

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.

Cattle shipping from the Northwest is very brisk just now.

Reports from the "Soo" Canal show a big falling off in business.

The Manitoba census shows a population of 193,425.

Add Canada.

Fire did \$300,000 damage at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Immense quantities of apples are being shipped from Montreal to Liverpool.

William H. Stevens, of Providence, R. I., is reported to have fallen heir to a Montreal estate.

The seized American fishing schooner Frederick Geering, jun., is advertised to be sold by auction at Halifax.

Plans for the new Grand Trunk cars shops in London will be submitted to the contractors in a day or two.

Hon. Mr. Davis has been selected as successor to the late Mr. Balfour in the office of Provincial Secretary.

Mayor Wilson Smith, of Montreal, believes that Toronto should forego its claim for an international exposition in favour of Montreal.

The Manitoba crop bulletin for August estimates the total wheat yield at 18,565,198 bushels, oats 16,633,222 bushels, and barley, at 3,698,460 bushels.

Young Gerbold, who is charged with the murder of Mr. Joseph Henry, near Rapid City, confessed the crime in a letter written to his parents.

Archbishop Begin, of Quebec, has issued a circular to his clergy favouring the anti-Masonic congress, which meets next month at Trente, in the Austrian Tyrol.

The Board of Governors of the Hamilton City Hospital have decided to purchase a microscope and to buy in the market all the supplies that are not yet contracted for.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., Mr. T. R. Glover, M.A., fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, was elected professor of Latin.

The coroner's jury found Harry Badgley and Bert Lyons guilty of the wilful murder of Charles Murray in Toronto last week, and George Badgley accessory before the fact.

Senator Lougheed has introduced a bill to amend the insurance act, which provides that all policies of insurance negotiated by United States companies in Canada shall be payable in legal tender of the Dominion.

Two trolley cars collided about half-past seven o'clock on Tuesday evening, at the corner of Spadina Ave. and Queen St., Toronto, killing one passenger, a Mrs. Sheppard, who worked at Brown's hotel, at the Humber.

Mr. Robert Bickerdike, president of the Montreal Board of Trade, says that it would not be possible to hold an international exhibition in Montreal next year, as the Premier had told him that the time was too short to make it a success.

The Moldavia, a British tramp steamer from Cordova for Halifax, was struck by an iceberg on Wednesday, and sank almost immediately. The captain and crew took to the lifeboats, and were picked up by the Circassia and taken to New York.

News has been received from Turnavick, Labrador, that the steamer Hope, now en route for the Arctic ocean, commanded by Lieut. Peary, reached there on July 20. There are many icebergs along the coast, which may seriously interfere with the progress of the expedition.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Earl Cadogan, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will, it is reported at Dublin, resign in favor of Lord Dufferin.

Whitehead, the Irish dynamite, who was released the other day from Portland prison, is undoubtedly insane.

The amount of the capitalization of the new joint stock companies organized in England during the first half of 1896 will aggregate more than \$440,000,000.

Major Coventry, the Jameson raider, sentenced July 28th to five months' imprisonment, has been released from Holloway prison on the ground of ill-health.

Lieut.-Cols. Cotton and Gordon, of Canada, who were examined before a military board at Aldershot, on July 17, as to their tactical fitness to command, have, it is announced, passed with success.

The strike of the engineers in the shipyards at Govan-on-the-Clyde has decided the English, Irish, and Scotch shipbuilders to force the situation, and it is resolved that unless the Govan strikers surrender forthwith a wholesale lock-out will be declared in the Clyde, Belfast, and Tyne shipyards.

UNITED STATES.

Hilton, Hughes & Co., a great dry goods firm in New York, have failed.

A case of genuine Asiatic cholera, which resulted fatally, is reported in Chicago.

The United States cruiser Brooklyn in her official trial made an average speed of 21 92-100 knots.

Latest reports state that many lives were lost in the fire which destroyed Ontonagon, the Michigan lumber town.

