

## 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.

Captain William Sparling of the Montreal Fire Brigade is dead.

Over \$18,000 has been collected in subscriptions for the Western University.

Another case of smallpox has been reported to the Mayor by the Montreal Health Officer.

The Hamilton Acetylene Gas Machine Co. has been formed, with a capital stock of \$25,000.

The new R. & O. steamers being built at Toronto will be called "Toronto" and "Kingston."

A company has been formed and plans matured for building an electric railway between St. Catharines and Port Huron.

Wm. Green, who was run into by a street car at Hamilton, while riding a horse on Sunday afternoon, is dead as the result of his injuries.

S. S. Stratton and R. Roman, of Ottawa, have been awarded the contract for supplying for four years the Post-Office Department with mail bags.

Brakenham Wheeler, of the G. T. R. fell beneath the cars at Brantford. Fortunately he fell between the tracks, and by lying prostrate, escaped injury.

Mr. Arthur Piets, C. P. R. Steamship Manager, has gone to England to purchase steamships and to make other arrangements for the new Klondike line.

Mr. Sifton does not anticipate any trouble from the efforts being made at Washington to prevent the entrance of Canadian goods into the Yukon by way of Dyea.

An order has been received at the C. P. R. shops at Perth, for 1,500 box cars.

Robert Marshall, aged fifteen, was killed in the Hamilton cotton mills elevator.

Mr. W. C. Macdonald has made another gift of about \$300,000 to McGill University. Mr. Macdonald's total contributions to McGill amount to about \$2,500,000.

The Thirtieth Battalion of Hamilton have won the Goworki Cup for the fourth time in succession. The Queen's Own came second, and the 48th Highlanders third.

It is announced that Lord Strathcona has presented his entire herd of buffalo to the Dominion Government, to be placed in the National Park at Banff.

After the first of January the Prince Edward Island railway, and the leased lines, will be known under the title of the Canadian Government railway system.

The Dominion Government will sue the United States Government for \$100,000 for damages caused by the Government vessel La Canadienne in the collision with the American vessel Yale.

The Dominion fishery protection fleet on the Atlantic coast has gone into winter quarters with the exception of the Dreyfus, which is watching two or three American fishing steamers which have not yet left for home.

Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner, in a letter to Sir Richard Cartwright, states that he will return to Canada shortly to interview pulp and paper manufacturers here regarding opportunities for extending their business to Great Britain.

Many applications have been received at the Dominion Customs Department from Americans for permission to take goods into Alaska via Canadian territory, in bond, and the matter is receiving the attention of the Cabinet at Ottawa.

Mr. J. Honey, superintendent of construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, gives a general denial to the charges of unfair treatment of the labourers employed on the work. He says out of four thousand men only sixty had any complaint to make, and they were sent home.

Mr. H. P. Osler, Q. C., of Toronto has filed a petition with the Dominion Department of Justice asking for the revocation of the charters of the Canadian Copper Company and the Anglo-American Company, on the grounds that they have not established smelting works in Canada, according to the terms of their contract.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

Gen. Sir Henry Gardner, commander of the Horse Artillery, is dead in London.

London's weather continues remarkably mild, and is decidedly favourable to the city crop.

Terrific weather has been prevailing on the south-west coast of Ireland, and serious wrecks are reported.

Sir Frank Lockwood, M.P., who accompanied Lord Russell on his recent trip to this country, is dead.

It is reported that the prospect of a settlement of the engineer's strike in Great Britain are very promising.

Lord Writtesley's seat in Staffordshire has been completely gutted by fire, and many articles of historic value are lost.

The engineers of six of the Allan line steamers, now at Glasgow, have gone out on strike. Serious disorganization of the fleet is feared.

It is reported at London that Sir Wm. E. Maxwell, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast, died at sea while en route to England.

An immense shoe factory is to be started in Galashiels, Scotland, to compete with the United States, which now holds a large part of the British shoe market.

Vladimir Bourtoff, a Russian, was remanded at Bow street police station, London, on Thursday, charged with issuing a publication inciting the assassination of the Czar.

It is understood that the Duke of Norfolk, one of England's most influential peers has accused Lord Salisbury with a view to obtaining the

admission of Cardinal Vaughan into the House of Lords.

The Countess of Warwick is taking great interest in the founding of an Agricultural Training College for Women to educate farmers' daughters in scientific and commercial dairying, poultry, raising, etc.

