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.

Over $18,000 has been collected in subscriptions for the Western University.

Another case of smallpox has been reported to the Mayor by the Montreal Health Officer.

The Hamilton Acetyline Gas Machine Co. has been formed, with a capital stock of $45,000.

The new R. & O. steamers being built at Toronto will be called "Toronto" and "Kingston."

A company has been formed and plans matured for building an electric railway between St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie.

Wm. Green, who was run into by a street car at Hamilton, while riding a horse on Sunday afternoon, is dead as the result of his injuries.

S. S. Stratton and R. Ronan, of Ottawa, have been awarded the contract for supplying for four years the Post-Office Department with mail bags.

Mr. Arthur Piers, C. P. R. Steamship Manager, has gone to England to purchase steamships and to make other arrangements for the new Klondike line.

Mr. Sifton does not anticipate any trouble from the efforts being made at Washington to prevent the entrance of Canadian goods into the Yukon by way of Dyea.

The Thirteenth Battalion of Hamilton, have won the Gzowski Cup for the fourth time in succession. The Queen's Own came second, and the 48th Highlanders third.

It is announced that Lord Strathcona has presented his entire herd of buffalo now on his farm near Winnipeg to the Dominion Government, to be placed in the National Park at Banff.

After the first of January the Intercolonial railway, the Prince Edward Island railway, and the leased lines, will be known under the title of the Canadian Government railway system.

The Dominion Government will sue the United States Government for $10,000 for damages caused to the Government vessel La Canadienne in the collision with the American vessel Yantic.

The Dominion fishery protection fleet on the Atlantic coast has gone into winter quarters with the exception of the Osprey, which is watching two or three American fishing steamers which have not yet left for home.

Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner, in a letter to Sir Richard Cartwright, states that he will return to Canada shortly to interview pulp and paper manufacturers here regarding opportunities for extending their business to Great Britain.

Many applications have been received at the Dominion Customs Department from Americans for permission to take goods into Alaska, via Canadian territory, in bond, and the matter is receiving the attention of the Cabinet at Ottawa.

Mr. J. Haney, superintendent of construction of the Crow's Next Pass railway, gives a general denial to the charges of unfair treatment of the labourers employed on the work. He says out of four thousand men only sixty had any complaint to make, and they were sent home.

Mr. B. P. Osler, Q. C., of Toronto has filed a petition with the Dominion Department of Justice asking for the revocation of the charters of the Canadian Copper Company and the Anglo-American Company, on the grounds that they have not established smelting works in Canada, according to the terms of their contract.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Gen. Sir Henry Gardiner, commander of the Horse Artillery, is dead in London.

Terrific weather has been prevailing on the south-west coast of Ireland, and serious wrecks are reported.

It is reported that the prospects of a settlement of the engineer's strike in Great Britain are very promising.

Lord Wrottesley's seat in Staffordshire has been completely gutted by fire, and many articles of historic value are lost.

It is reported at London that Sir Wm. E. Maxwell, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast, died at sea while en route to England.

An immense shoe factory is to be started in Galashiels, Scotland, to compete with the United States, which now holds a large part of the British shoe market.

Vladimir Bourtzeff, a Russian, was remanded at Bow street police station, London, on Thursday, charged with issuing a publication inciting the assassination of the Czar.

UNITED STATES.

Charles Butler, lawyer and philanthropist, is dead at New York.

It is proposed to hold an ecumenical Foreign Missionary Conference in New York in April, 1900, to last ten days.

The San Francisco transportation companies have agreed upon a passenger rate of five hundred dollars from that city to Dawson City.

The United States War Department proposes to buy 500 reindeer from Lapland to be used in taking supplies into Dawson City this winter.

The total tonnage carried on the canals of New York State during the past season shows a decrease compared with the previous season of 97,000 tons.

Durrant, who was sentenced on Wednesday for the fourth time to be hanged, says that he will never go to the scaffold, as he is confident help will come to him in his extremity.

On Sunday at St. Joseph, Mo., Mrs. Charles Miller, her mother, and all her relatives and other Catholics who attended her marriage, were excommunicated because the young woman was married by a Protestant minister.

GENERAL.

It is said that Japan's supply of coal will be exhausted in 50 years.

