on being refused by you, had expressed his intention of staying in the house until you accepted him? I've not even read in novels" (with a fine touch of scorn) "of such a preposterous notion. Did he—did—did he seem firm about it, my dear?"

"Frightfully!" Ethel assured her, "frightfully firm, and you should just see what a chin he has. It would make three of mine."

"What did you say?" asked Mrs. Fielding.

"What could I say? I've already told you everything. I met him, as you know, at the Marchant-Mainwarings, and after our first introduction, saw him almost every day during the following month. The night before I came home he proposed to me, and I—well, you know what I said. He then declared his intention of asking me again every six months, and didn't seem to care in the least when I assured him that my answer would be just the same, however many times he asked me. Well, it is exactly six months today since the—the first time I told him that I couldn't think of marrying him."

"And he expressed his intention of staying here—in this house—till you said, 'Yes'?" put in Mrs. Fielding. Ethel nodded.

"Then," was Mrs. Fielding's decision, "we must send for the police."

"Oh, no— no— no— no!" ejaculated Ethel, springing up, "please don't do that. He's sure to go. He—he's very gentlemanly, mother, and I'm sure he'll behave himself if he does stop. Besides, if he fought the policemen (and I'm sure he would fight them) there'd be such a scandal!"

Yes, Mrs. Fielding agreed that the affair would give Market Norbury a month's food for tittle-tattle, if the strong arm of the law were to intervene.

"I will see the young person myself!" exclaimed the elder lady, majestically.

"Don't be harsh, mother," said Ethel, blushing a little, "because, after all, you know he's——"

"Head over heels in love with you? Of course," rejoined Mrs. Fielding. "Of course he is. If he weren't, I should suspect him of having evil designs on the plate. Leave him to me, Ethel!"

So saying, Mrs. Fielding swept magnificently into the drawing-room.

But severe as was her tone, and stern her mien, Dick Waterbury declined to budge. He apologized for the gross rudeness of his decision, but, nevertheless, refused to spike his guns and retire. During the altercation Mrs. Fielding discovered that he was a young gentleman of twenty-five, with an ample income, and a small country seat that stood sadly in need of someone to look after it.

Twenty minutes later Mrs. Fielding returned to her daughter.

"My reasoning had no effect on him whatever," she informed Ethel; "none whatever. I suppose he must remain. He may be in a more sensible frame of mind in the morning. Don't let the servants know about the real state of things, but pretend that we have invited him to stay here, and say his luggage will arrive in due course."

The result was: 1. That Mr. Richard Waterbury gained his point and stayed at "Pleasant View." 2. That only his fixed determination to win Ethel Fielding would have led him to take such a desperate step. 3. That Ethel by no means deceived the paternal judgment when she expressed herself indignantly about Dick and his resolution. (She let slip his name—"Dick"—several times unthinkingly.) 4. That it was the general opinion in the kitchen that the gentleman who had come so suddenly—without any luggage—was a "man in possession." 5. That he seemed to the kitchen a very well-dressed man in possession. 6. That the gentleman immediately sat down and wrote a long letter, which was given to the housemaid to post. 7. That he wired to another address for some clothes. 8. That the letter was addressed to Mr. John Blunt, Friar's Court, Temple, London. And 9. that, in the opinion of the kitchen, "Friar's Court" sounded like a low place for any gentleman's friends to live in.

II.

Dick Waterbury had been with the Fieldings a week, and still showed no signs of departing from his resolution. He had soon made himself at home; he had broken the ice over the dinner-table during the first night of his stay. Mrs. Fielding and her daughter had opened the ball by treating him with frigid politeness; but Dick had pretended not to notice their manner, and rattled on so gaily that he effectually dispersed the cold barrier which the ladies had attempted to place between themselves and their self-invited guest.

After dinner he regaled them with comic songs, anecdotes, and news of the day which had failed to penetrate to the fastnesses of Market Norbury. So very agreeable did he make himself, indeed, that by bed-time he had quite won Mrs. Fielding over to his side. Ethel kept very close to her mother all the evening, he noticed, and would neither play nor sing, although she could do both very nicely. On the following day his clothes arrived, and on the third day a letter, addressed to him in a bold masculine hand. He appeared to peruse this letter with much interest, and the one he wrote in reply he delivered to the housemaid with special instructions that it was to be posted before 6 p.m., at which hour the Market Norbury mail-cart was dispatched. The housemaid told the cook that, for a man in possession, the new-comer wrote a very elegant hand. This letter, too, was addressed to that low place, Friar's Court, Temple.