Lieut. Peary, previous to leaving England for the United States, was presented with models for flying machines, submarine boats, and other devices supposed to be likely to facilitate his exploration of the polar region.

#### UNITED STATES.

Charles Butler, lawyer and philanthropist, is dead at New York.

There is a strike of iron workers in New York, which, it is feared, will develop into a strike of serious proportions.

It is proposed to hold an ecumenical Foreign Missionary Conference in New York in April, 1900, to last ten days.

The United States Senate has approved a bill appropriating \$2,000,000 for the relief of the miners in the Klondike region.

The San Francisco transportation companies have agreed upon a passenger rate of five hundred dollars from that city to Dawson City.

The United States War Department proposes to buy 500 reindeer from Lapland to be used in taking supplies into Dawson City this winter.

The total tonnage carried on the canals of New York State during the past season shows a decrease compared with the previous year of 600,000 tons.

The Rev. Dr. James M. Farrar is about to abandon his wealthy New York pastorate that he may devote his life to preaching the Gospel without pay.

Durrant, who was sentenced on Wednesday for the fourth time to be hanged, says that he is confident help will come to him in his extremity.

Zanol, the New York barber, who accused seven murders, says he has no hope of escaping the consequences since the untruth of his statement regarding his daughter's death has been found out.

On Sunday at St. Joseph, Mo., Mrs. Charles Miller, her mother, and all her relatives and other Catholics who attended her marriage, were excommunicated because the young woman was married by a Protestant minister.

The bill relating to pelagic sealing, which has just passed both branches of the United States Congress, places an absolute prohibition on the further bringing of sealskins into the United States from any source whatever.

According to reports as to business in the United States, retail trade in the east has been most satisfactory during the past week. There is possible trouble in the New England mills and either a strike or a shut-down is likely to occur. In the West and the North-West trade is reported to be most satisfactory, though mild weather has checked the distribution of seasonal goods to a large extent. Collections generally are reported later, and the all-round tone and trade outlook good. The commercial failures in the United States for the week just ended were 283, as compared with 359 in the corresponding week of last year.

#### GENERAL.

It is rumored that Russia has occupied Port Arthur with the consent of China.

Alphonse Daudet, the celebrated French novelist, is dead. He was 57 years of age.

Strong earthquake shocks, lasting twelve seconds, were felt on Saturday morning in Central Italy.

The Marquis di Rudini has succeeded in reconstructing the Italian Cabinet, without making many changes.

The French Chamber of Deputies has adopted a proposal fixing for hours as a day's work for railway employes.

Among the persons under arrest for pillaging in Prague, is the son of a millionaire. The Germans still dread a fresh attack.

Haiti is again threatened, this time by Italy who is making heavy claims for the alleged seizure of an Italian merchant vessel some years ago.

The Crown Prince and Princess Constantine of Greece will leave Athens for a prolonged tour for the benefit of their health.

The famous Parisian model, Lucie Hagerland had her beauty destroyed by vitriol, which was thrown in her face by another model in a fit of jealousy.

A despatch from Athens announces that the treaty of peace between Turkey and Greece has been ratified by King George. It has been also ratified by Turkey.

Prince Bismarck who nerved himself up for the Emperor's recent visit has relapsed into his former weakness, drowsiness and insomnia, and is said to be sinking fast.

A well-known diplomat says that Greece was involved in the war with Turkey owing to the endeavor of King George to bluff the Czar into hurrying the marriage of Princess Marie.

Spain is negotiating with the Armistice of England, to obtain a four thousand three hundred ton cruiser, worth one million five hundred thousand dollars, which has been built for Japan.

Some of the richest Spaniards of Cuba are holding meetings to consider the advisability of sending a petition to President McKinley seeking to establish a United States protectorate over the island.

It is stated that the citizens of Madrid are in a state of great suppressed excitement, and there are such strong fears of a revolution that preparations are being made for the flight of the Royal family.

The general opinion of Kiel regarding the German occupation of Kia-Chau is voiced by a diplomat, who says it is a great pity that Germany, having an easy safe and simple, though slightly paralytic piece of work, should not be able to perform it without setting the whole world laughing.

#### AN EXTINGUISHER.

They say that was a brilliant match of Bullion and Miss Goldy.

Yes; but it seems to have gone out when they were married.

## ALL WANT A FAIR SHARE.

### GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE DESIRE CHINESE PORTS.

The Press on the Situation—Reason for the Occupation of Port Arthur—Russia and France to open up to Eastern Asia.

