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.

There are 630 convicts in Kingston Penitentiary.

The Cabinet has fixed Thursday, Nov. 26th, as Thanksgiving Day.

Chatham has been lowered in class by the Fire Underwriters' Association.

A proposal is made to turn the Mechanics' Institute at Ottawa into a free library.

Thomas Bridger was sentenced to four years in Kingston at Berlin on Wednesday for embezzlement and forgery.

Prairie fires are raging in many parts of Manitoba and the light of them can be seen in Winnipeg.

A pardon has been granted to McMahon, who is in Kingston Penitentiary on a conviction of murder.

Hon. Dr. Borden inspected the various military institutions of Kingston and will prepare a report on them.

Mr. Paulson, Provincial Government agent, left Winnipeg for Iceland to promote immigration from that country.

Fifty thousand dollars' worth of 5 per cent. Niagara Falls sewer debentures were sold to the Imperial Bank.

The City Council of London has adopted plans for the new sewerage system, which will cost about $200,000.

Mr. A. J. McColl, Q.C., of New Westminster, has been appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

John Flynn was seriously scalded by the explosion of a steam heater at Flynn Bros. canning factory, St. Catharines, on Wednesday.

The contract has been let for the construction of the Manitoulin and North Shore railway, to run from Little Current to a junction with the Canadian Pacific railway.

The Canadian Government have given full assurance to their friends in London of their intention to make strenuous efforts to people the vacant lands of the great North-West.

The Executive Committee of the Ottawa Art Association suggests the erection of a building which would serve as a temple of science, art, literature and music at the capital.

Judgment for $700 and costs was recovered by ex-Manager Nelles of the Hamilton Grimsby and Beamsville Electric Railway in his suit against the company for damages for wrongful dismissal.

Capt. Dunn, of the Dominion cruiser Petrel, on Wednesday seized 150 American gill nets which had been set in Lake Erie twelve miles west and south of Cut Lights. The nets are valued at $500.

Police Officer Broadbent, of Montreal was fined $50 and dismissed from the force for shooting a man in the arm. He said he wanted to frighten the man, knowing him to be a dangerous character.

Two Indian women were killed near the Blood reserve, MacLeod. The same Indian who killed the Indian and attempted to kill Agent McNeill is the murderer, the victims being his mother and sister.

Mr. E. O. Meredith, formerly Under-Secretary of State, and Mr. Noxon, provincial prison inspector for Ontario, have been selected as commissioners by the Dominion Government to enquire into the workings of the Kingston Penitentiary.

Ex-Ald. James Wilson, one of the best known citizens of Halifax, N. S., died suddenly. He was one of the last of the eighteen survivors of the steamship London, which foundered in the Bay of Biscay in 1866, when 250 lives were lost.

Mr. Robert Christie, Inspector of Ontario Insane Asylums, and Mr. Kivas Tully, architect and engineer, have paid a short visit to Buffalo and inspected the internal fittings of the Buffalo State hospital for the insane.

John Fahey, ex-detective, of Montreal, who was sentenced to fourteen years in the penitentiary for robbing the Grand Trunk station, has been pardoned, having served about eight

It is intimated that in consequence of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the fisheries case, which declares that the inland fisheries belong to the provinces, there will be a substantial claim against the Dominion by the provinces for compensation.

C. C. Condie, the night agent of the Canadian Pacific railway at Oak Lake station, Selkirk county, Manitoba, disappeared on Tuesday night, with an express package containing more than $3,000 Dominion Express Company's funds. He had come from Chicago to take the place of a striking operator.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lady Scott, who is charged by her son-in-law, Earl Russell, with criminal libel, has been committed for trial.

The Executive Committee of the National Liberal Federation has issued a statement expressing profound regret at Lord Rosebery's resignation.

The London Times expresses the belief that the rival claims of Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Asquith for the Liberal leadership will compel the recall of Mr. Gladstone.

Lord Charles Beresford has announced his intention to contest the seat in the House of Commons for the eastern division of Bradford, made vacant by the death of Mr. Reed.

Martin Nolan and William Moran were each sentenced in London, Eng., on Wednesday to six motnhs' imprisonment for attempting to obtain $2,500 from an American named William Stahr by means of a confidence trick.

It is rumoured in London that the British Government had no desire to have Tynan extradited, as his liberty was part of the price paid for revealing the dynamite plot. Ivory is likely to be made the scapegoat of the whole affair.

A letter written by Sir William Harcourt to a personal friend declares that the Armenian question is finally settled. This is supposed to mean that a working agreement has been reached between Russia, France and Great Britain.