President Cleveland has announced that ex-Governor Frances, of Missouri, has been appointed Secretary of the Interior, vice Mr. Hoke Smith.

Four of the largest manufacturing establishments in Buffalo, employing nearly two thousand men, have shut down owing to lack of orders.

The temperature fell below the frost line in Minnesota and the Dakotas on Wednesday night, but the lowest temperature recorded in Manitoba was 36 degrees.

Mr. Powderly, formerly Master Workman of the Knights of Labor, has announced his intention of supporting Maj. McKinley in the Presidential contest.

Harry Hill, one of the old-time and most famous of New York dive-keepers, who gloried in the title of the wickedest

man in New York, died on Thursday night. He was seventy years of age.

Mr. John Galbraith of Toronto was appointed Vice-President of the mechanical and engineering section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Buffalo.

The marriage of Mr. Henry Payne Whitney to Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt was celebrated on Tuesday at the Breakers, Newport, R.I., the summer villa of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt.

The locked-out men of the Brown Hoisting and Conveying Co.'s works in Cleveland, Ohio, have voted to return to work, and the long strike, productive of riots and bloodshed is broken.

According to reports from the New York business agencies, there is practically no change in the general trade situation throughout the United States. Commercial failures this week in the States have been numerous and serious. The stoppage of work continues, including several iron and tin concerns, employing in the aggregate a large number of hands; and other large firms are running on a short time. Boot and shoe shipments are still large, but the demand is slackening, and prices are weak. There is no improvement in the enquiry for woollen goods, but a stronger tone and (in some special lines) slightly better prices are observed in cotton goods.

GENERAL.

The late Sultan of Zanzibar was poisoned, so it is now reported.

Italy has ordered the suspension of emigration of Italians to Brazil.

Amenians are reported to have provoked a serious riot at Constantinople on Tuesday.

Premier Ito, who is also Minister of the Interior and secretary of the Japanese Cabinet, has resigned.

It is stated that the betrothal of Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands to Prince Bernard of Saxe-Weimar will be announced next month.

The Turkish Government has definitely accepted, with a few modifications, the proposals of the powers for the future government of Crete.

Prof. Andree has arrived at Tromsø from Danes island, having abandoned for this year his attempt to cross the Arctic regions in a balloon.

Troops at Barcelona now under orders to reinforce the Spanish army in Cuba, are being urged, by a widely circulated manifesto, to refuse to embark.

It is announced that Emperor William has consented to reform the present system of military trials, and this concession will probably prevent a Cabinet crisis.

Dr. Nicolaidis, the official representative of the Cretan Reform Committee, asserts that five thousand Christians have been massacred in Crete, with revolting barbarity.

It is reported that the discoveries made by the University of Pennsylvania expedition to Babylon carry the history of the Babylonian people back to 7000 B.C., or 2,250 years further than previously known.

The crisis at Zanzibar is regarded as ended. The new Sultan is expected to follow the peaceful lines of his predecessor, and it is understood that Great Britain does not intend making any change in the existing form of government.

It is rumored that a Russo-British alliance will be formed for the management of China. A great company will be formed to administer the affairs of the country and to reform the Government, Russia and Great Britain to share the profits.

In consequence of the adoption by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce of the bills providing for the farming of the tobacco monopoly and the leasing of the Almaden silver mines, the Government has sufficient resources with which to continue the prosecution of the campaign against the Cuban insurgents.

EARLY TRAMPS.

The Rich Grabbed the Land and Poor Folk Followed Suit.

