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 new cattle buildings of the Western Fair have been completed.

A man and woman were arrested for pocket-picking at Main's circus in Berlin.

A Hamilton, Ont., grocer named Morley Allison was arrested on Tuesday on a charge of arson.

Wm. Lockhead, of Napanee, has been appointed science master of the London Collegiate Institute.

Fred. Farrar, a London boy, was bitten by a spider a few weeks ago and died from the poison.

Mr. James Hayes, bricklayers' laborer, living in the east end of London, attempted suicide by cutting his throat.

The recent hailstorm in Central Manitoba was the most disastrous experienced in the history of the Province.

Mr. Thomas Reid, of Hamilton, has secured a Canadian patent for an improved gasoline motor for horseless carriages.

Toronto bands captured the first, second and third prizes at the Hamilton band tournament in the competition for first-class bands.

The traffic receipts of the C.P.R. for the week ending July 31 were $602,000, an increase of $102,000 over the corresponding period of last year.

Philip Abbott, the tourist who was killed while mountain-climbing near Lake Louise, B.C., was a son of President Abbott of the Wisconsin Central road.

The London City Council has approved the scheme for the construction of a sewage farm system, and the ratepayers will vote on the question on September 2.

According to the quarterly report, winding up the fiscal year of the Department of Trade and Commerce, the revenue for the year was $35,659,775, as compared with $33,119,485 for the preceding year.

The Hamilton Street Railway Company has a claim against the Dominion Government under the recent decision of the Privy Council in favor of the Toronto Railway. The Hamilton Company's claim is for $18,000 duties paid on steel rails.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mrs. George Mitchell, formerly of Woodstock, was burned to death in Detroit while lighting a fire with coal oil.

Li-Hung-Chang inspected the dockyard at Portsmouth Thursday morning, and was entertained at luncheon at the Admiralty house.

It is reported that the Sultan has invoked Lord Salisbury's aid in arranging for fresh concessions to the insurgent Cretans.

Officers of the United States warship Minneapolis were banquetted in Edinburgh on Tuesday, by the municipal authorities.

The Canadian Artillerymen won the Queen's Prize and the Londonderry Challenge Cup at the Shoeburyness competition.

The Spanish Minister of Marine has sent a commission of naval officers to Glasgow to negotiate for the purchase of two ironclads.

On the Irish Land bill, in the House of Lords, Thursday, the Government was defeated on an amendment to one of the clauses by a vote of 127 to 67. It is probable that the bill will be abandoned.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will visit Ireland next month, and preach in some of the churches. No Archbishop of Canterbury has preached in any Irish church within living memory.

The London Central News says that at the request of Mr. Laurier, Mr. Edward Blake, member of Parliament for South Longford, has been added to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Sir William Grove, the eminent English jurist and scientist, is dead. He was the inventor of the powerful voltaic battery that bears his name. Sir William was eighty-five years of age.

A despatch from Neath, Glamorganshire, Wales, states that an explosion of firedamp occurred in the Bryncoach colliery there. Forty miners are imprisoned, but whether they are alive or not is not known.

An effort is being made to induce the Prince of Wales to place himself at the head of the movement for celebrating at Bristol, in June next, the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of North America by John and Sebastian Cabot, who sailed from Bristol.

It appears that the mission of Li-Hung-Chang to England is to obtain permission to increase the duties on imports. The Times intimates that this would not be allowed without obtaining a corresponding equivalent in some other direction.

The commission appointed last year by the Imperial Government to consider practical means of benefitting Ireland has reported. It favors the creation of a department headed by a Minister, and responsible to Parliament for the development and furtherance of Irish industries, agricultural and otherwise, with power to grant bounties.

UNITED STATES.

The American National Bank of New Orleans has suspended.

Forest fires are raging in the "Soo" district of Michigan.

Two women were accepted as jurors in a Chicago criminal court the other day.

The Brilliant Tube and Pipe Works at Brilliant, Ohio, have failed, throwing 500 men out of work.