It is learned that the conference on Saturday between Lord Salisbury, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, and Sir Julian Pauncefote on the Venezuelan question was very satisfactory, and it is hoped that an agreement will be reached with the United States before the end of the month.

UNITED STATES.

Philadelphia will send a team of cricketers to England next season.

A receiver has been appointed for the property of Rose Coghlan, the actress, at New York.

W. J. Rambusch, a Junea, Wis., banker, has disappeared leaving liabilities estimated at $200,000.

Mary Moore, worth $50,000 has been convicted at Columbia, Tenn., of stealing six turkeys and sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

The Watertown, N. Y., city steam roller fell through the First Mill street bridge on Wednesday morning, killing Engineer Luther Smith.

The New York Evening Post suggests that the United States Venezuelan Commission may report that no true boundary line ever did exist.

Michael Freeman has been adjudged insane at Susquehanna, Pa. A medical commission reports he has been in a stupor for years, and insensible to pain.

Western Union Telegraph Co. reports at New York for the year ending June 30th, show a net revenue of $22,612,736, an increase of $397,712 over the year before.

The Republican Executive Committee in New York are confident that McKinley and Hobart will be elected. They will receive 370 electoral votes, while Bryan will only receive 100.

The Sherbourne, Minn., bank robbers, who murdered three persons, have been positively identified as J. H. and L. Kelliker, 18 and 23 years old. Their parents live at Rick Rapids, Iowa.

Mark Meyerwitz, a Hebrew boy, aged seven, fell five stories, to a flag pavement in Essex Street, New York, on Thursday and jumped up, when his mother came, to tell her he was not dead. Not a bone was broken.

Over $110,000 was contributed in jewellery, securities and cash during last Sunday's service in Carnegie Hall, New York, in connection with the 13th annual convention of the Christian Missionary Alliance. One man gave $50,000 in stock.

GENERAL.

Herr Bruckner, the celebrated Austrian music composer, is dead.

General Sir H. H. Kitchener, with his staff, has arrived at Cairo from Dongola.

The Sultan has sent Emperor William a letter of thanks for the Kaiser's photo.

It is stated that the Sultan has signed an irade promising State reforms for the whole of Turkey.

The Austrian Parliament favours the formation, by the powers, of an international Court of Arbitration.

A despatch from Havana says the sick and wounded among the Spanish soldiers on the Island of Cuba number 4,200.

Despatches received in Havana from Pinar del Rio say that the insurgents, under Antonio Maceo, have suffered a severe defeat.

Mail advices from Madagascar say that rebellion is general throughout the island, and that some of the French settlers have been killed in the open roads.

An official despatch from Manilla, capital of the Philippine Islands, announces that the rebellion in the Island of Mindanao, the second largest of the group is ended.

The United States Minister at Constantinople has lodged a claim for $40,000 against the Turkish Government on behalf of the mother of Frank Lenz, the bicyclist who was murdered by the Kurds.

SCHOOL GARDENS IN RUSSIA.

Howthe Young Idea is Taught to Shoot in the Czar's Country.

A very interesting feature of primary education in Russia is the establishment and rapid development of small farms, orchards, and kitchen gardens in connection with many primary schools, especially in the villages. The land for such model gardens, or farms on a small scale, was mostly obtained through free grants from the village communes and, occasionally, from the neighboring landlords; while the expenses are covered by very small money grants from the country and district Councils, (zemstvos). To take one province in south Russia, namely, Ekaterinoslav, we see from the biennial report, just issued, that not only has almost every school and orchard and kitchen garden for the use of the schoolmaster, but that nearly one-half of the schools in the province, 227 out of 504, are already in possession of small model kitchen gardens, orchards, tree plantations, or farms, at which gardening, sylviculture, and sericulture are regularly taught. The teaching is mostly given by the schoolmasters, who themselves receive instructions in these branches at courses voluntarily attended in the summer or occasionally by some practical specialist of the neighborhood. The province of Ekaterinoslav being mostly treeless, special attention is given to tree plantations and, next, to silkworm culture. The aggregate area of the 227 school farms or gardens attains 283 acres, and they contained, in 1895, 111,000 fruit trees and 238,300 planted forest trees, nearly 14,000 of the former and 42,000 of the latter having been distributed free among the pupils during the same year. The money grants for these 227 gardens were very small—i.e., a little over three hundred pounds (£314) Besides over a thousand beehives are kept, partly by the schoolmasters and partly by the children; and some schools had vineyards in connection with them. This movement has widely spread over different provinces of central Russia, where the culture of cereals dominates at the school farms; while in Caucasia attention is especially given to the silkworm culture and the culture of the vine.