The dissolution of the monasteries had greatly increased vagrancy in the sixteenth century. Rich abbots, like that of Reading, employed large numbers of workmen and servants, who, when their masters had fallen into evil case, were thrown upon a heartless world, and took to robbery for a livelihood. The hospital of the monasteries in the good old days always provided food and a bed for weary travelers of whatever rank they were, and needy wanderers sorely felt the loss of their kind hosts. The rich courtiers grabbed the church's lands and wealth, and the poor followed their example by grabbing whatever they could lay their hands on. Consequently, there were in these parts "a great store of stout vagabonds and mazysters men (able enough for labour), which do great hurt in the country by their idle and naughty life." The unfortunate persons who were robbed could claim compensation from the inhabitants of the hundred in which the robbery took place. This old law was as ancient as the time of our great Berkshire King, Alfred; for who is ignorant of the fact that when gold bracelets were hung up by the roadside on account of the enforcement of this law and the fear of the vengeance of the hundred, no one dared to remove them?

But when these highway robberies on Maidenhead Thicket were so frequent, the burden of making compensation fell somewhat heavily on the inhabitants of the hundred of Benhurst. In one year they paid as much as £255 for robberies committed on unfortunate wayfarers. Therefore a special act of Parliament was passed in 1597 in order to relieve the inhabitants from their burdens.

MOSQUITOES IN THE NORTH.

The popular notion that mosquitoes are chiefly resident in tropical countries, is quite a mistake, the home of the mightiest legions being within and about the Arctic circle. On coasting trips to the North Cape even vessels are invaded by maddening swarms at every stopping place. It is reported that in Alaska they form clouds so dense that it is impossible for sportsmen to aim at objects beyond. Native dogs are sometimes killed by them, and even the great grizzly bear is said to be occasionally blinded by their attacks, and finally starved in consequence.

LATEST ROYAL MARRIAGE

EIGHTEEN MARRIAGES AMONG THIRTY-TWO GRANDCHILDREN.

What Descendants of Her Majesty the Queen Have Married and Who They Espoused—A Long List.

Ascor's London Budget to the New York Mail and Express contains the following information ament the account of the marriage of Princess Maud of Wales to Prince Charles of Denmark.

Queen Victoria has had the happiness of giving her consent to eighteen marriages among her thirty-two grandchildren now living. The first of these weddings was that of Princess Charlotte of Prussia, the eldest child of the Empress Frederick, who, on the 18th of February, 1878, was united in Berlin to Prince Bernard, hereditary Prince of Saxe-Meiningen. The next marriage was that of the present German Emperor, then known as Prince William of Prussia, who, in Berlin, on the 27th of February, 1881, was espoused to Princess Victoria Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein. Two of the Hessian grandchildren—daughters of the late Princess Alice—were wedded in 1884; Princess Victoria to Prince Louis of Battenberg, at Darmstadt, on April 30, and Princess Elizabeth, at St. Petersburg, on the 15th of the following June to the Grand Duke Serge of Russia. Four years ensued before another marriage took place, and then two grandchildren were united, when Princess Irene, of Hesse was wedded to her first cousin, Prince Henry of Prussia, the auspicious nuptial day, being the 24th of May, the natal anniversary of her Majesty the Queen.

MORE MARRIAGES.

The next year saw two unions—that of Princess Louise of Wales, eldest sister of the recent bride, to the Duke of Fife, on July 27, in the chapel of Buckingham Palace, and that of Princess Sophia, of Prussia, to the Crown Prince of Greece (Duke of Sparta) at Athens, on the 27th of October. In the year following, on the 19th of November, 1890, another of the Empress Frederick's daughters was married in Berlin—Princess Victoria to Prince Adolphe of Schaumburg-Lippe. In 1891 there was a home wedding of a Queen's grandchild, Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, the younger of the two daughters of Princess Christian, was wedded in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, to Prince Aribert of Anhalt. The next year, and the succeeding year, each saw three weddings of Queen Victoria's grandchildren. The first of the Duke of Edinburgh's daughters was married on January 11, 1893, at Sigmaringen, to Ferdinand, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Roumania. On the 25th of the same month, the last unmarried daughter of the Empress Frederick, Princess Margaret, was married to Prince Frederic Charles of the deposed Hesse (Landgraf) line. Then came the most important of all the third generation weddings. His Royal Highness the Duke of York, only surviving son of the Prince of Wales, was married in the Chapel of St. James' Palace to Princess Victoria May of Teck. Two sturdy boys have since blessed this union, and the direct male succession to the royal and imperial diadems of Great Britain and India is apparently assured.

