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.

Safe-blowers are operating in Rapid City, Man.

The population of Kingston increased 100 during the year.

London sportsmen have organized the Thames Valley game preserve.

Brantford's population has increased 144 this year, according to the assessors' returns.

The Guelph Council has appointed a committee to effect a settlement with ex-Treasurer Harvey.

The population of Hamilton increased 634 during the year, according to the assessment returns.

The body of Alex. McKenzie, a Hamilton man, was found in the bay. It is supposed he committed suicide.

It is rumoured at Niagara Falls, Ont., that the Canadian electric line will run in co-operation with the Gorge line next season.

Seven or eight buildings in the business quarter of Gananoque were burned, and at one time the town was in great danger of destruction.

The Hamilton Hospital Committee is investigating the accounts of the House of Refuge, irregularities in the contracts for supplies being reported.

The Hamilton Council has decided to grant the ten-year exemption on the cold storage warehouse, with the understanding that it be in operation by June next.

A stranger, believed to be G. L. Twiss Hartford, swallowed a quantity of laudanum at St. Catharines with suicidal intent. He recovered under a doctor's care.

It is reported in Victoria, B. C., that the British cruiser Wild Swan, the smallest vessel of the Pacific coast squadron, struck a submerged rock in Callao harbour, while under full speed. Her chances are few of escape from total destruction.

A telegram received at the Department of Marine and Fisheries from Commander Wakeham, at Gaspe, states that the fishing is good on the Canadian Labrador coast, and the inhabitants well off for the winter. There was no sickness or distress. The Newfoundland Labrador fishery is bad.

Civil Service entrance examinations will be held at Charlottetown, St. John, Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Port Arthur or Sault Ste. Marie, as the necessities of the case may warrant, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Victoria, commencing on the 10th day of November.

GREAT BRITAIN.

George Du Maurier, the artist and novelist, is reported in London to be seriously ill.

Alderman George Fraudel Phillips, sheriff of the County of London has been elected Lord Mayor of London, to succeed Sir Walter Wilkin.

Fred Barnard, the artist of the London Black and White, has been burned to death in bed. It is supposed the bedclothing caught fire while he was smoking.

A very large meeting was held in Tipperary on Sunday in favor of amnesty to the Irish political prisoners. For the first time since the split in the Irish party, Mr. John Dillon and Mr. John Redmond appeared on the same platform.

Mr. Henry Asquith, Secretary of State for the Home Department in the late Liberal Government, speaking on the Armenian question, said that such massacres in the dark ages would have led to a crusade. He urged coercion, but admitted that England could not employ force without the co-operation of Russia.

UNITED STATES.

A portion of San Marcos, Texas, has been innundated.

Miners at Leaderville, Col., have determined to continue the strike.

Recent heavy rains have ruined portions of the cotton crop in Texas.

Four lives were lost by the foundering of the barge Sumatra at Milwaukee.

A strike of the bituminous coal miners of the United States, similar to that of three years ago, is thought to be imminent.

The Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the Secretary of State, for the Colonies, left New York on the Germanic on Wednesday for England.

Mr. John Wanamaker of Philadelphia has bought the stock of Hilton, Hughes & Co., and will carry on the business in New York.

John D. Hart, head of the Hart Steamship Line, at Philadelphia, has been arrested on a charge of engaging in a Cuban filibustering expedition.

Two freight trains collided on Wednesday night at Philson, Pa., and a large number of tramps, who were stealing a ride, were buried in the wreck and killed.

Burglars chloroformed every one in the Hotel Normac, at Wall, a suburb of Pittsburg, on Tuesday night, and got away with $8,000 in cash and $500 worth of diamonds.

The Canadian Pacific steamer Manitoba was seized at Sault Ste. Marie, to satisfy unpaid fines for violations of the regulations of the United States Treasury Department for navigation of the canal.

The loss of life by the great storm in the United States is much heavier than at first reported. As the reports come in from country districts the death-rate swells into startling proportions.

Carl McIlhiney, a seven-year-old boy, of Wooster, Ohio, is under arrest for murdering Thomas Kidd, fourteen years old, who teased him. The child got a head.

A letter written in 1890 by Major McKinley, Republican nominee for President of the United States, has been unearthed in which he expresses his faith in the doctrine of free silver and points to his congresional record in support of his position.

Johnson, charged with having wrecked a mail train on the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railroad at Battle Creek, on July 16, 1894, during the A. R. U. strike, by which the fireman was instantly killed and a number of persons were injured, were found guilty of conspiracy in the United States Court at Detroit.

