

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.

Quebec Provincial elections are announced for May 11.

Mayor Bingham, of Ottawa has given his February salary to charities.

Seventy-three private bills are entered for the coming session of Parliament.

There is a good demand for farm laborers and domestic help in Manitoba.

Ottawa proposes to spend \$150,000 in improving its fire system and water-works.

The annual report of the C. P. R. for the year 1896 shows net earnings of \$8,107,581.

Mr. W. C. Macdonald of Montreal has made another gift to McGill University amounting to over \$600,000.

The Brockville Town Council is considering the advisability of passing a by-law imposing a tax upon bicycles.

Captain Provost of the Montreal fire brigade, has decided to accept the offer to become chief of Ottawa fire brigade.

Mr. Geo. H. Orr of Toronto has been elected President of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association without opposition.

The Kingston cotton mill, which has closed down temporarily, will, after next week, only run three days a week.

The C.P.R. have sent a party of surveyors out to southern British Columbia to survey a railway in the mining country.

The Montreal Street Railway earnings for February were \$89,951, an increase of \$2,557 over the same month of last year.

Mr. Wm. Seager, a resident of London, was probably fatally injured by falling from a train at Brokenhead station, Man.

Mr. Joseph Martin, ex-M.P., of Winnipeg confirms the statement that he has been appointed special counsel for the C.P.R.

Mr. Laurier sat for his portrait in Montreal. When completed it will be presented to the Premier by his Montreal friends.

A Fish and Game Protective Association has been organized in Woodstock, to see that the game laws are enforced and to stock certain districts with quail.

A delegation from the parishes along the south shore of the St. Lawrence waited on the Ministry at Ottawa to urge the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal.

Two people, one aged 70 and the other 72, were married in Ottawa on Wednesday. Their parish priest refused to marry them, but they secured the approval of the Archbishop.

On Thursday afternoon three small boys fell through the ice at Chatham, when four men went to their rescue and also fell in. It was with great difficulty that all seven were finally rescued.

The Hamilton chief of police intends making a test case to see whether the lottery under the management of the Promotive of Art Association of Montreal comes under the criminal code.

The local branch of the National Council of Women has petitioned the London City Council to impose restrictions on the sale of cigarettes, and it is probable that the petition will be granted.

Mr. Torrance, the Canadian agent of the Dominion steamship line, has been instructed from English headquarters to withdraw any offers made to the Canadian Government in connection with the fast service.

It is stated that Mr. H. S. Osler, representing a Toronto syndicate, has secured options on a majority of the Hamilton Street Railway stock, the H. and D. stock, and about 50 per cent. of the Radial Railway stock.

An agreement has been reached by a joint committee of the Chatham City Council and Mr. L. E. Myers, of Chicago, representing capitalists who are prepared to build the City and Suburban Electric railway, and to construct and maintain an electric lighting plant.

The Government has been asked by residents of Ottawa and portions of Russell and Carleton counties to spend about \$85,000 in lowering the bottom of the Rideau river near the bottom, where it is shallow, and to let off the water from the Rideau lakes early in the spring by means of the Rideau canal, to prevent the spring floods.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Unwonted activity is reported in the British dockyards.

Atlantic steamers arriving in the Clyde report extremely tempestuous weather the last few days.

Sir Donald Smith, Canadian High Commissioner in England has sailed for Canada to consult with the Government regarding immigration matters.

It was stated in the Imperial Parliament that the proposal to create regimental districts in the colonies had been referred to the Dominion of Canada for an opinion thereon.

The syndicate appointed by Cambridge University to consider the question of granting degrees to women recommends that the degree of B.A. be conferred by diploma upon those who have already passed or hereafter passing the final tripos.

The statement that a state of tension exists between Great Britain and Belgium regarding the indemnity claimed for the arrest of Ben Tillett, the English labour agitator, at Antwerp last year, is denied at the Foreign Office, which declares that the negotiations on the subject are proceeding amicably.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie is seriously ill at Greenwich, Conn.

