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.

John Gaynor was sandbagged at Carberry and robbed of $590.

There are several cases of diphtheria among the pupils of the Hess Street School, Hamilton.

The Canadian General Electric Co. are building a new power and pump house at Peterborough.

An important discovery of fire clay has been made in Nipissing on the farm of Mr. Thomas Whittaker of London.

The Bank of Montreal's statement for the half year ending October 31 shows that business has greatly improved.

The C. P. R. is seeking from the Quebec City Council a refund of taxes amounting to $50,000 paid within the past 11 years.

There is a possibility of the Montreal rolling mills moving to some Eastern Ontario town before long. Trenton is making a big bid for the works.

The Department of Inland Revenue is considering the advisability of allowing the use, under certain restrictions, of spring scales or balances.

According to the transfer books of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, stock to the value of three hundred thousand dollars is held in Toronto.

James Huton, who killed his son, Toronto, with a pair of shears on Hallowe'en, and who was convicted of manslaughter, was on Tuesday sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

The bridge over the Ottawa river from Nepean Point to Hull, to which the Dominion Government promised one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, is to be commenced forthwith.

Owing to the renewed outbreak of smallpox in Montreal, Dr. Laberge, the Health Officer is determined to put in force the law ordering the compulsory vaccination of children.

Mr. J. L. Larke, Dominion commercial agent in Australia, complains that his efforts to promote trade between the two countries are frequently rendered nugatory by the dilatoriness of Canadian firms.

It is stated that an excursion of four hundred families will leave Hull and Ottawa in the spring to colonize lands which the Quebec Government is opening up for settlement in the Gatineau district.

The Department of Railways and Canals has taken over the contract on the Soulanges canal held by Mr. Archie Stewart, of Ottawa, and the work is being carried on under the control of the Government.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. W. S. Fielding, who is at present in London, is impressed with the importance of the British demand for an effective insolvency law in Canada.

Dr. Darby, secretary of the Arbitration Alliance, has presented to Lord Salisbury a memorial with more than sixty four thousand signatures in favour of an Anglo-American arbitration treaty.

An interesting experiment is being tried in a Dublin hospital upon a discharged soldier, whose eyelids have been destroyed by ophthalmia. The doctors have grafted in their places the eyelids of a newly killed pig.

UNITED STATES.

The Dana estate which is valued at a million dollars, is left almost in its entirety to Mrs. Dana.

A combine of companies engaged in manufacturing insulated wires and cables for electric purposes, is mooted.

A Washington despatch says the ratification of the Hawaiian annexation treaty by the United States Senate is assured.

A bill is to be introduced in the Legislature in Maine, to punish sportsmen who accidentally shoot and wound or kill men in the woods.

John A. Willard a banker of Maukato, Minn., has assigned with liabilities, at nearly $1,000,000 and assets, chiefly real estate, worth $2,000,000.

Denver, Col., has passed an ordinance fixing a license fee of one thousand dollars for all dealers in cigarettes. The ordinance will be immediately contested.

The Canadian Society of New York has appointed a committee for the purpose of raising a relief fund for the victims of the recent fire in Windsor, N. S.

The announcement that Chinamen will be placed in the mines of the Northern Illinois coal fields has caused an immense amount of excitement among the white miners.

It is reported at Warren Ohio, that a fortune has been left in Scotland to the family of which Mrs. McKinley, mother of President McKinley, is a member.

The United States Government has decided to send the revenue cutter Bear to the relief of the American whaling fleet said to be destitute and icebound in Behring Sea.

The theory that the railway bed at Garrison, the scene of the fatal wreck on the New York Central railway, was destroyed by dynamite has been abandoned, and it is now believed that the disaster was due to a washout.

Miss Frances E. Willard, president of the W.C.T.U., announces that she will contribute three thousand dollars of her own money to start the fund of three hundred thousand dollars which the temperance people need to hold control of the Temple property in Chicago.

According to reports from New York changed climatic conditions during the past few days have helped materially to improve the general trade conditions. There has been a marked increase in the demand for winter goods of all descriptions, and rapid orders for immediate delivery have creaded a rush in many of the wholesale branches of trade, and a corresponding added demand for labor. On the other hand there is in many quarters a considerable shrinkage reported as caused by fever and quarantine. There has been a comparatively large consumption of iron during the past month, and boot and shoe making has surpassed all records.

