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.

Manitoba farmers are shipping large quantities of stock to the Yukon.

The Spring Hill Coal Company, of Nova Scotia will operate the Souris coal-fields, where they have secured tracts of land.

An agent of the Dominion Government is at Copenhagen securing Laplanders and reindeer for the Yukon.

The Marquis of Lorne has accepted the position of Honorary Colonel of the 15th Battalion, Argyle Light Infantry.

The Department of Inland Revenue effected 215 seizures during the past year, a large number being illicit whiskey stills.

Her Majesty's ship Phaeton, and torpedo destroyer . Sparrowhawk are at Esquimalt, B.C. There are now seven warships in that harbor.

Owing to the heavy drafts made on the Mounted Police for service in the Yukon, the remaining force find it difficult to attend to the calls made on them.

The City Hall at London, the scene of the recent accident, is being repaired, but there is an agitation in the city for the erection of a new hall farther north.

The investigating governors of the Royal Canadian Humane Association have awarded the silver medal to Albert J. Cummer of Hamilton for saving Miss Amelia Hall from drowning.

Since the beginning of the year thirty-nine families from the United States have taken up their abode in Toronto, being of the opinion that the future of that city is brighter than the outlook in the United States cities.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Countess Russell, widow of Lord John Russell, is dead at London.

Great Britain has again declined to reopen the sealing question in answer to a request of the United States.

It is said in London that the Government will ask Parliament to sanction an increase of the army by 15,000 men.

Alarming rumors regarding Mr. Gladstone's health are again current in London, but reports from Cannes state that there is little foundation for them.

The very Rev. Henry George Liddell, the former dean of Christ church, Oxford, is dead. He was born in 1811, and was at one time chaplain to the Prince Consort.

Events in the far east are forcing again into prominence the Pacific cable question. The influential journals all point out the urgent need of an all-British cable.

The suit against Lady Sykes in London, by Jay, a money-lender, has failed, the jury finding that the signatures to the notes were forged. This puts her Ladyship in a rathen worse position than before.

The annual commemoration of the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg took place on Wednesday at Whippingham church, where his remains are resting. The ceremony was attended by Queen Victoria, Princess Henry of Battenberg, Princess Christian, and the Marchioness of Lorne.

UNITED STATES.

The city clerk's office and post-office at Black, Vermont, have been destroyed by fire.

Eight men were killed and four seriously wounded at Sandy Forks, Ky., in a fight which arose over a game of cards. All were colored.

There is a big strike among the cotton operations at New Bedford, Mass., and other New England towns, over the reduction in wages.

At the annual meeting of the Boston Chamber of Commerce the resolutions favoring reciprocity with Canada were unanimously adopted.

The Cleveland Music Hall, which was built in 1885, at a cost of $60,000, was destroyed by fire on Saturday night. It had a seating capacity of seven thousand.

"Gray Gables," the summer home of ex-President Cleveland, at Buzzard's Bay, has been visited by burglars, who ransacked the house from attic to cellar and made good their escape without leaving the slightest clue to their identity.

The proposition now before the New York State Legislature to legalize Sunday theatricals in New York city has evoked a storm of protests from the theatrical profession, who dislike the idea of losing their one day of rest. They will ask the clergy to assist them in a crusade against the proposal.

GENERAL.

Yellow fever has disappeared from Jamaica.

Disastrous floods are reported from Perpiginan, on the Spanish frontier of France.

One Catholic priest was shot and three wounded during vespers in a Catholic church, at Corfu, Island of Corfu, Greece.

Messrs. Hickie and Prunty, who escaped the massacre of the British survey party which was attacked by natives at Mekran, on January 12, have reached Ormara, on the Arabian Sea.

There was a severe earthquake shock on Monday at Argenta, Italy, eighteen miles south-east of Ferrara. A church and several buildings were wrecked, and some persons were injured.

During the past week the deaths from the bubonic plague at Bombay numbered 851. From all causes there were 1,540 deaths. The exodus is increasing, and business is stagnant.

Considerable surprise has been caused at Berlin, by a despatch, from St. Petersburg, to the Cologne Gazette announcing that Russia has formed a new army corps on the German and Austrian frontiers at Vilna and Kieff.

MR. GENTLEBY CHAGRINED.

He Realizes in His Own Experience Something That He Had Often Read About in Books.

"When there arose in the household a question as to the expenditure of money for a purpose that to me seemed a luxury we could not afford and should not indulge in," said Mr. Gentleby, "I opposed it vigorously. I am not so sure but what some of my vigor arose from the fact that the money to be spent would come out of my own pocket; but I was right about it, anyway. It would have been an unwise and unreasonable expenditure for us to make, and I knew it, and I resisted it to the extent of refusing to make it.

"And then I made a great mistake. After I had got it all settled for good reasons, and finally and distinctly had refused to spend the money, then, moved by Mrs. Gentleby's continuous discussion and by my own desire to please her, I said all right, we'd spend the money.

"'Well,' said Mrs. Gentleby, 'I think they ought to put you up on that pole!' and she pointed to a flagpole on a building within sight of our domicile, upon which there was once a weather vane, which we often consulted, but which has now been removed.

"Well! I haven't been so shocked in years! I had read in novels, and everywhere else, about how women like strong men, that above all other qualities they admire courage, and that they glorify the resolute and despise the vacillating, but I had never realized it until now. But I realized it now with a vengeance. By this one act of weakness, prompted by kindness though it was, I had knocked myself down from my pedestal.

"Hereafter when I kick I kick to the end."

AN IDEA FROM BELGIUM.

Railway Hospital Car to Carry Wounded to the Nearest City.

In Belgium they have what is known as the hospital car, and when a serious railway accident occurs the car may be run to the spot, where the wounded may be picked up and carried to the nearest large city for treatment, instead of waiting hours for the arrival of surgeons.

Again, the car can be used to transport large companies of invalids from place to place at certain seasons of the year. The interior of the car is divided into a main compartment, a corridor on one side and two small rooms at the end.

The hospital proper is in the larger compartment; it contains twenty-four isolated beds of steel tubes hung from powerful springs. Each patient lies in front of two little windows which may be opened or closed at will. Each bed is provided with a little movable table to hold all objects required.

On the outside of the hospital chamber the corridor leads us to the linen closet and the doctor's department, in which there is a huge cupboard used for drugs, surgical instruments and a folding bed. Various trap doors in the floor open into receptacles for ice, a provision cellar, etc. Arrangements are made for an operating chamber and there is even a small chapel for religious worship.

The car will be used principally to carry invalids from Belgium to the miraculous cure at Lourdes, France.

THE SACRED FIRES OF INDIA.

The sacred fires of India have not all been extinguished. The most ancient which still exists was consecrated twelve centuries ago, in commemoration of the voyage made by the Parsees when they emigrated from Persia to India. The fire is fed five times every twenty-four hours with sandal wool and other fragrant materials, combined with very dry fuel. This fire, in the village of Oodwada, near Bulsar, is visited by Parsees in large numbers during the months allotted to the presiding genius of fire.

TREE IRREGULARITY.

A naturalist pointed out the reason for trees growing in their irregular shapes. Their irregularity serves a most important purpose. When a gale is blowing the branches will be seen to sway in all directions, and their movements tend to balance the tree. Were they to sway in the same direction the tree would be uprooted or broken off.

THE LAZIEST PEOPLE.

The natives of the Sandwich Islands are said to be the laziest people on earth. Nature gives them enough to eat without any considerable labor, and they seem contented with what they thus receive.

FROZEN BUTTERFLIES.

Mountain climbers frequently find butterflies frozen on the snow and so brittle that they break unless carefully handled. When thawed the butterflies recover and fly away.

SIDE LIGHTS.

A wise woman never looks a bargain gift book on the price mark.

All the world's a stage, but most of it isn't fitted up with footlights.

AGRICULTURAL

THE FARMERS' ICE CROP.

Perhaps there is no building the cost of which can be so well adapted to the farmer's means as the ice house. For a few dollars invested in cheap lumber, says a writer, and two or three days' work, he can have an ice house that will answer his purpose nearly as well as a more expensive one, or he can hire a carpenter to build the house, use good material, paint and shingle it at a cost of from $50 to $100; but one will keep ice about as well as the other. The first ice house I built was a cheap one. It was twelve by fourteen feet, I think, but large enough for our purpose. A few old boards I had on hand, some two by four scantling for the frame, and a few nails were all the material used, and a day's work for myself and hired man, built it. The sawdust was obtained at a sawmill near by, and the ice from the mill-pond, costing nothing except our own work. For several years we were supplied with ice with little or no outlay in cash. The old ice house was not very ornamental to the place, and we tore it down and erected a more costly building; but the old building kept the ice nearly as well as the new, and I mention it to show the small cost for which ice may b eput up so that no farmer who has the time to attend to it need be without ice. Five to ten two-horse loads of ice are generally sufficient for both dairy and family use, and two or three loads of sawdust will pack it. If any one wishes to invest about $50 in an ice house eight by twelve feet—which holds about twenty tons—it can be built as follows: Use two by six studding and cut them about ten feet long. On the outside use good, planed siding and paint it. The inside of the studding can be boarded up with rough, cheap lumber. When boarding up fill in the place between the boards with sawdust well tamped down. On a building of this kind I would shingle the roof and put a ventilator in it. I would also put a good wall under the building, and level the bottom by filling in with small stone. A location should be chosen with good drainage to carry off the water from the melting ice, for the water should not settle and stand under the building. When filling the house with ice, flax straw is about the best material to put in the bottom, but only a few farmers will have it and most must use other straw or sawdust. Sawdust alone on the bottom does not make a complete drainage; so it is a good plan first to put some coarser material on the bottom and spread a few inches of sawdust over it. Large blocks of ice squarely cut, of uniform size, pack and keep the best, and there will be less waste from melting, if ice can be obtained from fifteen to twenty inches thick. After putting in a layer, go over it and fill in the crevices with broken ice, then level the surface with an adz before putting in the next layer. Leave a space of a foot or more around the outside of the ice to be filled in with sawdust; then cover the top with about eighteen inches of sawdust. Close the door and open the ventilator in the roof, and there is no reason why the ice should not keep well. If several farmers in a neighborhood will combine in purchasing an ice plow, the cost to each would be but small, and with it the labor ofd cutting the ice is much less. With suitable ice tongs the ice is quickly loaded from a chute laid from the pond to the loading place. I like to draw the ice on sleighs, and with a man to help me load and pack the ice; a day's work will put in all that I need, and then half a day's work puts in the sawdust. There are many luxuries and conveniences possible to the farmer with a supply of ice for family use. During the hot weather none can make ice cream as cheaply as the farmer, for he has all the materials, if he has ice and an inexpensive freezer. A refrigerator placed in the pantry is a great convenience for the housekeeper for preserving meat, fruit, etc., in summer. Passing over many other uses for ice, I will only say that one accustomed to having a supply of ice does not want to do without it.

HOW TO GET EGGS IN WINTER.

This is always an interesting subject, much easier to write about than to bring about. Our experience leads us to believe that nothing but warm quarters, variety of feed, plenty of meat and many pullets will bring many winter eggs. W. T. Wittman gives this advice: To start with the house was built for comfort, cost about $1.50 per running foot, and was so situated as to catch every bit of winter sunshine. Roof and drainage were given especial attention. The ventilation was mixed with common sense, plenty on warm, sunny days and none at all on cold nights, no draughts anywhere. Doors were made tight with woolen strips; no air could enter except at ventilators at bottom of sashes. Scratching sheds were filled with fresh garden loam, which was dry all winter. Pullets were April and May hatch, all Brown Leghorns bred in line for quality and eggs. They were raised on free range, wheat, barley, oats and clean water. After October 1st were kept in moderate confinement, were free from lice, without male birds and were fed in the morning two quarts of warm mash, composed of two bushels oats, one bushel corn, ground very fine, fifty pounds middlings, one hundred pounds bran, mixed, cost less that one cent per pound. They were fed at daylight, regularly, then a rush was made for the scratching sheds where a quart of mixed grains had been spaded in. At noon on cold days another quart went in and they would be at work all day. Lawn clippings, dried, tightly rolled in a length of poultry netting, also cabbages suspended, were other diversions. Just before dark all the mixed grains they would eat were fed. Two bushels wheat, two bushels corn, one-half bushel buckwheat, one-half bushel oats, cost over one cent per pound. Sometimes they were given parched whole corn. Ten bags of lawn clippings and clover chaff, one barrel of waste beets and turnips, one hundred head waste cabbage, table scraps that were not salty or fat were fed and not charged for. Neither was all the charcoal, sharp grit and oyster shells they would eat charged. Green ground bone and beef livers were fed daily in small quantities. This and the absence of male birds made the hens very tame—an essential. Eggs were all sold to private families at two cents per dozen above store price, or four to six cents more than would have been realized by selling to middlemen. In five winter months housed in this building, and fed as I have described the forty hens yielded me a profit of $60.40.

FARM NOTES.

Poorly farmed land is capital only half invested.

Work for better cultivation rather than for more land.

A small farm well tilled will pay much better that a large one half farmed.

The cardinal virtues in preparing all kinds of produce for market are neatness, cleanliness and uniformity.

The assessor will not fail to find every acre of land you own. Better not own more than you can pay taxes on.

The railroads are continually trying to avoid "carrying empty." They make their profit by hauling good loads both ways. Many farmers do too much "hauling empty."

The only way to prove the best varieties of fruit is to carefully test new varieties before planting extensively for field culture, for many of our fruits are very fickle about soil.

The sale of fruits in our markets is dependent upon, 1, the character of fruit offered, 2, the kind of package used, 3, proper grading in packing, 4, the condition in which it is received.

Limbs of trees broken by snow and ice should be sawed off neatly and the wound covered with thick spaint or grafting wax. Trees gnawed by rabbits or mice plastered with a poultice of clay may live, if not girdled.

The aggregate sum yearly paid to railroads and steamships for carrying farm products which on arrival prove to be unsalable no one can estimate, but it must foot up enormously, to say nothing of the freight charges paid on goods sold far below market rates because put up carelessly or in unsuitable or unpopular packages.

Stable manure, fresh from the stalls of domestic animals, may be hauled and spread over the roots of trees, shrubs, canes and vines, of perennial plants and upon ground designed to be plowed and planted in the spring. There is no better time to apply manure than when it is made, and no better way than upon the surface in winter. Provided the land is not so rolling that the strength of the manure is not carried off by the spring rains.

WINTER WRINKLES.

Miss Trill—"I love to hear the birds sing." Jack Downright, warmly—"So do I. They never attempt a piece beyond their ability."

He—"That is Mrs. Pendennis, President of the Astronomical Society, and she's exasperatingly clever." She—"Yes, but how consolingly ugly."

Hatching a Conspiracy.—Uncle Ned—"How do you like your new steam engine? Johnny—"Isn't it a dandy? I wonder if we could burst the boiler?

Instruction.—Johnny—"And does the gas-meter measure the quantity of gas you use?" Papa—"No, my son; the quantity you have to pay for."

Real Grief.—"Dreadful about Mrs. Bixby's sudden death." "What! Is she dead? I was just going over to sell her a ticket to our charity bazaar."

Financial Methods.—"What would you do if you had only ten cents in the world, Kitty?" "I would buy caramels with it, to raise my spirits."

Bacon—"And he's kind-hearted, is he?" Egbert—"Kind-hearted! Why, I don't believe he ever said an unkind word, even to an alarm-clock."

"Men's promises," the young wife said between sobs," "are like pie-crust—" "That's tough," said the young husband, and then she got angry enough to cry."

Bagley—"Bent is a very generous man." Brace—"In what respect?" Bagley—"He never passes a beggar that he doesn't borrow a dime from me to give to him."

Not an Authority.—Customer, in restaurant—"This beefsteak must be at least three weeks old, isn't it?" Waiter—"Don't know, sah; I'se only been heah two weeks, sah."

Wickwire—"I like Timmins's stories. He has such a light touch." Simmins—"Yes, that's one thing in Timmins's favor. He rarely strikes one for more than two or three dollars."

Not Shared.—Margaret—"Mr. Pentameter poetically describes Edna, and Tom Shallow as two souls with but a single thought." Jack Blunt—"Yes, Edna has the thought."

"SMARTNESS."

