

# 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.

Burglars are operating in Guelph. Ottawa is to have a new \$100,000 opera house.

St. Catharines total assessment last year was \$3,560,300.

Hamilton City Council starts the year with an overdraft of \$10,000.

The total real assessment of the Province of Manitoba in 1896 was \$71,643,014.32.

The directors of the Bank of Ottawa subscribed \$500 to the India famine fund.

Hon. Mr. Laurier has subscribed \$100 to the fund for the India famine sufferers.

The Allans of Montreal have purchased the steamer State of California for \$50,000.

The Markets Committee of Hamilton will recommend the Council to pass a curfew by-law.

Mr. Robert A. Robertson, rancher, of Pincher Creek, Alberta, was found dead on the prairie.

Sir Samuel Strong, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, has been appointed a Privy Councillor.

W. Hespeler, Winnipeg, has been appointed sole liquidator of the defunct Commercial Bank of Manitoba.

It is now pretty certain that the Dominion Parliament will not meet until about the middle of March.

Mr. Edward Gurney was elected by acclamation on Monday to the position of president of the Toronto Board of Trade.

The Ottawa City Council has resolved to petition the Legislature to abolish civic exemptions on manufacturing concerns.

Dr. Gaudette, medical officer at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, recently suspended, has been reinstated by order of the Minister of Justice.

Councillors of Niagara Falls have petitioned the Local Government not to grant the extension of time asked for by the Canadian Power Co.

The Bank of Montreal has subscribed five thousand dollars and the Molsons Bank fifteen hundred dollars, to the Montreal Indian Relief fund.

All the Manitoba land companies report increased inquiry for farm lands. Many of the correspondents live in the northern and western States.

Rev. Father Lacoste, D.D., of Ottawa University, has received the news of his appointment as a member of the Academy of St. Thomas, in Rome.

It is rumoured that Parliament will be asked to pass an address to the Queen, inviting the Duke and Duchess of York to visit Canada this year.

The James Bay Railway Company will apply to Parliament for an act authorizing the company to extend its line from Parry Sound to Toronto.

Mr. Laurier has cabled, in reply to an invitation from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, that he would not likely visit England for some time.

Mr. Arthur Brophy, formerly of the Dominion Express Company at Montreal, has been appointed private secretary to Hon. Mr. Scott, Secretary of State.

The analysis of a large quantity of strained honey, collected in different parts of the Dominion shows a large percentage of cane sugar and glucose, instead of the pure honey.

The difference of opinion between the Canadian Pacific railway and its conductors and brakemen, which at one time threatened to end in a serious rupture, has been amicably settled.

Judgment has been given at St. Catharines in favour of the estate of Henry Rolls in their suit against the Niagara Central Railway for payment of the first mortgage bonds of \$2,500.

The Nova Scotia Legislature was opened on Thursday. In his address Lieutenant-Governor Daly referred to the success of the fishing season of the past year, and stated that the output of coal during 1896 was the largest in the history of the province.

John Busby and James Quinn were arrested in Guelph charged with being the authors of a number of incendiary fires there recently. Busby turned Queen's evidence at the preliminary trial, and gave evidence charging Quinn with at least one of the crimes.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

The opening of the Imperial Parliament took place on Tuesday.

The Earl of Kimberley was elected Liberal leader in the House of Lords.

Sir Isaac Pitman, the inventor of the Pitman shorthand system is dead.

Mr. John Dillon was re-elected leader of the Irish National party in the Imperial Parliament.

Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick, who underwent an operation in a London hospital, a few days ago, is progressing well.

It is thought in London that the Royal Commission will pursue its enquiry into the financial relations of Ireland.

Much interest is taken in commercial circles in London in the development of trade between Canada and the South African colonies.

It is understood that knighthood will be conferred upon the Mayors of the principal Canadian cities during the diamond jubilee celebrations.

In the Imperial House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr. O'Brien's motion for amnesty for Irish political prisoners was defeated by a vote of 204 to 132.

Mr. John W. Donn, Canadian commercial agent at Bristol, says that Canadian shipments show a steady improvement and are certainly making their own way.

A blue book containing the official correspondence between the powers in regard to coercive measures in dealing with the Sultan of Turkey has been issued in London.

Messrs. Baring Bros., of London, offered for subscription £400,000 sterling 4 per cent. 600-year debenture stock of the Commercial Cable Company. The loan was largely over-subscribed.

A meeting of the bondholders and shareholders of the Chignecto marine railway was held in London, when a resolution was passed calling upon the Laurier Government to aid the scheme.