Fifteen single tax advocates have been jailed for proclaiming their views in the streets of Dover, Del.

Fifty persons were poisoned by eating ice cream at Sioux City, Iowa, on Wednesday. A number will die.

Dundon & Bergin, lumber dealers of Columbus, Ohio, have failed with assets at $250,000 and liabilities at $140,000.

Prof. C. W. Winchell, who holds the chair of Greek in Park College, Parkville, Mo., has mysteriously disappeared.

Geo. Miles, aged 19, at Findlay, Ohio, yesterday, shot and killed Amos Decker, his rival for the hand of a town belle.

The efforts to raise money in the United States for the construction of railways in China have proved unsuccessful.

Nearly all the mines in Bessemer, Mich., have been closed down, and about eight thousand miners and their families are facing starvation.

A kite, sent up from the Blue Hill weather observatory as a meteorological experiment reached an altitude of 7,333 feet, the greatest height ever reached.

Mrs. Julia Houston, an alleged World's Fair diamond thief, has been arrested in Chicago. She is said to have stolen $4,000 worth of diamonds from Banker Mackay, of London.

The strike in Cleveland is again assuming serious proportions. On Tuesday morning a boarding-house occupied by non-union men was attacked, and the militia fired on the unionists, who were stoning the house.

GENERAL.

The pope is ill with rheumatism.

Yellow fever and smallpox are increasing in Cuba.

The Armenian Patriarch has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted by the Sultan.

The black plague is still raging at Hong Kong and throughout Southeastern China.

It is stated that the powers, with the exception of England, are preparing to blockade Crete.

Fifteen hundred Mussulmans are reported to have been killed by Cretans in Kenouri district.

The Mormon colonies in Mexico are prospering, owing to frugal and energetic business management.

The troops composing Plumer's column have utterly routed the impis of two big chiefs in Matabeleland.

Political intrigues against the Government in Hayti are the order of the day, and a revolution seems imminent.

Emperor William is suffering from a slight catarrh of the throat, and has been forced to abandon his proposed journey.

It is again stated in Portugal that Great Britain has recognized the sovereignty of Brazil over the island Trinidad.

It is learned that the Chinese Government witholds its permission to Russia to construct railways through Manchuria.

The news that a body of 10,000 Mussulmans forced an entrance into Heraklion, Crete, and ejected all the Christians from their homes is confirmed.

A war correspondent returned to Cape Town from Matabeleland reports that Mr. Cecil Rhodes displayed bravery verging on rashness in the fights with the Matabeles.

A great fire swept Rueda de Medina, in Spain, a town of four thousand inhabitants, on Wednesday. Hundreds of buildings were destroyed, and the inhabitants were panic-stricken.

The tomb of M. Stambuloff, ex-Premier of Bulgaria, who was assassinated in the streets of Sofia in July of last year, has been seriously injured by a dynamite bomb.

Patriotic Spaniards living in Argentina have given a Clyde ship-building firm an order for a cruiser of 4,500 tons, to cost $1,600,000, and to be delivered in eighteen months, as a gift to Spain.

There has been considerable excitement at Valencia recently, occasioned by popular demonstrations against the action of the Government in sending additional reinforcements of troops to Cuba.

Trouble of a serious nature is being fomented in Spain, particularly in the Province of Valencia, by agents of the Cuban insurgents. The Government are taking vigorous measures to suppress the rioting.

The Australian Parliament has ratified the mining concession granted to Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., of England, extending over an area of ten thousand square miles in the northern territory.

Major Lothaire, who has been on trial in Brussels, charged with illegally hanging Stokes, the English trader, in the Congo Free State, for selling arms and ammunition to the natives, has been acquitted.

The Mussulmans have burned two hundred Christian houses in the village of Kakodike, in the Province of Selmo, Island of Crete, and it is feared that the Christians, as a reprisal, are burning the Mussulman villages.

