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.

St. Thomas has an epidemic of diphtheria.

Floods have caused great damage at Halifax.

J. T. Moore has been appointed city treasurer of Guelph.

The British warship Mohawk has arrived at Halifax from Newfoundland.

Mr. John Fraser, an expert driller has been engaged to put down from ten to fifteen oil wells in Bothwell.

Another large consignment of the Lee-Enfield rifles, numbering about 6,000, has been received at Quebec.

Condie, the absconding Oak Lake, Man., operator and express agent has been arrested at Gladstone, Man.

The Montreal Transportation Company offers to build a large grain elevator at Kingston if the city will take stock to the amount of $25,000, grant a free site and exemption from taxation.

An Ottawa deputation waited upon Mr. Laurier, urging a Government grant to the interprovincial bridge. The Premier promised to place in the estimates next session a sum to aid in that undertaking.

One dollar and one cent per bushel was paid for wheat at Qu'Appelle on Wednesday. This is a record-breaker, and was the result of millers' competition for wheat, which they must get at any cost.

There is a considerable stir in common stock lumber among the Ottawa lumber merchants. Simultaneously with the rise in the price of wheat, the price of lumber has gone up, but the cause is as yet unknown.

The official half-yearly report of the Grand Trunk Railway was issued at Montreal. The gross earnings show an increase of £54,448 over the corresponding half-year. The report praises the efforts of General Manager Hays.

The Grand Jury at the Kingston Assizes reported that the shooting of Convict Hewell by Chief Keeper Hughes was justified, but hoped that in future measures would be taken to render such an occurrence unnecessary.

The annual financial statement of the Dominion for the year ending June 30, 1896, has been made public. The deficit for the year is $363,481, and the increase of debt $5,528,831. The net debt is now $258,528,304. The revenue on account of consolidated fund was $36,617,484, and the expenditure $36,980,966.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British Parliament will reassemble January 25th.

Dr. William Campion, president of Queen's College, Cambridge, is dead.

The death of Dr. Pollock, the well known chess player, is announced at Bristol, Eng.

Over 16,000 agricultural laborers have left Ireland, to work in England and Scotland, during the year ending June 30.

Traffic receipts of the railways of the United Kingdom for last year show an increase of $8,000,000 over the receipts for 1894.

Mr. Morgan, M. P., for Merthyr Tydvil, has offered to resign his seat in favor of Mr. Gladstone, if that veteran can be induced to re-enter politics.

A despatch from Cairnsmore, Kirkcudbrightshire, announces that the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, while out driving, were thrown from their carriage, and were seriously injured.

Lord Rosebery, speaking of Colchester, said he fully agreed with Lord Salisbury's Turkish policy, believing that England's independent interference would result in a great European war.

A resolution adopted by the Baptists of Great Britain expressing regret at the inaction of the powers, and the hope that the Government would speedily and fully explain their position in regard to Turkey, has been forwarded to Lord Salisbury.

UNITED STATES.

Joseph Wechsler, the Brooklyn millionaire merchant, died suddenly on Wednesday evening.

A death occurred on Swinbourne Island, New York, from yellow fever contracted at Havana.

A Washington despatch announces the death of William A. Richardson, Chief Justice of the Court of Claims, and formerly Secretary of the Treasury.

Thomas McKee, at Winsted, Conn., attempted suicide by drowning, on hearing that his wife, who had attempted suicide by taking paris green, would recover.

Gifts aggregating to $1,253,000 have been received by Princeton University, of which $600,000, from a donor whose name is to be withheld, is for the library.

H. B. Shenabut, a member of the band of Anarchists who caused the Haymarket riot in Chicago, died of consumption in San Barnardo, Cal., last Friday.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador to the United States, has arrived in New York from England. His first work will be to endeavor to effect a settlement with the State Department of the Venezuelan question.

A terrible storm prevailed on the Gulf of California on September 17 and 18, news of which has only just reached San Francisco. There was a combination of a cloudburst, and tidal wave, which wiped the little town of Altata out of existence.

GENERAL.

The French army is to be increased to a peace footing of 550,000 men.

The Japanese Minister to China has been transferred to St. Petersburg.

Li-Hung-Chang has arrived at Pekin, and will shortly present his report to the Emperor.

It is expected that the Emperor and Empress of Germany will visit the Czar next summer.

The Swedish Government will apply to the next Riksdag for a large credit for an increase of the navy.

News received from Constantinople says that widespread fears exist of a renewal of the massacres.

The Spanish colony in Buenos Ayers has raised two million dollars with which to present to Spain a new cruiser.

A despatch from Pretoria denies the rumour that the Transvaal will make an immediate demand for indemnity for the Jameson raid.

The St. Petersburg Grashdanin has been suspended for publishing despatches from Paris adversely criticising President Faure and the French army.

An irade has been issued by the Porte, levying extra taxes to raise funds to forward military preparations. This action excites much comment.

Massacres of prisoners of war are the rule in Cuba now, and the Spanish General, Bernal, is said to have condemned women and children to summary execution.

Cuban atrocities are reported to be mild in comparison with those taking place in the Philippine Islands, where the Spanish are trying to suppress a revolt of the natives.

A despatch from Constantinople says that a conflict has taken place at the Yildiz Kiosk (the Sultan's palace) between the Turkish and Albanian guards, during which several men on both sides were killed.

Lord Brassey, the Governor of Victoria, in a speech on Imperial Federation, said that it would be wise, if possible, to bring America into a grand defensive league of the Anglo-Saxon race, which would effectually secure the peace of the world.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A Few Paragraphs Which May Prove Very Readable.

Some of the best families in England have substituted boys for housemaids, whom they have found incompetent and insolent. The substitutes are chiefly from India.

Smelts are so plentiful in Bellingham Bay, Washington, that they come to the margin of the water in schools, and are drawn ashore with garden rakes and scoop-nets.

A ton of the water of the Dead Sea, when evaporated, yields 187 pounds of salt; a ton of the water of the Atlantic Ocean, 81 pounds; a ton of the water of the Pacific, 81 pounds.

A flea entered the ear of Adolphus Doncourt, of Flushing, N.Y., and for an hour Adolphus danced without music. Then a physician was successful in removing the little intruder.

The longest distance to which a projectile has been thrown was at Shoeburyness, England, on April 15, 1888, when a Longridge wire-bound gun threw a shot 21,358 yards, or 12 miles 238 yards.

A colored couple in Americus, Ga., met Justice Graham, on the street and requested him to marry them. He promptly gratified them, standing on the highway, and then resumed his walk.

The cold nose of a spaniel, pressed against the face of a sleeping man in Rockland, Me., awoke him. He arose, followed his dog to the kitchen, and found it flooded with water from a leaking tank.

The Cuban insurgents, not being able to buy the cannon in general use, make them of a tree which has a winding grain, bore them with hot iron, and strengthen them with bandages of oxhide.

Perfectly healthy men are scarce. In one month, at an army recruiting station in Chicago, 455 men applied for enlistment, and only twenty-seven of them were accepted, all of the others, being unsound.

Some electricians carry a small compass in their pockets, and before they touch a wire hold the compass near it. If the needle is not deflected, they know there is no current in it, and that it is safe to handle it.

In China hens are kept busy hatching fish. The spawn is placed in eggshells, hermetically sealed, and a hen is induced to sit on them. At the proper time the little fish are removed and put in carefully tended ponds.

During a small-pox scare in Johannesburg, Africa, an enterprising fellow declared that he was a doctor, and with a can of condensed milk and a needle vaccinated about 1,500 people, charging each of them five shillings for his services.

Lightning played queer pranks in the residence of Paul Simmonson, at Montague, Mich., It passed down the chimney, rent the stove-pipe, burned holes in a table-cloth, and cut some picture wires. Six persons were in the house, but they were not injured.

A telephone wire in Springfield, Mo., was unintentionally connected with the fire-alarm wires, and when the telephone was tested the fire department was aroused by a long-continued false alarm, which for several minutes kept the firemen on an exasperating hunt.

AN ENJOYABLE TIME.

Lord Glasgow, who shortly will pass through this country on his way home from the antipodes, has been acting as governor of New Zealand. His term of office there has been marked by a deal of incident quite the reverse of enjoyable. He was shipwrecked at the start, one of his daughters met with an accident in the hunting field that resulted in the amputation of a leg, Lord Glasgow himself was tossed by a prize bull at an agricultural show, and now he has been forced to leave, owing to an open fight between himself and the colonial legislature, in which he distinctly got the worst of it. Yet he is a very charming and amiable man, and it seems difficult to understand how the New Zealanders have been unable to get along with him.

SEED WHEAT FOR GERMANY.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has just received a request from two farmers in Germany to send them small samples of seed wheat. They say that they read reports in German papers of the fine yields made at the Ontario Agricultural College of Dawson's Golden Chaff and Early Genesee Giant. The bulletin published by the college in August on the result of the year's testing of 74 varieties of fall wheat contained photo illustrations of these two wheats growing in the field.

HOUSEHOLD.

THE WIFE'S DUTY.

By far the most important duty of a wife is that she make home happy and pleasant and that she try to please her husband. The housewife who devotes herself too much to her domestic duties, will find that while her husband is very grateful for her domestic services, he will seek his pleasure and amusements elsewhere. It is not the least use drudging about the house or slaving over needlework if your husband is missing your companionship all the time.

To be a good wife, one must study one's husband, and try to anticipate what will please him most.

A woman should take reasonable exercise, and out-of-door recreation herself; she should keep herself reasonably well informed on all simple topics of the day, and be able to discuss them with her husband. But she should not be forward, nor opinionated. A man is apt to be pleased and find a great deal of restfulness in a wife who will chat pleasantly and entertainingly; therefore, one should study to please in this respect. Never bother the tired husband when he comes home at night, with what the children have been doing wrongly, or what have been your worries of the day. He, too, has had his, and if he be a man, he will not distress nor add to your burdens by complaining to you. Of course, there is a happy medium in this; it is not meant that they should shut themselves up like a clam. The success of marriage and a happy home depends not only on love, but on tact, common sense, and good feeling.

LACES AND HANDKERCHIEFS.

There is a right and a wrong way of doing everything, even such little things as washing laces and handkerchiefs. One who has trusted them to the tender mercies of the ordinary washerwoman knows that it takes a great deal of their spare change to replace these dainty and very necessary articles. But they can be very easily and satisfactorily laundried at home, which will be quite a saving from a financial point of view. Prepare a suds in the evening, using ivory soap and soft water, and after rubbing a little soap on the soiled places, put them in it, and allow them to remain over night. In the morning rub lightly between the hands until clean, and rinse in clear water. Do not wring them, but squeeze each piece in the hand. Dissolve half a teaspoonful of gum arabic in a pint of boiling water; when cool, add a very little bluing, and dip the handkerchiefs in it. When taken from this water press perfectly smooth upon a clean pane of glass, and allow them to dry. The marble top of a table or bureau is good for this purpose. They can then be "peeled off" and will need no ironing. The gum arabic makes them stiff enough, and this process of drying gives them a new look that can be obtained in no other way. Lace can be laundried in the same way.

VARIOUS RECIPES.

Baked Onions.—Select large, perfect onions, but do not peel, put into a kettle, cover with boiling water, salted, boil rapidly for one hour, drain, wipe, dry, roll in tissue paper, put in a pan, and bake slowly for half an hour, take off the papers, peel the onions, put into a vegetable dish and cover with melted butter; dust with salt and pepper.

Cheese Omelet.—Beat the yolks of three eggs, add three tablespoonfuls of milk and a little salt, then the beaten whites. Melt one dessertspoonful of butter in a frying pan; when bubbling, pour in the omelet, let it cook till a light brown underneath. Sprinkle over the top one or two tablespoonfuls of grated cheese. Place in the oven to dry, fold and serve very hot.

Buckwheat Pancakes.—One pint of luke-warm water, half cupful of wet yeast, half cupful of wheat flour; add sufficient buckwheat flour to make a thin batter. Let it rise over night, in the morning add half cupful of warm water in which there is dissolved half a teaspoonful of baking soda and one teaspoonful of molasses, Drop on a hot griddle well greased.

Codfish on Toast.—Put a bowlful of shredded codfish into cold water in a skillet; let it come to a boil, then turn into a colander to drain; turn into the skillet again with a cupful of cold milk, season with butter and pepper; stir smooth a spoonful of flour with a little cold milk, add and let it boil for a moment. Turn this on to buttered toast on a platter.

Pig's Feet.—Melt two tablespoonfuls of butter in a skillet, split two feet lengthwise into four pieces, and put into a skillet. Cook for ten minutes, turn and cook for five minutes. Season to taste. The sauce is made of three parts tomato catsup and one part of horseradish not heated. This recipe is for pigs' feet that have been prepared by your butcher.

Onions in Cream.—Wash, peel, and cut, rather fine, four large onions, put into a stew pan with enough cold water to cover them; add a little salt and boil briskly for about twenty minutes, or until the onions are tender. Drain off the water, add cream enough to cover the onions, let come to a boil, add two tablespoonfuls of butter, melt, mix, and serve, Season to taste.

Election Cake.—Two and one-half cupfuls of raised bread dough, two cupfuls of sugar, one-half cupful of butter, two eggs (a little of the white reserved), cinnamon, nutmeg, pinch of salt, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one-half cupful of stoned and chopped raisins, one-half cupful of currants. Beat together sugar, butter and eggs till smooth. Beat these into the dough with the hand until well mixed. Exchange hand for spoon, stir in spice, salt, and fruit. Pour into two buttered pans. Cover and let stand in warm place one-half hour. The rising will not be perceptible until subjected to the heat of the oven. Bake one-half hour. When done mix sugar with the reserved white of egg until stiff enough not to drop from the spoon. Apply with a cloth.

HELPFUL HINTS.

Meats that are boiled will be more tender if they are cooked gently instead of being allowed to ramp. Proper cooking will make tough meat more tender; wrong cooking will make tender meat tough.

When there is a bit of fish left from a meal it will make a very good soup by being picked in small pieces, and boiled in milk, and served with crouton.

A meringue may be easily spoiled by placing it in an oven that is too hot. It should brown slowly, and it will then rise well, and be light and spongy.

Old potatoes are made mealy by being soaked for an hour in cold water after being peeled. When boiling, cook in salted water. When done, pour off water, and shake well in covered kettle.

Cracks in the floor may be filled with the following mixture: Mix one tablespoonful of alum with a pound of flour, and work into a smooth paste with water. Pour on this two quarts of boiling water, and stir all while it boils: than add a few drops of carbolic acid or oil of cloves. Shred up newspapers into small pieces, work them into a pulp with this paste. When the paste is finished it should be as thick as putty, and it ought to harden like papier mache.

Few people know how to roll an umbrella properly, and yet it is not difficult, if you once understand what is necessary. The right way is to hold the ends of the ribs and the stick with the same hand and hold them tightly together to prevent their twisting, while the covering is being rolled around with the other hand. In this way an umbrella may be as tightly rolled as when it came from the store. It is the twist of the ribs out of shape around the stick that spoils the looks of the umbrella.

It is sometimes useful to know that a teaspoonful of cornstarch is equal to one egg, and may be substituted in case of a scarcity of eggs for part of the eggs in custards or other dishes where milk and eggs are called for.

An excellent gargle for a diphtheritic sore throat is made of equal parts of pure alcohol and water. It is harmless and effective.

Another good one is a teaspoonful of glycerine, one tablespoonful of lime water, and a teaspoonful of paregoric; this makes a good gargle, but care should be taken not to swallow any.

If milk is added to the dish water, it will be found very beneficial in washing dishes. It softens the water, prevents hands from chapping, and also prevents the greasy scum from appearing on top of the water. About half a cup should be used.

To prevent salt from caking, mix a small quantity of cornstarch with it.

Granulated sugar, if used in cake making, is apt to make a cake fall.

To clean black cashmeres and merinoes, brush well first, and remove all dust; wash quickly in warm water in which soap has been lathered. Put in plenty of ammonia, and do as little rubbing as possible. The rinsing should be done in blued water containing a handful of salt. Never rub soap on the goods.

BIG BUCKLES.

The enormous waist buckles which are at present so much in favor in Paris are direct descendants of the brobdignagian d'Artois shoe buckles, named after the famous Comte d'Artois, brother of the French King Louis IX. In fact, all waist buckles are descendants of shoe buckles; not only in France, but in England—in London as much as in Paris. When shoe buckles died out, waist buckles came in. Fashion changed the location of these articles of adornment from the extremities of the gentlemen of King Charles II.'s court to the waists of their attending ladies.

But shoe buckles lasted long enough to become, in the hands of the rich and frivolous, an excuse for extravagances. Their price rose from a shilling to 10 guineas a pair, and varied between that and very much larger amounts. Two and a half millions of them were being made every year, when, for some inexplicable reason, the demand dwindled and died.

A vigorous but unsuccessful attempt was made to revive the fashion. Four thousand buckle-makers of Birmingham appealed for help to the Prince of Wales. The obliging Prince promised to assist them by every means in his power. He wore buckles himself, and enjoined their use upon the members of his household, but the dictates of fashion were not to be overruled. Probably some old makers are engaged in the recently revived trade in waist buckles, which, however, flourishes principally in France. In Paris, to-day, the well-dressed boulevardieres are on the high road to rival the old magnificence and extravagance in the matter of these pretty trinkets. Some that are worn resemble a mass of serpents intertwined with jeweled heads, and long, protruding jeweled fangs.

BRUTES OF MEN.

Fond Mother—My dear, don't you think of marrying that Mr. Goodsoul. He's hard-hearted, lazy, selfish, and without one spark of humanity.

Daughter—Mercy! How did you find it out?

Why the day I went to visit your Aunt Sally, he was in the same train, and my window stuck, and I asked him to raise it. Well, you mayn't believe it, but it's an actual fact he didn't work at it more than half an hour before he stopped trying, and advised me to take another seat, and I had all my bundles there too.