A despatch from Berlin says—The Paris correspondent of the Cologne Gazette telegraphs his paper that he learns on reliable authority that the Russian occupation of Port Arthur was connected with the visit there of the British ship Daphne a week ago, when in spite of the protests of the Chinese the Daphne entered the inner harbour, allegedly to ascertain whether there were Russian ships there. China complained of the incident to the representatives of the powers of Pekin.

The British far Eastern squadron is said to be at Talienmu, and, according to the correspondent mentioned, is shortly expected at Port Arthur.

The Cologne Gazette regards the occupation as merely a continuation of the co-operation of Germany with Russia in Eastern Asia.

An unconfirmed report is current in London that part of the British far Eastern squadron will be stationed at Wei-Hei-Wei, this winter. If true, this indicates that Great Britain is working with Japan. The latter still occupies Wei-Hai-Wei pending payment of the Chinese war indemnity.

The London evening newspapers are much disturbed over the situation.

"What do we get?" is the burden of their comment; and they all insist on the necessity for immediate action.

The London Globe says—"Russia and Germany now have the two most important strategic positions in North China, and Great Britain, whose commercial interests there are ten times greater, must be content with the crumbs from the St. Petersburg and Berlin tables."

The Pall Mall Gazette echoes the Standard's enquiry as to America's attitude, and remarks—"Of course, the partition of the coast, which is bound to be ignored, will be confined to Russia and Germany. Every naval State in the world is actively concerned in the disturbance of the equilibrium in the far East—Great Britain, France, and Japan especially. But the United States cannot be treated as a quantity to be ignored. Some acquisition, with these seizures is not worthy of our past and is fatal to our future. We may remark that we shall not be without sympathizers as the Japanese will most joyfully back any scheme to redress their humiliations. They have suffered at the hands of Russia."

Advice received in London from Paris show France is waiting Great Britain's action. If Great Britain follows the lead of Russia and Germany, and occupies a seaport, France will follow suit.

#### BELIEVES SHE WAS IN HEAVEN.

The Strange Case of a Well-Known Farmer's Wife.

A despatch from Chatham, Ont., says—The peculiar case of Mrs. Cook, wife of a wealthy farmer on the River road, six miles from Chatham, is exciting the most intense and widespread interest of the whole countryside. She was a widow before marrying her present husband, who also had been married before. Mrs. Cook is the victim of a strange illness which induces a cataleptic, or trance-like state at regularly recurring intervals.

Sunday night she recovered from one of her protracted trances, during which she was all appearance dead. She was lying neither pulse nor heart-beat. She was in an ecstatic state, and told her husband and others that she had been in Paradise, had seen the angels, and the glories of the redeemed. In the matter all appear humiliated, she having neither pulse nor heart-beat. She was in an ecstatic state, and told her husband and others that she had been in Paradise, had seen the angels, and the glories of the redeemed. In the matter all appear humiliated, she having neither pulse nor heart-beat.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook are a devout couple, consistent members of the Church of England, and well known and highly respected. Neither is given to flightiness nor extravagance of imagination, but on the contrary, both are educated, sober-minded persons. The subject of the remarkable experiences calmly not to say pleasantly, awaits what she considers the inevitable, her decease within two weeks' time.

#### UNDESERVED CUFF.

It was undeserved, but the circumstances were so peculiar that even the recipient of the blow must have been more amused than angry. The story is told by a London journal:

The Rev. Dr. X., a popular minister, suffers from a halt in his gait, a peculiarity which he inherited from his father. One day when the reverend doctor was still a student, he was walking along Princes Street, Edinburgh, in company with his father, and on coming to a path where the foot-way was narrowed on account of some building operations, the old gentleman stepped on before him.

As they were proceeding thus, a sober-looking countryman behind them, evidently unaware of the relationship of the pair, frowned once or twice at the limping youth, and shook his head at him reprovingly. Young X. was wondering what this could mean, when he was speedily enlightened by the countryman giving him a smart box on the ear, at the same time exclaiming indignantly:

"Tak' that, ye young jacksnapes! Ye should be ashamed of yourself for maiming the auld gentleman's infirmity. Ye toothless young scoundrel, ye'll be lame yourself some day."

## ON A TREASURE SHIP.

### ROBBERS OPEN THE STRONG-ROOM AND STEAL COIN.

Mexican Banners Disappear in a Mysterious Way—Only a Small Portion Taken by the Robbers.

