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.

The montreal drug clerks are agitating for shorter hours on Sunday.

Halifax citizens have subscribed $5,000 for the Windsor, N. S., fire sufferers.

The Quebec Legislature is summoned to meet for the despatch of business on the 23rd prox.

Rev. Canon Racicot has authorized the priests of the Archdiocese of Montreal to pray for rain.

The water of the Ottawa river is very low, and there are many cases of typhoid fever at Ottawa:

The amount of property exempt from municipal taxation at Ottawa is estimated at over $15,000,000.

Jubilee stamps will soon be at a premium as the Postoffice Department supply has been exhausted.

The bye-elections in Temiscouata, Rimouski, and Drummond and Arthabaska are fixed for November 13.

The Canadian Thanksgiving day will coincide with the United States festival and be held on November 25.

It is learned that nearly one half of the Canadian loan of ten million dollars will come from Canadian banks.

The Dominion Government will this winter improve the Rideau canal, with a view of lessening the liability of floods at Ottawa.

Mr. A. Pepler, agent of the Dominion Bank at Guelph, will be transferred to Napanee, Mr. Stanton of Toronto succeeding him.

There is a proposition before the Government from the Rathbun Lumber Company for the manufacture of wood alcohol in Canada.

Mr. W. H. H. Ponton, recently bank teller in the Dominion Bank branch at Napanee, will enter suit against the bank for $50,000 damages.

Senator Forget, president of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, states that the company's new boats will be constructed in Toronto.

It is reported from Halifax that Sir Hibbert Tupper has decided not to resign his seat in the Commons when he removes to British Columbia.

Mrs. Kitson, wife of the commander of the Royal Military College at Kingston, injured in a runaway accident a month ago, is still dangerously ill.

Mr. Tarte proposes next session to ask Parliament for a large vote for extending the Government telegraph lines in the North-West and British Columbia.

A bulletin will soon be published by the Inland Revenue Department embodying the results of an analysis of drinking waters from various parts of Canada.

The services of Mr. Thomas Gisborne, superintendent of Government telegraph lines in the North-West and British Columbia, have been dispensed with on the ground of economy.

The Minister of Agriculture has appointed Mr. J. E. Starr, a Nova Scotia fruit-grower to go to England to investigate and report on the extent of the market offered there for Canadian fruit.

Dairymen throughout Canada have begun to take advantage of the Dairy Act passed at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, which provides for the registration of cheese factories and creameries.

Thomas Lapierre and his wife, of Sherbrooke, Que., found guilty of an attempt to cause the death of the former's little daughter by means of ill-treatment, were sentenced on Saturday to five years each in the penitentiary.

The Russell County fire fund now amounts to nearly $22,600. It is said that about $50,000 will be required if the Central Committee is to be enabled to carry out its plan of giving the sufferers money or lumber with which to rebuild.

Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, who returned to Montreal recently, expressed himself as greatly impressed with what he saw in the North-West. He says the farmers in Manitoba and the Territories have this season had the greatest good fortune in a magnificent wheat crop.

A cablegram has been received by the Dominion Government, saying that on Lord Lansdowne's instructions a medal will be issued for all who participated in the repulse of the Fenian raid on Canada in '66, and in the North-West expedition of '70.

The liberality of Canada's subscriptions to the India famine fund was officially acknowledged on Friday, when Mr. Courtney, Deputy Minister of Finance received a letter from the Chief Justice of Bengal, who says that with the exception of the United Kingdom, the largest contribution has come from Canada.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Salisbury emphatically denies that he has any intention of resigning his portfolio.

Sir Edwin Arnold, author of "The Light of Asia," married a Japanese lady in London on Saturday.

Mrs. Lily Langtry benefits to the extent of three hundred pounds yearly by the death of her husband.

In connection with the increase of the strength of the British army, the colonies will be asked to augment their forces.

The Queen has conferred the Right Hon. Sir Nathaniel Lindley, Lord Justice of Appeal since 1881, as Master of the Rolls.