A service in memory of Prince Henry of Battenberg, husband of the Princess Beatrice, was celebrated on Wednesday at noon in Whippingham church. The Queen, Princess Beatrice, her children, and other members of the Royal family were present.

Official correspondence published on Thursday in London shows that the powers have agreed to Lord Salisbury's proposition to resort to coercive measures should the Sultan prove recalcitrant, and refuse to adopt the reforms unanimously recommended by the Ambassadors.

The Secretary of the Imperial Admiralty stated on Thursday, that it would be impossible for the Government to act upon the suggestions of the Royal Society of Canada and secure a unification of time, as any alteration in the astronomical day would not be agreed to by the Continental powers.

## UNITED STATES.

W. P. Killner, aged 77, a wealthy citizen of Gouverneur, N. Y., hanged himself at that place on Monday.

The New York Board of Health has formally declared that tuberculosis is an infectious and communicable disease.

Liabilities of the wrecked First National Bank of Newport, Ky., will reach \$250,000 in loans exclusively.

One man was killed and several injured by a dynamite explosion at Greenwich, Conn., on Wednesday.

The sleet, which gave the pavements of Chicago a slippery coating, was responsible for two deaths.

Col. Robert Ingersoll has given up the practice of law, and will devote his entire time to the lecture platform.

It is reported that ex-Governor Long of Massachusetts has accepted the Secretaryship of the Navy in Mr. McKinley's Cabinet.

Two negroes were blown to atoms and a number of persons seriously injured in the explosion of a powder magazine at Mobile, Ala., on Tuesday.

Mrs. Sternaman, of Buffalo, has appealed from Judge Cox's decision in her extradition case to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

The report of the deep waterways commissioners of the United States was submitted to the House at Washington by President Cleveland.

The Baltimore Iron and Tin Plate Company, which operated one of the first tin plate factories established in America, went into the hands of receivers Thursday.

The First National Bank of Newport, Ky., the German National Bank of Louisville and the Minnesota Savings Bank stopped payments on Wednesday.

Frank J. Palmer, of West Parsonfield, Me., aged 16, has confessed at Saco, Me., of the murder of Mrs. Betsy R. Hobbs, because she made him pay for glass broken in her house.

Joseph Jones, coloured, who claimed to have waited on George Washington at the home of his former owner, died at Ridgeway, Ont., at the age of 115. His widow is 105 years old.

In the New York Senate on Tuesday a bill was introduced providing that whoever treats or offers to treat any person to an intoxicating drink in any public place shall be fined or imprisoned.

The Department of Immigration at Washington has notified Inspector DeBarry of Buffalo, of the passage of the Corliss bill which provides that only full-fledged American citizens will be allowed to work on Government contracts.

The advices received from New York indicate no particular change in the business situation during the week just closed. In certain lines a better demand is reported, which is, to some extent, counterbalanced by lower prices. An increased demand for materials appears to exist in some directions. The failures of the week have had little or no depressing influence. The labour market is in a rather more satisfactory condition, as the demand for skilled labour is improving. The market for securities is firmer and the money markets abroad are more settled, but loans are not easily effected except on first-class security. The commercial outlook is considered to be better than was the case a week ago. Commercial failures of the week in the United States have been 409, compared with 373 in the corresponding week of last year.

## GENERAL.

Madame Carnot, mother of the late President Carnot of France is dead.

The Countess Castellane, nee Anna Gould, on Monday, gave birth to a son in Paris.

The native rising in Griqualand is growing more serious, and the whites are lagging.

Two cases of the bubonic plague are reported at Kamaran, an island off the west coast of Arabia.

Col. Seddon, of the firm of Walter & Co., Bristol, Quebec and Chicago, is dead at Penira, Portugal.

Russia is said to be secretly treating with the Turkish Government for the use of a port on the Black Sea.

The Italian Government denies that there have been cases of the bubonic plague at Massowah on the Red Sea.

It is stated in Constantinople that the Sultan firmly resists European control of Turkey's finances or administration.

A British syndicate has received from the Government of Dutch Guiana a concession of a million acres of gold lands.

The British military post in Urnan, the occupation of which led to the acute trouble with Venezuela, has been abandoned.

The Indian Government has ordered the stoppage on February 2nd of all pilgrim traffic from Bombay to Karachi, on account of the plague.

The expedition sent by the Royal Niger Company against the Emir of Nupe found the Foulah army dispersed and in flight when it arrived at Kabba.

