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.

The assessment returns of the city of Hamilton, show an increase of $1,278,530.

Major General Gascoigne has returned to Ottawa from a prolonged stay in England.

Elgin Tufford was sentenced to penitentiary for two years at Hamilton for bigamy.

The design for a new postage stamp has been approved by the Postmaster-General.

Lieut. G. P. Thorpe, of the Rifle Brigade, England, has been appointed an aide-de-camp to Lord Aberdeen.

The Olive Mine, near Mine Centre, has been sold by Winnipeg parties to an English syndicate for $850,000.

The assessment of St. Catharines shows a gain of $275,000 in property and 250 in population over last year.

The Monarch mine at Rat Portage has been sold by the Bullion Company for $25,000. Toronto men are the purchasers.

The Sellkirk leper, Gudmun Christianson, has been conveyed to Tracadie, N.B. No further cases, it is stated, exist in the province.

Captain Cooke, of the Royal Military College, Kingston, has, it is understood been granted a commission in the Imperial East African service.

Immigration Commissioner Pedley and James A. Smart, Deputy Minister of the Interior, have left on a tour of the western States to visit immigration agencies.

The Dominion Minister of Customs is satisfied with the first effort to collect revenue in the Yukon. Fifteen thousand dollars have been remitted by Collector Davis in less than a year.

A special from Winnipeg states that this year has witnessed a remarkable increase in the volume of traffic on the Canadian Pacific railway and also in the total sales of the land department.

Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has issued a circular to the lumbermen on the Ottawa river, notifying them that there will be no further postponement of the law forbidding the dumping of sawdust into the river.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company will build at once into Rossland, and will furnish the necessary capital to erect a smelter in the vicinity, so that the ores of that camp will be treated cheaper than they can be across the border.

Mr. George Hague, general manager of the Merchant's Bank of Canada, has just returned to Montreal from the North-West. He says, while the crop is not as heavy as last year, its extra quality and higher prices will make it twice as valuable.

Canadian artists are to be invited to submit proposals to the Government for a statue of the Queen and one of Mr. Alexander Mackenzie. Both are to be erected on Parliament hill, the amount to be expended on each being $5,000 voted by Parliament last session.

It is reported that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have offered to construct a bridge at Quebec to connect their system with the Intercolonial Railway provided that the Intercolonial Railway will give them a lease of their road.

Regarding the first trial shipment of Canadian fruit to England in cold storage, a cablegram has been received in Ottawa, stating that the pears, plums, and tomatoes arrived in good condition, but the peaches and grapes were too ripe, and did not arrive in good condition.

Michael Odrie jumped out of a second-storey window on St. Paul street, Montreal. People picked him up, and in answer to queries he said he was not hurt. Then he re-entered the building, and before the crowd had dispersed he came down a second time from a third storey. He was picked up fearfully mangled, and died shortly afterwards.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Liberal candidate in East Denbighshire was returned on Thursday with an increased majority.

Mrs. Ormiston Chant, the social reformer, announced during a lecture in Warwickshire that the Crown Princess of Greece, Princess Sophia of Prussia, had told her that the worst and most cruel foe of Greece was not the Sultan of Turkey, but her own brother, Emperor William of Germany.

The British torpedo-boat destroyers Lynx and Thrasher grounded on Wednesday during a fog on Dodman's Point. The Thrasher broke in two, and it is expected the Lynx will do the same. Five stokers were killed and two injured by the bursting of a steam pipe on board the Thrasher shortly after she grounded.

UNITED STATES.

Maj. Lewis Ginter, the cigarette king, is dying at his home, near Richmond, Va.

Bishop Potter, of New York diocese, is suffering with a severe attack of la grippe.

St. Clair Sampson, aged 18, accidentally shot and killed his mother at their home in Newark, N.J., on Wednesday.

The Creek Indians have signed a treaty agreeing to accept lands in severalty and to change their form of government.

The price of beer in San Francisco has gone up fully one-third within the last few weeks and is expected to climb higher.

William Pearson while digging in the sand near Covington, Ky., unearthed a skull, which is thought to be the long-missing head of Pearl Bryan.

