

NEWS SUMMARY.

Interesting Items of News from all Parts of the World.

Mr. Parnell is actively promoting a company to further migration from the congested districts of Ireland.

A Rome despatch says the disputes between the Vatican and Prussia in regard to the vacant sees have been settled.

There were great rejoicings at Tokar when the British entered. The enemy acknowledged 1,500 of their men killed.

The corporation of Cork has decided to give the remains of Jerome Collins, of the Jeannette expedition, a public funeral.

The ambassadors of all the powers have been instructed to compliment the Government upon General Graham's victory.

A previously hostile chief has offered to accompany C. A. Stewart up the White Nile to promulgate Gordon's manifesto.

A number of S. S. specialists recognized a detective in a tavern in Pesth recently, and set upon him and badly beat him. He is in a precarious condition.

The landlord of the Waverly hotel has identified the valise seized at Charing Cross station as one which a man took away from the hotel.

El Mehdi has forbidden the sheikhs on the White Nile and Black Nile to advance to Khartoum or provoke hostilities. Four antipathetic sheikhs have submitted to Gordon.

At a meeting of anarchists in Paris recently, a resolution was adopted to adhere to the declaration of the New York anarchists approving the attitude of the Viennese socialists.

A Paris despatch says James Stephens thinks the Irishmen in America will render it impossible for any Cabinet to yield to England's demands in regard to the dynamite agitators.

At Richmond, M. N. Ellick, clothier, was shot and fatally wounded on the street recently, by his son, aged 20. An steel feud was the cause. The young man fired four shots.

In deference to the memorial of the Irish members of all shades of politics the Government will introduce in the House of Commons a motion to amend the purchase clauses of the Land Act.

Prentiss Tiller, money clerk of the Pacific Express Company, whose father is a Louisville detective, disappeared recently, with one or two valises full of money packages, the amount being nearly \$15,000.

The French authorities are aiding the English detectives in their efforts to discover the dynamite conspirators. The Fenians have become alarmed, and are preparing to move their headquarters from Paris to Geneva.

The London police are doing their utmost to discover the authors of the dynamite plots, but the clues are not promising. They are trying to find a cabman who a little before the Victoria explosion drove three men with an American trunk to a certain house.

Two Irish-Americans who arrived from Southampton, have been traced to the Waverly hotel, Portland street. A portion of the valise containing an infernal machine found at Paddington station has been discovered in their room.

Montenegro is making preparations for a campaign in Albania. Six thousand men have been concentrated on the frontier. Prince Nicholas of Montenegro designs to settle the frontier question this spring by seizing the territory which Montenegro claims.

A Havre despatch says—Maurice, Linton, Dillon, and Ryan, four suspected dynamiters, are now in this city. Three suspected Irishmen sailed on the St. Laurent on Saturday, for New York. The steamer Canada, from New York, was searched on her arrival.

One recent afternoon Oliver Lane, his wife and child, arrived at Perkins, Dak., from Iowa and drove out to their claim. When they reached the shanty an unknown man struck Lane and his wife with an axe, and brutally kicked the child and ran away. He has not been seen since. All three will die.

The authorities offer a reward of £1,000 for the detection of the authors of the recent dynamite outrages. The police are confident they will capture the Irish-Americans who are suspected of being the perpetrators. Four railway companies offer an additional reward of one thousand pounds for their detection.

A Shanghai despatch says—Advises have been received here of a great financial panic at Peking. Many native merchants and banks have failed. The bank rates for silver are rapidly declining. Merchants in the interior have stopped all trading ventures. The populace throughout the country is greatly excited.

At Martinsville, Ind., the step son of James Bobbinson died recently under suspicious circumstances. A post mortem developed the fact that the child had been beaten until his body was almost covered with bruises, and starved to such an extent that nothing whatever was found in his stomach. Bobbinson was arrested and a warrant is out for his wife.

Chas. Snowdon and others shipped to Europe some time ago by the Guion line some cattle. In a storm which caused the ship to roll violently one hundred and fifty-six head died. Snowdon sued the Guion company and recovered judgment. The General Term recently reversed the judgment on the ground that the rolling of the ship was a peril of the sea, against which the defendant did not insure the plaintiff.