The Volksraad of the Transvaal has passed a law allowing children who attend the Public Schools to learn the language of their parents. Dutch was formerly the old language recognized in the schools, and this constituted one of the grievances of the Uitlanders.

A lady who has just returned to London from Armenia asserts that the foreign Consuls and missionaries estimate that there have been fully one million deaths in Armenia as the result of the massacres and from starvation.

The Premier of Cape Colony says that the Government proposes to attend to the defences of the country, and construct batteries at Algoa bay and in Buffalo harbour, as a contribution to the Empire of which they formed a part.

A GENTLE HINT.

Paterfamilias (serenely)—There was a young gentleman with you in the parlor last night?

Sweet Girl (gently)—Yes, pa— Mr. Stayer.

And it was after eleven before he went home, miss. I'd like to know what kept him so late.

Well, pa, you looked so angrily at me when you came in and saw him that I guess he thought I needed a protector, and so he stayed until he thought you were asleep.

PRESERVE THE FIGURE.

A narrow, hard bed is said to be the best preventive of bad figures. If one can also forego pillows, so much the better. Women with round shoulders and double chins have a means provided for their cure if they are heroic enough to give up the downy couch in which they revel. When one thinks of it, the place and position in which one spends a third of every 24 hours must have an effect upon the figure.

About the House.

A MOTHER'S WEALTH.

A woman reveled in her pearls and gold,
And seemed content with these rich gifts alone;
But from her heart there came a sigh and moan
Of bitter anguish, "Lord," she said, "I hold
These gems of priceless worth—rare gifts from thee,
Yet rather would I have a child's great love for me!"

Another, knowing well a mother's joy,
Caressed her treasures. "These, my earthly gems,
Are far more priceless than rich diadems!
!Oh, what more dear than my sweet girl and boy?"
And then she raised her voice up to the throne
And said, "Lord, I am rich in these alone!"

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION.

There is a lack of exactness, of sound and thorough training, in the elementary branches at present, due to our wish to save the children, as far as we can, from hard work. Certainly there was an unnecessary amount of drilling and routine labor in the spelling and grammer classes, for instance, of twenty-five years ago; but that labor wrought the happy result of teaching pupils to spell and write and speak the English language with accuracy and precision. Only the learning that we have fought for and conquered stays with us. A certain amount of plodding is essential to vigor of character. Is not the modern child less rugged and persistent than his grandfather was? Is he not inclined to weaken before difficulties, and think that what is troublesome is not worth doing? Courage and persistence are the characteristics of pioneers, and it is sometimes said that the present generation has less need of these qualities than the man who fought against the elements in a new, wild country.

A child learns to exert himself or to be indolent very early. The first impetus is given in the nursery, but another impulse comes with that second great stage of life, the entrance into school. There is not so great a demarcation between infancy and childhood now, since learning begins in the kindergarten and proceeds through easy and almost imperceptible stages up to college. The teacher needs both tact and decision to enable him to begin the real discipline of his pupil's mental faculties at the right time, and not prolong babyhood into the period when work should be taken up in serious earnest. Learning ought to be made agreeable, for anything which serves to keep the pupil's mind in a happy condition invigorates the tone of his entire system and makes it easier for him to exert himself. But it must not be forgotten that every new effort of the mind is, to a certain extent, essentially painful. The disagreeable stage of a labor may not be in the beginning, but it comes when some of the faculties, either the memory or the understanding, or the will, is called upon to make a new and decided effort. This is the test period, and character here either weakens or toughens accordingly as it gives up or fights the battle out and conquers. We cannot save our children this pain, and we ought not to do so. Teachers should not help their pupils over difficulties too often, else they will fall into the mental habit of deferring all troubles to a stronger and more indomitable will. And parents should not pity their children for the necessity of working hard and even painfully. All experienced educators recognize the necessity of painful efforts in the beginning of mental labors.