HE NEVER COULD.

Two clergymen were walking together recently, when one of them had the misfortune to fall over some orange peel. Ha! ha! exclaimed his brother of the cloth, the wicked always stand on slippry ground. So it seems, said the fallen one, but I never could.

THE MOST PAINFUL DEATH

AN EXPERIENCED SURGEON GIVES HIS OPINION.

Strange to Say, Deaths by Accident Are the Most Easy—Lockjaw or Tetanus Cause Intense Agony up to the Time of Death—In the Majority of Deaths the End is Painless.

The most painful forms of death are curiously enough, not those that are the most shocking or the most commonly dreaded. The most distressing accidents, usually produce painless deaths, while some familiar and little feared diseases result in intensely agonizing death. The machinery and the rush and hurry of city life cause more shocking forms of death than the tortures of the Inquisition.

The question as to what are the most painful and easiest deaths to die, must, of course, be deeply interesting to everyone. Dr. A. P. Smith, a surgeon of wide experience in one of our large cities, says:

DEATHS BY ACCIDENT EASY.

"It is a curious fact that few people know how a man really dies. They have only a more or less blindly superstitious fear and horror of it. The deaths which are to be most dreaded have as a rule little or no terror for most people. Now, to decide what is actually the most painful death any of us can die we must look somewhat into the nature of pain or agony.

"In the first place, the greatest suffering is produced not by the surface or superficial nerves of the body, but by a disturbance at some important nerve centre. Many of the deaths which are supposed to be accompanied by the most excruciating agony are in reality almost painless, because only the outer nerves are affected.

"Perhaps the most familiar example is death from burning. Most people imagine that to be burned alive, or boiled alive is the most intense torture conceivable. As a matter of fact I would rather be burned to death than die from many of the so-called 'natural' causes. This is also true of the pain produced by most cuts and bruises. Unless such cuts go very deep or the bruises are very severe, a death caused in this way, although very distressing, is not, however, nearly as painful as that from many familiar diseases.

"Most of the railroad and trolley-car accidents injure people in just this way. Of course, death from such causes is far more distressing to relatives. It is grievous to see a body mangled or

CUT AND BRUISED

often beyond recognition. And so people naturally dread such a death and imagine that it is the most painful death to die. But for the victim of such an accident the actual pain is not by any means as great as most people fancy.

"The pain, as I said, is in a sense superficial, and the centre of nervous force remains undisturbed, so that such a person can retain consciousness and keep measurably cool-headed. It should, besides, be considered that any severe shock, as in the case of a bad accident, produces a dulling or numbing effect upon the entire system. This is a most merciful provision of nature. A man who falls from a high place is likely to be unconscious before he reaches the ground. The victims of railroad disasters as a rule, have their senses dulled in this way, and it is much the same with a person who is burned alive or who meets death in any other sudden and violent manner.

PAINFUL LOCKJAW.

"On the other hand, some diseases cause at the end the most intense agony. The most painful death a man can die is from tetanus or lockjaw. In this disease the nerve centres are so affected that the muscles are set or knotted together rigidly, so that the pain is most acute, The disturbance in this case directly affects the spinal cord, and this quickly spreads to the brain. It is impossible for any one who has never seen a death from lockjaw to appreciate the terrors of it.

"It is a mistake to believe, however, that the most violent deaths are necessarily painful. As a rule, whenever patients are violent they are delirious and unconscious of their pain.

EASIEST FORMS OF DEATH

"The easiest death to die, of course, is in cases where the patient is absolutely unconscious. That is to say, they pass from sleep or a condition which closely resembles it into death. The great majority of deaths occur in this way. In most diseases as the end approaches there is a gradual failing of the faculties, so that the end is quite painless.

"Death from suffocation is also very painful. In this case the agony is not the result of any injury to the nerve centres. But the consciousness that death is approaching in spite of one's labored efforts to get air is most distressing. This brings on intense nervous agony. Of course, in speaking of the pain of dying I refer particularly to purely physical suffering.

DID THE BELL RING?

In ringing an electric bell, which is far from the point at which the push button is pressed, a person is often in doubt as to whether the bell has or has not been sounded. Batteries will sometimes give out at unexpected moments, and other interruptions of the action of the current are apt to arise. A novel but exceedingly simple arrangement for denoting whether electric bells have rung, or are in proper ringing order is a new indicating bell push, which when the bells rings at the other end, tells the operator so by means of an oscillating indicator just above the push button. This indicator is actuated by the same current that rings the bell. This is one of the neatest and best devices for the purpose that has been hit upon.