Before the British renew their attack upon the rebels, Osman Digma will be offered a conference. Five thousand rebels who fled from Tokar when the British entered on Saturday joined Osman Digma. Only one thousand of them were Sudanese, the rest being fanatics sent from Kordofan and Darfour. If Osman Digma refuses to surrender it is expected the rest of the tribes under the sheikhs will express a desire to come to terms.

Despatches from the scene of the late battle say that from rebels taken prisoners some significant information is being obtained in regard to the cause of the revolt against

Egyptian rule. One of the natives told a correspondent that the rebellion was made inevitable by the grinding tyranny of the Khedive's tax collector. The people had no quarrel with the English. Indeed, it appears from statements by other prisoners that the rebels were not aware that they were to meet the British soldiers until they saw the white faces of their opponents approaching. They murmured against their chiefs for concealing the truth, but were none the less determined to fight to the death against renewed subjection to their oppressors.

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.

There were 23 310 houses built in London and the suburbs in 1882, forming 508 new streets and one new square, and covering a distance of 75 1/2 miles.

The tunnel connecting the Lancashire and Cheshire sides of the River Mersey is nearly finished. The rock has been reported as very favorable for excavation.

That which recently excited the close attention of the observers of the comet Pons-Brooks was the remarkable change in the intensity of the brightness it presented from time to time.

Whatever may be true of harmless luxuries in the way of drink, the Lancet maintains that health, happiness, and work find stimulus enough in the unsophisticated well of nature—in pure water.

Direct electric lighting of one of the trains of the District Railway between Kensington and Putney is stated to be very successful. The light is not only superior to that obtained from oil or gas, but is reported to cost only two-thirds that of the latter.

Paper wash-basins, buckets and similar articles for domestic purposes are generally made of straw pulp, and after they are rough made into the desired shape they are subjected to hydraulic pressure in strong moulds where they acquire the finished form.

Good shellac varnish is made as follows: Take of very pale shellac 5 pounds, mastic 1 ounce, and alcohol 5 or 6 pints, and dissolve in the cold to prevent the evaporation of the alcohol, stirring the mixture meanwhile. This is a good varnish for furniture, and it is much employed in France by cabinet-makers.

Many very old and rare silver coins in excellent preservation were lately found on a rock in a burn near Portree, Scotland. Antiquarians consider the find a very interesting one. The authorities have come into possession of about 53 of these relics. Some of the coins are of the reigns of Elizabeth and James IV., and bear dates ranging from 1574 and 1602.

If the expressed belief of some Cornish miners regarding the probable development of the tin mine of Cajalco, California, turns out to be verified at all, it will prove of vast importance. They are of opinion that the vein struck will increase in richness as it increases in depth. Lately the mine assayed 13 1/2 per cent. on the ore, of a purity of 0.98.

Herr. C. Schneider, of Dresden, has invented a dry galvanic battery. It consists of two cylinders, the larger one of copper and the inner or smaller one of amalgamated zinc. Both cylinders are open at each end, and the space between them is filled with a mixture of Plaster of Paris and a saturated solution of chloride of zinc containing 7 per cent. of chloride of sodium.

The estimated total cost of fire and insurance companies of the United States is \$150,000,000 a year. Commenting on this, the American Architect says that every man or woman in the community who is paid for his or her labor works one week in every year as a gratuitous contribution towards paying the salaries of insurance agents and the fire losses caused by carelessness or crime.

Iron sulphate is a good manure for certain kinds of crops. A plot of land to which the sulphate had been applied by Mr. A. B. Griffiths, of the Chemical Society, London, yielded 56 bushels of beans. A plot similar in other respects which had not been so manured gave 35 bushels. The ash of the plants from the first plot contained more iron and phosphoric acid than those from the second plot.

Frenchmen are beginning to outstrip both the English and the Americans in the ingenuity of their advertising dodges in the endeavor to attract attention to their discoveries. The following will serve as an example: A certain inventor of a face wash improves the shining hour of a family party to invite a reporter, who carefully inspects the physiognomies of the inventor's wife, daughter, and mother-in-law, and prints his impressions in praise of said concoction, giving the names of all the members of the family.