There was a sudden influx into London during the past week, and most of the large residences are now open for the winter season.

Lieut. Winston Churchill, son of Lady Randolph Churchill, is acting as war correspondent for the London Daily Telegraph in India.

The British engineers claim to have won the fight for an eight-hour day, and therefore decline to allow that point to be arbitrated upon.

Archbishop Machray, of Rupert's Land, who attended the Lambeth Conference, is seriously ill in England, and his recovery is very doubtful.

It is announced that the marriage has been arranged and is shortly to take place between Lord Mount Stephen and Miss Glan, daughter of the late Robert George Tuftnell.

The Pall Mall Gazette laments the competition of the United States, and says that everything points to that country remaining the cheapest steel-producing country in the world.

The statement that Mr. Langtry, the husband of the actress, was penniless at the time of his death is not true, as Mrs. Langtry made him a regular allowance through her solicitor.

The general disposition to increase naval armament can be gauged by the fact that eighty-seven warships are being built in Great Britain alone, of which thirty-four go to foreign Governments.

It is understood that Lord Strathcona and Sir Edwin Dawes, of the British India Steam Navigation Company, have joined the Board of Directors of the Petersen Fast Atlantic Company with the Marquis of Lorne as chairman.

It is again asserted that Lord Salisbury will shortly resign, and that the struggle for the Premiership will be between the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Arthur Balfour, and that the latter will have all Mr. Chamberlain's influence.

UNITED STATES.

Yellow fever has appeared at Montgomery, Ala.

Women occupied twenty pulpits in Baltimore on Sunday.

New Orleans has had over 100 deaths from yellow fever since the outbreak.

A monument to Robert Louis Stevenson, the novelist, was unveiled on Sunday in San Francisco.

Ex-Tax Collector Wm. Millard, of Peoria, Ill., has been arrested. His defalcations amount to $20,000.

Three Cuban patriots have been in St. Louis the last fourteen days procuring and shipping ammunition for their compatriots.

Mr. Justice Winsor, LL.D, librarian of Harvard, and president of the American Library Association, died at Cambridge, Mass., on Friday morning.

The steamship Alameda, due at San Francisco from Australia, has $2,000,000 worth of English sovereigns on board for London, Paris and American banks.

During a revival meeting in Richmond Va., the Rev. T. H. Leavitt prayed that two women who laughed during the service might die immediately and go to hell.

Zeb Rudolph the father of Mrs. James A. Garfield, the widow of the late President, died on Wednesday evening at Lawnfield, the Garfield home. He was 94 years of age.

The jury in the case of Luetgert, the Chicago sausage manufacturer who was charged with the murder of his wife, has disagreed, standing nine for conviction and three for acquittal.

The one hundred and fifty-first anniversary of Princeton University was celebrated on Friday. Among the speakers were ex-President Grover Cleveland and the Governor-General of Canada.

A short time ago, in a fit of displeasure at his twin sons, George M. Pullman made a will disinheriting them, little thinking at the time that death was so soon to give permancy to the legal document.

According to commercial advices from New York, the business situation is fairly satisfactory, though not as good as was expected in many lines. Business is irregular, and there is a falling off in demand that has not been made up by speculative activity. Warm weather has interfered considerably with the movements of seasonable goods. Cotton goods are dull, and rain in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska has somewhat improved the agricultural prospects. Collections are reported as "weak" in several directions. There is an advance in hides, window glass, and lard. Prospects are generally encouraging.

GENERAL.

Yellow fever has broken out in Jamaica with unusual virulence

Li Hung Chang, the Chinese statesman, is about to retire from public life owing to illness.

The Abyssinians are devastating Somaliland and committing horrible atrocities upon the prisoners.

The peace commissioners have adopted eight articles of the permanent treaty of peace between Greece and Turkey.

The German Government, it is understood, has decided to re-arm the entire infantry with new six-millimetre rifles.

The Japanese in Seoul, the capital of Corea, are using money quite freely in order to foster an anti-Russian spirit.