DO FISHES SUFFER PAIN?

Apparently They do Not, Though They Are in Many Respects Most Sensitive.

All fishes have nerves, and in some respects fishes are extremely sensitive. A fish that has buried itself in sand or mud so completely that only the tip of its tail fin is above the bottom will feel that upon the slightest touch and instantly dart out of its sandy bed. A fish is very sensitive to movements in the water surrounding it. A shadow falling upon the water will startle a fish into flight. But sensitive as fishes are in some respects, it is probable that they do not suffer pain from injuries received.

Fishes are extremely sensitive at the nose. A fish that had in pursuit of prey run its nose against a rock might shake its head violently, perhaps in pain; but fishes sustain serious injuries from actual wounds without showing any indication of pain. In fact the indications tends to show that they do not suffer.

A fish that has been hooked by an angler, but has escaped, perhaps carrying off a hook in its mouth, may a few minutes afterward bite again at another hook. Such instances are not infrequent. In such cases the hook would probably be concealed by the bait and the fish would not be likely to see it, but the fact that it is ready to take the bait shows that it is continuing to feed, which it would scarcely do if it were suffering great pain. A shark from whose body all the viscera had been removed has continued to feed.

Sensitive as fishes are about the nose, many of them use the nose in pushing stones and gravel about in building a nest for the female to spawn in. The salmon notoriously often wears its snout down to the bone in excavating a cavity for a nest, and often it wears off its tail to a mere stub in brushing out stones and gravel. Yet such fishes frequently recover from their injuries and return to the ocean.

Timid and sensitive as fishes are in some respects, they fight one another vigorously. In such fights they may receive injuries that might be described as terrible. To these injuries they may pay so little attention that after the fight is over they go on with their feeding or with whatever occupation they had been engaged in.

Injuries which would throw a human being into a state of helplessness do not interrupt the current of fish life. The fish may afterward die from its injuries, but apparently it does not suffer pain from them.

The telegraph messengers in populous French towns use bicycles for the distribution of their telegrams.

GETTING EVEN WITH HIM.

How a Young Englishman Got Square With a Swindler.

It is always gratifying to one's sense of justice to see the tables turned upon a would-be swindler. Mrs. J. G. Jebb tells the story of a young Englishman who was travelling in Mexico. One Don Manuel represented to him the immense value of a certain silver-mine, with which circumstances compelled him to part. But his friend should see and judge for himself!

The two men were accordingly lowered a short distance into the shaft and the Englishman was so pleased with the appearance of the ore that he gave his check for half the purchase price. Later, he felt moved to explore his investment farther, and going alone to the mine, hired an Indian in the vicinity to lower the cage. He speedily discovered that the mine was full of water!

Putting into immediate action a plan of reprisal, he sought Don Manuel and expressed his desire to visit the shaft again, to which the Mexican reluctantly yielded. The Indian was again hired to lower the cage, Don Manuel, at the Englishman's instance, giving the requisite instructions. The Englishman then politely motioned the older man to be seated.

Hardly had he done so, when the Indian, in obedience to a gesture from his secret patron, began turning the windlass. In vain Don Manuel entreated and threatened, till his voice arose faintly from far below.

Then the cage was drawn up to within a few feet of the surface and the Englishman demanded of its drenched occupant the surrender of the check. Evidently the young man meant business, and without a word, Don Manuel yielded.

"Now you can come out. I hope you have not taken a chill?" inquired the Englishman, courteously.

HAND-SEWING.

It is a curious and pretty reversion to the customs of our grandmothers that assails the woman of to-day.

Not only do we find knitting usurping a place long occupied by lace and embroidery, but what generally goes under the name of plain needlework is now taking its place alongside the fine arts. Machine sewing is no longer to be thought of in connection with lingerie. Indeed, it is quite impossible for the silk garments so much affected by the smarter women of to-day.

After so long a lapse of plain needlework into desuetude, some extra stimulus was necessary to bring women back into the good old ways; and one of those clever women who foresee the signs of the times grasped the situation and started classes in sewing, thus inaugurating the fashion. The prices demanded for these lessons are on a level with those paid for music, dancing, painting or any other art, $1.50 for a half hour's private lesson being the least that is paid.

Classes for teaching sewing as a fine art to the little daughters of the fashionable set are also in vogue.

HER DEAREST FRIEND.

He—Does your friend, Miss Rival, entertain much?

She—No, but she bores more guests than any other young lady in our set.

CHINESE HIGHBINDERS.

DANGEROUS BAND OF CHINAMEN IN AMERICAN CITIES.

Societies Organized to Murder, Steal, Abduct Women, Protect Criminals and Commit Other Crimes—Can Communicate With Each Other By Signs and Tokens.

Quite as deadly as the Italian Mafia, and even more thoroughly organized, are the secret Chinese societies, which have a firm footing among the celestials in the United States, and are generally known as "Highbinders."

In California, of course, these oath-bound, tyranically ruled organizations are more numerous and more far-reaching in their work of assassination and general promotion of vice and corruption than they are elsewhere, for the obvious reason that Chinamen are more plentiful on the Pacific coast than elsewhere.

Yet they have a firm foot-hold in all the cities, notably in New York, as well as in Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Boston.

HIGHBINDERS AND THE MAFIA.

Like the Italian social clubs for the promotion of murder and perjury, the Chinese societies had their original beginning in politics. In China the present organizations from which all the others are branches and ramifications, are known as the Triad Society. Thousands of worthies who, from the time of the Tai Ping rebellion were members of this group of conspirators and active in efforts to depose the present Chinese dynasty, were obliged to fly for their lives when our late guest, Li Hung Chang, suppressed that formidable outbreak.

The majority of them came to America—to San Francisco—and organized themselves into branches of the home societies. The objects, however, changed with the changed surroundings. Instead of conspiring to overthrow things politically, the Chinese societies simply became permanent Juntas for the exploitations of debauchery, judicial corruption and assassination.

The proverbial ingenuity and bland "slickness" of the Chinaman were displayed with redoubled effectiveness in these bands, where the most atrocious crimes were the game and where death was the reward of failure. Their skill in perjury and in bringing a crowd of witnesses to the relief of any one of their members caught in the toils of the law is masterly. They are adepts in the art of assassination, as well as in the concealment of the weapons with which their deadly, lightning-like blows are struck. The fact that one group of these wretches are known among themselves as "hatchet boys" is sufficiently suggestive of their method of work, but still another favorite weapon with them is what apparently is a handsome, highly ornamental closed fan, but which in reality is a formidable bar of iron, one blow from which delivered with a firm, strong hand will crush in the hardest skull.

SECRET SIGNS AND TOKENS.

Equally ingenious are the code of secret signals with which members of the murder societies silently communicate with each other, even when seated at wide distances apart and in crowded rooms or restaurants. The manner in which they handle their cups, the way they place them or the teapots upon the table all have their significance. Thus the members of the Yee Hing or Chu Kung societies may be known by the way they raise their cups to their lips, while a certain twist of the queue is an infallible sign of a Yee Hing.

The Yee Hing, by the way, is the principal society in New York, as well as in Boston, Philadelphia and other Eastern cities. In San Francisco the Chu Kung Tong is the chief society, having various offshoots and groups, each making a specialty of some particular line of villainy.

The member of one of these societies completely becomes its slave. He must blindly murder or blind or slash any one whom the society selects for its vengeance, and disobedience of bearing testimony, other than perjured testimony to the innocence of an accused member, is as certain to bring death, even though the marked man fly to the ends of the earth, as it is with the Mafia.

Sometimes for mild offenses members are merely accused of some crime and "railroaded" to prison on perjured testimony, and sometimes they are merely hounded out of every occupation they get. But in one way or another the vengeance of the Tong is sure to be felt and is a constant object of terror both to Chinamen who are members, as well as to those who are not.

THE WOMAN SLAVE TRADE.

One of the leading industries of the secret societies is the importation and sale of women slaves, a trafic which is carried on not only in San Francisco, but doubtless in New York, but so secretly as to be beyond police detection, although so far as that is concerned the Chinese Highbinder knows the pantata's weakness for cash and "Christmas presents" as well as do any of the proprietors of shady resorts in New York's Tenderloin district.

These traders in women do not by any means take the trouble and risk of importing their wares. In fact, the stealing of Chinese women from one Chinaman and selling her to another is a leading feature of Highbinder commercial activity. But it is woe to the slave who undertakes to escape. Against her the whole machinery of Highbinderdom is brought to bear, the usual method being an accusation of theft or other crime, supported by a dozen or more perjured witnesses, the persecution keeping up until the slave voluntarily goes back to end her troubles or until some one of the several Christian societies familiar with Chinese ways that are dark comes to her rescue.

Egypt's great queen, Cleopatra, is a mass of crumbling dust in the British museum—a repulsive mummy, held together by pitch and bandages.

THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

What Happened to Him One Night Down in a Deep Cellar.

"I'm fond of lobsters," said the retired burglar, "but I like 'em best cooked. And, speaking of 'em cooked, the best way to eat lobsters is stewed. You take good lively fresh lobsters and boil 'em, and then you pick 'em out and cut 'em up, not too fine, and warm 'em over; putting in a little warm water to make a sort of gravy, and a little bit of butter, and a little pepper, and some salt, unless you put in salt enough when you boiled 'em, and maybe just a little touch of vinegar, though some folks don't like any vinegar in 'em at all. Then you serve 'em hot. I like to spread a slice of bread and put that on my plate and ladle the lobster out on that. You may think there's better ways of eating lobsters; but when I have stewed lobsters for breakfast I forget I'm poor. But what I set out to tell you about was a live lobster.

"I dropped down one night, through a window that I had opened, into a deep cellar. The window was narrow, and high up. I guess it must have been six or seven feet from the cellar bottom to the lower edge of it. Of course, a man can't walk up a stone wall like that very well, and so before going upstairs I fixed a way of getting out easy, in case I should want to go in a hurry, as of course, might happen. I moved a couple of boxes up under the window, one on top of the other, making a sort of steps. When I reached down to pick up my bag again I didn't strike it at first, and as I was feeling along for it something grabbed my hand, nipped it sharp and hard, and hung on. I was startled, sure, but I realized in an instant that

IT WAS A LOBSTER.

You know some folks when they ain't going to cook the lobsters till morning, put 'em out on the grass over night, or maybe down on the cellar bottom where they'll keep cool and in good condition, and I'd run against a lobster put down in the cellar.

"When I stood up, the lobster was still hanging on. I threw out my hand, natural enough, I suppose, with an idea of throwing the lobster off, but instead of that I banged him against the big zinc cylinder around the furnace. It sounded like hittin' a big iron drum with a club. That startled me, too, and when I stepped back to get away from the furnace I fell over in to the coal bin. There was a narrow opening in the side of the bin where they'd took down one board at a time as the coal got lower there, until they'd got down to just one board at the bottom, and I'd stumbled over that and fell backward on the coal. The lobster was still hanging on. I thought I made noise enough clattering against the board and falling on the coal, but the minute I struck the coal I started a coal slide. From where the boards had been taken out the coal sloped up high against the side of the cellar; my falling on the foot of it started the whole face of the slope moving. It made more noise than a load of coal dumping on the sidewalk.

"Stepping out of the coal bin, I knocked down the coal shovel leaning against it just outside, and the big furnace poker. Noise? Humph! And all this time the lobster was still hanging on—you see, it takes me some little time to tell you about it all, but it took mighty little time for it all to happen.

"As the poker banged down I heard folks coming down the stairs from the second floor to the floor above the cellar. Of course there was just one thing for me to do and that was to get out. While the folks was coming down from the second floor to the first, I was making for the cellar window; and the lobster never let go till I stepped up on the first box."

WOMEN WHO RULE GAYLORD.

Gaylord, Kan., is happy and prosperous under the wise rule of seven women. The character of these gifted municipal authorities may be inferred from their photographs, which represent them as seven unusually intelligent and attractive women. The citizens of Gaylord evidently selected, with fine discernment, the most accomplished members of the community, for there is not a breath of discontent, and city affairs are being conducted with unparalleled ability and despatch.

Antoinette L. Haskell, the Mayor of the little city is by no means an aggressive type of woman, but has a womanly pride in her home and family. Her husband is a prosperous banker and she has two sons. Mrs. Haskell has always been interested in political and social questions, and her sympathies have throughout been with the Democratic party.

Miss Florence Headley is City Clerk, and only twenty years old. The spare time that she has left after fulfilling her municipal duties she devotes to editing the Gaylord Herald, and performs this office the more efficiently because she has in the last three years worked up from the position of apprentice in a printing office.

Another remarkable woman is Mrs. Mary L. Foote, the Police Judge-elect whose popularity is so great that although she was a candidate in opposition to her husband, she defeated him by a large majority. Usually, however, men do not compete with their wives in Gaylord, but are willing to remain in the background and subject themselves to competent feminine guidance. Gaylord is at present the only city in the world where petticoat government is supreme, where municipal elections have all the charms of social festivities, and where every administrative movement is made for the welfare of the people. The population of this modern Utopia should rapidly increase.

ONCE WAS ENOUGH.

If I should die you would never get another wife who would look after you as I have done.

No, not if I could help it.