It is reported from Calcutta that the British steamer City of Canterbury

has been wrecked at Hooghly Point. All on board were saved.

It is learned that France is meditating the negotiations of a treaty of arbitration with the United States similar to the Anglo-American treaty.

A despatch from Teheran says that two thousand five hundred persons perished as a result of the earthquake on Kisham Island, on the 11th inst.

The British Indian troopship Warren Hastings was totally wrecked off the Island of Reunion on Thursday. The troops and crew were all saved.

Dr. Bergmann, of Berlin has been summoned to St. Petersburg to perform an operation on the Czar, who is suffering from the results of a blow received in 1891 from a Japanese fanatic.

## HORRORS OF THE PLAGUE

THE PEOPLE ARE DYING IN THE STREETS OF BOMBAY.

Bombay's Awful Visitation—The Pestilence in Government House—An Eye-Witness of Scenes in the Stricken City.

A despatch from Bombay, says:—"A case of plague has occurred in the servants' quarters, situated on the grounds of the Government House here. Immediately on its discovery the patient was removed to a hospital, and the whole row of servants' houses were set on fire and burned.

"The plague has now assumed such terrible proportions that the resources of the municipal officials are completely overtaxed, people are dying hourly in the streets, and much difficulty is experienced in obtaining corpse bearers to carry the bodies to the cemetery."

The following despatch respecting the suspected cases of plague at Hamburg has been received: "It has been officially ascertained that the British sailing vessel Pirrie, which arrived here the other day from Calcutta and was placed in quarantine on account of having several cases of illness on board, left that port September 29, when no disease was prevalent there. All cases of sickness are due to exhaustion, caused by overwork."

## FROM THE STRICKEN CITY.

Major Edward J. Turner, an English army officer stationed at Bombay, now on his way to England, gives a description of the horrors of the plague now devastating Bombay and other parts of India.

"The natives are so wasted by starvation," said he, "that they have no power to resist the plague, but panic-stricken they fall a prey to the horrible death. In the outlying districts I found bodies numerous on the roads. On the banks of the Ganges, where the ghats are all located, hundreds of bodies are lying waiting their turn to be buried.

"The ghats are small raised burning piles made of stone. The victim is brought to the river if possible, before death, that he may die by the sacred stream, then when he dies his body is dipped in the stream, taken out and laid on the ghat with a pile of wood under and above and is soon reduced to ashes which are swept off into the river.

## NATIVE SUPERSTITION.

"The natives look upon the plague as a scourge of their god that cannot be helped, and will not tolerate any interference with their religious rites. "I look for some outbreak, and do not expect to more than reach home, before being summoned back to my post. The situation is becoming alarming. The proposition is being seriously considered of setting fire to the entire native quarter of the city, as well as the barracks of the native troops, in the hope of thereby burning out the contagion. "I don't know what will be done, for the whole earth seems laden with the poison, and it is carried by rats and other vermin everywhere. Nothing except a furnace heat can purify the quarters where the plague has raged."

## QUEER SUPERSTITIONS.

In Ireland a belt of a woman's hair is placed upon a child to keep harm away, and garlic salt, bread and steak are put into the cradle of a new born baby in Holland. Rumanian mothers tie red ribbons around the ankles of their children to preserve them from harm, while Esthonian mothers attach bits of asafoetida to the necks of their offspring.

Welsh mothers put a pair of tongs or a knife in the cradle to insure the safety of their children. The knife is also used for the same purpose in some parts of England. Among Vosges peasants children born at a new moon are supposed to have tongues better hung than others, while those born at the last quarter reasoning powers. A daughter born during the waxing moon is always precocious. At the birth of a child in Lower Brittany the neighboring women take it in charge, wash it, crack its joints and rub its head with oil to solder its cranial bones. It is then wrapped in a tight bundle and its lips are anointed with brandy to make it a full Breton.

The Grecian mother, before putting her child in its cradle, turns three times around before the fire while singing her favorite song to ward off evil spirits. The Turkish mother loads her child with amulets as soon as it is born, and a small bit of mud, steeped in hot water prepared by previous charms, is stuck on its forehead. In Spain, the infant's face is swept with a pine tree bough to bring good luck.

## BALDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS.

The investigations of a French dermatologist, Dr. Sabourand, go to show that baldness is a contagious disease, due to a microbe which he claims to have isolated. It is spread, he declares, by barber's brushes, and its presence is not recognized until the harm is done. In other words an ounce of prevention is worth several bottles of hair restorer.