A sharp line ought to be drawn between work and play. The child must lay down his burden and forget its existence sometimes, or else he will become nervous and fretful. The ghosts of partially learned lessons must not haunt his dreams nor dog his enjoyments. A great difficulty with us is that the child studies not too hard, but too continuously. He dawdles over tasks that could be finished in half the time by a robust, energetic mind. Why do we not see to it that our children have blood enough to supply the power needed by their brains? A pale, sallow child should not be required to perform hard mental labor any more than ashes should be expected to give out heat. Make him exercise, make him eat, make him sleep, make a healthy animal of him, and then set him his lessons, and see how easily he will master them.

Whenever it is practible the child should be encouraged to prepare such school lessons as it is necessary to study at home, in the mornings. A lesson learned at night cannot be learned without doing violence to the natural order of the mind's activity. The natural period of acquisition is in the morning. After a period of rest and recreation there comes a second period in the afternoon when study may be pursued, the mind being less vigorous, however, and in the evening the flagging energies can only be stimulated by the will. Have the child go to bed very early and study for an hour before breakfast, and the result will tell favorably upon his health and progress.

CHOCOLATE DELICACIES.

When properly made there is no beverage more delicious than chocolate served with whipped cream. It is nourishing and more wholesome than coffee or tea and particularly refreshing and restful when one is tired.

For every cup of chocolate allow an ounce of grated chocolate and dissolve in a little cold milk, then put it into a double kettle or granite saucepan, and pour over it the desired quantity of boiling new milk, add sugar to the taste and let it simmer slowly for five minutes. Whip the mixture lightly with a wire egg beater or spoon and pour it into a hot chocolate pot. Have ready a pitcher of whipped cream and on top of every cup of chocolate drop a large spoonful of the mixture.

Vienna Chocolate.—Three heaping tablespoonfuls of grated chocolate mixed with enough cold water to make a smooth paste. Pour this into a double boiler and add to it one pint of new milk and one pint of cream which has reached a boiling point, with sufficient sugar to sweeten. Let it cook for five minutes, add the well-beaten whites of two eggs and serve.

Chocolate Bavarian Cream.—Soak half a box of gelatine in cold water half an hour. Boil a pint of milk, add the gelatine, two ounces of grated chocolate and stir until dissolved, then add half a cup of sugar and a teaspoonful of vanilla. Pour in a pan and cool until it thickens; then add a pint of cream which has been whipped stiff. Pour in a mold which has been first dipped in cold water. Let it stand over night on ice. Serve with cream.

Chocolate Blanc Mange.—One quart of milk, one ounce of gelatine dissolved in a little cold water, four tablespoonfuls of grated chocolate, three-quarters of a cup of sugar and one teaspoonful of vanilla. Cook the gelatine and milk in a double boiler until gelatine is dissolved, then add the sugar and grated chocolate (the latter having been previously made smooth with a little cold milk). Cook five minutes, strain into a mold and stand away to harden until cold and firm. It is very pretty when made in individual molds. It can be made just as well the day before.

Chocolate Tartlets.—Line patty tins with puff paste and bake, then fill with the following mixture: One pint of boiling milk, the yolks of three eggs well beaten, one tablespoonful cold water, ten ounces of grated chocolate, one ounce of sugar, a pinch of salt and a tablespoonful of butter. Cook until it thickens; then cool.

Chocolate Ice Cream.—One quart of sweet cream. Half a pound of granulated sugar. Two ounces of chocolate melted over boiling water and stirred in slowly. One teaspoon and a half of vanilla. Freeze.

Chocolate Ice Cream No. 2.—Three pints of new milk. When boiling in a double kettle add one pound of sugar, six eggs, well beaten, and six ounces of chocolate dissolved in a little hot milk before adding to the other ingredients. Let it thicken, but not boil, strain and set to cool. Freeze until nearly stiff then add one pint of whipped cream and flavor with vanilla. Freeze again.