The Special Board appointed by the United States Navy Department recommends the immediate construction of five new dry-docks at a cost of five million dollars.

The finding of a burned railroad pass in the debris of the Newcastle, Col., wreck tells the story of the horrible death of Elmer Black and his bride of Pittsburg.

The coroner's jury which investigated the death of the striking miners at Hazleton, Pa., has returned a verdict condemning the sheriff, declaring that the killing was "wanton and unjustifiable."

Rev. Father Wernet, priest of St. Philomena's R. C. church at Pittsburg, Pa., was assaulted at the altar on Sunday by a Frenchman named Gresserson, who thought the priest was ceremoniously irregular.

The United States war corvette Yantic has been ordered to the great lakes, and is to be armed, after her arrival on the lakes, with a modern rapid fire battery, which may cause complications between the United States and Great Britain.

GENERAL.

The Queen Regent of Spain and the Court have arrived at Madrid from San Sebastian.

The new Italian cruiser Garibaldi has been launched at Sestri a Poriente, near Genoa.

The German Government is taking steps to introduce a bill to increase the beer tax threefold.

Austria offers to give her services in arranging the trouble between Spain and the United States.

Sixteen persons were killed by the explosion of a boiler in a factory at Batfalu, in Hungary, on Monday.

The Icelandic Parliament having voted a sum for that purpose, a telegraphic cable will be laid next summer from Scotland to Iceland.

Criminal proceedings have been commenced against the Frankfort Zeitung, on the charge of lese majeste, for criticizing the erratic course of Emperor William.

All arrangements for the cession of Kassala to Great Britain have been completed, and everything is ready for the occupation of that town by British troops.

The European cities of Dublin, Barcelona, and Madrid are to be equipped with trolley systems, and all the electrical and steam apparatus will be supplied by United States firms.

It is reported that a powerful Spanish squadron will immediately proceed to Cuba on the pretext of attending the installation of the new floating dock at Havana, but really as an answer to the despatch of the United States flotilla to Florida waters.

It is rumored in Johannesburg that the British South American Company has demanded three million pounds indemnity from the Government of the Transvaal for inciting the natives of Matabeleland to revolt against the company, and for supplying them with arms.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN BRITAIN.

Interesting Pros. and Cons on this Subject in the British House of Commons.

Although the recent discussion in the British House of Commons on Woman's Suffrage, was purely academic, and the second reading of the bill merely amounts to a barren affirmation of the abstract principle that women deserve the franchise, some of the arguments advanced on both sides will be read with interest. Mr. Faithful Begg, who moved the second reading of the measure, represented those reasoners who contend that, inasmuch as women pay taxes, both directly and indirectly, they have an inherent right to say by their votes how those taxes should be expended. The bill was faulty from the viewpoint of the sincere advocates of women in that it restricted the franchise to those possessing an amount of property exceeding the minimum which is exempted from the income tax. This restriction would obviously have excluded all wage earners and recipients of small salaries, although upon them falls to a very large extent the burden of the excise and customs duties. It would also have excluded all those married women who neither possess any separate property nor have time to earn any money, being engaged in bringing up the human race, a function at least as useful as any exercised by man.

A second argument brought forward was that women are equal in intelligence to men, and are, therefore, equally qualified to use the franchise wisely. The answer was that, while this is true in some departments of thought and of skilled labor, it is not true in other departments, of which politics is one, as well as theology, philosophy, agriculture, architecture, shipbuilding, mining, the plastic arts, and soldiership. As regards most of the departments of intellectual exertion, wherein it is alleged that women have not proved their ability to excell, it may be said that in most countries they have never had an opportunity to test their ability. In the rare cases where they have had an opportunity, they have turned it to account, even in soldiership; witness the Amazonian guards of a certain African potentate whose fearlessness has never been surpassed by men. The strongest argument brought forward against the bill was that presented by Sir William Harcourt, who pointed out that if the measure became a law, a property qualification for women would speedily be abolished, as it had already been in the case of men. With universal suffrage, however, conceded to both sexes in the United Kingdom, the women would have, he said, a majority of 1,200,000. If they chose to use that majority, and there could be, obviously no guarantee against their using it, they would control the House of Commons. What, asked Sir William, would be the effect of that control upon the liquor and tobacco questions and upon the question of peace or war? We have but little doubt that the power of enfranchised women would eventually be arrayed against the habitual use of intoxicating beverages, if not of tobacco also, and it is true enough that at present without the large revenue now derived from these articles, a British Chancellor of the Exchequer would be at his wits' end. It strikes us, however, as a curiously weak plea to assert that a community would suffer in the long run because women insisted upon drawing the public revenue from other sources than the vices and weaknesses of mankind.