The only notable feature in the reports from the New York commercial agencies is the marked increase in the number of failures for the past three months. The accepted explanation is that the majority of these are "political" failures, but this explanation does not add anything to the commercial stability of the United States. The business features of the week has been the steady advance in wheat. Cotton has weakened, and the demand now for cotton goods is of the strictest necessitous kind. Prospects are said to be good, but this is usual, only the materialization does not always occur. The truth is that trade all over the United States is in the worst possible state, and for obvious reasons we cannot expect any marked improvement until the spring of next year. There are, and will be, fluctuations, of course, but the material condition of trade will not alter for some months.

GENERAL.

There is a marked change in the tone of the Russian press towards England.

The striking coal miners at Brux and Osseg, in Bohemia, are becoming riotous.

The dock laborers' strike at Hamburg has been settled favorable to the strikers.

Jacmel, Hayti, has been partly destroyed by fire, and 2,000 of its inhabitants are homeless.

The Armenian refugees at Marseilles are reported to be destitute and suffering great hardship.

Seven men were lost from the British cruiser Satellite in Dutch harbor during a severe storm.

A lot 50 by 40, on the principal street of Johannesburg, sold last week for $100,000, or $2,000 a foot front.

Major Watts was tried by court-martial for the summary execution of the Matabele Chief Makoni, and was acquitted.

The Spanish Government has ordered sixty thousand rifles from a German manufacturer, to be delivered in November.

An irade issued at Constantinople on Friday orders the formation of a flotilla of ten torpedo boats for the defence of the Dardanelles.

In consequence of an attack made on a French party under command of Gen. Galleni, a state of siege has been proclaimed in Madagascar.

According to reports received at Berlin, the Sultan has appointed an international committee to inquire into the causes of the recent massacre in the Turkish capital.

It is reported that the Sultan has exiled his second wife and a batch of courtiers and notables, who were suspected of treason.

Serious fighting lasting three days, has taken place in Mashonaland, near Mazoe. The British were hemmed in by the natives for ten hours.

A Vienna correspondent telegraphs that the powers have agreed upon a pacific settlement of the eastern question which is honorable to all parties.

The fifteen-ton sloop Spray, which sailed from Boston in 1895, with Capt. Joshua Slocum as its sole occupant arrived at Newcastle, N.S.W., on Wednesday.

The speech delivered by the Emperor of Austria on the occasion of the opening of the Irongate canal at Orsova indicates a possible alliance between Austria, Roumania, and Servia.

It is stated in Rome that negotiations are pending between England and Italy with a view to the latter holding in readiness a large body of troops to sail at a moment's notice to the Levant.

The Paris Gaulois says that in view of the disturbed state of affairs in the island of Madagascar, twelve thousand troops will be despatched there after the fetes which are to be held in honour of the Czar.

The Cairo correspondent of the London Times believes there is some truth in a native report that the Khedive is now making a tour of Europe incognito and that he has taken with him a scheme for Egyptian independence.

A VALUABLE METAL.

Thoria, Hitherto Worthless, Now Valued at Fifteen or Twenty Dollars Per Pound.

The rare metal thorium, discovered by the great chemist, Berzelius, early in the present century, has just had a singular commercial resurrection. Thorium is a rare earth that has long been simply a laboratory curiosity. When burned it emits a light more brilliant than that of burning magnesium, but until the recent invention of incandescent lamp burners, in which the flame is incased in a metallic mantle, no use was discovered for it. Upon experimenting with various substances, it was found that the oxide of thorium, called thoria, makes the best mantle for such burners, and a demand being thus created for it, the value of thoria suddenly sprang from almost nothing up to $250 a pound. Then a search began for new sources from which thoria could be obtained, and the search is not yet finished. Berzilius found it in some fragments of black marble in the Island of Lowen, in Norway. The mineral which he found was known as thorite. It contains thoria, or the oxide of thorium in combination with a certain amount of silica. Thorium was afterward found in certain stones in the Ural Mountains, and especially in monazite, a mineral which is largely found in the United States and Canada, usually in the sands and gravels of small streams in the form of yellow crystals. These monazite stones are now being shipped in large quantities to England and Hamburg from Brazil and Bahia.

On arriving at their destination, they are carefully sifted for the grains of the very precious and rare mineral which is now in such request. The price of thoria is now much lower than it was at the first rush of the demand, but it still commands $15 or $20 a pound, according to the state of the market. It offers a singular illustration of how a worthless substance may, by the springing up of a commercial need, become one of the most valuable treasures which the earth contains.