Chocolate Caramels.—One cup of molasses, half a cup of sugar, half a cup of milk, one-fourth pound of chocolate, one large tablespoon of butter, boil until it will harden in cold water, pour into a buttered tin and cut in squares before it is hard.

Chocolate Creams.—The ordinary fondant made of whites of eggs, water and sugar flavored with vanilla and stiffened with confectioner's sugar is used for the little balls or centers. For the outside cook one cup of sugar, and half a cup of milk until it begins to candy, then stir in one square of grated chocolate. Keep it hot over boiling water and dip the creams in and out again. Drop on oiled paper.

LIGHT FROM ELECTRIC LAMPS.

Being Used Successfully to Stimulate the Growth of Flower and Plants.

The stimulation of the growth of plants by the electric light has hitherto been looked upon as a fad or a pretty experiment, and of no great practical value, but some details of recent results in the forcing of vegetation under the influence of a strong artificial light show that that system has taken a firm hold on the modern market gardening industry. This is in a great measure due to the assiduous efforts of Cornell University to develop whatever was effective in the method, to which end it has been experimenting diligently for the last six years. During the year its reports have become so encouraging that many horticulturists, and large growers of vegetables have been led to apply the electric light for cultivation purposes. A fancy truck farmer in Massachusetts calculates that he obtains a gain of five days in a crop of lettuce by the use of the light, and as he grows three crops during the winter the total gain is two weeks of time.

GREAT GAIN IN TIME.

The gain from one crop he estimates as sufficient to pay the expenses of running the lights all winter. All the light he uses for lettuce forcing is derived from three lamps of 2,000 candle-power each, which run all night. The failures in electric gardening have greatly diminished with the increase of knowledge as to the effect of different grades of light, and their specific influence on certain plants. For instance, the light of the uninclosed arc and that modified by a glass globe have sometimes markedly opposite effects, the former often proving injurious instead of beneficial to the plants. Some flowers, which at first seemed to suffer from the light, afterward became accustomed to it and thrived under it. On the other hand, some flowers that were for a short time apparently stimulated and strengthened, began to weaken and fall in a few days.

EFFECT ON COLORS.

The color of tulips was deeper and richer for a while, but the flowers lost their brilliancy when exposed to the sunlight. This fact suggested to a Jersey gardener the shrewd idea of growing flowers for bouquets or corsage bouquets for use at night. He finds that these flowers are almost double the ordinary size and exceedingly brilliant, but when they are to be used for evening decoration they must be kept in dark rooms during the daytime. Large quantities of such flowers are now being cultivated for the purpose of being exposed for sale only at night in stores lighted by electricity. In the earlier experiments the color of scarlet flowers turned to grayish white, and, while all bloomed earlier and produced larger blossoms, they soon faded. A reduction in the quantity of light and a softening of it by opal glass globes remedied this trouble. It was long thought that plants grew more rapidly under the influence of the electric light because of the extension of their working hours—the continuous light prevented them from resting at night—but scientists now generally concede that electricity helps the plants to assimilate the nitrogen of the atmosphere and favors them in taking up certain mineral salts of the earth.

TERRIBLE AND POWERFUL.

JOHN BULL'S NEWEST COMMERCE DESTROYERS.

They Are of Immense Size and Are Able to Catch the Campania—The Largest War Vessels Afloat—Undergoing Their Official Speed Trials.

England's two new protected cruisers, the Terrible and the Powerful, the largest war vessels afloat, are now undergoing their official speed trials. In accordance with what seems to be a changed policy of the British Admiralty, it is possible that no official announcement of the results of these trials may be made. Orders have been given, at any rate, that no one shall be present at the Terrible's trials save the officers on duty, and for some months past it is noticeable that no accounts have appeared in the English newspapers of the performances of the new thirty-knot torpedo-boat destroyers as they have been completed.