Alphonse Daudet, the celebrated French novelist, is dead. He was 57 years of age.

The Marquis di Rudini has succeeded in reconstructing the Italian Cabinet, without making many changes.

Among the persons under arrest for pillaging in Prague, is the son of a millionaire. The Germans still dread a fresh attack.

Spain is negotiating with the Armstrongs, of England, to obtain a four thousand three hundred ton cruiser, worth one million five hundred thousand dollars, which has been built for Japan.

Hayti is again threatened, this time by Italy who is making heavy claims for the alleged illegal seizure of an Italian merchant vessel some years ago.

A despatch from Athens announces that the treaty of peace between Turkey and Greece has been ratified by King George. It has been also ratified by Turkey.

Some of the richest Spaniards of Cuba are holding meetings to consider the advisability of sending a petition to President McKinley seeking to establish a United States protectorate over the island.

IRISH BULLS.

Some Instances of Incongruities in Forms of Speech.

A "bull," in speech, is defined as a grotesque blunder; an apparent congruity, but a real incongruity, of ideas. The Irish are credited with a peculiar have it we do not know, except that it is a species of wit. Here are some examples:

Patrick, when he first landed in America, happened to see a locomotive go flashing by. He started back and yelled to his friend: "Will ye look at that! Ov all the wonders I iver seen it bates thim all. Sure it's a steamboat searchin' for wather."

Another Irishman said: "I saw Pat Ryan the other side of the way. I thought it was Pat and Pat thought it was me, and whin I came up, begorra, it was neither of us."

Another excused himself from going to church by saying he had such an excellent telescope that with it he could bring the church so near he could hear the organ playing.

It was Pat who observed, after watching two men shoot at an eagle and kill it, that they might have saved the powder and shot, as the fall alone would have killed the bird.

Another Irishman assigned as a reason for not putting out a fire in his kitchen with a kettle of boiling water that was near that it was hot water; and it was Pat's reply to a man who boasted that he had the smallest horse in the country, "By me faith, I have wan as little as two of it."

Another one is told of a horse. Pat said he could leap over a ditch at least 30 feet wide; but as Pat describes it, he did it in "two jumps."

And it was Pat again who, telling a story as original, and being informed by one of his auditors that he had read it in the translation of a Latin work, cried out: "Confound those ancients! They are always stealing one's good thoughts.

CHARITY OF SPEECH.

Charity of speech is as divine a thing as charity of action. To judge no one harshly to misconceive no man's motives, to believe things are as they seem to be until they are proved otherwise to temper judgment with mercy —surely this is quite as good as to build up churches, establish asylums and found colleges. Unkind words do as much harm as unkind deeds. Many a heart has been wounded by this and many a reputation has been stabbed to death by a few little words. There is a charity which consists in withholding words, in keeping back harsh judgments, in abstaining from speech if to speak is to condemn. Such charity hears the tale of slander, but does not repeat it; listens in silence, but forbears comment; then locks the unpleasant secret up in the very depths of the heart. Silence can still rumor; it is speech that keeps a story alive and lends it vigor.

FUNNIGRAMS.

Funeral director, to gentleman—"Are you one of the mourners?" Gentleman—"Yes; he owed me five hundred dollars."

"You will probably take in the races?" "No," said the melancholy man. "The races are more likely to take me in."

Minister—"I once performed three wedding ceremonies in twelve minutes." Miss Saylor—"That was at the rate of fifteen knots an hour."

"What is the worst thing about riches?" asked a school teacher of a boy. "Their scarcity," he replied, and was immediately rewarded with a prize.

Old Golfer—"How many holes have you made?" New Golfer, who has not reached the first green— "Not more than four or five, and I put the turf right back.

LEFT TEETH USED OFTENEST.

The natural habit of human beings appears to be the use of the teeth on the left side of the mouth for masticating the food. During a lengthened period of observation only one person but of 13 was found who used both sides of his mouth for chewing and masticating his food.

ABOUNDS IN PARADOXES.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE DOINGS OF GREAT CRIMINALS.

They Are Generally Slow and Sluggish, Yet There are Instances of Lightning Action — Some of the Deeds That Gave Their Perpetrators Marked Pages in the Blood Flecked Annals of Successful Attempt Against Human Life.