The Peninsular Car department of the Michigan Peninsular Car Company, of Detroit, has closed down.

Chauncey M. Depew has accepted the chairmanship of the Board of Control of the Joint Traffic Association.

Ex-Governor John D. Long, of Bingham, Mass., has accepted the navy portfolio in President McKinley's Cabinet.

The Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company has inaugurated a system of retranchments at all of its collieries.

Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, of New York, has accepted a position in the McKinley Cabinet, probably the Secretaryship of the Interior.

The United States House of Representatives over the President's veto by a vote of 193 to 37.

The directors of Mount Holyoke College announce the gift to the college of \$40,000 for a dormitory by John D. Rockefeller.

Theodore Durant, the convicted murderer of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams has been refused a new trial at San Francisco.

The mining town of Wyoming, Pa., with a population of four thousand inhabitants, is caving in, and it is feared it will be engulfed in the mine on which it is built.

The Chicago City Council, by an unanimous vote, has passed an ordinance requiring tobacconists to take out a hundred dollar license for the sale of cigarettes.

President Cleveland, on Wednesday, signed the bill authorizing the construction of a railway bridge over the St. Lawrence river connecting Hogansport, N. Y., and Cornwall, Ont.

Commercial reports from the United States indicate no particular change in the general condition of trade across the line; it is claimed that there is in progress a steady, although slow improvement, as a better demand for products appears to be experienced all round, while speculative buying is going on in some lines on account of probable change in duties; this is particularly in case with wool. Reports of recent failures in the States show an increase in number, but a decrease in liabilities, which latter phase is due to the caution for some time past exercised in giving large credits. In Cleveland and other places some strikes have occurred; probably the result of the total industrial force at work is said to be steadily increasing.

GENERAL.

Since the beginning of the plague at Bombay there have been 8,383 cases and 6,979 deaths.

It is reported in Canea that 2,000 Mussulmans who were confined in the fortress near Selino have been massacred.

The left wing of the monastery of St. Bernard has been devolved by an avalanche, and the monks had to tunnel through the snow to make their exit.

Three French battleships and a cruiser have been ordered to sail immediately from Toulon for the Island of Crete, to reinforce the French fleet in those waters.

A great public meeting was held on Thursday night at Athens to protest against the action of the powers. At its conclusion the crowd marched to the palace shouting, "War! war! war!" and were addressed by the Crown Prince.

The Italian Embassy at Constantinople has demanded formal satisfaction for the firing of a shot across the bows of an Italian mail steamer while passing through the Straits of the Dardanelles on Tuesday by one of the forts on shore, although the vessel displayed the usual signals and had obtained pratique.

President Kruger has ordered the Chief Justice and the judges of the High Court on the South African Republic to conform to the law passed by the Volksraad on February 25th, replacing their court under the jurisdiction of the Volksraad within fourteen days and warn them not to arrogate to themselves the right to place their own interpretation upon the constitution of the country.

TREE SAP.

Idea That It Rises and Falls With the Season is Erroneous.

Sap is a watery fluid found in the interior of the cells of plants and trees, and contains dissolved or suspended in it the materials required for the life and growth of the cell. The idea that in winter the sap goes down into the roots and in the spring rises again is quite erroneous. Trees and plants are full of watery sap all the winter. The phenomena of freezing in the case of trees and plants are but little understood. The sap in leaves and in smaller branches is often frozen. This is seen especially in the twigs of hickory, which in very cold weather are as brittle as glass, though the same twigs at a higher temperature cannot be any possibility be broken with the hands. For various causes the water contained in the cells only begins to crystallize at some degrees below the ordinary freezing point. This is partly due to the chemical composition of the sap, which contains various salts, starch, etc., in solution. Besides this the bark of trees is a bad conductor of heat, and the interior temperature of trees and plants is generally higher in winter and lower in summer than that of the surrounding atmosphere.

TO YOUNG MOTHERS.