The avowed purpose in constructing these monster cruisers, however, was to produce something that could catch again and again, and the contract speed was to be twenty-two knots; this speed must certainly be attained before the Admiralty accepts the vessels. If a much higher speed is attained, it is possible that the Admiralty may try to keep the information to itself, though that seems hard to believe. In her run from Barrow to Portsmouth the Powerful is said to have made 19 1-2 knots without using the full power of her engines.

THEY ARE SISTER SHIPS,

built on the same plans, but by different constructors, the Terrible, having been built at Clydebank by the Thomsons, while the Powerful was constructed by the Naval Shipbuilding and Armament Company at Barrow. The plans were drawn by Sir William Henry White, K. C. B., Director of Naval Construction. The estimated cost is £662,851, or $3,300,000.

The Terrible is 538 1-2 feet long over all, 71 feet wide, and 43 1-2 deep from the upper deck to the keelson, displacing 14,475 tons. The measurements of the Powerful are practically the same. The Terrible is about as long as the St. Louis and the St. Paul of the American Line, but is eight feet broader and measures 2,800 tons more. It is sixty-two feet shorter, but six feet broader, than the Cunarders Campania and Lucania, and measures 1,500 tons more than they. It is twenty-seven feet shorter, thirteen feet broader, and measures 4,500 tons more than the White Star steamers, Majestic and Teutonic. The European war cruiser that comes nearest it in displacement is the 11,000 ton Russian Rurik. The Terrible's engines are intended to furnish 24,660 horse power, giving a calculated speed of 22 knots with natural draught.

The hull is of soft steel and has a double bottom, but to keep it clean, and thus avoid frequent docking, it is covered with a lining of teak, which in turn is coppered. An armored turtleback deck running from stem to stern protects the cruiser; under it room is found for the engines, the boilers, the steering apparatus, the magazines and more delicate organs of the vessel. The deck is formed of three plates of soft steel, 2 3-4 inches thick at the extremities and 4 inches thick above the engines, which, on account of the arch in the deck, are fitted entirely under it. The protection afforded by the armored deck is much greater than that of the last English cruisers built; since the highest point of the arch is 3 feet 5 inches above the water level, while the lowest points are 6 feet 11 inches below it.

THE COAL BUNKERS,

too, are so arranged as to form an additional protection for engines and boilers, extending as they do over a length of 246 feet above and below the armored deck. This arrangement, though it adds security, has the serious disadvantage of making it difficult to pass the coal to the furnaces, a difficulty increased by the immense number of water-tight compartments into which the hold is divided, and making it necessary to have a very large number of stokers on board. The large number of water-tight compartments, with the object of minimizing the danger of water entering the boiler room, is one of the peculiarities in the construction of the Terrible and Powerful; there are 236 of them. The engines and boilers are enclosed in ten compartments formed by a middle section 210 feet long, divided by cross walls; the two groups of engines are in two of the compartments; the other eight contain between them 48 Belleville boilers.

The armament consists of two 9.2-inch guns, weighing 22 tons each, placed in barbette turrets, covered with five-inch armor; of twelve 6-inch rapid-fire guns, sixteen 12-pounders, twelve 3-pounders, and nine machine guns. The larger guns are above the protected deck, the ammunition being conveyed to them by armored elevators. There are also two torpedo tubes at each end of the vessel. A turret protected by ten-inch armour shelters the commanding officer in action. The masts are hollow, with ammunition elevators to supply the fighting tops.

Two sets of vertical, four-cylinder triple-expansion engines, each generating 12,500 horse power, propel the ship. The boilers that supply the steam are 48 French Belleville boilers. The diameter of the high-pressure cylinder is 45 inches, that of the intermediate cylinder 70 inches, and that of the two low-pressure cylinders 76 inches. The number of revolutions needed to make 22 knots is 110. A great deal of cast steel has been used in these engines, notably for the pistons, the cylinder covers, and the steam boxes. Electricity supplied by three dynamos is used not only for lighting, but to work the guns and elevators; two of the dynamos are under the protected deck. There are four oval smokestacks.