

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Hartney, Manitoba, suffered from a destructive fire.

Mr. Alex. McInloch is the new President of the Woodstock Board of Trade.

Winnipeg will vote May 16 on the by-law to raise \$65,000 for new schools.

Petroleum electors defeated the by-law to raise \$16,000 for a new central school.

H., G. & B. Railway directors have decided to establish a fruit market in Hamilton.

James Bannister of Niagara, a refugee from slavery, died at the age of 104 years.

Three hundred thousand whitefish from the Newcastle hatchery were liberated in the Bay of Quinte.

Thirteen men have signified their intention to proceed to England with the Bisley team.

The Sir John Thompson memorial fund now amounts to \$36,450, and subscriptions are still being sent in.

The steamer Sadie Shepherd has foundered off Turtle Light, Lake Erie. One of the crew was drowned.

A steady improvement in trade is reported in Canada and the United States, with an upward tendency in prices.

Mr. Henry Francis Ellis, City Clerk of St. Thomas, Ont., died at his residence on Sunday morning, in his 78th year.

Winnipeg Veterans will on May 12 decorate the graves of soldiers who fell in the North-West rebellion of 1885.

The body of John Smith, who disappeared from St. Catharines in November last, was found in the Welland Canal.

The Executive of the Ottawa winter carnival has decided to give the surplus from the carnival (over \$7.00) to the City Treasurer.

A Belleville despatch says the \$10,000 required to secure Mr. Massey's grant of a like amount to Albert College has been secured.

The funds of the Boys' Home in Hamilton will be increased by \$562.20 from the performances of "The Daughter of the Regiment."

Lieut-Governor Chapeau has returned to Quebec from Atlantic City, where he has spent several weeks for the benefit of his health. He is much improved by his holiday.

The report of the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic has been presented to Parliament. It declares that prohibition would be detrimental to the interests of Canada.

Another consignment of butter, shipped under the auspices of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, has arrived at Liverpool. It brings higher prices than Australian butter.

The Dominion Government has been requested by the Imperial authorities to send an agent to London to discuss with them the points raised in connection with the Canadian copyright question.

Mr. H. F. Gault, of Montreal, has made a gift of one hundred thousand dollars to Diocesan College, to provide it with a new building which will be erected near McGill University.

The Canadian General Electric Co. has been awarded the contract for the motors and all electrical apparatus in the Hespeler extension of the Galt, Preston & Hespeler Electric Railway.

At a special meeting of the City Council of Toronto, held the other day, it was decided to submit to the popular vote a proposal that the corporation undertake the business of electric lighting.

Thomas McKelvie, a country school teacher in Manitoba, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment and to receive fifteen lashes for committing a criminal assault on a twelve-year-old pupil.

A little girl named Stelter was lost on the prairie near Medicine Hat over a week ago. Large search parties have been scouring of the country, but cannot find any trace of her.

The Board of Underwriters of Winnipeg have made a formal complaint against the chief of the fire brigade, and state that the brigade is inefficient. The chief has applied to the Council for an investigation.

The Montreal committee having in charge the arrangements for the proposed World's Fair in that city next year waited upon the Quebec Cabinet, and asked that a grant of one hundred thousand dollars be made by the province towards the undertaking.

Father Paradis makes a strong appeal to the Repatriation Society in Montreal for funds to furnish provisions for the Canadians who are leaving Lake Linden, Michigan, in large numbers, for the new colony at Verner, Ontario.

A leading church member of Winnipeg happened to be out late the other night, and when passing his church going home was astonished to find the organist in her place, playing lively music, to which the members of the choir were holding a dance.

Dr. F. Yones, of Denbigh, Ont., charged with having found and kept a valise containing \$1,500, lost by James McReary, paymaster for J. R. Booth and Son, Ottawa, who lost the valise between Renfrew and Shamrock last March, has been committed for trial at the Pembroke Assizes.

The Rev. Wm. Gregg, D. D., who has been a professor in Knox College, Toronto, since 1872, and is well known as a leader in the Presbyterian Church and as the historian of the Church in Canada, has resigned his professorship on account of his old age. His resignation has been accepted with much regret.

A deputation from the Provincial Dairy Association waited upon the Quebec Cabinet and asked that the Government should set aside twenty thousand dollars annually to be distributed as bonuses amongst farmers in the province guaranteeing to export a certain quantity of butter during the year. The Cabinet promised to consider the matter.

Mr. C. M. Armstrong, managing director of the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway, has arrived in Montreal from England. He states that he is highly satisfied with the result of his mission and that arrangements have been made by which work will be commenced at once upon the line from Montreal to Paspébeac, which will be open at the end of the year.