## A VERY OLD MAN, INDEED

JAMES J. CAVANAUGH, OF NASHUA, N.H., IS 106 YEARS OLD.

A Tailor Until He Was 90, and Was Once Sworn to by King George IV.—Tells Stories of the Long Ago.

James J. Cavanaugh, Nashua, N.H., celebrated his 106th birthday last week, and notwithstanding his extreme age he still retains his mental faculties. Save for a slight stoop, and a deafness that makes it very hard to converse with him, he carries his years lightly and a stranger would place his age at 80 rather than 106. His friends believe he is the oldest man in New England.

When George III. was King of England, Cavanaugh was serving his apprenticeship to one firm of the many tailors to the King, Stutson & Housley by name. Not only has he seen George III. and put stitches into the breeches that covered the royal limbs, but he has also cut a coat for George IV., and was, according to his story, sworn to by the King for a slip which he made in assisting him to try on that garment. He formed one of the crowd of men and boys who lighted the huge bonfires that were burned to celebrate the battle of Trafalgar.

Mr. Cavanaugh was born in county Monaghan, Ireland, in December, 1790. He cannot tell the exact day of the month except that it was a few days before Christmas. When he was 9 years old his parents removed to England, and he resided there with them until in 1837, several years after their death, when he came to America.

Although an Irishman by birth, he became during his boyhood days in England, imbued with an admiration for all things English, which he retains to this day. He is very fond of telling how easily England could have whipped the colonies had she not had more important matters to attend to, and he insists that the United States would stand no show in a war with any of the great European powers to-day.

## WELLINGTON AND NELSON

are his heroes, and he never tires of singing their praises, and he thinks there were never any statesmen like William Pitt or Robert Peel, both of whom he has seen many times. Washington is no hero to him, and he always speaks of him with a sneer.

"When I was a mere slip of a lad," said Mr. Cavanaugh, "I was apprenticed to a tailor in London. In those days a lad had to serve seven years before he became a journeyman tailor, instead of a few months as it is now. It took me nine years to learn my trade, for I wasted two years, about a twelve-month after I began my apprenticeship, attending Dublin University. It was there I learned all the devilment I know, and that's all I did learn, too. I went back to my trade after I had spent all my money, and worked at it in the old country and in this until I was 90 years old. Since then I have let my children care for me.

Did I ever see King George III.? Yes, sir, I have, and many a garment of his I have seen in the shop where I worked. I have seen him many a time, and I remember the day of his funeral as distinctly as though it happened yesterday. I not only stitched a coat for George IV., but he swore at me because I didn't hold it right when I tried it on. William IV. I saw once, and Daniel O'Connell a dozen times.

"I have seen Queen Victoria many times. Once, when she was about 16, she was at Devonshire Castle, on a visit, and saw her nearly every day for two weeks at least. You know the Duke of Devonshire was in high favour with her family at that time.

## SHE WAS A SLIGHT GIRL

then, and, so far as I could see, cared far more for a good time and a romp than for books or anything else."

Regarding the progress of the railroads Mr. Cavanaugh has often said: "The talk that all you people have about the opening of railroads makes me laugh. Why, I was at the opening of the first railroad in the world, the one between Manchester and Liverpool. Then we thought the road a wonderful thing, but it was regarded as too dangerous and complicated an affair to ever be used by the people to any extent."

It is in warlike events that Mr. Cavanaugh takes the greatest interest. He claims to have seen most of the great Generals of his time. Napoleon he saw at Torbay, England, when a short time after the battle of Waterloo, the Emperor was at that port on board the ship Bellerophon. Mr. Cavanaugh, like thousands of others rowed out in a small boat and saw Napoleon pacing up and down the deck.

Mr. Cavanaugh went to the United States in 1837, and for twelve years worked in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. He remembers when Boston harbor was frozen over and wood was hauled across the harbor to East Boston. On May 1, 1841, he married Miss Hannah Barrett, the ceremony taking place at Boston and being performed by the Rev. Father Haskins at the Castle Street Church. He was at that time several years older than his bride's father, and although the marriage was one of convenience, being arranged by his wife's grandparents, it proved a happy one. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cavanaugh, five of whom are now living.

Mrs. Cavanaugh's early life is one of the most interesting of Mr. Cavanaugh's reminiscences. Her mother was an English woman of good family and her father was a native and resident of Ireland. When she was an infant, her parents died and the grandparents on both sides wanted the child. Each pushed their claim, and there was a lawsuit which resulted in the custody of the child being given by the courts to her maternal, the English grandparents.