So, by the time Dick had been located at "Pleasant View" seven days, he was quite on friendly—nay, intimate—terms with his hostess and her daughter. Every morning when he met the latter at the breakfast-table (seizing an opportunity, of course, when Mrs. Fielding was not present) he had asked, "Well?" and Ethel had shaken her head very determinedly, and made the most of the exceedingly dimpled chin, which only represented one-third of Mr. Waterbury's. During the whole of that week Dick had never once been out. The kitchen commented severely on this point. It savoured more of the "man in possession" than anything else he had done.

"He's been sent, and he's got to stop," was cook's verdict. "And mistress is making the best of a bad job by treating him as a gentleman guest. I've always understood that the poor master left her comf'able off, and I can't understood how she's lost her money. I suppose it's a mine or something. Thank goodness! I've got all my little savings wrapped up in a stocking, and locked in my box!"

Seven days had gone—the seventh night had come, and still Ethel remained obdurate. But she paid, her mother noticed, considerable attention to her toilet, and wore her prettiest dresses.

III.

What was that?

Mrs. Fielding sat up, bathed in cold perspiration.

What was—there it was again—a scratching on the window. She listened—her heart beating a wild tattoo against her ribs. Yes—there again—somebody was trying to break in!

Only a sliding door separated Mrs. Fielding's room from her daughter's. Her teeth chattering in time with the wild throbbing of her pulses, Mrs. Fielding crept out of bed and, the sliding door being partly open, into her daughter's room. Ethel was slumbering peacefully, but a touch awoke her. There was a hurried explanation in whispers from Mrs. Fielding, and then the two women, clutching each other for comfort, stole into the outer bedroom, and once more listened. The scratching had ceased, and only a shuffling sound could be heard; then there were footsteps on the gravel walk, and then the scullery window (which was immediately beneath) was shot up with a force that denoted a careless haste on the part of the midnight intruder.

"A burglar!" exclaimed Ethel, pale to the lips, for she was only nineteen, and an ordinary girl with ordinary nerves.

Unconsciously her lips formed the word "Dick!"

"I'll wake Mr. Waterbury," said Mrs. Fielding. She tripped swiftly out of the room, down the passage, and rapped at her guest's door.

In almost less time than it takes to relate it, Dick found himself standing at his door, in dressing-gown and trousers, trying to instil some calmness into the troubled breasts of Mrs. Fielding, her daughter, the cook, and the housemaid—for Mrs. Fielding had aroused the servants, there being comfort in numbers, even scared ones.

"Stop here," said Dick. "I'll go down. If he doesn't use arms I can manage him!"

So saying, he moved quietly downstairs, the women afraid to be left by themselves, followed him at a respectful distance. A few moments, and the darkness had swallowed up Dick's form. An anxious interval followed, during which nothing could be heard.

Suddenly there was a crash of crockery, and a savage exclamation. Then another crash. Then a whole series of crashes. The cook and housemaid shrieked with fright. Mrs. Fielding grasped the banisters and trembled Ethel trembled, too, for Dick. Yes, for Dick. She loved him, she knew it now. His life was in peril.

The house was filled with sounds of the struggle. A desperate fight was going on in the passage leading to the kitchen. The women could dimly discern the forms of the two men, who, breathing in short, quick gasps, were struggling furiously for the mastery. Backwards and forwards they swayed, with clenched teeth and straining muscles. Still the women dared not move. The couple had fought their way down to the extreme end of the passage, and were close to the scullery door. Suddenly a pistol-shot rang out, there was a cry, a splintering of wood and a crash of glass and the two vanished.

A few seconds later Dick returned, his dressing-gown half torn off his back

"He got away," he exclaimed; "but he didn't take anything. I'll get some things on and be off to the police-station."

The women gazed at their hero with fond, admiring eyes. Once again they breathed freely. Slowly they moved upstairs—all but Ethel.

"Are you hurt?" she asked him, with infinite tenderness in her voice.

"Only a bruise or two," he replied. "I'll soon set the police on his track. But first——"

He took her hand in his.

"I said I would not leave the house," he began.

Ethel looked swiftly up the stairs to make sure they two were unobserved. Then she bent forward, quickly breathed "Yes" in his ear, and fled to her room.

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The police never caught the burglar, who got back to Friar's Court quite safely, after catching the earliest train from a road-side station six miles from Market Norbury.

Ethel quite meant her "yes," and in due time was married to the "man in possession," much to the cook and housemaid's wonderment.

And Mr. John Blunt, reading the wedding announcement, chuckled softly to himself.

"It was a good idea of Dick's!" was all he said.

A STRIKING CHANGE.

But, papa, things have changed since you were young.

Yes, they have; folks used to wait fifty years for a golden wedding, and now they demand it at the start.

A MISUSED TERM.