STILL MORE WEDDINGS.

On April 19, 1894, there was another union of two grandchildren, Ernest, Grand Duke of Hesse, only surviving son of the late Princess Alice, being married at Coburg to his cousin, Victoria, daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh and Saxe-Coburg.

Then came the greatest match made by any of the granddaughters on November 14 of that year, when Princess Alice of Hesse, sister of the Grand Duke Ernest, became Empress of Russia by her marriage to the Czarevitch, Nicholas, nephew of the Princess of Wales. Finally, this year Princess Alexandra of Edinburgh and Coburg, was married on April 27 to Prince Ernest of Hohenzollern-Langenburg, and Princess Maud of Wales recently to Prince Charles of Denmark.

There are now fourteen unmarried grandchildren of the Queen left of whom only four are of marriageable age: Princess Victoria of Wales, Princess Christian Victor and Albert, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein. Of the other ten children, Princess Margaret of Connaught is the eldest (14) and Prince Maurice of Battenberg the youngest (4).

Two of her Majesty's married grandchildren are reigning sovereigns, the Emperor of Germany and the Grand Duke of Hesse. Two are crowned consorts—the Empress of Russia and the Grand Duchess of Hesse. One will be King and Emperor, if God preserves him—the Duke of York; and two, if their husbands survive, will be Queens—the Crown Princesses of Roumania and Greece.

OTHER DANISH WEDDINGS.

The marriage of Princess Maud is the fourth Anglo-Danish wedding in a little over 200 years. On July 28, 1683, Prince George of Denmark was married to Princess Anne of England, daughter of James, Duke of York, afterwards James II. Merry King Charles gave his niece away, the ceremony being performed in the Chapel Royal, St. James', at 10 o'clock p.m. Extraordinary rejoicings took place that night in London, wine flowing freely from fountains, at royal and municipal expense, and sheep and oxen being roasted whole in several of the streets. So many bonfires were lit by people in front of their houses that soldiers had to be ordered out to restrain this warm expression of loyalty; there was fear of a repetition of the terrible conflagration of 1686. The bride subsequently became Queen of England. Not one of her children arrived at maturity, and so this Danish marriage insured the arrival of her present Majesty's dynasty to the throne. Nearly a century later, in 1766, Princess Caro-

line of England was married to the then King of Denmark. The wedding was by proxy, in the Chapel Royal, the Danish monarch being personated by the Duke of York on that day. Then another hundred years rolled by, and the third English-Danish marriage was celebrated—a glorious event of our own times—the marriage of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, to Alexandra, Princess of Denmark. The wedding—one of the most magnificent pageants of the present reign—was solemnized in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on the 10th of March, 1863.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

Marlborough House, since it became Crown property, has been the home of several great personages, and in particular it was granted by George IV. to Princess Charlotte of Wales at the time of her marriage to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, afterwards the first King of the Belgians. Princess Charlotte, it will be remembered, was the only daughter of George IV., and heiress to the throne of England. She died in giving birth to a boy baby, which lived only a few minutes. At the time of her marriage the newspapers of the day were as full of flattery as the newspapers were recently of adulation of Princess Maud. The Princess Charlotte rather protested against the absurd eulogies she received in the public prints, and she remarked to the Lord Mayor of that day, who called to present her with an address, and who alluded to the journalistic encomiums: "I remember," she said, "an anecdote of a German count, who according to the customs of his country, had a list of his wives; but as for the most obvious reasons his cellar was not very well furnished, he wrote: 'List of the wines I have,' and afterwards added, 'List of the wines which I have not.' Now," remarked her Royal Highness, "I wish some of these good gentlemen would follow the example of the German count, and when they give me a list of the virtues which I have, they would also furnish me with a list of the virtues which I have not, and I am afraid that, like the list of the wines, the latter would far exceed the former."