## THEY WERE WEALTHY.

and installed her in their comfortable home. The fact that the child was being educated as a Protestant instead of a Catholic troubled her paternal grandparents excessively, and finding that

pleadings and threats were of no avail, they kidnapped their grandchild when she was 9 years old. Fearing prosecution, they immediately left England for America.

Mr. Cavanaugh has lived in Nashua since 1889, with his daughter, Mrs. Bartley McSherry. He lived at Watertown Mass., for some time previous to the death of his wife, sixteen years ago, and then moved to Boston, living for a time with his son Joseph.

He has never been naturalized, and takes but little interest in national politics, except as they may relate to the country's policy toward the European nations. He is still able to go out each day for a short walk, and boasts that no weather can keep him within doors. Mr. Cavanaugh reads with the aid of glasses, and spends much of his time either reading or telling stories to his nephews and grandchildren and their playmates.

## MARVELLOUS MEMORIES.

Some Examples of People Who Have Been Able to Retain Things in Their Minds.

There are many historical feats of memory that sound as impossible to you and me as would an account of the gymnastics of a Japanese acrobat if we had not seen them. Lord Macaulay found when by chance he tried it, that he could repeat the whole of "Paradise Lost," though he never tried to learn it; but then Lord Macaulay loved his Milton, and had read "Paradise Lost" many a time and oft.

So what was that to the actor William Lyon, who flourished in Edinburgh about a hundred years ago, and who one day on a wager repeated the whole of the Edinburgh Daily Advertiser for that day, from beginning to end, advertisements and all. Lyon could have but a few hours at best to study the journal; the matter was characteristically disconnected, yet he rattled it all off without hesitation or mistake.

Magliabechi was the queer name of a Florentine, who was librarian to Cosmo III., Grand Duke of Florence, and though he never travelled he informed himself about.

## ALL THE PRINCIPAL LIBRARIES,

in the world to such purposes, that few of those who frequented them could have known as much about them. One day the Grand Duke sent for him to ask what were the chances for buying a certain particularly rare work.

"You can never get it," said the librarian, "your Highness' treasury would not buy it for you, for there is but one copy now in the world, and that is in the Grand Signor's library at Constantinople, and is the seventh book, on the second shelf, on the right hand side as you go in."

Sometimes these wonderful memories are gifts of nature, but some of the most wonderful have also been acquired, and it is worth while to enquire how, because a great memory is a wonderfully useful thing. Houdin, one of the most wonderful conjurers that ever lived, and a man of real scientific ability, performed some of his most marvellous tricks with the aid of a son whose memory he had trained to be miraculous. He would take the boy when he was a child past a toy shop, and then make him tell what he had seen in the window, and after awhile one glance would suffice to tell the youngster more about such a window than other people could find out in ten minutes. In this way his eye-sight, his power of seeing much accurately and quickly, was trained to be as wonderful as his memory. The father would write down the son's list of objects seen and then go back and verify it, but soon one rapid walk by such a window would enable the boy to mention forty odd articles, and he almost

## NEVER MADE A MISTAKE.

One time Houdin was to give a performance in a private house, and when he and his son entered they were conducted through the library on their way to another room. Houdin made the boy a sign to see all he could, and after this brilliant performance he said to the company, "Now, my son has second sight, and can read through the walls of a house," and with that he designating a certain shelf of books that they had previously agreed upon, asked him what book stood third from the left-hand corner.

"Buffon," the answer came quickly. "And the one by its side?" quickly questioned an incredulous spectator while a messenger was dispatched to verify the first assertion.

"To the right or the left?" said the lad.

"On the right." "The Travels of Avacharsis the Lounger," came the prompt reply, "but if, sir, you had asked what was on the left I should have answered Lamartine's Poems; a little to the right of this I see Creillon's works, and below two volumes of Fleury's Memories"—and thus he went on to name a dozen books. As all were found just where he said they were this was the most successful feature of the evening. It was all the outcome of a trained eyesight and a trained memory.

## AN OVER ZEALOUS SENTRY.

A London correspondent relates the following remarkable incident. The story is that while walking in a park at Tzarkoe the Czar summoned to his side a gardener he saw working about the grounds. The man obeyed with alacrity, when an over-zealous sentry, mistaking the gardener's approach for an evidence of hostility, shot him dead within a few feet of where the Emperor stood. Whether the story be true or not, the occurrence is unfortunately not too improbable, considering the high nervous tension of every official of the Russian Court, and the ever-present thought of assassination which, if the face is any index to the mind of the Czar himself,