In the case of Matthew Miller, suffocated in a sewer at London, the jury found that there was not the necessary precaution taken by the city for purposes of safety to life before the men went into the sewer, and that, had proper precaution been taken by having open manholes, which would have given them ventilation, Miller would not have died in the sewer.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A report that gained some currency of the death of Sir Isaac Pitman is incorrect.

The Hon. Arthur Peel, ex-Speaker of the House of Commons, has been created a Viscount.

The Rev. Frederick William Farrar, D. D., Archdeacon of Westminster, has been appointed Dean of Canterbury.

A London cable says England and the United States are acting in accord in relation to the China-Japanese treaty.

The London Lancet says that Prof. Huxley, though suffering severely from influenza and bronchitis, is slightly better.

Mr. Balfour has declared publicly that the Conservative and Liberal Unionist leaders are on the best of terms.

An explosion of fire-damp took place in a colliery at Denny, Scotland, while 177 men were working in the pit. Thirteen of the number were killed and several hurt.

The Imperial Opium Commission has published its report, which decides against prohibition of the growth of the poppy or the manufacture of opium in India.

The London Daily News says it understands that the British Government will not join any combination of powers to interfere with the result of the Japanese victories.

The royal commission on opium has reported to the Imperial Government, the general effect being that opium is not doing the evil to the communities using it generally supposed.

The British House of Commons will soon be called upon to consider a bill amending the British North American Act, so as to provide for a Deputy Speaker in the Canadian Senate.

The final decision of the British Government is to refrain from active interference in the China-Japan treaty, but with the passive support of Great Britain Japan feels strong enough to resist the demands of Russia, Germany, and France.

The parents of Emma Hall, the girl who lost her life through criminal operation in a Detroit lying-in hospital, are very poor, and cannot afford to visit the United States to pursue the case against the Rev. Jonathan Bell, the girl's supposed betrayer.

The Queen Regent of Holland and her young daughter, the Queen, arrived in London on Saturday on a visit. They were met at the station by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and his son, Prince Alfred, to whom, it is said, Queen Wilhelmina is to be betrothed.

UNITED STATES.

It is said that Chinamen are now being smuggled into the United States in coffins.

The price of bread in Rochester has been reduced from four to two and a half cents a loaf.

Mrs. Rachel Cantor, who, at 84, is staying at the Forest Home, in Philadelphia, is said to be the oldest living actress.

Gen. Ballington Booth has renounced allegiance to the Queen, and made application for naturalization papers as a United States citizen.

The arrest and consequent failure of John C. Allen, the Buffalo broker and speculator, has involved in serious loss some Canadian dealers.

A big load of dynamite exploded near Buffalo, Indiana, completely demolishing the driver and team, and causing a shock that was felt forty miles away.

Mr. O'Grady has presented in the New York Legislature a petition to Congress and a resolution favoring the annexation of Canada to the United States.

Two thousand tailors are out on strike in New York. Some thousands of women, girls and boys, whose work depends upon the tailors, have also been thrown out of employment.

A despatch from Killarney, Selkirk, says an uprising of half-breeds and Indians is reported to have occurred at St. John's, North Dakota, just over the Manitoba boundary line.

Oliver Curtis Perry, the express robber who made such a bold escape from the Matteawan State hospital for insane criminals, was returned to the institution on Saturday afternoon.

In the Illinois Legislature the other day a resolution was introduced requesting the daughters of Illinois not to accept the hand in marriage of any person not a citizen of the United States.

Willard Fountain, which was presented to the City of Chicago by the children of world's W. C. T. U., was unveiled and dedicated on Saturday. The fountain cost \$20,000 and over 300,000 children, living in Europe and America, contributed to the fund.

The New York Senate received Mr. O'Grady's concurrent resolution favoring Canadian annexation with laughter. Senator O'Connor did not think it becoming for New York State to invite Canada to sever its connection with England.

New York tax commissioners have decided to hold the Gould estate for \$10,000,000 of personal property this year, notwithstanding the fact that George J. Gould, in whose name the assessment is made out, claims Lakewood as his residence.

Lord Sholto Douglas, son of the Marquis of Queensberry, has been arrested in Ekerfield, California, on a charge of insanity, with the object of restraining him from marrying Loretta Addis, a young song and dance artist with whom he is infatuated.

On Sunday evening, while Evangelist Dwight L. Moody and an immense congregation were praying for rain in Fort Worth, Texas, a storm burst upon the town, beat down the roof, which fell upon the congregation, causing a panic, and a large number of persons were seriously injured.