In Holton's "Memoirs of Dean Buckland" there is a pretty anecdote about a vacation ramble in the Devonshire hills, where the versatile naturalist illustrated his theories with all sorts of living object lessons.

"But, look at that lazy rascal," said his companion, pointing at a swollen viper basking in the rays of the sun, "contented and full of poison and indolence. Doesn't it rather puzzle you to reconcile your tenets with such facts?"

"By no means," said the Dean. "On the contrary, I have often thought that they have a striking proof in the providential arrangements that has made venomous serpents so sluggish and the worst criminal so slow-witted." By way of appendant he mentioned the case of the monster, Williams, who escaped by a miracle after murdering a whole family and appropriating their hoarded wealth and who then, to save sixpence, returned to a cheap lodging house where he had paid his board a day in advance, though he could not help knowing that his fellow boarders had already begun to suspect the purpose of his nocturnal excursions.

He had committed two previous mass murders, and knew that the mob would have torn him limb from limb if he had not given them the slip in a river fog. He could not doubt that the proceeds of his last crime would support him in comfort for the rest of his life, and he had been in London long enough to be aware that all the police detectives of the three kingdoms could not have identified him among the hundred thousand strangers of the harbor suburbs, but rather than spend half a shilling more than he could help he walked straight into a death trap, known to him as the only possible trap of that kind in a city that offered him the choice of several thousand

OTHER LODGING HOUSES!

Yet the history of crime abounds with similar paradoxes. The murderers of Wm. Guldensuppe, in New York, who last June was carved in a lonely Long Island summer cottage, had planned the details of his removal with the circumspection of Nihilist conspirators. The woman, who wanted to get rid of him at any price, feigned symptoms of returning affection. His rival kept out of his way for nearly a month. To insure the secrecy of their meetings they ascertained his business habits, his dinner and lunch hours, and the exact number of hours and minutes needed to reach their rendezvous from the establishment of his employer. After supper, when he was at leisure, six days out of the seven he would have followed his Clytemnestra to any point of the beach promenade, and they could have killed him in the dark any night after the middle of June, but they wanted to conceal the fact as well as the circumstances of his murder. He had no near relatives in the neighborhood, and his disappearance could have been explained away with the rumor of an elopement or flight in stress of gambling debts. They agreed to kill him indoors and remove his remains on the installment plan, and his doom was sealed when an out-of-the-way cottage near Woodside, L. I., was advertised for rent. They engaged it at once, and spent a week in elaborate preparations. Besides arranging an ambuscade and rehearsing the details of the projected tragedy, they laid in a stock of oilcloth, pack thread, cotton, satchel straps, ammunition, knives and bone saws. When everything was ready Guldensuppe was invited to inspect the new house.

He came, saw and died. Luck had favored the conspirators even in the circumstance that no promenaders were near enough to hear the shot or see the puffs of powder smoke which for an instant forced their way through the window sash. In less than an hour the body had been dissected and bagged into three or four bundles of oilcloth.

Thus far everything had worked according to programme, and it passes comprehension why the conspirators, after all that trouble, failed to observe the simple additional precaution of weighing the parcels they wanted to fling in the river. Nothing could have been easier. A human body thrown into river water and any but the saltiest salt water will sink of its own accord. A shroud of cere cloth makes it float, but a trifling handicap —say a five-pound stone per fifty-pound section of human remains—would suffice to turn the scales of specific weight. The aggregation would sink like a plummet and never reappear till the fish had obviated the risk of identification. Under such circumstances the river god becomes

A DISCREET ACCOMPLICE.

But the neglect of that simple and inexpensive precaution turns a stream of water into a dangerous witness for the prosecution. The vicinity of a populous town doubles that danger. A bulky bundle, bobbing up and down in the ripple of the tide, could hardly fail to attract attention within an hour after daybreak. Neither sea gulls nor garpikes are more sharpsighted than the river nomads that haunt the mouth of the Hudson and dart out from behind lumber wharves and coal boats at any floating box that looks like a trunk or any bundle promising to contain a dime's worth of dry goods. Besides, there is a risk of the corpus delicto being stranded by shore currents and picked up by the standing army of driftwood gatherers.

A robber who had buried a pot full of gold and forgotten to cover it with earth could hardly have been guilty of a more fatuous blunder. Yet the shrewd murderers of William Guldensuppe committed that absurd mistake.