GENERAL.

The financial crisis in Venezuela is so acute that trade has practically ceased.

Mount Vesuvius is in great activity, and two wide streams of lava, are flowing in th edirection of Vitrova.

It is understood that the Reichstag will be asked for a vote of three million marks for naval improvement.

With the exception of suffering from slight facal neuralgia. Prince Bismarck is enjoying good health.

Large bands of well-armed disciplined rebels are scouring Madagascar, and cutting off isolated French detachments.

As a result of General Weyler's policy of driving women and children of the insurgents into the cities of Cuba, thousands are dying of starvation.

The French Minister of War has declined to re-open the case of Captain Dreyfus, serving a life sentence for treason. He claims to be innocent.

It has been decided to appeal to Europe and America to raise the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, with which to relieve the terrible distress existing in Greece.

A man named Dreyfus, living in Paris, who recently suffered losses on the Bourse, his wife and three young daughters, all committed suicide on Monday morning.

The condition of the members of the Turkish Embassy in Berlin is deplorable. They have not received any salary for more than a year, and they are being harassed by their creditors.

The authorities at Rio Janeiro are convinced that the attack on President Morales and the killing of Gen. Bittencourt, late Minister of War, were the results of a widespread conspiracy.

The Pope has despatched two special agents to convey instructions to the French electors, enjoining them to frankly accept the republic and to oppose monarchial aspirations in the approaching elections.

Owing to sudden frosts the ports in the Sea of Azof are freezing, and consequently a considerable quantity of grain which was prepared for export cannot be shipped.

The Viceroy of India has ordered a Court of Enquiry to investigate the disastrous reconnaisance of Gen. Westmacott to the summit of Saran-Sar mountain last Wednesday.

A GOD IN A BOTTLE.

How Two White Men Impressed the Inhabitants of Niger — An Attempt to Witness the Rites of Juju.

The interesting stories that have come from the Dark Region under the Niger Protectorate, concerning the character of the people, the manner of life, and the cruelties, of Benin city, have their counterpart in the superstitious horrors at Bendi, an important town 100 miles inland from Opob. It is the largest trade centre, and the headquarters of "Lug Juju," the native god. Fetish rights and human sacrifices are common. The first white men who ever penetrated Bendi were two protectorate officers, Messrs. Leonard and James, last winter, when they made a journey of six days into the interior. Upon reaching any village a palaver was held, and the proceedings were opened by the head man of the town walking round a ring, holding a skull in one hand and wildly gesticulating with the other, at the same time uttering curses upon all white men if any harm befell the townspeople by their visit. After this friendly act the white men with their expedition walked round the circle evoking maledictions upon the natives if any harm befell the white men during the visit.

One of the head men in the white party, who knew well the efficacy of the new "juju," hit upon a plan which had an extraordinary effect. In his promenade around the circle he carried an ordinary bottle of soda water. At the critical moment, when he had exhausted his list of curses he leaped into the ring and opened the bottle, the cork going off with a loud report. The effect was instantaneous. The natives with one accord—chiefs, women, and children—straightway fled. The peo were profoundly impressed with what they called the white men's god in a bottle. During the whole journey the letting off of soda water corks always had the desired effect.

Reaching Bandi the market was at once closed, and the intruders were warned to leave immediately. They departed on the following day without being attacked. The chief fear of the people evidently was that they would penetrate the mysteries of "juju." Nothing was actually seen of the "juju" rites, as it was discovered that they were performed a little way out of town.

BLANKS PREFERRED.

She—I'm among those who believe that marriage is a lottery.

He—That's foolish. Lotteries are not allowed in the country, and yet marriages are not only allowed but encouraged.

She—That only goes to show man's inconsistency. I say it is a lottery. But some men wouldn't draw a prize if they could.

SAW A HUMAN SACRIFICE.

IT WAS IN WESTERN CHINA WHERE THE DEED WAS DONE.

How William Jameson Reid Secretly Witnessed Horrible Buddhist Ceremonies in the Temple Cave of Tzuchan — Five Old Men and One Young Girl Sacrificed — A Ghastly Spectacle.

Two thousand miles from the Chinese coast of the Pacific Ocean, immersed in the very heart of the vast central tableland of Asia, lies the province of Koko Nor, a region of barbarous wilderness for which nature has fashioned an adamant girdle to jealously guard from intrusion. But twice in the history of all time has its uncouth surface been trodden by the foot of white man. It is from these untamed wilds that we have returned, after an arduous progress across the bleak summits of the Peling Mountains, writes Wm. J. Jameson, of Boston.

From our station at Gharlkau, on the Sifanese headwaters of the Kinsha Kiang, tributary of the Yangtse Kiang, we had been engaged in a thorough exploration of this unknown country of Western China. The most difficult and venturesome task had been reserved until the last—the penetration through the fastnesses of the Peling Mountains of the Chite city of Tzuchan.

With the icy coldness of an almost Arctic winter settling in over the great mountain regions, and the chilling blasts hurtling across the Mongolian plateau, the expedition seemed almost out of the question. The fact, however, that a visit to this city of mystery had been one of the main reasons inducing us to penetrate to the heart of Asia could not be overlooked and we were anxious to verify the statements of previous travellers concerning the human sacrifices which were said to take place in this stronghold of religious fanaticism, the home of the most barbarous and unenlightened Chite Buddhists.

Fully weighing the dangers that must beset such an arduous undertaking as ours,

WE SET FORTH,

attired as Tourgouth peasants, with an escort of four of our most trusty Kiangsu sampan men, leaving the remainder of our expeditionary force at the station at Gharlkau until we should return.

For a fortnight we paddled and poled against the adverse currents and treacherous whirlpools and rapids of the Kinsha Kiang. The final and most difficult stage was the half a week's journey across the sterile mountain plateau, and an undetected entrance into the Chite city.

We reached our destination about dusk. A barbarous religious festival was in progress in the city, but one of our guides led us to a cave whence we could overlook the plain on which the city stood. There we remained all night. Next morning the festival was still in progress and we were about to venture out when we saw a long procession advancing in our direction. The whole population capable of moving seemed to have formed themselves into a long procession, and, beating drums and tomtoms, and led by priests, had forsaken the town's limits and were coming up the steep face of the hilly slope in our direction. Onward still they came, the priests chanting in dolorous ululations, while the following mass gave vocal vent to their feelings, until the din was simply indescribable. If we had entertained hopes that they were bound elsewhere we were doomed to disappointment, for they were now scarcely thirty feet away and approaching the entrance.

We had just time to escape and clamber up the steep ascent to our place of concealment when the leaders of the procession entered the narrow orifice and halted while torches were being lit to guide their passage through the gathering gloom. Following them pressed forward the unkempt crew arear, until the whole open space was filled to the

POINT OF SUFFOCATION.

For half an hour the ear torturing strife of discord waxed louder at every moment, until a thousand devils in human form, flitted beneath the sepulchral glare of flickering torches like a weird and supernatural picture of another world. A frenzied enthusiast would leap into the air, frothing at the mouth, carried away by the frenzy of the moment; lacerating himself with a knife, grasping the gory strip of flesh and grinding it under his heel or taunting a neighbour into the spirit of emulation by flaunting before his eyes the ghastly relic.

Suddenly from out the compact mass rose a howl of mingled anguish and fury. At the further end of the amphitheatre was a sort of raised platform upon which a solitary individual was mounting, evidently one of the chief priests. Having made the ascent he stretched forth his hand. Instantly there was silence. The torches enabled us to see the priest, who had mounted the platform. He was a tall, gaunt individual. Overtopping a thin, gaunt visage, and hanging over his shoulders and down his back below the middle, in witchlike locks, fell a covering of sun scorched hair, in thick, greasy masses. His eyes were burning bright. All his right side was naked and of the brown parchment color of his face, and quite as meagre; it was covered with rents of knife wounds, from which the blood trickled. A garment of the coarsest cloth covered his body below the waist. Five others looking like him followed him to the platform. The same deathlike stillness pervaded the awe stricken multitude.

Heretofore, the further end of the cave, where the platform was erected, had been somewhat obscured, but at a signal from one of the priests a dozen young men stepped forward with lighted torches and mounting the elevated space, arranged themselves in a circular group on either edge.