China has a gold excitement, too, the precious metal being reported to have been discovered in the Chang Mountains.

One man was killed and a number wounded in a riot on the occasion of the funeral of a leading socialist in Florence on Monday.

The cruiser Kostroma, belonging to the Russian volunteer fleet is aground off the Elba reef, according to reports from Suakim, Egypt.

The British steamer Clan Gordon has been wrecked off Umlazi, between Natal and Delagoa Bay. The crew and passengers were saved.

Recent despatches report a devastating cyclone in the Philippine Islands which, in addition to the destruction of much property, killed four hundred persons.

The commission appointed to enquire into the disaster of the Hodynsky plain, in Moscow, in May, 1896, report that on that occasion fourteen hundred and twenty-nine lives were lost.

An Italian magazine article, which is supposed to voice the views of leading statesmen, advocates the withdrawal of Italy from Dreibund, and the forming of an alliance with Great Britain.

It is understood that the Spanish Government will protest against filibustering expeditions from the United States, and will hold that Government responsible for a breach of international law.

The Madrid Imparcial, protesting against filibustering parties for Cuba from the United States, says it is impossible for Spain to submit to such humiliation. The Government must act with energy towards Washington.

A patrol of dervish horsemen on Saturday attacked a village near Berber, killing eleven men, capturing many women and children, and carrying off cattle. A detachment of Anglo-Egyptian cavalry overtook and routed the raiders with great loss.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Opening of the Provincial Legislature — Speech From the Throne.

A despatch from Winnipeg, says:—The third session of the third Legislature of the North-West Territories opened at Regina, on Thursday. There was only a small attendance of members. Lieut.-Governor Mackintosh, in his speech from the throne made reference to the many expressions of loyalty throughout the West to her Majesty during the month of jubilee. He was happy to be able to congratulate them upon the many evidences of prosperity to be seen all over the Territories, as a result of a bountiful harvest, and the sound condition and good prospects of all our important industries.

The wonderful discoveries of mineral wealth in hitherto unexplored parts of the Territories, and the almost absolute certainty of establishing ready means of access to the new gold fields from the settled portions of the country, promise most beneficial results in the way of opening up new markets for our staple products, while the building of the Crow's Nest railway will enable stock-raisers and agriculturists to avail themselves of the constant and increasing demand for food supplies of all kinds from the rich mining regions of the neighbouring Province of British Columbia.

Continuing, His Honor said:—"Since the last meeting of the Legislature important changes in the constitution of the Territories have been made by the Act passed at the last session of the Federal Parliament. In accordance with the provisions of that Act I have chosen an Executive Council, and can now congratulate the Territories upon having obtained a completely responsible system of government. In consequence of this change a reorganization of the offices of the Government and the creation of public departments for the carrying on of the public service will be found necessary, and measures having those ends in view will be submitted for your consideration."

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.

One Man Killed—Several Men Seriously Injured — A Four Storey Building Wrecked.

A despatch from Detroit says:—The boiler in the Detroit Cabinet Company's factory at Hancock avenue and Riopelle street, in the north-eastern part of the city exploded at 7.30 on Friday morning with fatal and disastrous effects. At least two men were fatally injured, one of whom has since died, and ten men were more or less seriously hurt.

Dead—Lamente Tunney, foreman in finishing-room; died in Harper hospital.

Dying—Moses Peltier, engineer, skull fractured; unconscious, at Harper hospital.

Seriously injured—William H. Becker, cuts in head, neck, scalded badly; Wilbur Kraus, ribs broken, body bruised, may be injured internally; John Nonninger, cabinet-maker, legs and breast cut, bad scalp wound; Herman Kreinberg, packer, badly bruised all over body, may die, Carl May, cabinet-maker, and Barney Trombley, band sawyer were also hurt.

The cause of the explosion is not yet ascertained. Both the front and rear ends of the four-storey building were blown out entirely, and the brick walls are in ruins. No fire resulted from the explosion. The concussion started the whole north-eastern portion of the city; and many windows were broken. The damaged building is a brick structure 150 feet square, four storeys high. The floors were practically uninjured.