Much use was made, of course, in the debate of the physical force argument It was pointed out that at present the world is governed in the last resort, and made habitable, and kept free by the physical force of the men in it; and it was asserted that this condition of things must continue until war is abolished, and the 300,000,000 of Chinese become civilized men. Representative government, itself, so the opponents of the bill continue, has but one permanent, security, the fact, namely, that the voter also wields a bayonet, and can, if a minority will not obey, coerce it into obedience. How, it was asked, would a female majority, if it happened to quarrel with a masculine minority, as it probably would both about alcohol and about war, coerce the men into submission? To which the advocates of woman suffrage replied that, if women are to be deprived of the franchise on the ground that they can not or do not carry the bayonet, the same rule of exclusion from the ballot box should be applied to all male human beings not within the limits of military age, and thus a large proportion of the House of Commons, as it is now constituted, would be prohibited from voting. As to what would be the attitude of women, if they possessed the franchise, toward war, there was the widest difference of opinion. Mr. Jebb, who spoke for the measure, and who maintained that woman suffrage would introduce in public life a new element, to wit, a conscientious element believes that women would, in every case, insist upon a settlement of international controversies by arbitration instead of by force. Others pronounced it a mistake to suppose that a feminine majority would be pacific; it would, on the contrary, they said, be curiously bellicose. It was further asserted that, were the women of England to be polled on the Jameson raid to-morrow, they would approve of that transaction by an overwhelming vote; nay, universal conscription was declared to be the kind of law which in times of panic a feminine majority would vote, leaving the masculine minority to carry it out. To which the advocates of woman suffrage replied What of it? In parliamentary countries declarations of war are always made by assemblies, the majority of members in which represent the non-fighting majority of males while the fighting is always done by the minority of males who happen to come within the legal definition of fighting age.

One of the speakers, having in mind the experience of those English-speaking communities where woman suffrage is a fact, expressed the opinion that the proposed innovation would have none of the momentous consequences that had been pictured. He believed, he said, that, with the exception of questions involving war, drunkenness, and the social evil, the votes of women would be found on all occasions pretty evenly divided. We ourselves have no doubt that in some directions woman suffrage would be powerful for good. We have no doubt that women voters would almost unanimously support every measure tending to the education of the masses and to the alleviation of poverty and suffering; but we do not underrate the danger pointed out by Mr. Herbert Spencer in his latest volume, that compassion might carry them too far, and lead them to promote a socialistic revolution.

FLASHES OF FUN.

Farther Back—Beaning—"Does your wife ever go through your pockets?" Durham—"I should say not. She draws my salary."

Yabsley—"See here, Mudge, why haven't you paid that $10 as you promised." Mudge—"I heard you were going to leave town."

"What is horse sense, Uncle Jim?" "I don't know exactly, but a man oughtn't to trust himself on a bicycle unless he has got it."

Jabbers—"Why have you and Merriman quarreled?" Havers—"Oh, he's such a perfect ass!" "Then I should think you'd get along all right."

Prosperity Eluded Him—"I thought you said you saw prosperous times ahead." "Well I thought I did, but the heiress I had my eye on wouldn't have me."

Counsel—"What is your age, madam?" Witness—"I only know from what I've been told, and you just told me that hearsay evidence was not valid in court."

Mrs. Cumso—"Your husband dresses very quietly." Mrs. Cawker—"Does he? You ought to hear him when he can't find his collars, or his cuff buttons become mislaid."