"Is stupidity dangerous?" asks the pupil in De Musset's Paris catechism.

"Not always; it may even help to obviate the perils of nonconformity."

"Does the law punish crime?"

"Not invariably; it protects thousands of shrewd rascals in the enjoyment of their plunder."

"Then folly and wickedness may hope to be tolerated?"

"Often. But nothing, oh child of earth, is more dangerous than their combination."

And if the slayer of Guldensuppe had not yet realized the full significance of that danger, his doubts were removed when he yielded to the temptation of the idea that a private confession would unburden his mind.

A Prosecuting Attorney, or a confessor, exacting atonement, might have enabled him to establish a claim to the benefit of extenuating circumstances, but Thorn's communicativeness was nothing but a compromise, with the itch of the sensation monger, who gloats in the possession of an important secret and drops hints to make his friends

ENVY HIS MONOPOLY.

The ex-monopolist soon repented his generosity. Instead of relieving his mind, he had burdened it with torturing misgivings about the discretion of his friend, and finally resolved to retrive his mistake by a second murder. Remembering the success of the Woodside stratagem, he invited his confidant to a rendezvous in an out-of-the-way park, but excited a suspicion of his motive, and on reaching the trysting place encountered Nemesis in the form of an able-bodied Constable.

Confronted with the proofs of their crime, the murderers for weeks clung to the hope that the nondiscovery of their victim's head would preclude the identification of the remains. The assassins of Pearl Bryan had been caught in the trap of the same delusion, which, in fact, is almost as silly as that of the fabled ostrich trying to elude pursuit by sticking his head in the sand. They forgot to remove a pair of telltale shoes, and one of Martin Thorn's oilcloth bundles contained a pair of human hands of a peculiar appearance.

"Washerwomen have such hands," said one of the amateur detectives, "and if this was a man he must have been a masseur or some attendant of a bathing establishment."

That clew led to discoveries that almost completed the chain of circumstantial evidence, and Martin Thorn's doom was sealed by his female accomplice. For her own part she would probably have preferred to stick to her plan of uncompromising denial; but she remembered Thorn's gratuitous confession and naturally dreaded a repetion of that fit of emotional insanity. Or suppose he should be selfish enough to indulge his penchant with a utilitarian by-purpose? All things considered, she concluded to give herself the benefit of the doubt and anticipated the dreaded freak of her fellow-culprit by turning state's evidence.

Reliance on a supposed identity of interests deluded hundreds of conspirators and thousands of two-footed beasts of prey who drag their plunder to the den of a junkstore keeper, ready enough to appropriate a lion's share of the profits, but apt to repent his venture on the arrival of a revivialist with a search warrant. Italian housebreakers are said to avoid that trap by burying their swag till the hue and cry has merged in the excitement of other sensations. The dry climate of their peninsula may facilitate that expedient, but even in rainy Michigan a decrepit old granger surprised his sons by rising from his sickbed and conducting them to a gully in the woods where he had deposited the savings of a long life of thrift. "The banks swindled me out of $400," he explained, "and old Tom Herrick was killed by tramps when they found out he kept his boodle in the cellar, so I made up my mind to beat them at both games. Whenever I had got $20 ahead I let them see me go in a bank or express office, and when I got home, after dark, I managed to go by way of this hollow, and then could eat my supper in peace." Like all the skill of Ephialtes, a place of interment has the merit of silence, while the discretion of a common-interest partner may vary with his notions of personal safety.

And in the gloom of the midnight woods there is often more security than in the most elaborate disguise. In a passenger car, with the cargo of human miscellanies, somebody or other may chance to recognize the traveler who shrouds his face under a pretext of drowsiness, but may happen to drop his shawl in a bona-fide cat nap. The simulation of persistent interest in a railway novel, too, may be overdone and excite the suspicions of the newsboy, and hundreds of fugitives who come to grief by yielding to the impulse of instant flight and boarding the next through train at the nearest depot might have baffled all the Pinkertons by slipping out of town afoot and giving their organism the benefit of a

LITTLE PEDESTRIAN EXERCISE.

"In a country with such a network of branch roads," said the forger McKenzie, "there is no excuse for being caught on a train. With a railway map and five minutes for consultation with my own common sense, I would lead them a zigzag dance that would knock them crosseyed trying to keep sight of me."