A despatch from New York says—The Ward Line City of Washington, that sailed from Vera Cruz on December 1, and arrived in this port on Wednesday, carried in her strong-room \$600,000 in Mexican coin. This was not an unusually large shipment of treasure for the Ward Line to handle, and no one in authority dreamed of danger. Nevertheless, during the voyage the strong-room, built to withstand the attack of almost everything but dynamite, and located so as to be under constant observation, was broken into. Only \$3,000 was taken by the robbers, but the general impression is that the scheme of the daring perpetrators was to seize the entire treasure. When A. G. Smith, the company's secretary was confronted with the facts he hesitatingly admitted that the robbery had been committed.

The City of Washington took the treasure aboard at Vera Cruz. It was consigned to European firms, and the transit to New York was but the first stage in its journey. Captain Hurley, destined to leave to the European coast, the company's employ, a trustworthy man, was in command of the ship. He and his mate were the only men aboard who held keys to the treasure room.

The crew of the City of Washington numbered close to sixty men, and these, with thirteen passengers and three shipwrecked seamen picked up at Havana, made up the total of souls on board.

It was a seemingly perfect voyage from Vera Cruz to Tampico, thence to Progresso, and finally to this port, where the ship tied up at pier 17, East River, last Wednesday evening. Even when the lines were out and the three-hundred passengers had disembarked the crew with their baggage, Captain Hurley had no suspicion of the astonishing discovery in store for him. Arrangements had been completed for the removal of the specie to an ocean liner, destined to leave to the European coast, and the trucks had been lined up in readiness for their precious freight when the mate, at the head of a gang of men, went to the treasure room. There was a key in his hand, but when he opened the door he found it unfastened. The pressure of a hand upon its massive panelling forced it wide open.

#### AN INSANE MAN'S THREATS.

Young Helmholtz Arrested in London—Threatened to Shoot U.S. Consul-General Osborne—Locked Up Awaiting Trial.

A despatch from London says—Charles Helmholtz, son of the late Dr. Helmholtz, of New York, the well-known patient medicine proprietor, has been locked up, and is awaiting trial at Bow street police station, on the charge of threatening to kill United States Consul-General Osborne. During the last three weeks he has been haunting the United States Consulate, shabbily dressed, demanding money. He told a story of the seizure of his clothes and effects, by the Berlin Consul for debt, and declared that Mr. Osborne was responsible for the seizure. Helmholtz became so importunate that last Friday Mr. Osborne ordered him to leave the premises, whereupon he became violently enraged, and shouted—"D—n you, I'll come back and shoot you." Helmholtz returned on Monday and repeated his threat. Mr. Osborne, remembering the Terris case, summoned a police officer and had him arrested. The physician thinks he is insane. He has spent much time in London of recent years, living high when his family sent him money, and in deep poverty between times. It is supposed that the Berlin adventures he describes are imaginary, and it is said that his father became insane before his death. An attempt was made to keep the affair secret for the sake of Helmholtz's family.

#### WINE FROM LEAVES.

A French Chemist's Experiments with Leaves of the Fruit Tree.

Wine growers are much interested in, but somewhat dubious of, a story of a new process of wine manufacture, says an exchange. It seems that a French druggist has conveyed the idea that the flavor of the fruit of shrubs is generated in the leaves of these plants and passes from them into the fruit. The fragrance which the leaves of the black currant bush gives off, especially after a little rubbing, and which is so very similar to the taste of the berry, appears to favor this view. The Frenchman, however, goes further, and says that the pleasant taste of the apple, pear or grape is prepared in the leaves of the respective plants, although it may be noticeable in these cases in a less degree than with the black currant. After crushing the leaves he adds a fermenting agent, such as yeast to them, whereupon the odorless and tasteless glycoside principle becomes free which is imparted to the fruit proper its aroma and pleasant taste. What was formerly sought to be accomplished with grapes and other fruits is now claimed to be done in a superior manner with the leaves of the plants in a fermenting vat. Apple-tree leaves, for instance, are placed in water containing 15 per cent of sugar and yeast is added. As the process advances there is an odor of apples, and when the fermentation is finished and the yeast has settled, a straw-yellow liquid is obtained, which possesses the fine "bouquet" of the fruit of the respective tree from which the leaves were taken. The public is assured that with ripe leaves the results are more profuse. A beverage is still taken from the leaves of the grape, and smelling strongly of wine is obtained from it which is similar to the best and finally, brandy may be distilled from it.