THE GLARING BEACONS,

penetrating the surrounding gloom discovered a huge recess in the wall, in which could be seen the distorted form of a gigantic image; a stony, impassive figure of such grotesque ugliness that with all their barbarous and fanatical natures one could not help wondering how any race of people, however unenlightened, could bring themselves to worship an object of such repulsiveness.

Suddenly there was a stir amidst the group of priests on the platform, and from the dark cranny in which the leering image stood, a newcomer, a man of admirable proportions, not so tall as powerful and patriarchal looking, descended. He advanced rapidly forward, loosening his ragged garments as he came, until he was naked, save a small cloth girded around the loins.

As the stranger turned toward the stone image and raised his hand the group of worshippers ceased their turmoil and fell prostrate to the ground, the meanwhile keeping up an incessant groaning. Toward this grotesque, incongruous, inanimate piece of carved stone the eyes of all were turned in adoration. For a time, in which it seemed that hours rolled on, the prostrate horde lay bowed to the floor in prayer, until an involuntary quickening of the pulses, and a quickly discernible stir and show of interest among the worshippers gave evidence that some moment of extraordinary interest was at hand. Quietly and unobserved a dozen men had been carrying immense armfuls of wood on to the platform and placing them before the stone image.

Soon the full import of this movement was apparent. Here before our eyes was to take place one of those barbarous human sacrifices of which we had been apprised before setting forth. It did not take long to confirm our suspicions, for as quietly and without murmur of any kind a half a dozen newcomers had mounted the elevated space,

ABSOLUTELY NAKED

and bound with cords, the intended victims of the bloody carnival that was to follow. The fire had already been touched to the wood; the first faint flicker had been fanned into an open flame, and in a minute the whole mass was a seething, roaring furnace, lighting up the interior of the cave as with the noonday sun.

The bright glow of the fire permitted us to secure a better view of the doomed sextet. Five were men in the sere and yellow leaf, scarcely able to totter along, and whose lives could not be prolonged many years. They were huddled together apart from the other victim, a young girl, who could not have been over sixteen years of age. She had a comely, nut brown face, with dark, wavy clusters of hair tumbling over her forehead, and reaching down to her waist. With a cool if not openly disdainful look she gazed with exalted dignity on the surrounding group with never a waver in the stoic composure of her attitude.

At last the fateful moment had come. One of the old men was seized and stretched on a sort of stone altar raised a few feet above the floor of the platform. He fully realized that the last moment had come, for his stoicism vanished, and he struggled in impotent fear and fury to escape from the grasp of his captors, and gave vent to shriek after shriek, until, weak and exhausted, he had fallen into a stupor with spasmodic groanings and attempts to rise. Four of the minor priests held the faintly struggling body down, while from the gloomy niches talked forth the chief of the priests, his hand holding a long, glistening knife. Once, twice, thrice he abased himself to the ground, and, then turning round like a beast leaping on its sleeping prey, he rushed toward the prostrate form,

A FLASH OF LIGHT,

as of a falling meteor, and the keen blade sank to the hilt in the flesh of the victim with a purr like that of steel gliding over velvet. Again the gleaming and dripping blade flashed in air, again it descended in murderous sweep; yet again and again, five times in all, until the very air reeked with the odor of blood. Three times did the worshippers on the floor raise and abase themselves, and then as quickly as a lightning flash the minor priests seized the lifeless corpse, and held it in air. For a moment it silhouetted against the fitful glare of the fire in a long, ghastly shadow, and then it shot through space, and the red flames leaped forward to receive their prey.

With hardly a moment's intermission the next victim was hurried forward. He was either possessed of the full amount of native stoicism or else reduced to an unknowing stupor, for without a tremor or the faintest attempt at struggling he was stretched on the sacrificial altar, stabbed to the heart and tossed to the flames. The third, fourth, and fifth victims were similarly disposed of.

The last scene of the bloody drama had arrived. The young girl stepped forward without invitation or assistance of any kind from the priests. The whole assemblage seemed spellbound. For a brief space of time the frail body lay prostrate on the floor before the grotesque and impassive stony form above. In an instant there was a flash of darkness, and then, before we could realize it, she had deliberately jumped into the seething furnace. One long, despairing shriek, and all was over.