THE SECRET OF HER REIGN

VICTORIA'S HOLD ON THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Some of the Reasons Why She Has Successfully Maintained Her Rule for Nearly Sixty Years—Mere Forms of Monarchy Tolerated.

Rely upon it that the European sovereign, who, when her reign is almost sixty years old, has absolutely nothing to fear from any hostile movements within her realms, is a very remarkable woman indeed, writes an American correspondent.

Victoria is a woman of many talents. The actual constitutional functions of the English queen may be dismissed in a sentence. She signs documents and suggests or vetoes the appointments of bishops. That is above all. But she exerts a vast indirect influence on affairs. She may not be able to check the advance of events for long, but she can raise great difficulties in the way of their progress and, on the other hand, may mightily help their dispatch. For instance, the British premier would find his duties much less arduous if he could omit his daily letter to the queen while parliament is in session, and if in other matters he were not compelled to observe the formality of consulting the royal will.

Victoria is far from being a political nonentity, even though it has become a proverb that the British queen reigns, but does not govern. There is a high sense in which she does govern her people. She wields a unique power over them, through the constant appeal which her existence makes to their imagination.

It is no exaggeration to say that the English are an imaginative people. They are not impulsive nor particularly emotional; but they are imaginative. Let their literature witness to this. For sixty years Victoria has been the one bit of romance in the grimy and prosaic life of the English masses—the peasantry and the artisans.

LOYAL TO THEIR QUEEN.

Were she to attempt to put into practical exercise any of the powers with which the constitution, by a series of daily ignored fictions, invests her, these people would raise a general clamor, hold indignation meetings, organize against royal aggression and do many other acts of spirited protest. But let a word of personal disrespect be uttered against her in a public place or a public print, and the whole mob, from Land's End to John o' Groats would be immediately transformed into her champions. To them she is the embodiment, the incarnation of all feminine worth.

The pat phrase of Colonel Walker of the Boston artillery, when recently in this country—"her womanliness as a queen and her queenliness as a woman"—happily set forth the estimate placed upon Victoria by the masses of her so-called subjects. They regard her as the sum of all feminine graces and virtues. This applies most closely, of course, to the million, to the rank and file. But in a respectable degree it is true of all middle-class Britons.

During eight years' residence in London the writer never heard but one personal criticism of an unfriendly character passed upon Victoria; and that was a charge of undue tenacity of grip upon her private purse. It is a charge often made. The usual reply to it is that the queen must do something to offset the reputation of the Prince of Wales for exessive expenditure.

The result of this constant appeal to the imagination of her subjects is that after sixty years of her reign the loyalty of Britons is divided between an abstraction and a reality. The reality is the woman; the abstraction is her sovereignty. It is Victoria, the queen, who reigns; it is Victoria, the woman, who rules. Great Britain is in fact a republic, but it is certain that no average Briton, high or low, would question for a moment the imperative obligation of any definite "command" from the head of the state. With vast experience of affairs there has come to Victoria a corresponding personal ascendancy over her people, which it is difficult for one born and educated in America to comprehend.

WOMAN INSTEAD OF QUEEN.

It is because of this personal ascendancy that the 45,000,000 of the United Kingdom tolerate the forms of monarchy long after its substance has departed.

The movement for a formal republic and the abolition of monarchy has never gained a footing in England under Victoria. Joseph Chamberlain began his political career as a republican. He long ago forsook that faith. Henry Labouchere, rabid radical that he is, attacks not the crown itself, but the abuses incident to royal grants. Take these away and Mr. Labourchere would be content with monarchy. He has said as much himself. It is by no means clear that the Prince of Wales, popular as he is, would be able as king to keep the movement similar in check.

The facts just as they stand, are the best testimony to the talent of Victoria. Probably her tact has even more to do with her personal domination in a system practically republican. It is the fashion of a certain stripe of vulgar Britons to denounce all members of the royal family below the queen, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York as tactless and maladroit. Without doubt some of the British royals have done foolish things, not to say stupid ones. Royal manhood and womanhood is no exception to the general law of humanity, that, other things being equal, affluence and ease foster incapability and insolence. But Victoria—domestic capriciousness apart—has never been found guilty of any want of timely discretion and consideration. At all events, not in her public relationships; not in the discharge of the manifold duties that have brought her into direct contact with her ministers, her parliament or her people.

NOT A LITERARY SUCCESS.