There are four genuine cases of leprosy in Brooklyn. All the victims are negro children, natives of Barbadoes, West Indies. One is isolated in the Kingston Ave. Hospital but the others are at large, and the Health Department officials say positively that the disease is not contagious.

The New York Central recently announced that it would use electricity on its line between Buffalo and Niagara Falls, and now the Niagara Falls Power Company offers to furnish the power free in return for the right of way for the power company's conduits along the roadbed of the company's tracks, where there is a strip of land 60 feet wide not used by the railway.

While there is little decided change to record from the principal business centres of the United States, the noticeable feature of the past few days has been the firm price of the leading articles of commerce. Leather is firm, and hides have made a phenomenal advance. Iron and steel are quotably unchanged, but prices keep steady. Cotton, coffee, sugar and pork are well maintained in value. Wheat has made some decided advances. While there is a better undertone in most lines of trade, the advantage so far is more marked in the industrial than in commercial lines. Petroleum is becoming quiet, wool is in better demand, and cotton goods are advancing with the advances of wages at the mills.

GENERAL.

Cholera has broken out at Mecca.

A cattle plague is raging in several of the Governments of South Russia.

Muzzles are used on refractory women in the provincial penitentiary at Cologne.

The Dowager Empress of Russia is suffering from a painful accident, by which her foot was crushed.

The strike of the Paris omnibus men continues, but the conflicts with the police are becoming less frequent.

A large quantity of pyroxyline exploded in a magazine at Felixdorf, Austria. Twenty-six men were wounded.

Some 550 German sailors and marines went out on a special train from Kiel to Wilhelmshaven and embarked for China.

The New South Wales Legislative Council has deferred for six months all action on the proposal to reduce the Governor's salary.

The Spanish Cruiser Reina Regente, which was lost in a storm off the Spanish coast last month, has been found in 109 fathoms of water, midway between Capes Tarifa and Trafalgar.

Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Este, the Emperor's heir presumptive, will publish the diary of his voyage round the world made two years ago. The first volume deals with India, Ceylon, and Java.

A despatch from Tokio says that the envoys of Russia, Germany, and France have formally protested at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs against the incorporation of any Chinese territory in the Japanese Empire.

The Japanese Government has issued an official statement declaring that the commercial advantages obtained by Japan in the treaty with China will be shared by the other powers under the most favoured nation treatment.

Russia has established a medical staff at its Consulate at Meshed, in Persia, to watch and give notice of the appearance of epidemic diseases in Northern Persia. Caravans entering Russia territory must obtain bills of health from it.

Ten days and two hours is now the record from Bombay to Brindisi. The Peninsular and Oriental steamer Caledonia, which held the previous record, made it on April 2. The time includes all stops and the transit through the Suez canal.

Japan has notified Russia, Germany, and France that she will not yield to the exactions of the powers, as to do so would expose her to a revolution, as the Japanese people are intoxicated with their successes, and would assent to no concessions.

The new amendment to the French marriage law proposes to declare that all Frenchmen who have attained the age of twenty-five and women who have attained the age of twenty-one shall be free to marry after giving three months' notice to their parents.

A large force of workmen was employed on an immense new building at Brussels, in which a show representing the City of Venice, is to be given, when the roof collapsed, and many of the men were buried under the wreck. Fifteen of the victims were seriously injured and several others were badly hurt.

A despatch from St. John's, Newfoundland, states that negotiations are progressing with representatives of the British Government, Canada, and Newfoundland respecting the granting of an export bounty on Newfoundland codfish, and that this is regarded as the most expeditious method of settling the French shore difficulty.

She Let Him Off.

Wife—My dear, I need a little more of this stuff, and some trimming to match. I wish you would drop in Bigg, Sale & Co.'s, and get it.

Husband (a smart fellow)—Let me see. Oh, I know. That's the store where they have so many pretty girls, isn't it?

Yes, I remember. That blonde girl at the trimming counter knows your tastes and will doubtless select just the sort of trimming you want—I mean the girl with the golden hair, alabaster skin, blue eyes, and sweet little—

There are a number of things I want down town. Never mind, dear. I'll go and get them myself.

Not Always a Good Plan.

Daughter—You told me that when I wanted a favor of my husband I should ask him after dinner. The first time I tried it he not only refused, but he was just as cross and ugly as could be. He never refused me anything before—boo, hoo, hoo!

Mother—Bless me, my dear, you shouldn't have asked him after a dinner that you had cooked yourself.

Logical.

My teacher is no sailor,
Said little Willie Vail,
And so quite loudly I insist
He has no right to whale,

SUPERSTITION NOT DEAD.

ITS EFFECTS STILL MANIFEST AMONG EDUCATED PEOPLE.