The royal presents were estimated at a very large sum of money. One jeweller, who was allowed to see them, said that he thought that, if sold by auction, they would realize between \$750,000 and 1,000,000. One tiara alone is valued at \$30,000. The royalties always make great "scoops" in the way of wedding presents. The Queen and her sons and daughters between them have as many diamonds and rubies and pearls and other precious gems as the Shah of Persia himself, and in case of any reverses of fortune in the way of revolutions they would remain rich, even if they only succeeded in preserving their jewels.

THE BAROMETER

Least Variable at a Point in the Atlantic Ocean.

Admiral Fitzroy, of the English navy, from a large number of barometrical observations made at sea, has discovered that near the parallel, of 5 degrees north in the Atlantic Ocean the pressure of the atmosphere is so uniform as to afford a natural standard by which navigators out there at sea may, as they pass to and fro, compare their barometers, and Prof. Schouwe has constructed a barometrical curve between parallels 33 degrees south and 75.30 degrees north, which establishes a similar fact with regard to the land. So steady and invariable is the pressure that after allowing for the six hourly fluctuations to which in all parts of the world the barometer is subject, the mariner may detect any error in his barometer amounting to the two or three thousandth part of an inch. The difference between the mean height of the tropic calm belt and that in the Tropic of Cancer is only 0.25 inch, and this is permanent.

LI DIETS HIMSELF.

Li Hung Chang attributes the excellent health which he has enjoyed during his trying progress through Europe to his strict observance of Chinese dietary and regime. To that end he carries with him three Celestial cooks, and a vast store of preserved dainties, such as birds'-nests, beche-de-mer, highly cured Che-Kiang hams, eggs of venerable antiquity and Samschoo of the finest brand. His Excellency deigns to partake of some Western viands, and is said to be not wholly insensible to the charms of Veuve Clicquot or good old Scotch.

DR. JIM IN JAIL.

The Transvaal Raider is Having a Delightful Time.

Dr. Jameson and his companions are regaining all their old cheerfulness in the more agreeable surroundings of Holloway, and it will be readily conceived that, compared with Wormwood Scrubbs, the accommodation of the new quarters is really luxurious. The prisoners are to be treated with every consideration the regulations will allow. They may, in truth, have and do pretty well what they like, except leave the establishment. The only irksomeness is the confinement. The visiting justices have decided to absolve Dr. Jim and his merry men from the obligation of taking exercise or attending divine worship with the other prisoners. They will be permitted to welcome visitors whenever they please, and to write and to receive letters without the interposition of the governor—concessions which it is needless to say, will be highly appreciated. The new quarters, which are adjacent to those of the medical officer, are the most comfortable in the whole building. The furniture ordered by thoughtful friends and sympathizers has arrived, and was arranged in the apartments according to the tastes and convenience of the recipients. Arrangements have been made with the proprietor of a hotel close by to cater for the prisoners, whose meals will be delivered by the hotel servants at the gates, and taken thence by the warders to the apartments. Indeed, everything promises to be done to reconcile the raiders to their enforced detention.

A BILL-POSTING MACHINE.

A bill-posting machine, which sticks bills on walls, even so high as 50 feet, without the use of a ladder or paste pot, is doing successful work in Europe.

HOTTEST SPOT ON EARTH.

THE BAHREIN ISLANDS, OFF PERSIA'S SOUTHWEST COAST.

The Thermometer There Sometimes Goes Up to 140° in the Afternoon, and Sticks Fast at 100° at Midnight—Water on the Coast Only from Submarine Springs.

All will be glad to know just where the hottest place on earth is. In times past there has been much dispute over the subject, but the authorities are now agreed on the spot. Curiously enough, this territory is not a desert, although a post described them by declaring that the lost spirits, wandering from their infernal abodes, stood on the border of that region, with eyes blinded by the sun's reflected glare, then in terror hurried back to their sulphurous lakes to avoid the heat! No, the hottest place in the world is, with all respect to ocean summer resorts—on the seashore!

