

NEWS ITEMS.

Foreign merchants ship goods to London in cheap coffins, there being more profit in selling the coffins than in disposing of coffee-wood packages.

It is the custom in Russia for the seller of one hundred pounds of anything to give the buyer but ninety-five. The odd five pounds are supposed to go to the cost.

There are in Great Britain 1,383 bishops and bishops, 2,175 priests and 1,383 churches and chapels of the Roman Catholic Church, an increase since last year of 30 churches.

Large scale maps of Afghanistan, printed on calico pocket-handkerchiefs, have been distributed among the officers and men who are taking part in the campaign against the Afghans.

Francis Murphy has closed his two months' temperance labors in New York and will take a tour through Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. During his presence in New York 25,000 persons signed the pledge.

The number of students belonging to the Universities of Kiev, Kharkoff, Moscow and St. Petersburg that have been expelled, imprisoned or exiled without trial to Siberia since the outbreak of the war is 1,000.

The Emperor William and his Empress have given notice that they do not desire personal gifts at their golden wedding, which is celebrated on the 22nd of next month, and saying that they would receive if money instead be devoted to charity.

The French government has given one year's notice of termination of all treaties of commerce. This is simply a measure of precaution, in view of Prince Bismarck's new economic policy and the difficulty of making a new treaty with Austria.

A correspondent of the Richmond Star calls attention to the fact that Joseph Adams, 107 years ago, on December 6th, 1711, described minutely the telegraph, together with the latest improvements, automatic telegraphy. It may be found in the Spectator, No. 241.

The Court of Queen's Bench at Westminster has decided that the proprietor of a newspaper is liable in civil actions, he is not liable criminally for the actions of an editor or printer, and that a proprietor has been given the right to edit in a lawful manner.

The failures in the United States in 1878, according to Dun & Co., New York agencies, at \$1,200,000,000, were 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 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