AN IMPENDING FAMINE.

Divergent Views Regarding Ireland's Condition.

A despatch from Dublin says:—There are two sides to the question of the famine in Ireland. One side is that of the Government which claims the famine is exploited by politicians as an argument against the administration of Ireland. The other side, held by many of the clergy, politicians, and people, is that it is certain there will be great distress through large sections of the country.

A meeting of the Roman Catholic prelates was held at Maynooth last week, and those present adopted resolutions that the archbishops and bishops of Ireland deem it their duty to present to the Government a statement of their conviction, formed on the personal knowledge of seven members of that body, that the failure of the potato and cereal crops in many districts, particularly on the southern and western coasts, must lead to great distress, and unless speedy measures of relief are adopted, to disastrous consequences. Meetings are being held, the parish priests presiding, urging the Government to start relief works before the people are actually suffering.

The Government officials insist on keeping themselves fully informed regarding the conditions prevailing, and will be able to cope with the distress, but they say they are unable to announce at this time what districts or how many people will be affected.

WAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Japan and Russia Preparing for a Conflict.

The steamship Empress of Japan brings the following advices from the Orient:—

A correspondent in Corea, writing to a Shanghai paper, takes rather an ominous view of the state of affairs in that country, stating that there is no doubt that Japan and Russia are both preparing for war in the near future. The Japanese are surveying the southern coast of Corea, while the Russians have obtained a small island off Fusan as a naval coaling station. The Japanese also are building barracks in Gensan that will hold 5,000 men.

The Japanese in Seoul are using money quite freely in order to foster an anti-Russian spirit.

The Japanese Government will be forced to go abroad to float a public industrial loan. Out of 67,000,000 yen, only 3,000,000 was subscribed in Japan.

It is rumoured in Hong Kong that 16,000 rifles have been shipped to the Philippine rebels.

PLOUGH WORKS BURNED.

Extensive Fire in the City of Brantford — Two Firemen Seriously Injured.

A despatch from Brantford says;—The most disastrous fire in the history of Brantford took place here on Tuesday, resulting in the serious injury of two firemen and the loss of property to the value of $75,000 to $100,000. At 5.30 the 220 hands at the Verity Plough Works were busily engaged at their work, and there was not the slightest sign of impending danger, when suddenly the men in the big painting room on the third storey, at the top, were startled by a column of fire, which seemed to leap as if by magic from a tank of composition, composed chiefly of benzine and other inflammable stuff. They ran wildly from the room, one man named Eacrett being momentarily overcome, and another man named Dyson jumping from a second storey window, and receiving painful injuries.

In an incredibly short time the immense factory was in a sheet of flames. The whole force of the brigade was quickly on the scene and pluckily set to work to conquer the blaze. The fire hadn't been long in progress when one of the walls of the main building fell in, burling Fireman Allan and Fireman James Finch a distance of some 30 feet. They were rescued from the debris, Allan in an unconscious condition, and taken to the hospital, and Finch to the fire hall, where his injuries were attended to.

Under the direction of Mr. Verity, the employes managed to rescue a large amount of manufactured material.

The buildings were completely gutted. The Veritys, have been working day and night for some time, and there was a very heavy stock of ploughs on hand. Mr. Verity states that he valued the buildings and contents at $100,000. They carried $50,000 insurance. A good deal of ironwork will be much damaged. A loss of $75,000 will no doubt cover it.

Among the companies interested are:—Northern, $10,000; Calendonian, $10,000; Waterloo Mutual, $12,000; London Assurance, $5,000; Manchester, $3,000.

The fire was nearly extinguished by 8 o'clock. The buildings destroyed are those which the city was going to buy from the Veritys for $15,000, the firm's business demanding larger premises. The Mayor has offered the Veritys the old Waterous building.

A CONTRACT BEFORE MARRIAGE.

A Woodstock Lady Has Won a Very Important Suit.