INQUIRING WILLIE.

Willie—Ma, can people leave parts of themselves in different places?

Ma—No; don't be ridiculous.

Willie—Well; Mr. Jiggs said he was going to Arizona for his lungs.

WINTER COMING.

We could have had lots of fun with the money, old boy. What made you redeem your overcoat?

Because the pawn ticket wouldn't keep me warm

WHITECAPS TO AN EDITOR.

Threats Made Against Texas Merchants Who Oppress Farmers.

The editor of the Leander, Texas Times, has received this notice for publication:

"Any merchant doing business in Leander, Tex., who, after this warning is printed, forecloses any chattle mortgages made by farmers on stock of any kind, who have failed to make enough to pay, and are willing to secure the unpaid balance due on such notes or accounts, as the case may be, we will surely burn out of business, burn your dwellings, barns, poison your cisterns and watering places. God gave the poor life, and we are going to protect those who are trying to do right and destroy those who oppose us. All editors are notified not to fight our cause. If you fail to publish this notice in the Leander Times we will burn you out of business, then prove what we say,

"Whitecaps."

The notice was published.

YOU WILL FORGET.

You will forget—a few swift hours,
Fortune and fame and all to woo,
And ere the bloom forsakes the flowers
The lips you kiss have kissed for you,
And ere the morrow's sun is set
You will forget.

You will forget—a mile or so,
And out of sight is out of mind;
The easy tears soon cease to flow
When life's before and love's behind—
Ay, love, while still your eyes are wet,
You will forget.

You will forget in other years,
When you behold that white star shine
We see so dimly through the tears;
When you shall pass these doors of mine,
Or that dear spot where first we met,
You will forget.

INCOMPETENT.

"Nothing is more discouraging to me than the general inefficiency of young women of good education and good home environment who are—suddenly perhaps,—thrown upon their own resources, and who come to me for advice and for help in securing situations in which they can be self-supporting," said a lady who gives much of her time to philanthropic work. "And," she added, "the most hopeless cases are those of the young women who feel that they can do 'almost anything,' because no one yet succeeded in the limitless field of 'anything.'"

"It seems as though I ought to be able to earn a living, with all my education and accomplishments," said a young woman suddenly reduced from affluence to the necessity of earning her own living, "I can play the piano unusually well, and paint very cleverly on china, and embroider, and do all kinds of fancy work, and write very clever verses, and recite or sing very well." But the cash value of all of these accomplishments combined was less than the value of the unlettered Irish servant girl who could go into a kitchen and cook fairly well.

It would seem that there was something wrong with our educational system when our educated girls are so ignorant of the practical duties of life. They are now taught something of cooking and sewing in many of our public schools; but most of them regard this as mere amusement cand it counts for little in fitting them for the actual and practical work of cooking and sewing and the care of a home.

If mothers do not teach their daughters these thing in their own homes, they will not be learned at all. And the mother has failed in her duty if her daughter, at the age of twenty-two or twenty-three, finds herself utterly lacking in the ability to earn a dollar if it becomes necessary for her to do so, and utterly incompetent to discharge the duties of the home to which a husband may take her. There is no higher maternal duty than that of fitting one's children for the future that before them waits as wives and mothers or as useful self-supporting women.

HINT TO LENDERS.

Mr. K—, being a lover of fine tea—and so very particular was he that he always sent to the larger cities for the finest he could procure, caring more for flavor than price. This became known by his neighbors, and some came to borrow, and when the tea was returned it was usually put aside and given to the help.

At last three families got into the habit of borrowing for company, much to the annoyance of Mr. and Mrs. K—. Mrs. K— suggested that she set aside a can to receive the tea that was returned, and soon a pretty mixture was had; then the borrowers were supplied from that can. They were no longer pleased, and ceased to trouble; thus easily stopped.

SOME OLD PEOPLE.

In some parts of Devonshire the people live to be very old. An old man, of 90, living quite a distance from the nearest town, requiring some family groceries, sent his son, a man of 70 odd years of age. When the son failed to show up with the provisions in time, his grandfather, a centenarian of 108, said peevishly: "That's what comes from sending a kid."

TWO SURPRISES.

It beats all how some people spend money.

Yes; and it beats all how some people get money to spend.