A solution has been attempted by M. P. de Gasparin of the remarkable sunsets which have excited the wonder of the world. For many reasons he discards the hypothesis that they were due to the action of falling stars, and considers that the luminous effects were produced by the light of the sun falling on an atmosphere charged with particles of matter, in a state of minute subdivision, at a great height above the earth, the exact nature and origin of which dust had not yet, however, been determined.

These are some of the results of the exploring expedition conducted by M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards, at the instance of the French Government, in the Atlantic Ocean on board the "Talisman." They were communicated at a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences, Paris. The ocean to the west of Morocco and the Desert of Sahara is of almost uniform depth. Fish abound at a depth of 1,000 to 1,500 metres. Between Senegal and the Cape Verde Islands the nets of the exploring party reached a depth of from 3,200 to 3,655 metres and brought up many living specimens which have not hitherto been known to exist elsewhere. In these depths the fecundity of life is prodigious, and at one draught as many as 2,500 fishes were captured.

Miss Eva Mackay, daughter of the bonanza king, is at the head of a society of young ladies who go about doing what good they can among the worthy and deserving poor of Paris. It is a society that has abundant financial capital.

INTERESTING ITEMS.

Adroit Smugglers—The Liverpool Rowdy—Reckless Gambling—Honest Bankruptcy—The Electric Light, etc., etc.

There is to be a great sale of timber next month on the Duke of Wellington's estate at Strathfieldsaye, when about 4,000 oak trees will be sold.

A new volume from Browning is promised. It will consist of one long poem, though the work will be about the same size as his latest volumes.

The traveller in Russian Central Asia pays for a camel about thirty dollars, for a horse from a camel to fifty dollars, for a sheep from a dollar and a half to two dollars and a half, for a four-year-old cow five dollars and three-quarters, and for a luscious water-melon two cents.

A movement in England has for its object the abolition of the action for breach of promise. Such suits are alleged to have become so numerous that their influence is demoralizing, and the justice obtained by the action has become insignificant in comparison with its demoralizing results.

The State lottery in Saxony is an important source of revenue for that country, as it yields an annual surplus of \$1,024,000, after deducting an outlay of \$225,000. In the Imperial Assembly it was lately urged that all gambling enterprises were immoral, but the vote was against abolition.

At the tricycle exhibition at the Floral Hall, London, the machines of Starley and Sutton of Coventry carried away the prize. The "Imperial Club" machine of the former and the "Meteor" of the latter were the favorites.

A lawyer pleading before Sir John Byles, recently deceased, said: "I would refer your lordship to a work in my hands—'Byles on Bills.'" "Has the learned author given any authority for his dictum? If not, I would not heed him. I know him well," interrupted the Judge.

Another old London landmark, dating from the time of Shakespeare and Justice Shallow, will shortly be swept away. The rumor which was current last year that Clement's Inn had been sold is now confirmed, and the quaint old building has been disposed of for about £50,000 to a private speculator.

There are groans over the prodigious expense of the London School Board. It has cost \$25,000,000 to provide school buildings for 286,276 pupils, and even now a large proportion of the poorest children have not been reached. About 6,000 parents have been summoned to police courts annually for not sending their children to school.

John Brennan and Patrick Ford were drinking together in a saloon in Denver, Col. Patrick had played several practical jokes on his friend, inspired by their memory, he stepped back to the stove, seized a kettle of boiling water, and poured it over Brennan's face and head "just for fun." Patrick is in jail. Brennan is still unable to see the joke.

The most adroit smugglers in the world are the smugglers of St. Gothard Tunnel, who carry tobacco in hollow loaves of bread, and coffee and jewellery in hollow cabbages, pears, apples, potatoes, wheelbarrow handles, and bedstead legs. The custom-house officers do their best, but confess that the women smugglers, by reason of their keener wit and more voluminous garments, are often too much for them.

Bicycle and velocipedes are allowed to roll through the streets of Paris, Munich, Pesth, Brussels and, other large European cities, subject in some of them to more or less regulation and restriction on the part of the police authorities; but in Vienna they are rigidly excluded on the streets. Several Viennese clubs devoted to bicycle and tricycle propulsion are now agitating for a repeal of the regulations, and are getting up petitions on the subject.