A despatch from Rochester, N.Y., says:—Justice Warner has rendered a decision for the plaintiff in the case of Susie M. Vanderventer, of Woodstock, Ont., against Stephen W. and Albert Vanderventer, both of Penn Yan. The action was brought to enforce an alleged ante-nuptial contract made in 1892, in which Stephen Vanderventer agreed to grant a certain parcel of land, and also $20,000 to Susie M. Vane, now Susie M. Vanderventer, providing she marry him within one year after the death of her mother. The plaintiff was married to the defendant in July, 1895, in fulfilment of her part of the contract, and soon after demanded of the defendant that he fulfil his part of the contract. Instead it is alleged, the defendant transferred all such property to his son, Albert R. Vanderventer.

On the trial the defendant denied that he ever executed the contract, and testified that on the date it is alleged to have been executed in Woodstock, Canada, he was in Penn Yan. The decision rendered by Justice Werner gives the plaintiff $20,000 with interest from the time the money was demanded and the property. It also restrains the defendant from disposing of any of the property.

NOT EXAGGERATED.

The Food Supply in the Yukon District Is Not Half Sufficient.

A despatch from Washington says:—Captain Hooper, commander of the Behring Sea patrol fleet, who has arrived in Washington to attend the seal conference, says that the reports concerning the scarcity of food in the Klondyke region are not, in his judgment, exaggerated. In the neighbourhood of Dawson City there are, he said, about 5,000 miners whose supply of provisions for the coming winter is no greater than would barely suffice for half the number. Great suffering will be the inevitable result of this scarcity of food. Although some of the more vigorous among the miners might attempt to get away on the ice to the Yukon, the chances were, he thought, that a considerable number of them would perish from hunger and exposure.

PROVING HIS MOTTO.

Well, sir, exclaimed the millionaire, what do you want this morning?

I've come again to ask for your daughter, said the poor, but ambitious, young man.

Haven't I told you six times now upon as many different days, that it's out of the question? What do you mean by bothering me in this way? You are making a nuisance of yourself.

If I seem to be more persistent than circumstances warrant, I must insist that you, sir, are to blame.

Me! shouted the indignant old man, I don't understand you.

There, said the man who loved his daughter, as he pointed to a motto over the banker's desk is my excuse for coming here day after day: If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again. Do you believe in that sentiment or have you put it up there simply to deceive people?

After he had scratched his head a while, the mean old plutocrat said:

Yes, I believe in that. I haven't succeeded yet in making you understand that my daughter shall not become the wife of a fool, but I'm going to keep on trying till I do. Good morning.

And that time he did it.

TROUBLE IN WEST AFRICA.

A WEST INDIA DETACHMENT FOR THE FRONTIER.

French Intruding on Territory of Great Britain — Complications Imminent — British Officers to the Front — The French are Ordering Reinforcements to the Lagos Hinterland.

A despatch from Lagos, West Coast of Africa, says:—A detachment of the West India Regiment, stationed here, has started for the frontier of the Hinterland.

A Paris despatch says:—The Journal says grave news has reached St. Louis from the Dahomey Hinterland, to the effect that complications are imminent at Nikki and elsewhere in Borgu of which territory Nikki is the capital, and which, it is claimed in England, belongs to Great Britain, by virtue of a treaty concluded with the King of Borgu prior to the treaties made with that monarch by representatives of France.

It is added that on receipt of the news referred to M. Lebon, the Minister of the Colonies, who is now looking after French interests in Senegambia, immediately despatched reinforcements to Dahomey.

A semi-official statement regarding the reported trouble in West Africa was issued this evening. It says:—"The news from West Africa foreshadows great difficulties at Nikki and in Borgu. The Niger Company, British, is sending officers there to incite rebellion and distribute arms to the natives. In view of this situation French troops have been despatched to that district from Senegal, as a preventive measure. Moreover, the British negotiators for a settlement of the Niger question have been in Paris for more than a week, and everything points to Great Britain seeking to let the matters drag. Seemingly she does not intend to discuss the question, but means will undoubtedly be found to foil these tactics."