A great deal is said from time to time about training children. It would be a good thing if many mothers would try self improvement first. Mothers are almost always self-sacrificing and very seldom self-reliant. This condition works harm to the child. If it gets into trouble with its toys or games and at once begins to fret, the fond mother will at once rush to the rescue and straighten out the trouble, and kiss and caress the child, and make its way smooth, and in all this is working a positive injury to her offspring. One cannot expect to find much character, self-reliance or will power in a petted child. It is impossible. A mother undermines the foundation of these by the weakness of her love.

Godness knows, a mother's trials are many, but it is easier to extricate a child from some little perplexity by being firm, and demanding that the child try to right the difficulty. For a first time or two it may be helped or shown how to get out of its troubles. You will cultivate self confidence in this way. The aim should be at all times to make the child think and act for itself. By so doing a mother will soon find her cares much lessened.

HORRORS OF THE KNIFE.

ANÆSTHETICS A GREAT BOON TO SUFFERING HUMANITY.

What Surgical Operations Meant Not So Many Years Ago to the Unfortunate Victim of An Operation in Primitive Fashion.

One of the most interesting papers read at the recent celebration in Boston of the fiftieth anniversary of the first administration of ether in a surgical operation was that by Dr. John Ashhurst, of this city, on "Surgery Before the Days of Anæsthetics." It vividly recalls the horrors of those days when the surgeon's knife was an object of far greater terror than now, and inflicted untold tortures upon the conscious patient.

"A study of the condition of surgery before the days of anæsthesia," said Dr. Ashhurst, "reveals on the one hand a picture of heroic boldness and masterly self-control on the part of the surgeon, and on the other a ghastly panorama, sometimes of stoic fortitude and endurance, sometimes of abject terror and humiliation—but always of agonizing wretchedness and pain—on the part of the unhappy victim who required the surgeon's aid.

"The 'pitilessness' which Cælius urged as an essential trait in the operative surgeon was before the days of anæsthesia, a feature in the surgeon's career, which impressed very strongly the public generally as well as those immediately connected with the operation. It is interesting to recall that Sir James Simpson of Edinburgh, shortly after beginning his professional studies, was so affected by seeing the terrible agony of a poor Highland woman under amputation of the breast, that he resolved to abandon a medical career and seek other occupation, happily his intentions was reconsidered, and he returned to his studies, asking himself 'Can anything be done to make operations less painful?' and, as every one knows, in less than twenty years became a high priest of anæsthesia, and the introducer into surgical and obstetrical practice of ether's great rival, chloroform.

INSTRUMENTS OF TERROR.

"No braver or more gallant gentleman ever lived than Admiral Viscount Nelson, and after his right elbow had been shattered by a French bullet in the assault at Teneriffe, he manifested the utmost courage, refusing to be taken to the nearest ship, lest the sight of his injury should alarm the wife of a fellow-officer whose own fate was uncertain, and when his own ship was reached he climbed up its side without assistance, saying, 'Tell the surgeon to make haste and get his instruments. I know I must lose my right arm, so the sooner it is off the better.' He underwent the amputation, we learn from a private letter of one of his midshipmen, 'with the same firmness and courage that have always marked his character.' And yet so painfully was he affected by the coolness of the operator's knife that when next going into action at the famous battle of the Nile he gave standing orders to his surgeons that hot water should always be kept in readiness during an engagement, so that if another operation should be required he might at least have the poor comfort of being cut with warm instruments.

"On the side of the surgeon we find throughout the ages a constant effort to diminish the terrors of operations and a continuous reprobation of the distressing, not to say cruel, modes of practice adopted by preceding generations. And yet the time is not very far distant from ours when they lopped off a limb by striking it violently with a heavy knife; that time when they knew neither how to stop nor to prevent hemorrhage but by burning the part whence the blood jetted with boiling oil or the red-hot iron; that time when surgeons armed themselves at every moment with pinners, with burning cauteries and with instruments, the representations even of which cause terror.

WAS IT KNOWN BEFORE.