His comments agree with the experience of a Bengal prison inspector who found that the patient Hindoos are far more successful jail breakers than the desperate Rohillas. A Rohilla highlander could kill a dozen coast dwellers in as many minutes, but in these days of improved gunpowder machines mere physical strength is a rather risky trump card, and all things, including a good chance for escape, come to him who can wait.

IRRIGATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

An American Engineer's Idea of the Great Work Cecil Rhodes Is Doing.

William Hammond Hall, formerly State Engineer of California, has just returned from a prolonged professional trip to South Africa, where business brought him into close relations with Cecil Rhodes. He had under consideration the water supply of Johannesburg, for mining and domestic use, and when he returns to Africa two months hence he will take with him plans for several large dams, pumping stations and distributing works, which are to be erected under his supervision. He is also engaged on plans, for irrigation works for the Cape Government and for Cecil Rhodes.

"I am to build for Mr. Rhodes," said Mr. Hall, "a big dam, canal, and other works, to serve a fine tract of land he owns in Buluwayo. When I pointed out to him that there would not be a sufficient supply from the natural water-shed, and that it would cost so much to bring water from another shed, that the enterprise would not pay for many years, he replied:

"'Never mind that; I want it done in order to show what can be done by irrigation in this country, how much it will cost, and how the work ought to be done. Moreover, I shall be giving these natives work, supporting and civilizing them, and

SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

to other capitalists and companies, and that is an object which will be worth all it will cost me even if I make nothing.'

"I don't think my judgment of Mr. Rhodes has been prejudiced by my association with him, but I could not help asking myself, Have we any men in America who would build a large and expensive irrigation work out of their private fortunes, without hope of profit, for the public good? Well, Rhodes is doing that sort of thing all the time. He seems to me also to manage the native question with admirable tact and judgment. The railway northward from Cape Colony through Bechuanaland, one thousand miles or so in length, has been largely financed and managed in construction by Mr. Rhodes. He is also supplying most of the money for the telegraph line, which is being pushed northward across the Zambesi through the great lake country of Central Africa, to join the Egyptian telegraph in the Soudan.

"I think South Africa will take immense strides within the next few years on the basis of irrigation development. The whole country is dependent on irrigation, and the conditions of rainfall and opportunities for storage are such as to indicate that irrigation will be very successful. All the local colonial and State governments are actively interested in the subject. The Cape Government constructs irrigation works, and having recouped the cost by the sale of its own lands served by the works, turns them over for use to the owners of the lands. It also subsidizes or encourages private irrigation enterprises in several ways, but it regulates and controls all works, and there is no such thing as the unlicensed, unrestricted grabbing of water and construction of works which in the United States has done so much to prevent irrigation development.

"There are magnificent lands for irrigation in South Africa, rich, deep soils, which will raise any crop of

FRUITS OR GRAINS

which Southern California can produce. As the seasons are the reverse of those of England, and of all the countries which supply England's markets, South Africa can always be sure of an ample market without competition. High-class, delicate fruits can be put on the London markets within fifteen days from Cape Colony, and at reasonable cost of transportation.

"The gold and diamond mining industries are immense and very impressive, although their development is only about twelve years old. California has had a half century of that development under favorable conditions, and yet we are just now entering upon a most prosperous era of gold production. So it seems to me that South Africa, with time and the removal of restrictions and difficulties, must show tremendous mineral resources. Vast areas of the Transvaal and Rhodesia and other parts of South Africa are known to be mineralized in the same general way as this State is, and the development of the mineral belt there is likely to pass through the same experience as here. The gold output of the Rand is not falling off, but is steadily increasing, notwithstanding the hampering conditions. There are fifteen dividend-paying mines on the Johannesburg Rand, but there are probably four times fifteen which could be made to pay dividends if the conditions were as favorable as they are in the United States.

"South African politics and industrial development present one of the most interesting fields of study I ever entered. It is a field in which most colossal mistakes have been made, immense sacrifices have been suffered, and infernal injustices have been inflicted."

HOW FIRE IS EATEN.

The secret of fire-eaters consists in washing out the mouth and rubbing the skin with pure spirit and sulphur, which cauterises the outer skin.