## RUSSIAN NIHILISTS.

### Two Men in Bow Street Police Court Charged with Advocating the Assassination of the Czar.

A despatch from London says—Vladimir Bourtoff, editor of The Narvo do Volez, will of the people, the Russian who was arrested at the British Museum, and remanded at Bow Street Police Court on December 16, charged with endeavoring to persuade several persons on various occasions to assassinate the Czar, was brought up on remand on Thursday, in company with a man named Weirbecki, printer of the paper mentioned, who had since been arrested. An incriminating article in The Narvo do Volez was detected in court, in it the writer declared the policy of the Russian revolutionists was the same as that of the Terrorists of twenty years ago, and pointed out that Czar Nicholas had abdicated three years ago, at a period ready the revolutionist campaign ought to be summed up in the word "regicide." If he had been assassinated on the day of the funeral of Czar Alexander II., the article continues, either a revolution would have broken out or a "regicidal" constitution would have been declared. Each new autocrat, according to the writer, ought to have been given a year, and if he had not granted a constitution at the end of that period he ought to have been attacked without pity. Detective Melville testified regarding his visit to Bourtoff's room, and the finding of documents relating to Nihilism, the assassination of Alexander II., the death of Stepmak, and the present Czar. Both prisoners were remanded. Bourtoff escaped from Siberia, to Constantinople, where the Russian police tried to seize him on board a British steamer, but the captain of the vessel prevented them from so doing.

### EFFECT OF ALTITUDE.

Explanation of the Restorative Effect of Mountain Air.

The mountain air has the following effect: Suppose a weakly or even a consumptive patient goes up into the mountains. His body nourished condition renders his tissues an easy prey to the microbes which have contrived to effect a lodgment under the insular conditions of his present life. But when he breathes an air less richly supplied with oxygen his blood is not able to absorb enough for its requirements; a "reaction" is set up; new corpuscles are formed, which gradually acquire the normal amount of haemoglobin, and thus a host of recreants is added to the pigmy carriers.

The work of transference of oxygen is much more effectively performed and the result is the better nutrition of the body. It resists the assaults of the destructive microbes; they no longer increase and multiply, but dwindle—perhaps are slaughtered, for such things do occur, by the army of delectable and demanding microbes. He told a story of the seizure of his clothes and effects, by the Berlin Consul for debt, and declared that Mr. Osborne was responsible for the seizure. Helmholtz became so importunate that last Friday Mr. Osborne ordered him to leave the premises, whereupon he became violently enraged, and shouted—"D—n you, I'll come back and shoot you." Helmholtz returned on Monday and repeated his threat. Mr. Osborne, remembering the Terris case, summoned a police officer and had him arrested. The physician thinks he is insane. He has spent much time in London of recent years, living high when his family sent him money, and in deep poverty between times. It is supposed that the Berlin adventures he describes are imaginary, and it is said that his father became insane before his death. An attempt was made to keep the affair secret for the sake of Helmholtz's family.

Mountain sickness also is connected with the quantity of oxygen. This is due to asphyxia of the tissues, which are unable to obtain a sufficient supply, at a time owing to muscular exertion. It is most needed, in consequence of the diminution in amount of that element at considerable altitudes. This malady, no doubt, often comes from want of proper training, but even the most experienced climbers have felt it at great elevations. At the top of Mont Blanc almost half the atmosphere by weight lies below our feet, which of course implies a greatly diminished supply of oxygen. Mr. Wylymer and his guides suffered severely when encamped at about 16,600 feet in the Andes, and Sir Martin Conway found in the Karakoram Himalayas the effect was always perceptible at this height while at about 20,000 feet the lassitude and difficulty of breathing became painful. Thus, oxygen like of many other good things one may have too much as was already well known, but one may also have too little.

### LOOKING AHEAD.

A Large influx of Immigrants Expected Next Year.

A despatch from Ottawa says—Mr. Smart, Deputy Minister of the Department of the Interior, expects a good immigration season to open early in 1898. In an interview he said: "Our campaign will go on all winter through and when spring comes we look to see an influx such as has never been seen in late years. The gold fields of the Yukon will bring thousands of foreigners to our Canadian shores, but this is not the class specially referred to. It is more the incoming farmers for the western country, men who will settle down there, many of them with their families, to build up homesteads for their children." "After that it may be said that many of these have already seen with their own eyes the chances which our western country affords, while others have taken the reports of delegates specially sent to spy out the land. The Yorkton and Swan River districts are likely to receive a very large portion of the new population. Railway companies are already preparing for a heavy traffic as soon as winter is over."

### DESPERATE MEASURES.

How dreadful in Dr. Smith to marry his cook!