Will and Courage both Weakened—Voices That Will Not Ret and Soldiers Who Will Not Fight—Strange Defenses Made for the Old Beliefs.

The London Spectator recently published an article on the superstitious belief, prevalent among many nations, that boastful exultation in present good fortune and happiness is likely to be followed by ill luck, and that, to yield to any such impulse, is, therefore, dangerous. The letters and comments that have been made upon the article, which was rather contemptuously tolerant in tone, have convinced the author of it that "a great many cultivated people really like their small superstitions," and he proceeds to consider the whole subject thus opened up. In the course of his remarks he says:

"That people should entertain superstitions is natural, for it is hard to shake off nursery lessons, and hard, too, not to believe what often seems to be the teaching of experience, but why people should prefer to be superstitious we do not understand. They do, however. Some evidently dislike trusting their reason wholly because that way, as they think, agnosticism may lie; some feel in their superstitious beliefs an antiquarian charm, or relation to their forebears; while others appear to have the feeling that if they cleared the superstitions wholly out

THEIR MENTAL SCENERY

would be rendered bare and marred by sameness—one reason, at least, why the old and the secluded are often so fond of novels.

"They do not all put the question, but all, we think, are inclined to ask us, as one rather clever old lady has done, what harm the pretty superstitions can do. Why not throw salt over your shoulder if you spill it? We have no antecedent prejudice against superstitions, indeed we rather welcome anything that proves that the masses have convictions not based upon the sordid facts of their lives, but still we deem superstitions (that is, fancies which affect conduct, but for which there is no evidence) to be injurious things, and in a week in which an Irish woman has been slowly roasted to death because she was, in her relatives' belief, 'bewitched,' it may be worth while to explain why.

"So far as they are believed, they are needless and embarrassing fetters upon human action. This fact is rarely felt by the English cultivated, because their superstitions are usually unimportant, it not signifying much whether you pass under a ladder or not, or whether you are for a moment alarmed because you have broken a mirror; but among a great portion of mankind, including a section of our own poor, the smaller superstitions make up a real and heavy burden. They keep up a permanent distrust in the goodness of Providence, and a watchfulness to avoid evils from unknown forces which is most enfeebling.

"A French or Italian peasant will do nothing which is opposed to certain apothegms registered in his mind as dogmas, and an Asiatic peasant is

BOUND HAND AND FOOT

by a whole system of beliefs in omens which cramp his energies as much as ever the rabbinical views of the law as to anise and comin and the like cramped the energies of the Jews. Mr. Zangwill declares that his fellow-tribesmen are still bound in these wiles. There is not an Asiatic in the world who would dare to go dead against the warnings of his horoscope, and very few Europeans of the Continent who will stride forward resolutely on an undertaking the beginning of which has been marked by a stumble or a failure.

"We all know the annoyances to which the belief in the superstition about thirteen subjects the English dinner givers, while on the Continent it is difficult, and in Paris impossible, to let a house with the number thirteen on the door. Even the iron logic of French functionaries gives way before that belief, and proprietors of rows are permitted to register the thirteenth house as 12B. We have never ourselves met that particular superstition in England, and have been a little amazed by an assurance, that it still lingers among the uncultivated, that it effects the rent of the 'unlucky' number in the poorer quarters, and that the number increases the eagerness of servants to be sure of the character of employers before they are engaged.

"Nothing in the world so deteriorates courage as superstition. European sailors will not move if this side of their nature is once aroused, and Asiatics, even Chinese, seem to grow demoralized with fear. An Arab will face anything except the idea of an apparition, and all who have known the Zulus declare that these exceptionally brave warriors, who care nothing about death, will scream with terror and run like hares if they fancy themselves 'bewitched.' It is cowardice pure and simple which makes our own poor so callous to the suffering which once broke out in Massachusetts, and led to such frightful cruelties against all who were denounced by Cotton Mather and his associates, was nothing but

AN EPIDEMIC OF FEAR.

"We hardly comprehend why this side of the matter is so habitually unnoticed, or why a gamekeeper, who would face a tiger or five poachers with a light heart, is not ashamed of himself when he retreats to his cottage because he has seen a magpie on his left. One would expect him, even if he believed his own queer theory of causation, to damn the magpie and go on; but superstition long indulged kills out within its range all ordinary manliness. We will not venture to say that a Prussian regiment would run from a spook if it thought it saw one, for fear of being accused of belittling the German Army, but, that it would wish to run and only be held in by discipline we are very sure.

"There is an impression, especially, it is

said, among Catholic priests on the Continent, that the superstitious mind is potentially the religious mind, and that it is a pity to disturb or impair a tendency which makes for good. We do not believe there is any truth in that theory. The most unscrupulous are often the most superstitious, while a man of genuine religious feeling can hardly be superstitious at all.