"They have never spoken since they took part in private theatricals," said Miss Cayenne. "I see; professional jealousy." "Oh, dear, no; something far worse. 'It's amateur jealousy."

Mrs. Bloobumper—"How did the detectives happen to suspect him, disguised as he was in women's clothes?" Bloobumper—"He passed a milliner's store window without looking in."

A man without a wife
Is a man down at the heel;
But the saddest thing in life
Is the man without a wheel.

"Your husband seems to be a pretty easy-going sort, eh?" "Don't you believe nothin' of the kind. It is the hardest work in the world to start him goin' at all!"

She—"How nicely you did that! And would—would you care to always repair my punctures?" He—"Darling, it would be the greatest joy of my life for me to do so; if you would promise to darn my socks in return.'" So they rode along in search of a parson.

THE EARTH'S DESTRUCTION

GIGANTIC PLANET MAY BE HURLED FROM THE SUN.

Prof. Severinus J. Corrigan Says It May Occur At Any Moment—Leading Astronomers All Over the World Are Watching the Orb o' Day.

In a new world about to burst forth from the sun?

According to the discoveries made by Prof. Severinus J. Corrigan, of the Goodsell Observatory, this phenomena may occur at any moment. The professor states in his report that this important solar event will be accompanied with terrific explosions, which will produce great disturbances throughout the entire solar system and particularly on the earth, to such an extent that all forms of life on land and water will be destroyed. Scientific men have figured it out that a tremendous mass of matter was hurled from the sun 23,000,000 years ago. In that remote period this world was then, according to the same authorities, in existence. It was that era known as the Paleozic age when that solar eruption took place. All animal and vegetable life then existing on the face of the earth was completely crushed out.

During the past year astronomers in all parts of the world have been investigating the peculiar spots that are daily becoming more prominent on the sun. Leading astronomers as a result of their researches are of the opinion that some remarkable eruption is about to take place on the face of the sun.

It is well known among the astronomers that this earth, some millions of years ago was displaced from the sun. The famous discovery two years ago of the strange solar element, helium, in the rocks of the earth was a common proof of the substantial identity of the two bodies, the sun and the earth. Helium on the earth shows a mark of solar parentage, like a peculiar strain in the blood of an animal. All astronomers agree that all the planets had their origin from the sun. The earth is supposed to have had its birth from the body of the sun when the latter was so expanded that it occupied all

THE EMPTY SPACE.

now between it and our globe. Later on Venus, and afterward Mercury issued from the slowly contracting orb of day. All these planets probably first appeared in the shape of rings surrounding the sun, and were not separated with great force from the parent body. Now, however, the sun has become compacted, and the explosive energies are stored up in a manner that could not exist when the sun was expanded over so vast a space as that which it filled at the time the earth was brought into existence.

The separation of a vast molten mass, probably many times larger than this globe, from the sun would, no doubt, produce effects that might easily make themselves felt across many millions of miles of space. Men of science have been, until lately, of the opinion that as a body; the sun had passed through all the more violent stages, and had entered upon a steady course of radiation and slow cooling, leading ultimately, in some billions of years, in a placid manner to gradual extinction in cold and gloom. This view of astronomers have led many modern thinkers to reject utterly the prophecies of the Scriptures that the earth will be destroyed by fire. This process of extinction was regarded as something that would take place gradually, regularly and without any catastrophic interruption, and that when this earth reaches the termination of its career as a living world, cold, and not heat, will be the agent of its extinction. In other words, all life on earth would freeze to death.

Prof. Garrett P. Serviss, an eminent astronomer says:

"We have turned our backs to the sun, and practically left it out of account, except of course, so far as consequences of its gradual extinction are concerned. We have been peering into interstellar space to see if some concealed danger, some hidden rock, some invisible wandering bulk of matter might not lie in wait there to bring sudden disaster by collision with our globe.