A despatch from London says:—Replying to the semi-official statement concerning the dangerous state of affairs in West Africa, issued in Paris on Tuesday evening, the British Colonial Office officials declared that there does not seem to be any reasonable fear of complications at Nikki, "provided the French Government behaves reasonably." But, it was added at the Colonial Office, Great Britain has taken the determination to police more effectually her territories, "and if the French persist in trespassing complications will naturally ensue."

It now transpires that Major Northcote, who sailed from Liverpool recently, is going to Lagos, and not to the Gold Coast, so that it will be in the Hinterland of the former colony that he will occupy the position of Commander-in-Chief.

Captain the Hon. C. G. Fortescue, of the Rifle Brigade, went with Major Northcote to Lagos, while Captain Gifford also proceeded to Lagos in the same steamer.

Nikki, the town which is said to have been occupied by French troops, is in the Hinterland of Lagos, and of the French Dahomey territory. It is known that the French have been in Boussa ever since the Niger expedition to Bida and Ilorin, while for a long time past the French have disputed the right of Great Britain to Borgu, of which Nikki forms part.

NEW R. & O. STEAMERS.

Two Elegant Boats to be Built in Toronto.

A despatch from Montreal says:—The Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company has decided to build two new steamers, at a cost of $275,000 each, modelled on the lines of the Priscilla of the Fall River Line. The designer of the Priscilla, Mr. Haggenstrom, will assist Mr. Bertram of Toronto in the construction of the two boats. Col. Henshaw, one of the R. & O. directors, left in the spring for a thorough inspection of the boats in American waters, and after travelling on the Fall River, the Albany and the Champlain and New York steamers he returned with a report in favor of the Priscilla. The new boats will be 277 feet in length, just seventeen feet shorter than the steamer Quebec. They will have sleeping capacity for over four hundred people and will be licensed to carry fifteen hundred. The dining room will be on the second deck, and walled with plate glass, so that the passengers while dining can enjoy the prospect as they glide on the water. The specification call for a maximum speed of twenty knots an hour and a minimum of eighteen. This means that the boats, instead of leaving Toronto at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, will swing out of the Yonge street wharf at 6 o'clock, just four hours later, and arrive on schedule time at Prescott. There will be fifty thousand dollars spent on interior decorations on each boat. The first steamer will be ready by July 1st, and the second three weeks later.

AFTER OSMAN DIGNA.

A Column of Troops Starts Under General Hunter — Dervishes' Revenge on the Jaalin Tribe.

A despatch from Cairo says:—A column of troops commanded by Gen. Hunter, it is announced in a despatch from Berber, on the Nile, has started to drive Osman Digna, the great dervish General, from the Atbara River; but, the despatch adds, it is feared Osman Digna will not wait for the Anglo-Egyptian troops to attack him.

Details just obtained of the revenge of the dervishes upon the Jaalin tribe, caused by their refusal to join the forces of the Khalifa against the British, show it to have been terrible in the extreme. The left bank of the river between Berber and Metemmeh was practically depopulated. The dervishes butchered every male member of the offending tribe, and took the pretty women to their harems, after sending 150 selected virgins to the Khalifa. The dervishes, in addition, threw many women and children into the river.

CHINA HOLDS TO HER WAYS

HER ANCIENT CUSTOMS NOT CHANGED TO SUIT PROGRESS.

Though Riding Wheels with Hempen Tires, the Chinese Cling to Their Superstitions Regarding Family Bones and Teach the Worship of Parents with the Iron Hand.

Many curious instances of the spread of foreign customs and the absorption of European ideas are found in the English and vernacular newspapers of China. Reforms are adopted very slowly in China. The law remains as it was one thousand years ago, and all the customs that pertain to the worship of ancestors and the upholding of paternal authority cannot be altered by so much as a hair's breadth, without provoking a storm of protest which not even the highest authority could afford to ignore.