Lord Charles Beresford Sounds a Warning Note Against the Corrupt Use of Money.

Lord Charles Beresford, a gallant sailor of the British navy, recently startled a London audience by making an earnest protest against the sordid tendencies of social life. He declared that rich men were able to buy their way into the highest social and political positions, and that the money power was eating away like a canker the virtues of English character.

Wherever there are great masses of wealth, there will be those to make a vicious use of it, whether in England, or America, or anywhere. The power of money will always be misused by many rich men in any country; just as there are invariably millionaires who have a proper sense of their responsibilities as the possessors of great fortunes, and make good use of their wealth by founding colleges and art galleries and endowing hospitals and public charities.

What Lord Charles Beresford's audience could not understand was the motive which had inspired so eminent and public-spirited a man in his sudden outbreak against the sordid and demoralizing influences of money. If the speech had been made two years ago, when the South African millionaires organized their raid against the Transvaal, they would not have needed any explanation. The abuses of money power were then a public scandal. But there seemed to be nothing in recent affairs to justify his solemn warning against the corrupting influences of money.

Lord Charles Beresford, is, however, a man of rank and social prestige, who knows what is going on in the world of English fashion. He was not firing a gun aimlessly in the air.

There is a word which is constantly used by ambitious people in England, whether they have much or little money. That word is "smart." There is no magnet so strong in London society, as what is known as "a smart set," who know the right people, dress handsomely, and set the fashions of the day, and whose names are constantly appearing in "society journals."

There are rich people who desire admission into these "smart" circles, and are eager to buy the privileges at high cost by entertaining extravagantly and lending money to spendthrifts. There are company-promoters and stock-speculators who are willing to put the leaders of such sets in the way of making money easily, and their services are accepted only too often in payment for social introductions which could not be otherwise obtained.

Lord Charles Beresford probably had the follies, lax morality and selfishness, of this fast, "smart" society in mind when he sounded his warning against the corrupt use of money in the fashionable world.

The moral, however, is good for every age and country. It is not a high ambition to aspire to belong to "smart" sets, which make a great show in the world, and by the very conditions under which they live are led daily to be supremely considerate of themselves and wholly indifferent to the needs of humanity about them.

TORPEDO BOATS.

Fifteen to Eighteen for the Price of a Battle Ship.

Yarrow & Thornycroft, of London, have widened their repute and their influence, if that were possible, writes a correspondent. The great development in torpedo tactics is traceable to them. The flash of the "Lightning" upon the scene startled European Powers to the full possibilities. Since then almost every year has been marked with a forward movement, until now high authorities like Admiral Colomb, seriously discuss whether or not the whole game of sea warfare has not been radically changed, and the battleship made as useless as the old galleys of the Roman Empire. There is much in it, too. For the price of a battleship 15 or 18 of these 30-knot destroyers can be built, and they can be manned by the crew of one battleship. Such a force attacking a ship, even in broad day light, would make things lively. I have not recorded on the map the facility for constructing these craft. Twelve yards have laid themselves out for the work of building them, and it must be remembered that, while in all other cases the admiralty submit drawings for hulls, the builders are themselves responsible for design and speed of these craft. Immense difficulties are involved, if there is not some experience to draw upon. Nearly 100 of these vessels have been, or are being, constructed, and, a large number could be built within a year should the occasion arise. Had this work of building a new type of craft been demanded in any other country, speed premiums would have been almost necessary, but these are unknown in Britain. In the United States, on the other hand, much has been earned in this way. I have taken 17 vessels at random, and find that the power and speed premiums equaled 7.85 per cent. of the total cost; in one case it was 25 per cent., in others from 10 to 12 per cent. It is all the other way in England; firms compete keenly for Government work, for it carries a prestige. The approval of the admiralty experts creates a standard which other Governments are ready to accept, and the foreign warship built in Britain is none the worse for that.

MOSQUITO'S TOOL BOX.

The beak of the mosquito is simply a tool box wherein the mosquito keeps six miniature surgical instruments in perfect working order. Two of these instruments are exact counterparts of the surgeon's lance. One is a spear with a double-barbed head; the fourth is a needle of exquisite fineness, a saw and a pump going to make up the complement