Blobbs—What nonsense it is for newspapers, in their accounts of weddings, to describe the bride being led to the altar.

Slobbs—How so?

Blobbs—Why, most of the girls could find their way in the dark.

NICHOLAS II.'S OBJECT LESSON

He Rides on a Street Car to Show His Officers that It Isn't a Disgrace.

Nicholas II., of Russia has had some trouble in bending the stiff-necked military etiquette of his St. Petersburg regiments to suit his rather liberal ideas. He is not popular with the army, as were the three Alexanders, despite his gifts of reading rooms and dining halls to crack regiments, and therefore the innovations he recommends are introduced very slowly. Ever since he ascended the throne, for instance, he has been trying to discredit the notion that an army officer may not ride with propriety in a common street car. The army officer in St. Petersburg has long been supposed to be too rich and powerful and too far superior to civilians to associate with the ordinary street-car crowd.

One of the few untitled officers in the Russian capital ventured a few weeks ago to ride in a street car to his barracks. It was a presumptuous and courageous act, for he had to alight before the crack cavalrymen's casino of the city. It proved to be a very indiscreet act, too, for his fellow officers at once took him to task for disgracing his uniform, refused to listen to his citations of the Czar's remarks on the subject, and eventually, after days of persecution, began urging on him the propriety of his resigning his commission. In his distress the persecuted officer turned to a friend in the Ministry of War, who brought the whole affair to the Czar's notice. It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon when Nicholas heard the story. He at once put on a dark suit, ordered his adjutant to do the same, and together they went to the spot where the persecuted officer had taken a car. They boarded a car, rode on it to the barracks, alighted, boarded a returning car, and went back to the palace. The Czar wrote out a brief account of this little trip, and added to it the inquiry:

"Am I still worthy to wear the uniform of a Russian officer?"

He signed the document "Nicholas," and sent it to the Colonel of the persecuted officer's regiment. Since then there has been peace in the officers' quarters of that regiment, and the man who rode on a horse car has been treated with the deference belonging to one who pulls wires at court.

Perhaps Nicholas got his idea of an object lesson in this case from Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria. The Emperor heard several years ago that his officers in Vienna were agitated over the question of the propriety of riding in omibuses. He remarked impatiently that this was a weighty subject for large brains and should be settled before anybody's mind broke down under it. He then put on full uniform, took with him an adjutant in full uniform, and had an omnibus ride. The ride was reported in the newspapers, and the question of propriety was settled.

STRAIN OF RAILWAY WORK.

Instances Where the Tension on the Nerves Has Caused Madness and Death.

"There is reason to believe," says the British Medical Journal, "that at all times there are men on the line who are working very near to their breaking strain. We may in regard to this mention three well known instances which, at the least, show the tension under which work is often carried on. A station master, seeing a man run over on the line, himself fell down dead upon the platform. Here was a shock which permanently made his heart stand still; but how many times had not that man's heart stood still before? We may feel perfectly certain that if the major shock could kill, the minor daily recurring shocks of a railway life must have greatly damaged a heart so under the influence of the nervous system Two trains collided at a junction, It was either the fault of the drivers or of the rails, certainly not of the signal man. The signals were right; yet when the box was entered the signal man was found to have gone mad, and had to be taken to an asylum, where he remained for long. He was broken utterly by the horror of the dilemma; but what shall we say about the smaller dilemmas which every hour of his working life he had had to solve? Did they not also have an effect, although a lesser one, upon his brain? A few years ago it was found that the sickness rate among the signal men of certain lines was becoming excessive, and it was determined to do away with the system of leaving to one man the whole responsibility of taking charge of a signal box. At great expense every box along the line was supplied with two men. Great evils were prophesied; it was thought the men would talk, and lark, and neglect their duties. This did not happen, but the sickness stopped. Under the shared responsibility they no longer broke down. If then as seems to be indutiable, railway 'strain' can have definitely injurious effects upon the nervous system, it becomes an important question for inquiry whether this nervous derangement at all frequently has the effect of impairing the nutrition of the heart. Upon this special point we do not at present possess sufficient information to warrant the expression of a definite opinion."

WARNINGS.

The lark was up to meet the sun,
And caroling his lay;
The farmer's boy took down his gun
And at him blazed away.

The busy bee got up at "5,"
And buzzed the meadows o'er
The farmer's wife went for its hive,
And robbed it of its store.

The ant arose at break of day,
His labors to begin;
The greedy swallow flew that way
And took his antship in.

Oh, bees, and birds, and ants, be wise,
In proverbs take no stock;
Like me refuse from sleep to rise
Till half-past seven o'clock.

REASON ENOUGH.

Mamma, why is the ocean so angry looking?

Because it has been crossed so often, Willie.