"To see genuine Christians fretting because they are sitting down thirteen at dinner is to see an absurdity which increases one's perception of the tenacity of the hold which logic has even over the best minds. They would be ashamed to admit that they thought there was something independent of the will of God which had to be taken into account, yet unless they believe that God imposed that whimsical rule that is what they must really mean. They had much better refuse to dine at a public dinner where there are fifty guests, because of that number, if we accept the Registrar General's averages, one is almost certain to die within the year. Yet a decent Alderman, who will dine happily at the fishmongers with fifty convives, will admit that his dinner was spoiled because at a private entertainment he counted only twelve other guests."

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

What Was Going on in England Half a Century Ago.

With the advent of 1895 the newspaper gave us a retrospect of the previous year. It is interesting and instructive thus to review the world's history and progress annually; but it may be even more interesting to look back to an epoch from which we are divided by half a century. Queen Victoria was then, as now, the sovereign on the realm; but the Prince of Wales was it the nursery, and her Majesty was a young and happy wife. The sterling qualities of the Prince Consort had by this time won the appreciation of the English people. The Duke of Wellington, who had seen the rise, and effected the downfall, of Napoleon, was a prominent personage in English politics; and, fifty years ago, her Majesty, with Prince Albert, paid him a visit at Strathfieldsaye. There were still survivors of the battle of Trafalgar in Greenwhich Hospital; and the Queen paid an unexpected visit to Nelson's flagship, the Victory, on the 1844 anniversary of the battle. Mr. Gladstone, whom her Majesty has seen gradually rise to the foremost position as a statesman, and finally retire from the political arena in his old age, was then

A PROMISING ASPIRANT

to political advancement. Mr. Benjamin D'Israeli was about 40 years of age, but had not achieved anything beyond the leadership of the few ardent spirits who were known as the Young England party. He was not regarded seriously as a force in politics. One commentator, whose dictum expressed the prevailing sentiment of the period, said of him: "His opinions are too peculiar, and have too much novelty ever to become those of a party." So much for prophecy.

The State trial of O'Connell and other repealers had not long ended when the year 1845 opened; Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright were vigorously keeping up the anti-corn law agitation, and there was mutterings of discontent through the land. Speaking of O'Connell reminds us that, when he was entertained at a complimentary banquet in Covent Garden Theatre, the Sun newspaper of that epoch, containing seven columns of the speeches delivered on the occasion, was distributed before the guests quitted the theatre. This was considered a remarkable feat, though one which is common enough now. It shows, however, that newspaper enterprise is not so modern as modern journalists imagine. Railways were yet in their infancy, though rapidly superseding the old stage coaches; and the Southeastern line from London to Dover had only been opened less than a year previously. Steamers, however, were already plying to foreign parts, and often coming to grief. The electric telegraph had just begun to be recognized as a means of communication. Strange to say, its effectiveness was first convincingly demonstrated in connection with the arrest of a suspected murderer. The suspected person had got into the London train at Slough, his description was signalled over the Great Western company's wire, and arrest followed when London was reached. People then were all

AGAPE WITH ASTONISHMENT

over the marvel. The new Royal Exchange had recently been opened by the Queen; and her Majesty, the same year, opened Parliament in person.

Dickens, fifty years ago, was in the zenith of his powers and popularity. Campbell, the poet, had recently died. It is just half a century since "The Chimes" was published, and two days after issue, a dramatized version was performed, with Mr. Keeley in the part of "Toby Beck." Mr. and Mrs. Keeley were stars in the dramatic firmament those days; and the latter, just about this time, assumed the management of the Lyceum. There was quite a galaxy of theatrical talent then, for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, Macready, Richard Young, Mmc. Vestris and Charles Matthews were all to the fore; and the death of Mrs. Siddons had only occurred a few months previously. The operatic stars include Salvi, Cerito, Mario and Grisi; Fanny Elssler exemplified the poetry of motion; the legitimate drama was said to be injuriously affected by the rivalry of the American dwarf, Tom Thumb, whose departure from New York had been honored with an attendance of 10,000 persons. Those were the days when professional clowning tickled the groundlings. Hence the enormous crowd which turned out to see a clown from Astley's drive twenty-eight horses to Greenwich. A more ludicrous feat was achieved by another clown from the same establishment, who sailed in a tub, drawn by four geese, from Vauxhall bridge to Westminster bridge.

In the Grammar Class.

Teacher—What is the gender of money?
Scholar—Feminine.

Teacher (severely)—Why?
Scholar—Because money talks.