The Liverpool rowdy has a peculiar style of dress. The jacket, vest, and trousers are made of a thick, undyed cotton cloth called mokeskin, which has something of a velvet smoothness and softness on its right side. The jacket reaches just below the hips and buttons to the throat over a scarf or muffler, and the number of its buttons is great. The trousers fit tight to the knee, from whence they hang with a rakish looseness and nearly cover the boot. Crowning all is a round worsted cloth peak cap, with a little round knob on the top, that makes a very suitable finish to the whole man.

Visitors at the Crystal Palace, London, are now amused and instructed with a giant electric microscope and a powerful electric light installation, which show a large number of familiar articles, such as snuff, lace, cheese, vinegar, water, and beer. A drop of water presents the most extraordinary monsters imagination can conceive. Serpents, crocodiles, worse dragons than St. George had to deal with, whirl about through their liquid element, striking terror to the hearts of all beholders. Salt and sugar are exhibited as densely populated, and even the most carefully filtered water is filled with black specks, which float rapidly about, giving an occasional eddying whirl which suggests vitality.

In full season millions of dollars were often turned out in one night at Crookford's celebrated gambling club in London. The net profits of the season were \$750,000, and yet the weekly expenses averaged \$5,000. The fitting up of the house cost nearly \$250,000. Crookford's was ostensibly organized as a club, and the committee elected the members, but any one who had a fortune to lose could easily obtain admission. The Duke of Wellington was an original member, but was never known to enter the hazard room. For ten years before Crookford's was started there was very high play at Watier's (the principal frequenter of which were hopelessly ruined), at Brookes', and also at White's, where the late Lord Granville was the great player. He is said to have been nearly a million to the bad at the end of his career, although at one time he had won \$550,000. Lord Granville once lost \$115,000 at hazard at a single sitting of seven hours, and \$50,000 at one night's whist.

It is a remarkable characteristic of the waiters in Paris restaurants that no matter what you ask for, even if it be a fried piece of the moon they will invariably reply "Yes," and either bring it to you, or, on

returning, assert with sorrow that unfortunately there is no more left. It is told of Mery, the author, that by way of trying this as a joke he preemptorily ordered of the waiter a Sphinx a la Marengo. "I'm sorry to say we have no more," replied the waiter. "What, no more Sphinx?" exclaimed Mery, feigning astonishment. The waiter lowered his voice and murmured in a confidential whisper: "We have some more, monsieur, but the truth is, I would not care to give them to you, as they are not quite fresh."

A remarkable instance of honest bankruptcy has occurred in England. In 1874 Mr. Samuel Osborne, a steel manufacturer of Sheffield, was compelled to file his petition in bankruptcy, with liabilities amounting to £70,866, and assets estimated at £50,000. He bought back the business from the creditors by a composition of 12 shillings in the pound, payable in three installments, the last of which was paid three months before it was due. Mr. Osborne determined to pay the balance of 8 shillings in the pound, and set himself ten years in which to accomplish this task. A sum of £28,000 was required, and the other evening the creditors received the intimation that Mr. Osborne was now prepared to pay the whole of their claims in full.

The electric light is not everywhere considered an improvement upon the old-fashioned modes of illumination. One of the latest and best systems was recently introduced into the Court Theatre at Stuttgart, and it was supposed that the orchestra would find it very satisfactory. Instead of welcoming the change, however, they have just petitioned the management for a return to the old-fashioned oil lamps that they had been using previously. They say that the electric illumination has proved objectionable, because its brilliancy, with many, unpleasantly affects the nerves. They also assert that they now find it more difficult to follow the guidance of the leader. A committee of experts composed of oculists and disinterested musicians, has been appointed to examine into the matter.

WIT AND WISDOM.

Why is a railroad train like a vision of the night? Because it goes over the sleepers.

"Alice," said Mrs. Petulia in a subdued tone to her little girl one evening at supper, "you must eat bread with your jam." "But, mamma," protested Alice, "it's plenty good enough without bread."

"What a blessing it is," says Pat, slightly muddled, "that night never comes on till late in the day, when a man is all tired out, and he couldn't work no more anyhow, at all, at all, not even if it was morning."

A little German lad who wanted to intimate his dissatisfaction at his having to put up with the worn-out clothes, toys, and picture-books of his elder brother Frank, said to his mother, "If this sort of thing goes on, mamma, I shall some day have to marry Frank's widow."

A Highlander taking an open-mouth pull in the morning at a running burn was accosted by his comrade with the question—"What are ye daen there, Dunal?" "She's makin' toddy," "And where's ta whiskey?" "She'll look it last night whattiff'r!"

In the gardens of a certain nobleman's country house there happened to be fixed up at different spots painted boards, with this request: "Please not to pick the flowers without leave!" Some wag got a paintbrush and added an s to the last word.

A man at the Car Shops kindles the fire in his stove while under the blankets in his bed. He pulls a string. String explodes a cartridge. Cartridge sets fire to the wood, wood sets fire to the coal. Result: Mr. Man gets up in a warm room every time.

A very considerable hotel-keeper, at Geelong, advertising his "Dublin XXX" concludes the advertisement in the following manner:—"N. B.—Parties drinking more than four glasses of this potent beverage at one-sitting carefully sent home gratis; inja wheelbarrow if required."

An Englishman and a Scotchman, both commercial travellers, were bragging about the importance of the firms they respectively represented. "You may judge of the extent of our business," said the Englishman, "that we spent two hundred and sixteen pounds a year in ink for our correspondence!" "That's nothing," said the Scotchman, "my firm saves twice that amount yearly by not dotting its i's or crossing its t's."

A man who had been enjoying the New Year on returning late thus describes to his wife his impressions of a bird (which turned out to be an owl) which had flitted in a noiseless manner past him in a dark part of his journey, home:—"Guidwife (confidentially) I have seen the nightingale on the road." "Ye ha seen mare than yae gull the night, my guidman." "A weel, it's no a bonny bird. It had a face like a cat and a body like a doo, and it aye said, 'Hoo! Hoo!'"

A man told a story about a flock of rooks nine miles long, so thick that you could not see the sun through it. "Don't believe it," was the reply. "Wal," said the narrator, "ou're a stranger, and I don't want to quarrel with you. So to please you, I'll tak a quarter of a mile off the thinnest end!"

A man may become his own Grandfather thus:—A widower and his son marry; the father marries the daughter of a widow, and the son marries the young lady's mother, thereby becoming father (in-law) to his own father, and consequently grandfather to his father's son—that is, himself.

Force of Habit.—"Well, Tibbie, how do you feel to-day?" enquired Mrs. Aird of an old woman, who in former years had been in her service, and still gave a helping hand when occasion required. "Thank ye," said Tibbie; "I daurna compleen, in case I sud be waur; but loch, mem, its awfu' cauld weather." "It is indeed cold; but are you not aware there is nothing awful but the day of judgment?" added Mrs. Aird, smiling. "Dotless ye're richt," was the reply; "dotless ye're richt; but I hae got a most awfu' gait o' sayin' sae."

In Beech Grove, Ky., live Wm. J. Hardin, the father of twenty-one children, Wm. Miller, the father of twenty-six children, and Cameron Story, who has twenty-two children.

Floods and Forests.

It is not a matter of theory, but of demonstrated fact, that forests are the conservators of the water supply, acting, in effect, as does the bulk-head of a dam. In truth, however, the forests are more than bulk-heads, they are a whole board of public works acting to provide for the storage, maintenance, and proper distribution of an adequate supply of water for the entire surface of the earth. Agriculture, commerce, and health wait on the preservation of the forests; famine, pestilence, flood, and drought wait on their destruction.

All of this has been demonstrated in the Old World, which, having spent centuries in the destruction of its forests, is now as anxiously guarding what remains, and vigorously replacing a portion of what has been taken away. In Germany, it is not too much to say, every individual tree has an official existence. Wood necessary for fuel or building purposes is supplied in abundance, but not until provision for an equal supply has been made by planting on reserve ground a number of trees, at the least equal in number to those cut down. By this judicious management several desirable results are brought about. The wood supply of Germany is greater than for centuries past, forest acreage is greater, available tillable land is constantly increasing in both value and quantity, floods in Spring and draughts in summer are of marked infrequency, and climate is more stable and salubrious.

In France, where the rivers Rhone, Seine, and Durance, particularly the latter, had for nearly two centuries caused great destruction by flood, an experiment was tried. It was asserted that the cutting away of the forests had not only caused floods, but what was even worse, had resulted in the carrying away of the rich surface soil of the hill-sides, thus giving over to starvation thousands of farmers, who could not coax crops from land once fruitful. In the Haute and Basse Alps, where the Durance and its main tributaries rise, the most wanton destruction of forests had taken place. The Durance, a sickly stream in summer, was a fearful, roaring torrent in spring. Farming land all about it was of little value. In 1880 the first steps were taken; the mountains were generously replanted with trees. In 1875 the disastrous floods in the south of France occurred. Thereafter the Durance had been the most dangerous of the tributaries of the Rhone; that year it flowed placidly on its way. It had already become a river in summer, and was no longer a torrent in the spring. The experiment was successful.

Two states of Europe are belated in the matter of forest preservation, and the results are plainly to be seen. In Russia, selecting one example, the Volga is so scantily supplied with water as to have decreased alarmingly in volume. The Caspian Sea has, in consequence, had its level materially decreased. The Russian Government is doing something, but not much, to preserve its forests, which are proportionately more necessary to Russia than to any other country of Europe. Spain is even more delinquent than Russia, and one writer on the subject does not hesitate to say that Spain's sad political condition is due to her neglect of the forests.

But even if the necessity for the preservation of forests were purely theoretical, it is so logical a theory that it ought to be given a trial. Rain falling on a forest trickles by way of leaves, twigs, branches, and trunk down into the soil among the roots, and finds its way to the natural underground reservoirs which supply the springs, which, in their turn supply the little streams. Rain falling on the bare side of a hill flows immediately off, and as it increases as it goes, finally is strong enough to carry away some of the rich surface soil. Thus the spring or winter floods carry off the water intended to be stored for the summer's use. Then, again, rain always falls more frequently over forests than over uncovered land, partly because the greater coolness of the forest tends to the condensation of passing clouds, and partly because the already charged clouds are attracted by the lofty trees. When rain has fallen on a forest, from one-half to one-third of the water is held by the leaves, and is given off again by evaporation, thus producing clouds which will soon give up the moisture again. At the same time, the water which reaches the earth is not retained by the heat, but sinks into the ground. Finally, temperature is more equable in the forest than in the open, and consequently tracts of forest land exercise a tranquillizing influence to a great distance about them.

Another and sufficient reason for the preservation and regulation of forest is found in the fact that the wood supply of a country depends thereupon. By a proper system of replanting, the details of which several European states have carefully worked out, a plentiful supply of wood is compatible with forest preservation. Here is a sort of protection—self-protection—which the governing power of a nation may well interest itself in.—Harper's Weekly.

Hot Water for Dyspepsia.

A gentleman who is in business in this city, has cured himself of a chronic and ugly form of dyspepsia in a very simple way. He was given up to die; but he finally abandoned alike the doctors and the drugs, and resorted to a method of treatment which most persons would laugh at as "an old woman's remedy." It was simply the swallowing of a teacupful of hot water before breakfast every morning. He took the water so hot that he could only take it by the spoonful. For about three weeks this dose was repeated; the dyspepsia decreasing all the while. At the end of that time he could eat, he says, any breakfast or dinner that any well person could eat—had gained in weight, and has ever since been hearty and well. His weight is now between thirty and forty pounds greater than it was during the dyspepsia sufferings; and for several years he has had no trouble with his stomach—unless it was some temporary inconvenience due to a late supper or dinner out, and in such a case a single trial of his ante-breakfast remedy was sure to set all things right. He obtained this idea from a German doctor, and in turn recommended it to others—and in every case, according to this gentleman's account, a cure was effected.—American Paper.

The czar of Russia has been told by his physicians that a less secluded life is necessary to restore his nerves. He now devotes much time to social gaieties.