"This belief that operations might be rendered painless appears to have been present in the minds of surgeons from the earliest periods. Witness the accounts of the Memphis stone, described by Dioscorides and Pliny, which by steeping in vinegar was made to give forth the fumes of carbonic acid; and of the mandragora, employed, according to Theophrastus, when mixed with other narcotics, by inhalation, and causing a sleep from which a patient could only be aroused by the fumes of vinegar. So profound was the stupor induced by this drug that Bodin assures us that under its influence a man submitted without consciousness to a painful operation and continued to sleep for several days thereafter.

"Vigo speaks of the whole body being 'brought to sleep by the smelling of a sponge wherein opium is,' but warns his readers that the practice is dangerous, because the use of opium is sometimes followed by gangrene. In his work on 'Natural Magic,' Baptista Porta speaks of a volatile drug kept in leaden vessels, which produced sleep when applied to the nostrils, and Perrin suggested that this must actually have been either or some other of the modern anæsthetic agents.

"Mental pre-occupation was sometimes sought as a means of preventing pain. Richard Wiseman found that soldiers dreaded the loss of a limb much less if it were removed immediately, while they were in the heat of the fight, than if the operation was postponed until next day; 'wherefore, he lopped until next day, while the soldier says, cut it off in my sleep,' and Renaudin recalls the case of the amiable Dolomieu, who, exposed to the pangs of starvation in a Neapolitan dungeon, measurably alleviated his own distress

by engaging in the composition of a treatise on mineralogy, while his unfortunate servant and fellow prisoner, who had not the same intellectual resources, was hungry enough for both.

RISK OF SUDDEN DEATH.

"But the presence of pain was not the only evil dreaded by our predecessors in attempting important operations. The great risk of fatal accident from some involuntary movement of the patient was constantly present to the mind of the conscientious surgeon.

"How often," says Dr. Valentine Mott, "when operating in some deep, dark, wound, along the course of some great vein, with thin walls alternately distended and flaccid with the vital current—how often have I dreaded that some unfortunate struggle of the patient would deviate the knife a little from its proper course, and that I, who fain would be the deliverer, should involuntarily become the executioner, seeing my patient perish in my hands by the most appalling form of death! Had he been insensible, I should have felt no alarm."

"Coming down to the days more immediately preceding the date of the great discovery, we find that opium and alcohol were the only agents which continued to be regarded as of practical value in diminishing the pain of operations, though the attendant disadvantages of their employment were, of course, recognized. Meanwhile facts were accumulating, the significance of which we now plainly recognize, but which excited no attention.

"Sir Humphrey Davy, in the early days of the nineteenth century, suggested the use of nitrous oxide gas as an anæsthetic in minor operations, and it was the custom at some of our medical schools—at the University of Pennsylvania, for one—for students to breathe 'laughing gas,' as it was then called for diversion. But yet—surgeons went on, and patients went on writhing and screaming, until on the fifth day of October, in the year 1846, in the Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. John C. Warren painlessly removed a tumor from a man who had previously been etherized by Dr. William T. G. Morton, and surgical anæsthesia became the priceless heritage of the civilized world."

GOOD MANNERS.

What a theme! It is inexhaustible. How often in our rintercourses, in maturer years, we see in our fellow beings the evil of ill breeding, of careless manners. How lamentable it is. Oh, ye mothers, why do you not try and realize that the future of your children's lives depends upon the care of the present.

"As the twig is bent, so the tree's inclined," is a homely old phrase. Never truer words were spoken.

One of the most important periods in a child's life, when it should receive its teaching is at the table. The table manners of a child reflect not only its home influences, but they are indicative of the character that will develop in late years. Precept and example are the most potent means of instructing children, but particularly the latter.

Never "nag" at a child. Be always gentle, if possible. If necessary be firm—relentlessly firm. For with children one must be as Hamlet said: "Cruel only to be kind."

DID HIM GOOD.

Mister, said the small boy to the druggist, gimme another bottle o' them patent pills you sold father day before yesterday.

Are they doing him good? asked the clerk, looking pleased.

I d'no whether they're doin' fater good or not, but they're doin' me good. They jis' fit my new slung-shot.

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