The region of maximum temperature is an extensive area on the Persian Gulf, a part of the southwestern coast of Persia. This territory includes also the Bahrein or Aval islands. Throughout this belt the heat is something tremendous. June, July, and August are terrific, unendurable save to the natives. Day after day the mercury will mark more than 100 degrees in the shade. By day here is meant the diurnal twenty-four hours. Think of it, you look with fearful eyes on the thermometers that register 100 degrees at noon time. Imagine the horror of striking a match at midnight and reading 100 degrees. It hardly seems possible, yet it is declared that this frightful heat is not excessive in that country!

OFTEN 140 DEGREES IN THE SHADE is attained in the afternoon.

The islands are a small group named after the largest, Bahrein. They lie between latitude 25 degrees 30 min. and 26 degrees 30 min. north and longitude 50 degrees and 50 degrees 30 min. east. Bahrein itself is about twenty-seven miles long and ten miles broad. The population is fairly abundant, numbering 75,000 in the group of islands. The natives are for the most part Arabs, governed by a sheik who pays tribute to the Sultan of Oman.

The island of Bahrein is the one peculiarly cursed. In the interior the ground is hilly, with a fertile soil that produces wheat, barley, dates, figs, and the like. There are abundant springs of good water. This is the interior. On the coast there is the awful heat that shrivels this part of the world, and there is no water save the undrinkable salt waves of the Persian Gulf. There are no springs. Those of the interior are practically unavailable in that land of rude conveyances and clumsy methods of transportation. The way in which the Arabs here acquire water is curious. They get it out of the sea. They have no mysterious process whereby the salt is removed from the sea water and brine is made a thirst-assuaging beverage. No, the water they get comes out of the sea, but it is not sea water.

A mile from the shore of Bahrein are the treasured

SPRINGS OF FRESH WATER.

The sparkling wells bubble up through the sands—in the bottom of the harbor. There is a depth of hundreds of feet of salt sea over them, into which they merge and are forever lost at the moment they issue from their subterranean courses. But there they are, there they have been for hundreds, even thousands, of years. Hidden in the ocean's abyss, they have, nevertheless, been discovered by man, and from their supply the city of Manamah, a thriving commercial centre, and all the other towns, and every separate hut of the coast gain all the water that is used for drinking purposes.

The means taken for securing the water before it mingles with the brine are at once simple and arduous. Divers are sent down from their boats stationed over the springs. The divers invert their goatskin sacks over the gushing waters, so that the jets may enter the bags' mouths. Each bag is filled in closed water tight, and the thing is done. These divers are a numerous class, and one whose employment never ceases, since the demands of the thirsty are constant. One thousand sacks are filled daily from the submarine wells.

The sources of these springs are unknown. They are, perhaps, to be found in the interior hills of Bahrein, or they may exist in the more distant ridges of the mainland. Anyhow, there are the springs, and they are the salvation of the coast. Without them, the sea harbor would be uninhabitable, inasmuch as repeated efforts to secure water by artesian wells, even when the shafts were sunk to a depth of 500 feet, have failed.

The most extraordinary part of the whole matter is the fact that these springs were ever discovered. The manner of their finding is a profound mystery. One savant has suggested that in primeval times the present bottom of the harbor, where the wells are, was above the surface of the water. According to this theory the springs were known when they were thus above the sea level, and, as the water mounted gradually, a knowledge of their location was preserved.

The Bahrein islands are famous for their pearl fisheries, known to the ancients as to the dealers of to-day. The export pearls worth from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 annually.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that some time in the course of centuries one of the myriad springs came up from the fresh water springs and realized their nature and their worth.

FATAL INVITATION.

A few days ago one of the visitors to the Moscow Zoological Gardens, standing in front of a monkey's cage, took out a penknife and, opening it, proceeded to pass the blade backward and forward across his throat. Having repeated this action several times, he threw the knife into the cage. A few minutes later the monkey was found with his throat cut.