"I don't know; probably she had threatened to leave."

### EASY.

What are Wadkin's ideas of true economy? He says that they have made him rich.

"He never pays his debts."

## RUSSIA'S FRIENDSHIP.

### CHINA TURNING TO HER NEIGHBOR ON THE NORTH.

Anti-British Newspaper Articles—The St. Petersburg News—Opposes British Influence—Blockading Germany.

A despatch from Pekin says—The Chinese Government has granted Russia permission to winter a squadron at Port Arthur. Great Britain demands a quid pro quo, if concessions have been made to other powers. It has been suggested that the Japanese and British occupy Wei Hai Wei jointly. The situation at Kiao Chou Bay is unchanged. Germany remains unyielding and the Chinese counsels are divided as to whether it should be peace or war with Germany. China regards Russia as her only friend, and is asking her advice alone. In spite of official denials, it is regarded as proved that Port Arthur and Kiao Chou Bay were promised to Russia by a secret treaty. British influence is nil, having suffered greatly through the failure of the loan negotiations. China is now negotiating alone with Russia. The latter demands the dismissal of the British railroad engineers in North China, and it is probable that the demand will be granted. The German drill instructors will be dismissed at the expiration of their contracts and will be replaced by Russians. Russian officers have already been appointed to drill the armies of North China.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says—In a strongly anti-British article on Thursday, the Novosti says—"In consequence of the pretension of England to compensate herself for the Russian occupation of Port Arthur or Lazeroff, and in view of the possibility of the disturbing action of Japan, Europe stands on the brink of grave diplomatic complications. It is therefore well to recall that the reinforcement of the German squadron in the Pacific permits Russia, France and Germany effectively to prevent a disturbance of the balance of power between the three powers on one hand, and Great Britain and Japan on the other, such as might be produced by violent seizures of territory." In conclusion, The Novosti expresses the hope that the isolation of Great Britain in regard to the other European powers will "paralyze her action sufficiently to permit the preservation of peace from the dangers threatening it at the present moment."

The greatest reticence is maintained here in Government circles. The censorship has forbidden the press to attack Germany on account of the occupation of Kiao-Chau. Emperor Nicholas presided on Thursday at a special meeting of the Council at Alexander Palace, including the Grand Dukes and the chief military and naval authorities. The Chinese situation was discussed, and it is rumored that Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovitch advised the immediate strengthening of the Russian squadron in China.

### ENGLAND'S COAL SUPPLY.

Prof. Courtney's Pessimistic View—The Iron Trade is Struggling to the United States.

A despatch from London says—The most notable speeches of the past week have not been political, but industrial. One was Mr. Courtney's address before the Royal Statistical Society on Jevons' coal question after thirty years. Although Mr. Courtney is now well nigh blind, he cannot, like Mr. Fawcett, speak without notes, but has his secretary behind him to read statistics and prompt him. He has, however, Mr. Fawcett's ardour for scientific study, and succeeds in making dry subjects deeply interesting. His address has been widely commented upon by the press, since he contended that Jevons was right in his main prediction that the day must come when England's supremacy in the coal and iron trade would be impaired. Mr. Courtney laid great stress upon the enormous increase in the output of coal in the United States, and the extraordinary reduction in the cost of production there at the mouth of the pit, until it is two shillings lower a ton than in Great Britain. He plainly intimated that America, with a larger store of mineral wealth and superior facilities of production, must ultimately lead in this industrial struggle.

### A MOMENT OF AWFUL SUSPENSE.

The nervous strain on the engineer of a fast train is something enormous, said one of them the other day. Not only the lives of the passengers are at stake, but there is the constant fear of running over some one on the track.

An accident, no matter how innocent the engineer, is always a kind of hoodoo.

"What was my worst accident? I shall never forget it. It had been traced on my mind by a stroke of lightning it couldn't have made a more lasting impression." It happened on a bright moonlight night in November. We were spinning over the rails at full speed across country, where there were few people passing at that time and night, when I looked out and saw the figure of a man lying across the track not 100 feet in front of the engine. I stopped as quick as possible, but too late, of course. We had run under him, and the lifeless body was

"We got out to look for him and found his hat, a piece of his coat sleeve and one of his shoes, but the rest seemed to be further back under the train. I backed up the engine and got out to look again. There lay the body. I nearly fainted when I saw its distorted form. I felt like a murderer."

Did I know the man? No, not personally. He was a scarecrow from a neighboring corn field.

FOR

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