"The keen light of the great star Vega, billions upon billions of miles away, but toward which our system

IS RAPIDLY TRAVELING

has suggested to many eminent men that in the remote future when we have arrived in the neighborhood of that star a catastrophe would overtake us through the terrible power and heat of that far-off sun. Prof. Corrigan, however is probably right in recalling us to a realization of the fact that, just as we depend upon the sun for light, heat and life itself, so should we look to the sun only when we try to lift the curtain that hides the future fate of this world.

The launching of this new planet from the sun brings up a number of possibilities. No person can definitely estimate the result, no one can state with assurance when the event takes place what may happen to this globe. The seasons may be entirely changed; in fact, the whole nature of our climate may be entirely different.

These mysterious sun spots that have puzzled astronomers were first seen by Galileo. Since then they have undergone wonderful change. The spots, with their violent outbursts, followed by subsidences are taken as an indication that the mass is soon to be hurled from the sun. When this detachment shall take place phenomena, such as no human being ever saw is liable to occur. "This planet," says Prof. Garrett P. Serviss, "may float in space wrecked with no stir of life on its cindery surface. Water, atmosphere, metals, rocks—all would be intermingled and indistinguishable in the fiery mass that had departed from the sun.

Prof. Porter of the Cincinnati Observatory, when seen in reference to the new planet, said;

"Astronomers the world over have been investigating a process of eruption now under way on the solar surface. But all this talk of Prof. Corrigan and others about the destruc-

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DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH.

when that event takes place is all bosh. Such a thing may happen without us even knowing. It is true that there are extraordinary spots on the sun and if thrown off would simply revolve round that body, touching its edges. According to the nebulae theory this world and all the planets were thrown at some period from the sun and for ages after revolved close to it. No, there is nothing to it, and is not worthy, in my opinion of a moment's discussion."

The scientific world, however, is watching with interest the peculiar conditions of the great day star. To bring back the question of the Scriptures regarding the destruction of this world by fire the following may be found in "Revelations:"

CHAPTER VIII.

And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters.

And the name of the star is called Wormwood, and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

And I beheld and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

CHAPTER XVI.

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

And there were voices and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell; and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of fierceness of His wrath.

And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceedingly great.

INSTEAD OF BUTTER.

A good many years ago, when orange marmalade was first introduced into England, some of the dealers advertised it as an excellent substitute for butter, so says a British journal.

A Lancashire workingman's wife, seeing such an advertisement in a shop window, concluded to give the novelty a trial. She bought a two-pound jar. The next morning she entered the shop in a state of high indignation.

You old villun! she exclaimed to the grocer. What did you mean by selling me that stuff? I pretty nearly poisoned my old man with it.

How were that? asked the innocent shop-keeper.

How were that? Didn't you say it were a substitute for butter?

Yes, I did.

Well, it is a grond substitute. I used some of it, to fry a bit of fish with, an' it made us all sick as we could be.

SAILOR'S LIFE NO SINECURE.

Desertions from British Ships in One Year Number Twelve Thousand.

That the lot of the sailor in the British mercantile marine is no bed of roses is shown by a report of the Government Board of Trade just issued in London, and according to which the number of cases of desertion during the 12 months which have just been brought to a close exceeds 14,000. With the exception of a few hundred only all these deserting seamen were what are known as long-voyage men, and their abandonment of their ships in some foreign port—usually an American one—meant to them not only the sacrifice of character, with the certainty of imprisonment in the event of recapture either at home or abroad, but likewise the loss of all accumulation of pay, which is only given to the men on completing the time for which they have shipped. The Board of Trade calculates that, estimating the accumulated pay of each deserting sailor at a minimum average of $50 nearly $750,000, is thus lost to the sailors and to their families at home, the money, of course, remaining in the hands of their employers. The English Government now proposes to devise means by which ship-owners and ship-masters, who often brutally treat their men with the express object of inducing them to desert without demanding their pay, should be forced to disgorge all such accumulations of wages for the benefit of the nearest relatives of the deserters.

THE EVER PLEASANT QUESTION.

First Cyclist—Oh, you wouldn't like Jobson; he's got a wheel in his head.

Second Cyclist—What make?