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.

Port Arthur harbor is frozen over.

Belleville had 16 births, 1 marriage and 14 deaths during November.

A grain elevator, to cost $500,000, is to be erected at Kingston.

The Montreal Cotton Company has declared a quarterly dividend of 2 per cent.

Dr. R. J. Woods, late of Toronto, died on Tuesday at Vancouver, B.C., of pneumonia.

Montreal's finances are in a rather bad way and the Council is considering plans to relieve the pressure.

The Ottawa Free Press advocates the abolition of the Act exempting civil servants from the process of garnishee.

The medical staff of the Ottawa General Hospital has resigned in a body, accusing the directors of not keeping faith.

The young Galician girl who was stricken with smallpox in Winnipeg died on Tuesday night. There are no new cases.

A number of the employees of the C. P. R. repair shops in Montreal have been discharged as there is no work for them.

John Mills, a keeper in the Kingston Penitentiary has fallen heir to an estate of $140,000 in Scotland.

Mr. John McKeown County Crown Attorney of Lincoln, died at the Hotel Dieu hospital, Kingston, yesterday.

The Keewatin Power Company are making contracts to supply electric power in Winnipeg, transmitted a distance of 130 miles.

The threatened split of the High Court of Quebec Independent Order of Foresters into French and English seems to have been averted.

Mr. A. D. Flint, assistant postmaster at Holland, Man., shot himself through the head while handling a loaded revolver in his office, dying in a few minutes.

A young man named Tophan was accidentally killed a few days ago in the Lake Dauphin country by his two brothers, who mistook him for a wolf and shot him.

Miss Pennock, telegraph operator at Langdon, N.W.T., had her legs crushed under a train. One was amputated, and the young lady is in a very critical condition.

The Dominion Fisheries Department has promised a supply of salmon eggs to the Hawaiian republic, to see if the Canadian fish will thrive in the waters of that vicinity.

Mr. Shaughnessy, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific railway, denies the truth of the report that his line was endeavoring to lease the Buffalo and Lake Huron Branch from the Grand Trunk railway.

At St. John the Pullman Car Company won a suit brought against it for injuries alleged to have been sustained by a passenger owing to the coldness of a car.

At Rat Portage a Pagan Indian who shot his foster father, thinking him a wendigo or evil spirit, was found guilty of manslaughter. Judge Rose sentenced him to six months' hard labor.

Mr. James Crawford, an elderly Englishman who went to Manitou, Man., from the United States recently, was frozen to death on Monday night, while walking to his son's farm, four miles from Manitou.

It is stated that the Federal Government has decided to follow the example of the Grand Trunk railway, and henceforth purchase all the goods required for the Intercolonial railway in the towns along the line.

Arrangements have now been perfected by which cattle and sheep from the Dominion of Canada, for export from Boston, may be entered and examined at the frontier ports of St. Alban's and Island Pond, Vermont.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A Christmas gift from the English people to U. S. Ambassador Bayard is being mooted in London.

It is rumored that the Queen may visit Ireland next year, during the celebration of her long reign.

Chas. Cushman, the only brother of Charlotte Cushman, the great American actress, died in England.

Dr. Jameson was removed from Holloway Jail in an ambulance and taken to a private sanitarium in one of the suburbs of London.

The exporters and manufacturers in London say that their trade with Canadian firms who import dry goods from the Old Country is not nearly up to that of former years.

Ambassador Bayard stated his belief that before his departure from England some permanent arrangement of arbitration will be arranged between England and the United States.

The London Daily Mail says that the fetes at Blenheim castle in honor of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough cost twenty thousand pounds.

A cold wave of extreme severity is prevailing throughout England, and several deaths of tramps and others from exposure to the weather are reported. Skating is freely indulged in.

A London despatch says that the Canadian Gazette asserts that enquiries made in the highest quarters failed to disclose any intention on the part of the Duke and Duchess of York to visit Canada next year.

The Manchester Guardian says Lord Salisbury will make very strong representations to the Spanish Government with reference to the detention in Cuba of Richard and John Beatty, residents of British Columbia.

Nothing is known in London official circles of the rumoured intention of knighting Mr. Laurier on New Year's day; but there is a desire that he should visit England and become acquainted with the British Ministers and officials.

At a meeting of the British Empire League on Friday the Duke of Devonshire said that he believed the Imperial Federation sentiment was growing, but that the idea of free trade within the Empire had not yet met with a hearty response.

UNITED STATES.

The Missouri National Bank, Kansas City, has collapsed.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher is bed-ridden from the effect of a fall.

The Salvation Army in St. Louis intends giving a Christmas dinner to three thousand persons.

The window glass manufacturers of the United States have reorganized both the old associations.

President Cleveland has purchased a house in 96th street, New York, in addition to a home in Princetown, N.J.

So far the Southern Pacific has had no trouble from snow, but Northern Pacific trains have been delayed somewhat.

Floods are doing great damage in Wisconsin, and causing intense hardship to the people living in the river valleys.

Luther Greenman, his wife and four children are reported to have been burned to death in the destruction of their home by fire at Perry, N. Y.

The United States & Hayti Telegraph Company have laid a cable direct from New York to Hayti, which is now open for business to all South American points.

The comparative statement of the receipts and expenditures of the United States during the month of November shows a deficit of more than seven million dollars.

Telegraph advices from the commercial agencies of Messrs. Bradstreet and Dun in New York are of the kind usual at this dull season. The recent spurt of orders has been filled, and trade generally is quiet, while there is an under-current of activity consequent on the usual Christmas requirements. The failures are small for November by comparison with those for the month of October. What is known as the iron and steel combine has been broken up, and lower prices are expected to prevail. The general volume of trade is only moderate, and no special activity is expected in any part of the country this year. Stormy weather has to a certain extent interfered with the distribution of goods. The dry goods trade is dull for this time of year.

GENERAL.

Spain is fitting out a flying squadron.

There are now thirteen thousand men on strike in Hamburg.

Princess Elizabeth of Lippe is dead. She was sixty-three years of age.

The Porte denies the reports of recent massacres at Diarbekir and Kharput.

Cuban rebels attacked the town of Guanabacoa, near Havana, on Tuesday and burned a part of the town.

Arrests of persons suspected of being concerned in plots against the Government continue in Constantinople.

A cyclone, accompanied by heavy floods, has swept the eastern West Indies, causing great loss of life.

Sir E. J. Monson, the newly appointed British Ambassador to succeed the Marquis of Dufferin, has arrived in Paris.

The Paris police have seized at the Gare du Nord large packages of a manifesto by Prince Victor Napoleon.

The Hamburg employers have refused to submit their difference with the striking dock labdrers to arbitration.

Gen. Porfirio Diaz, who was first elected to the Presidency of Mexico in 1876, has just been inaugurated for the fifth time.

Lord Rosemead, Governor of Cape Colony, who has been suffering from dropsy, will undergo an operation in a few days.

The Minister of Marine in the French Government is opposed to the proposal to include $40,000,000 in the naval estimates for new men-of-war.

The Government has decided to renew the charter of the Bank of France for 24 years. The select committee opposed all schemes for a State bank.

All the harbor laborers at Hamburg have been called out by the Strikers' Committee, and a general strike throughout Europe is said to be imminent.

A divorce judgment given in Paris establishes that the wife of a habitual gambler is entitled to a divorce and to the management of her children's property.

A mass meeting of the Farmers' Union was held in Lyons, France, at which the dealers in salt meats resolved in favor of the exclusion of American pork products in view of the fall in the price of swine.

Signor Cecchi, the Italian Consul, and the captains of the warships Volturno and Staffetta, with six other officers, are reported to have been murdered by Somales at Magadoxo, according to reports from Zanzibar.

The London Times, after commenting on Gen. Weyler's failure to subdue the Cuban insurgents, says the gloomy outlook in the island makes it impossible to exclude the possibility of some kind of United States intervention.

Lord Cromer, the British Agent at Cairo, has officially informed the Egyptian Government that if they decide to repay to the Caisse the money advanced to meet the expenses of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition, Great Britain will refund the amount.

DRUID'S CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS.

The Druids had a very beautiful custom which we moderns should imitate in spirit. They cut the green trees at this season of the year and carried them into their warm rooms in order to protect the spirits of the forest and the streams from the winter's frost and death dealing winds. In the springtime these spirits thus housed and sheltered went out again to recloth the forest with green foliage, to unlock the icy streams and cover the face of the earth with beauty and bread. At this Christmas season of peace and good will let us provide a home for the spirit of love, of justice, and of sympathy, that they may be protected against the evil times, the coldness and selfishness of the world, to go out again in the springtime "to heal and soothe and bless."

ROBERTS OF CANDAHAR.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE FIELD MARSHAL OF THE ARMY.

At Present Stationed at Kilmainham as Commander of the Forces in Ireland—A Distinguished Man.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts has loomed so largely in the public eye since the great achievement of relieving Candahar in 1879, that the following sketch of the present Commander-in-Chief of Ireland in his temporary residence at Kilmainham Hospital, which has just appeared in the "Celebrities at Home" series of the London World, will be read with interest.

Finding that a residence at the country place which he took near Dublin, on his appointment as Commander of the Forces in Ireland, sometimes involved delays in reaching his office, Lord Roberts at once settled down at Kilmainham with his family and such pets as his grey staghound and his white Arab charger. Service, duties and sport occupy his time in the Emerald Isle, as they did in India, and from the Hospital he can conveniently join hounds in Meath, Kildare, Dublin, Louth, Kilkenny and Tipperary. It was in the last-named county, indeed that he renewed his acquaintance with banks and ditches in the company of a brother-bearer of the Victoria Cross, Sir Charles Gough, who, too, won laurels in north-western India, like himself. All Lord Roberts' family have a taste for hounds and horses, like their father, and are easily mounted, being "Light Bobs," and good riders.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

After a succession of years at Eton, Sandhurst, and Adiscombe, Lord Roberts entered the Bengal Artillery in 1851, and went out to India, where later on he inaugurated his brilliant record in the field by winning, while still a subaltern, the proud distinction of the Victoria Cross for personal prowess in which gallantry almost amounting to recklessness was linked with the determination to rescue a comrade at any risk and at any sacrifice.

Soon after the conclusion of the Crimean war the Mutiny broke out and shook our Indian Empire to its foundations. We had to meet not the native levies such as Clive and Wellesley had conquered with a handful of troops at Plassey and Assaye, but soldiers whom we had armed and disciplined. This gigantic rebellion brought out the great qualities of great men, and here Lieut. Roberts not only proved himself a brave and gallant soldier, but a fit leader of men, and an organizer of victory by his resourceful career as Assistant Quartermaster-General in the campaign of Cawnpore, as subsequently in the Looshai expedition and in the Abyssinian campaign. His services since then it would be superfluous to enumerate, for they are matters of public history. But it may be remembered that he was twenty-three times mentioned in despatches before the Afghan war, during which campaign he was eight times thanked by the Viceroy and commander-in-chief of India. It was, however, in the Afghan campaign that Lord Roberts performed his greatest achievement in the march on Candahar.

KHYBER PASS MASSACRE.

Curiously enough it was in Afghanistan that that fine old soldier, General Sir Abraham Roberts. Lord Roberts' father, mainly made his mark, and if his advice had been taken the murder of Sir William Macnaghten and the annihilation of our army in the Khyber and other passes would never have taken place. His son, following in the paternal footsteps deprecated our choice of Ayoob Khan; and his words of wisdom were justified by the event and more particularly by the disaster at Maiwand and the critical position of the garrison at Candahar. What followed is one of the most daring and splendid episodes in our military history. Roberts, with ten thousand men, obtained permission from Simla to march to the relief of Candahar. He plunged into the pathless wilderness, almost without commissariat, where he could only announce his arrival at the fortress of Khalut-Ghilzai, a sort of midway station of the heliograph; and, having relieved the garrison of Candahar, he crushed Ayoob and restored our supremacy in that country—and all in about three weeks. Since that wonderful march Lord Roberts' services in his country have been more in the Cabinet than in the field, more vicarious than personal. He was too late to vindicate the British arms after Majuba, and during his command of the Indian forces there was not much fighting, save in Burmah and on the frontier.

BUSY IN PEACE.

While in Kilmainham Lord Roberts will hardly be called upon to witness anything more serious than mimic warfare and peace parades. But his active mind and his talent for organization will be ever exercised in increasing the efficiency of our home battalions and improving the lot of our soldiers, with whom he is so deservedly popular. Indeed, it is no weak testimony to Lord Roberts' pleasing conciliatory manner that the landlords and tenantry alike in the parts of Kilkenny and Tipperary which formed the theatre of the last Irish autumn manoeuvres have expressed a strong wish that "the Army" may next year be encamped in their midst, and spend a week or two showing them "the image of war."

Lord Roberts' capacity for making a good speech was well shown not long ago at Belfast, when he paid a happy tribute to the Indian army, which he thought, "was in a thoroughly efficient condition, ready and able to take its share in the defence of the empire in any part of the world where its services might be required."

A CLEVER SPEAKER.

He also spoke most happily a few weeks ago on the occasion of the presentation at Kilmainham hospital of the medal and diploma of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem to a young railway porter who had saved life at the hazard of his own. There was none of the pomp and pageantry of rhetoric in his speech, but every word told and every sentence was sympathetic. The presentation was rather a fine function, and could not have had a fairer or more appropriate theatre than the great hall at Kilmainham, a noble room a hundred feet long by some sixty wide, and hung round with arms and armour of all ages and periods; lances and pinions, corselets and cuirasses, scale and chain armour, morions and hauberks, and regimental flags, which the storm and stress of campaigning have sadly dilapidated—all are arranged with a masterly eye to effect and local colour. The ceiling is carved, and above the armour are portraits of several of our sovereigns, including the "Merry Monarch"— who can count Kilmainham among his good works for the army, as Greenwich was for the navy— the great Duke of Ormonde and several other dignitaries in Church and State.

IN HIS MANLY PRIME.

The effect was increased by the entrance of the pensioners in their red coats, like hunting-frocks, while the entire Dublin staff, in full uniform, stood round "Little Bobs," who was acting as the deputy of the Prince of Wales, the head of the order. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Lady Roberts who had a number of friends with her among whom were Lady Cremore, Lady Settrington and Lady Florence Streatfield, and the blue uniform of the Order of St. John contrasted happily with those of the staff.

The command of an army of some thirty thousand men of all arms necessitates an immense amount of work, but Lord Roberts is a good organizer; and though he has an efficient staff, he prefers to look after everything himself. Light, slim, and lissom of figure, he looks an ideal colonel of Hussars when in uniform mounted on his white arab, and still capable of repeating the deed of valour which won him his Victoria Cross.

HOW TO STORE WATER.

A Southerner's Ingenious but Simple and Cheap Device.

It is possible for every farmer to have living spring water on his land, according to John C. Bender, of St. Joseph, Mo., who claims to have solved the problem. For years there has been a shortage in the water supply in this part of the State, and, in fact, such is the case in other States, but according to Mr. Bender's theory—and he has proved it—he has solved a mystery that will prove a blessing and a benediction not only to rural folks, but to others who may happen to own as much as an acre of ground.

As the most suitable point for demonstrating the efficiency of his scheme, Mr. Bender selected the county farm, says a correspondent in the Chicago Record. The water supply has cost the county an immense sum of money, and not until the present time has there been sufficient water on the premises. This is the result of a spring that has been made.

1,000 FEET AND NO WATER.

At a considerable expense several years ago the county court had a well dug 45 feet deep and 12 feet in diameter. There was little or no water, and another plan was hit upon, which was expected to prove efficient. It was to bore a well at a much greater depth a short distance away, when it was expected the water would come toward the surface at a height that would permit of the use of a transfer pipe to the big well. Something over 1,000 feet was reached, and no water.

The location of these wells was at the base of a slope draining something live five acres, and it was the theory of Mr. Bender that he could store the surface water in a way that had never been done, and the supply would be constant. A trench about 100 feet in length was dug along the side of the hill, which had a depth of six feet at the beginning and ten feet in the end. This trench was filled with rock on a base of pounded stone. The top was covered with earth, and the results of the first rainfall carefully watched.

AN INGENIOUS DEVICE.

The head of the trench was later on enlarged by the removal of several waggon loads of earth and the space filled up with stone and iron. The latter acted as a purifier to charify the water. The effect was a complete surprise to the county officials. The actual expense of the experiment was less than $100. For years the county had been at an expense of little less than $1,000 a year for men and teams to haul water to the county farm, and since the Bender scheme was put into effect there has been no outlay whatever, and the water supply is better than it has ever been. The big forty-five foot well has been filled, and the overflow goes into a reservoir below to be used in emergency, after being filtered and flowing back into the well.

True it is there has been abundant rainfall this summer, and Mr. Bender says with the use of rainfall of winter and spring there will be an abundant supply the remainder of the season. The plan is so simple and the cost so little that the scheme has attracted the attention of representatives of many counties in Illinois, as well as Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa.

COST IS SMALL.

An inch of rain falling upon an acre of ground amounts to 27,000 gallons of water. On rolling ground one-half or more of this water runs off, and the balance soaks into the soil. It is a well known fact that many soils do not absorb the water readily, and this is the case in the territory of northwestern Missouri and portions of other States.

But, according to the theory of Mr. Bender, this water can be stored in trenches and the moisture held in the ground for the gradual use of fields, lawns and gardens.

The State geologist has given the plan a high endorsement since he has seen the practical effect, and farmers and fruit growers, and others as well, are beginning the construction of ditches. The secret of the success of the present plan lies in the fact that it costs very little and is exceedingly simple.

TRAINING WATCH DOGS.

AN EMPHATIC BELIEVER IN THEIR INTELLIGENCE.

How Conducted in Germany on Scientific Principles—Dummy Burglars a Feature of the Training.

In the northern part of Berlin, almost on the suburban line, and in an obscure street called Prince's alley, is one of the most unique establishments the world over. Herr Straus is the presiding genius, an intelligent man of middle age, who has devoted the best part of his life to a study of dogology. With a good listener who knows something of the subject, Herr Straus will talk about the wonders of the canine world for half a day without drawing heavily on his store of knowledge.

It is amost unnecessary to state that Herr Straus is an emphatic believer in the intelligence of the dog, and after one has visited his place the visitor will agree heartily with him. This man can teach a dog to do almost everything but write his name and talk, but he devotes nearly all of his time to developing first-class watch dogs, —not ordinary watch dogs, who will tear the pants off a tramp, but dogs who will tackle a man as scientifically as a trained pugilist, and never let up on him until he is knocked out.

Herr Straus says: "Few people know the susceptibility to instruction of a dog. Many dogs are trained by being taught senseless tricks, which are pretty to look at, but are of no real value. Pugs and poodles I have no use for. The greatest virtue of the dog does not lie in the trick performing, but in the serious business of guarding his master from harm and the protection of his master's property. Such a dog must know a friend from an enemy. A dog has great intelligence; all that is needed is development.

In this establishment there are always a dozen or two of dogs of various breeds and sizes, and belonging to various owners. Some of them are Bernardines, some are bulldogs, others are Russian wolf hounds and hunting dogs.

THE BREED OF THE DOG

does not count for much in the opinion of the trainer, so long as the animal is of fair size and weight.

He says the most difficult task in the education of a dog is to train him to attack a man. The dog's intelligence tells him that man is his superior, yet he must be taught to disregard this, and by an excess of bravery overcome the enemy. Herr Straus uses the whip, but with rare judgment. He says that the use of the whip after every failure would mean barren results in the end and the ruin of the dog. He seldom uses the whip at all, until the education of the dog is well under way. Then he employs it to awaken the intelligence of the animal and force him to concentrate his knowledge upon the work in hand. Every time he uses the whip he spends great time in showing the dog the reason of his punishment. More good dogs and horses, he says, have been ruined by senseless punishment than by any other single cause.

His place is surrounded by a wooden fence 6 1-2 feet high—too high for the average dog to jump. In exhibiting the knowledge of his pupils he used a couple of bull dogs and a smooth-coated St. Bernard. The bull dogs weighed about 35 pounds each, and the Bernardine about 120 pounds.

First he put them through very ordinary movements, merely to show their obedience. He told them to sit quietly on their haunches; then he ordered them to bring certain sticks and stones and pieces of clothing from different ends of the yard. Next he made them jump about in various ways, and when these were through with arrangements were made for exhibiting their abilities in attacking a man.

For this purpose a dummy was used, dressed as the German vagrant, or outcast usually appears. The dummy was placed outside the gate, and a long string attached to the knob was held by an assistant. The gate was opened slowly and steathily, just as it would be by a tramp or a burglar.

The dummy was leaning against the gate, and as it partially opened the dogs caught sight of the bogus intruder. In three jumps the two bulldogs were on the dummy, both of them

LEAPING FOR THE THROAT.

The dummy was well braced up and, moreover, held in its right hand a stout club, which was manipulated by another assistant, and the dogs got some heavy blows. They tore and pulled at him until they got him on the ground, and kept tearing at his throat as long as the men holding the strings made the dummy move. When the dummy was still the dogs ceased their tearing, but at the slightest movement resumed the fight.

Herr Straus never allowed his dogs to take hold of the legs or lower part of the body when making an attack. They are taught to fly straight for the throat and to keep tearing away there until the man becomes motionless. Then they must keep their forepaws on the throat, and on the slightest movement resume the attack.

The most interesting feature was an attack made by the Bernardine on a live man. Several men are employed by the trainer for the purpose, and are well paid for it. This man was carefully dressed for the fray, at least the upper part of his body was. Under several coats and vests he wore a thick leather jacket next to the skin. A heavy leather band was fastened around the neck, and over the many thicknesses of stout cloth were wound.

The man came through the gate in a slinking way and the big dog pinned him to the wall in a second, his great teeth tearing at the cloth and leather. The man did not put up as good a fight as the dummy, and the instant he felt the dog's teeth in his flesh he dropped to the ground and laid motionless. Then the dog kept quiet until called off by the trainer.

The most regular visitors at this place are the animal painters of Berlin's art, who find it a perfect gold mine for material for striking pictures.