It is doubtful if even the autobiographical volumes, which from time to time she has published, have not increased her hold upon the affections of the masses, who are assuredly not literary experts. Poor as they are, they help show her to be human, and royalty is loved just in proportion as it can demonstrate that. As a matter of fact, Victoria is endowed by nature and experience with an almost unrivalled faculty for skillfully handling difficult situations, and for dealing with men and women. Her perceptions are swift and correct. Her savoir faire and savoir dire are as near as possible to king intuitive. Whatever disputes the historian may have as to her talents they are sure to agree in conceding her tact.

Probably the appeal which her peculiar personality makes to the British imagination is heightened in effectiveness by a life-long habit of seclusion. Those who worship her have but few opportunities to gaze upon the object of their adoration in the flesh. They are familiar with her features in a thousand and one statues, and ten thousand and one photographs and paintings. But her actual person is only infrequently vouchsafed to popular scrutiny.

Millions of her English-speaking subjects during the last sixty years have never seen her at all. Millions living to-day in London have never seen her twice. The unknown is the formidable and, perhaps, the adorable. So far as the public is concerned, Victoria has passed the greater part of her natural life—especially the last thirty years—in august seclusion.

Her London appearances have been very few. Her time has been spent, as to nine-tenths of it, in a Scotch chateau at Balmoral, at Windsor Castle in the suburbs of the metropolis and at a country house on the Isle of Wight. The monotony of this existence has been varied by an occasional private operatic or theatrical performance. annual state ceremonials known as "drawing-rooms," and the official visits of her ministers. Emphatically she has dwelt apart.

ALMOST MARKS AN EPOCH.

As a consequence, when she has consented to show herself the event has all but marked an epoch. This condition of things has resulted in creating a half-mysterious atmosphere about her strangely at variance with the keen publicity of English political life. That it should have intensified the romantic elements of her career from the British point of view is natural and indeed inevitable.

No analysis of the secret of her domination would be correct which did not take into account Victoria's thoroughly German affection, not only for state etiquette, but for the "trappings and the suits of woe."

AN ARISTOCRATIC DWARF.

He Was of High Birth and Breeding, and Was Favored by Royalty.

On September 5, 1837, at his cottage, near Durham, England, where he had lived in retirement for many years, died Borulwaski, a Polish Count, but who had made that country the home of his latter days. Though low of stature, he was of high birth and breeding, which no doubt has caused his case to be frequently mentioned.

He was born in November, 1739, in the reign of George II., and as he did not die till the first year of that of Queen Victoria, at the age of 98 years, he lived during those of five British sovereigns. At 1 year of age he had attained to only 14 inches in stature; at 6, to 17 inches, and at 30, to 30 inches. And he had a sister, named Anastasia, seven years younger, who, when full grown, was shorter than himself by a head and shoulders, so that she could stand under his arm. But, though so small in stature, he was a handsome man, his body being of the most perfect symmetry; and he was moreover, not only a wit, but something of a scholar and an accomplished gentleman, his mind being cultivated to an extraordinary degree of travel and study for he had visited various lands and many of the royal courts of Europe. In earlier life he had been exhibited, and had appeared as an actor; and George IV., as Prince of Wales, had seen and known him in those days.

It is related in the "Memoirs of Charles Mathews," the comedian, that in July, 1821, when George had succeeded to the throne, he, previous to being crowned, obtained an interview with Borulwaski, and in a most delicate manner offered him any pecuniary help if he needed to make his latter days comfortable. He ordered that his coronation robes should be shown to the little Count, and as a favorite valet of the King was dying, who remembered the dwarf, Borulwaski visited his sick chamber at the request of George IV. On his death, on September 5, 1837, Count Borulwaski's remains were laid in the Chapel of the Nine Altars at Durham Cathedral.

THE QUEEN'S REMEMBRANCE.

How Her Majesty Keeps the Prince Consort's Memory Green.

In the private apartments of the queen at Windsor castle there are many touching evidences of the manner in which the memory of the Prince Consort is revived by her majesty. The door of the queen's boudoir is inscribed: "This chamber was altered and decorated under the superintendence of H. R. H. the Prince Consort, in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of Queen Victoria." Everything in the chamber remains as it was arranged by the prince thirty-six years ago, and a conspicuous object under a glass shade is the bouquet he presented to her majesty on her wedding morning, February 10, 1840. In the vestibule of the long corridor leading to the queen's private apartments there is a beautiful life-size marble group of her majesty and the Prince Consort, which was executed by William Theed shortly after the prince's death in December, 1861. The prince is arrayed as a knight. The queen has her arms around his neck, and is gazing lovingly up into his face, while he, with his right arm extended, points on high. Underneath is the appropriate line from Goldsmith: "He allures to brighter world, and leads the way." The group is covered with lace, and stands before a bright red background, which adds very considerably to its striking effect.

A QUENCHLESS FLAME.

THAT IS, UNTIL THE SUBSTANCE IS ALL CONSUMED.

Chemical Discovery by Accident of a Compound Having This Strange Peculiarity—The Manner in Which Its Properties Became Known.

This strange fire, is of the consistency of paste, and is harmless while in a quiet state. The friction caused by rubbing it against a hard surface will, however, set it aglow, and nothing will extinguish the flames, which will burn with a blue light and an intense heat till the compound is completely destroyed by combustion. Water has no effect on it; it can be made into balls and thrown anywhere, and it will burn with a slow but fierce combustion, which makes it unlike any known fire.

HOW IT IGNITES.

Dynamite and gunpowder require a spark to ignite them, and powder produces an explosion, not a regular fire. To ignite this compound there is just the slight friction of rubbing it against some ordinary substance. There is no explosion or rapid spreading of flames but a strange pasty substance composed of living fire, which cannot be stamped out or killed in any known way.

John Floyd, the discoverer, has been for several years delving in all sorts of chemicals, as his numerous inventions required constant study. One day he wished to make a certain substance with which to experiment, and for that purpose placed in a liquid some waste substances which he thought would, when dissolved, produce the wished-for compound. But he found the material he wanted before the liquid was dissolved, so left the jar containing the solution on the shelf for several weeks, thinking no more about it.

Finally he thought of using the jar, and when lifting it down from the shelf some of the liquid spilt on the floor. Mr. Floyd thought nothing about the matter till he noticed a sensation of heat about his foot, and on looking down found that the soft paste which had fallen out of the bottle had become a mass of soft, flickering flames, emitting an intense heat. He put his foot on the spot, stamping it out, as he thought, and turned to his work.

UNQUENCHABLE.

When he turned around again he saw that instead of going out the fire-paste was steadily burning; that his rubbing it had only smeared it over the floor, and it was eating into the wood every moment. He then threw several buckets of water on the stuff, but the water had no effect other than to be converted into puffs of steam, and the fire burned steadily on, cutting its way through the soft pine flooring. As the experiments were being conducted in the back of a drug store, which was filled with dangerous chemicals, he knew that something must be done to put a stop to its ravages, or the whole place would be blown into atoms.

After many fruitless attempts to put it out, he procured a hatchet, and it was only by cutting out the entire square of wood on which the paste rested, that he succeeded in stopping the fire, which burned for at least an hour.

Afraid of the uses to which this discovery might be put, Mr. Floyd has never made the secret of the ingredients public, for incendiaries would take advantage of it, and no place would be safe from burning. Those who use oil or dynamite, or powder can be easily traced, as some preparation is necessary, but with this liquid fire, a criminal who knew its composition could burn his way noiselessly through any door, or set any home on fire by throwing against it a noiseless ball of the composition.

The cost of making this liquid fire is so small that it can be easily used instead of coal in heating a furnace. But the most valuable properties are those which it possesses, which are absolutely foreign to those of fire as now known to us. All forms of heat, except that of electricity, must be generated in some kind of a furnace and be constantly supplied with fuel, but this fire is both flame and fuel itself. About a cupful can be set on fire, and it will burn with a steady glow for an hour.

HOW IT CAN BE USED.

This wonderful fire can be utilized in the kitchen, and stoves can be dispensed with altogether as entirely useless. In order to fry anything it is only necessary to hang the pan from a wire and smear over the bottom a spoonful of the liquid. In an instant there will be a hot fire, which will burn for over an hour. So that the cook of the future can take her fire out into the country, it can be used in cooking for camping; there will be no coal bills, but the work of heating furnaces, of burning fires in grates, or running motors, can be done by a harmless little spoonful of paste which can be taken around in the vest pocket.

Of its practical uses, there are no end, for the subject is yet in its infancy, the inventor thinking but of the harm that might come, having stopped his experiments. He, however, says he intends to resume them and find out more about this explosionless, noiseless, unquenchable paste, which is fire pure and simple.

CHINA'S RICHEST WOMAN.

Fifty exclusive methods of dressing her hair are the property of Marchioness Li Hung Chang, the richest woman in China. Twice a day this luxurious little lady bathes in oil of orange and acacia blooms, and one thousand attendants are constantly at service. In her wardrobe are 2,000 coats and 1,200 "trouserettes," which seems a very ample supply in view of the fact that the Marchioness can walk but a few feet at a time. It is interesting to note that she never fails to keep a detailed account of the vast expenditures of her household.