A case illustrating the remarkable hold that superstition has even on persons of wealth and intelligence, comes from a place south of Canton. It seems that the persistent ill-fortune of a respectable family of some wealth was traced to the fact that they had selected an "unpropitious" site for the burial of the bones of the head of the house. The Chinese custom is to exhume the coffin after three years, and to wash the bones and put them in a large jar. This jar is then buried in a shady place, usually

UNDER A TREE,

and over it the sons do ancestral worship that assures the happiness of the departed. The son of this unfortunate family dug up the two jars containing ancestral bones, cleaned them, carefully and then reburied them. But recently a neighbor by chance exhumed the jars while he dug for something else. This was regarded as a bad omen and the jars were taken out and cleaned for another removal.

The wiseacres of the town said that several misfortunes which had befallen the family were due to the unpropitious site selected for these jars, and when the European who records this incident visited the village he found the relatives and friends engaged in solemn discussion of the proper place to rebury the bones. This family belonged to the respectable, educated class, yet believed in these gross superstitions, as fully as any ignorant coolies.

Paternal authority is still supreme in China, and when the old family law comes into conflict with the State law it is the State that must yield. An incident illustrating this comes from Hunan. A doctor named Liu was found dead on the highway. All the evidences of a deliberate murder were present. But while an inquest was being held the dead man's father appeared and coolly declared that he had slain his son because of the young man's unfilial conduct. It seems that the son had beaten the father, as well as other members of his family, and he had even chastised several elderly men of his clan who had gone to remonstrate with him. So the father had killed him, as the law empowered him to do. The magistrate referred the whole case to the Board of Punishments, as he did not feel authorized to condemn the father, especially as the gray-beards of the Liu clan testified that the son had

RECEIVED ONLY HIS DUE.

Another recent case of the punishment of a rebellious son was recorded in the Peking Gazette. In this case the Empress Dowager meted out the penalty. The offender was Prince Tsai Shu, the eldest son of a widow. He showed open contempt for his mother's wishes by feigning illness when her birthday anniversary festivities occurred. To cap the climax of his offences he failed also to return thanks for the Empress Dowager's gifts to his mother. The matter was referred to the Empress Dowager, who prescribed eighty blows with the rattan and the perpetual imprisonment of the undutiful son "within the four walls of an empty room." The Emperor confirmed this edict, so the son will have ample leisure to repent of his offence.

The Shantung Peninsula, on which were the fortifications of Wei-hai-wei, and which was overrun by the Japanese in the late war, is the last place one would look for evidences of foreign improvements or inventions. Yet a letter from Wei-hai-wei says that in the interior of the province the bicycle fever ranges among the wealthy natives, and no fewer than 200 wheels have been imported. With great ingenuity some native gunsmiths and blacksmiths have turned out imitations of the foreign wheels, and these are said to do good service. Instead of the pneumatic tirese these Chinese wheels have solid tires of plaited hemp covered with rawhide.

OUTWITTED THE LAIRD.

In the absence of a family, the private grounds of a certain Scottish lord were often used by the natives of the two neighboring villages, as thereby a saving of fully a mile was effected.

Occasionally, too, when his lordship was at home, attempts were made to run the blockade, for, whenever any trespasser was caught by his lordship, he had to obey the command, to go back the way he had come.

A local hawker, when cautiously wheeling his barrow along the forbidden path one day, happened to see his lordship before the latter saw him, and coolly turning the barrow round sat down with his back to the dreaded laird, who, coming up, gave him a severe reprimanding, and then ordered him to wheel about and go back by the road by which he had come.

The wily hawker did as he was bidden, thereby turning his barrow in the direction in which he wished to go, and so effectually outwitting the unsuspecting laird.

CAUGHT NAPPING.

Mr. Wiggs, admiringly—Mrs. Hansom looks as pretty as a picture this afternoon.

Mrs. Wiggs—That costume is very becoming. She has a husband who likes to see a woman decently dressed and isn't too mean to pay for it.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO