NEWS SUMMARY.

Interesting Items of News from all Parts of the World.

CANADIAN.

The Halifax City Council has adopted a resolution providing for a new paid fire de-partment instead of the precent volunteer The cost of the new system will be one. nearly \$15,000.

The late Clerk of the Court of Appeals at Montreal, Comte Dutean de Granpre, was a very eccentric man, and it is said that he bought his coffin thirty years ago and has eversiuce had it in his possession.

The recent Cornwall fire was the most disastrous of any in that town for years. Bemides the total destruction of the Commercial Hotel, eight or nine other places of busi-nees were destroyed, involving a less of memily \$100,000.

The St. Lawrence Sugar refinery at Montreal has been destroyed by fire, with a loss of property valued at \$200,000. It is said to be the heaviest loss the insurance comprasies have sustained in Montreal for the last five years. About 100,000 pounds of segar and 6,000 bags of valuable material were destroyed, and 250 men thrown tem-porarily out of employment. The cigar box factory of Davis & Son, alongside, was also destroyed with a loss of about \$6,000.

Rev. L. Mackay, missionary of the Cana da Presbyterian Society to the island of For-mosa, off the coast of China, reports that 2,000 natives have thrown away their idols, and desire to worship the one true God. A chapel has been opened in one village, and in another of over two hundred inhabitants every soul wants to be a Christian, and every house is cleared cf idols.

The burning of the Erskine Presbyterian charch in Toronto, of which Rev. John Smith is the minister, involved a loss of nearly \$30,000. There was an insurance of about \$20,000. It is probable the building will be re-erected at once. The walls were of brick and part of them can be used again. The congregation now worships in a small Methodist church on Elm street.

The Canadian steamer "Spartan" of the Richelelieu and Ontario Navagation Co. was wrecked near Owen Sound last summer and taken to Detroit for repairs. The charges for repairing were no less than \$28,-900, and besides there was a wreckage claim of \$6,000 more. The company considered these charges more than the steamer was worth and she was allowed to be sold at aucion by the U. S. Marshall, to satisfy daims. The steamer was bought at \$26,000 for the company.

Dr. Alpheus Todd, for many years Par-liamentary Librarian of Canada, died very idenly at his own residence, recent-He had been in his usual health and saddenly by. He had been in nis usual more than the list of a start was attributed to the rupture of a woou vessel in his brain. He was about 65 years of age, a rative of England, and a gentleman of mare ability, especially as a writer upon constitutional questions. He held office for over thirty years in connection with the parliamentary library. blood vessel in his brain. He was about 65

UNITED STATES.

P. T. Barnum has built a roller-skating rink in Bridgeport.

A great strike of nail-workers in the Eastern States is threatened. Snow fifteen inches deep on the level is re-

perted from North Carolina. New York State made a profit of nearly

\$10,000 out of its prisons last year. The civic debt of Boston is \$42,544, **600** and that of Brookly, N. Y., \$42,764,

600. The divorce market in New York is deelining. Last year there were 244 divorces against 300 in 1882.

Statistics of the U.S. iron and steel trade for 1883 show a slight decrease in the production compared with 1882,

Triplets, named - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Kile, aged 72 years, are living in Back's County, Pennsylvania.

Reports indicate serious damage

New Bedford, Massachusetts, and was wrecked with the loss of nearly one hundred persons on board. The report is that the steersman became cold, lashed his wheel and went for twonty minutes to warm himself by the smoke pipe. When he returned he found the vessel had changed her course, was among the rocks and he therefore headed towards shore, grounding the vessel in 11 feet of water, over a mile from the main land.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A Policeman's Christian Association has been formed in London.

There were only nine accidents to trains in 1882 in Great Britain by which passengers wers killed.

The population of England and Wales has doubled in the past 57 years, and that of London in 41 years.

A tower nearly 100 feet is to be erected near Bolton Abbey as memorial of the late Lord Frederick Cavendish.

The latest piece of fashionable slang in London is "slumming." To "slum" is to visit poor people in poor parts of a city on missions of mercy and charity.

Richard Neusman, of Preston, Eagland, who recently died, left to that town his entire collection of pictures, porcelain and bronges. It is said that the pictures alone, ten years ago, were valued at between \$300,-000 and \$350,000.

In England, Miss Emily Faithful started the first printing press for women in 1859, after great opposition, and obtained the ap-proval of the Queen for the work, who appointed her printer and publisher in ordinary to Her Majesty.

The Crystal palace electrical exhibition held in London last year was a decided suc-cess from a financial point of view, the prof-its amounting to £15,000. The Paris elec-trical exhibition netted even a larger sum, hent C2 000 which we have during a the about £16,000, which is to be devoted to the oreation of a central laboratory for electricity.

++ -----**Pictures of Patagonia.**

The wild scenery is something wonderful, and when the sun shines on the snow-cover-ed mountains it is indeed a pretty sight. In some of the ravines you see large drifts of snow that have been carried there by the wind, and into which I should imagine it would not be very pleasant to fall. The air here, of course, is very cold, but it is a healthy breeze, and very bracing. At one o'clock, mid.day, we reached our anchoring place for the night, as we could not make the next harbor by daylight, and in the darkness it would be impossible to enter. About two o'clock we received a visit from one of the Patagonian Indians. They came off from the shore in queer looking cances, made out of three pieces of board—one on the bottom and one on each side. These were sewn together with fibres, aud admitted considerable water. With the exception of some skins they had tied loosely around their bodies, they were devoid of clothing, and before they had been alongside many minutes, they had sold them all for some biscuits, tobacco and boxes of matches

After remaining on board about an hour, they returned to the shore, all but one being entirely naked. The exceptional cne who did not return to shore in a nude state, owed it to the fact that the second steward had found on board an old bottle-green dress that had been left by some female passenger on the way out from Europe. With this the Indian was duly attired, it being tied on and around him, by the sailors, with seizings. Later on we had a visit from one or more of them, this time accompanied by a female. The skine they brought off were those of the otter. One Indian had over his shoulder what at one time had been a very valuable sealskin, but was then too old and dirty for use.

It is strange how these creatures manage to exist in this severely inclement climate, where it field s nearly all the year lound. They used no more clothing than that affor-ed them by nature, and their huts are nothing but a few sticks tied together, with a few skins and some leaves thrown over the top of them, and their canoes are always boly of intern, and there we apons used are bows, arrows, spears. They eat the flash of the fanimals they kill in the chase, and sometimes they catch fish; but the principle article of food is muscles, of which there are millions around there. They have no-thing in the shape of coin, wheat, or cereals of any kind, as none grow anywhere nearer than 1200 miles away. The climate is too cold for any but hardy shrubs. They will not touch liquor of any kind. They are in appearance something like the Indians one meets in the altos in Guate. mala, but are a smaller and shorter race, and very much more degenerated. I should imagine them to be the very lowest speci-men of humanity existing, and only one link short in the chain to connect them with the monkey tribe, On of them. apprrently a better humored fellow than his companions, sat upon the rail and sang a song. They sit, or rather squat, as a monkey does, and this fellow at short intervals would yell out: "Ama, ama, ama," crying out quickly, and much after the monkey style. As night drew on they all went off to the shore, and we saw them no more.



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A Ceylon Coffee Eastate.

The coffee-trees were all planted in rows, each about six feet apart and stretching right away up the hillside. The tree rather resembles the laurel foliage, but it is not al lowed to attain any height, being tepped down when four feet high. The coffee-tree takes three years after planting before it will yield fruit, and requires a shelter from the wind and a good soil to make it bear well. We were informed that the young plants are put out in holes eighteen inches deep and wide, which are previously filled in with good jungle mould, the greater portion of the soil of Ceylon being naturally poor. The jungle is, in the first place, felled by Singhalese contractors—this race being famed for their skill with the axe-toward the end of the year, and is generally finished and ready for burning by March. The great forest "burns" are one of the most curious sights in Ceylon. Imagine torches being applied to a hundred acres or so of felled and lopped trees which have become as dry as tinder from exposure to the burning sun. The tremendous blaze which in-stantly ensues, and the dense clouds of smoke forming and hanging over the scene like a pall, are something astonishing and can be seen for miles around. The following morning nothing is to be seen but cinders and charred logs, the sole rempants of former forests giants, destroyed by the ruthless hands of the enterprising planter to make room for the coffee or tea plant. The opera-tion of planting is usually finished by the month of August if the season is favorable, but discard and dicklu plant have to be but diseased and sickly plants have to be replaced by fresh ones till no vacancies are to be seen. In the second year the planter gets a very small crop called the maiden-crop, and in the third year the estate is said to be in full, when the pulping house and other necessary buildings have to be erected. The berry, when ripe, resembles the ordinary cherry in shape and coler, and appears in crimson clusters on the trees, delighting the eye of the auxious proprietor. In every berry are two beans, which are pulped out by machinery, the beans disapp aving into the fermenting cistern, and the husk into the palp pit, where it accamulates for manuring purposes. The beans are





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United States Treasurer Wyman-has re-eeived from New York a \$1,000 note as a contribution to the conscience fund.

The U. S. Cattle Commission recommended the appropriation of a million and a half to be used in preventing the spread of cattie diseases.

The New York World estimates the steal ings for the year 1883, Canada not included, at \$13,000,000, distributed among 148 trasted officials.

Pennsylvania is recklessly destroying her timber. Her shipments as reckoned in Williamsport, footed up at more than 400,-900.000 feet last year.

The report of the New York Superintendent of State Prisons says the earnings for the year ending September were \$407,061, and the expenses \$397,955.

During the last four years it is stated that not less than three hundred million dollars have been spent in building new rail-roads and repairing old ones in the Southern States.

The output of the American coal fields last year was nearly 93,000,000 tons, at an auerage value to the mine owners at the pit mouth of \$162,750,000; 66 per cent. was of bituminous varieties.

During 1883 there was a reduction of over \$115,000,000 on the U.S. interest-bearing public debt. In a little over 18 years the nation has paid over \$1,105,000,000 of it, only \$86,-000,000 less than half the total bonded bebt on September 1, 1865.

The Board of Directors of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia have decided not to accept the gift of \$50,000 offered by Mr. Joseph E. Temple, on condition that the garden should be open free to the public one day in each week.

The St. Paul Gazette states that the Crow Indians, numbering 800 families, with about 3,000 persons, own 6,500,00 acres of good land, worth, at \$2 an acre, \$6,500,000; 11,-500 horses, worth, at \$20 a piece, \$230,000 and receive an annual allowance of \$800,000 from the Government, from which it computes that they are worth \$3,510 a head, making them the richest people in the world.

The steamer City of Columbus was wrecked on the coast of the Channel, near

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