

NEWS SUMMARY.

COLONIAL.

A pair of ostriches at a recent sale in South Africa brought over \$1,400, while the average price per pair at the sale was \$1,000.

In the last Kaffir war in South Africa, one large tribe was kept back from fighting against England by the influence of the German missionaries.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach intends to send a commission to Malta to inquire into the state of education in the island. There is probably no population in the world in a grosser state of ignorance than the lower class of Maltese.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Ten years hence the London *Times* will be one hundred years old.

The Prince of Wales' Indian collection is to be exhibited in Edinburgh.

English counterfeiters have of late turned their attention to Russian bank-notes.

The Liverpool Police Force has lost a valuable member by the death of Inspector Carlisle.

Lord Devon has been appointed to succeed Lord Chichester as President of the Ecclesiastical Commission.

The number of vessels at present under construction in the Clyde ship-building yards is 78, compared with 118 in August, 1877.

Within the last year Queen Victoria has given \$25,000 to the temperance cause. Four members of the royal household are total abstainers.

The subscriptions already received or promised for the extension of the buildings of University College, London, amount to upwards of £14,000.

The Most Rev. Bishop McCabe, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Dublin, has been chosen by the priests and canons of the Diocese for the archiepiscopal chair, rendered vacant by the death of Cardinal Cullen.

Sir William Armstrong has given \$100,000 worth of land to the town of Newcastle-on-Tyne for the purposes of a public park, and Sir Richard Wallace has presented Ipswich with \$25,000 to found a school of art and free library.

The magnificent recreation ground of Epping Forest, 6,000 acres of greensward and noble timber, within half an hour's rail of the poorest districts of London, is now secured to her citizens forever, mainly through the public spirit of the Corporation.

The house in which John Knox, the great Scotch divine and reformer, lived and died, is yet standing in the Old Town, Edinburgh. Extending over the entire front is this inscription in large Roman letters: "Lufe God abufe all, and yi nychtbour as yi self."

A strike is imminent in the pottery trade of North Staffordshire. The majority of employers refuse to enter into the usual Michaelmas contracts with the men unless the latter agree to a reduction ranging from five to ten per cent. on the terms of last year's contract.

Four Prime Ministers have within the last hundred years refused the Garter—Viscounts Sidmouth and Melbourne, Mr. Pitt and Sir Robert Peel. Pitt, however, accepted it for his brother, the second and last Lord Chatham, who had no personal claim whatever to the distinction.

The Scotch Banks have a certain authorized issue of notes—that of the City of Glasgow having been about £73,000. If more notes are issued than are prescribed by law, then for every one-pound note so issued there must be a sovereign in gold put into the coffer of the bank.

For the third time within thirty years the tower of the parish church of Week St. Mary, North Cornwall, England, was on Saturday night, November 9th, struck by lightning and destroyed. A massive basement stone was thrown twenty yards from the tower, and all the corner stones were dislodged.

Sheffield, like Birmingham, has begun to realize that however desirable Free Trade in the abstract may be, one-sided Free Trade is a delusion. In 1872 Great Britain exported only the hardware and cutlery to the value of £5,089,000. In 1877 her exports were worth only £3,335,000, a decrease in five years of nearly 35 per cent. In 1872 she exported 41,000 tons of unwrought steel; in 1877 only 24,000 tons, a decrease of 43 per cent. These figures, though they apply to the trade of the whole country, give one a clear view of the decrease of the trade of Sheffield, the great centre of that branch of industry.

UNITED STATES.

The American Pharmaceutical Association meets in Indianapolis next September. Angell, the defaulting secretary of the Pullman Car Company, was passing in Lisbon as an Englishman, under the name of Seymour, when arrested.

The Massachusetts State Board of Health in 1871, addressed a circular letter to all the representatives of U. S. Government in foreign countries, asking what amount of crime is produced by drink. Prussia answered 75 per cent.; Ireland, nearly all the crime; England, two-thirds to three-fourths; Scotland, three-fourths; Holland, 75 to 80 per cent.; Ontario, 98 per cent.

East Liverpool, Ohio, is warmed and lighted by its natural gas wells, one of which has been running for 20 years and sends out as strong a stream as ever. The gas gives out flames that rival the electric light in brilliancy, and it costs so little that the lamps in the city streets are kept burning day and night. It is used in private houses and factories alike, and cooks a steak or heats a furnace with equal satisfaction.

The American Minister for Agriculture has recently stated that in the extensive caverns of Texas enormous masses of guano are deposited. Its origin must be looked for in the and the quality is said to be superior to that of fish guano. It is also reported that in the immense numbers of bats which inhabit these caverns, so that the threatened exhaustion of Indian Ocean several guano islands have been discovered, so that the threatened exhaustion of guano deposits need not be feared for some time to come.

FOREIGN.

A horrible massacre by Turks is reported from Macedonia. The Turkish dollar has depreciated in value till it is now worth only 31 cents.

Germans report that Bismarck weighs 243 pounds, a gain of 43 pounds in four years. It is stated at Constantinople that the English Reform scheme is to be tried experimentally in Sanjacks of Syria and Bussaa.

The Russian budget shows that the revenue for 1878 amounted to 549,000,000 roubles, and the expenditure—more than half of which went to the army—to 1,014,000,000 roubles.

The first street railway in Rome now operates successfully from the Porta del Popolo, at the entrance of the Villa Borghese, to the old bridge of Ponte Molle on the Tiber, a distance of nearly two miles.

As the British frontier has advanced in Western Asia, so has the Russian frontier. The separation now is a country of about a breadth of 200 miles, with an average elevation of 10,000 feet, with passes of 12,000 to 13,000 feet.

New firmans have been obtained by Hezmud Rassam for explorations throughout the whole of Mesopotamia and the hitherto unexplored field of North-Eastern Syria. This is the region which once formed the seat of the Assyrian kingdom.

The members of the Imperial family of Japan show a sincere desire to promote the industries of their country. The Empress takes great interest in silk-spinning, and not long ago the tea shrubs growing in the garden of the Imperial palace at Akasaka were picked in the presence of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager by one hundred girls, all of whom, for the

occasion, were dressed alike in holiday clothes, and were regaled with cakes and tea at the close of their labors.

Whalers recently returned from Behring's Straits report the occurrence of volcanic eruptions on Amukta, Chegula and Umnak, three of the Aleutian Islands. On Unalaska an earthquake destroyed the village of Makashan on the 29th of August.

The kingdom of Prussia annually expends the immense sum of \$18,000,000 for its educational interests. Last year 56,080 teachers were employed. It is stated that at least 8,000 more teachers are needed. The average salary paid to teachers is \$250.

The law in the canton of Zurich, Switzerland, which until lately confiscated the property of girls for the benefit of their brothers, has been amended. A newspaper there says that the male peasants consider themselves ruined because their sisters are now to share in the family property.

The rage for exhibitions has now spread even to Central Asia. The latest news from Tashkend states that an agricultural and industrial exhibition is about to be made for it at Samarcand, and the Government has promised gold and silver medals to the exhibitors, as well as honorary caftans!

One hundred and two societies, 28 newspapers, and 88 books and pamphlets have been prohibited in Germany since the promulgation of the anti-Socialist law. In northern Germany there is but one journal of Socialist propensities left; in central and southern Germany there still remain 11. All these have changed their names since the new law, and try to conceal their bias.

The Russian Government lately gave its sanction to the proposal for founding a new university in Siberia. Tomsk is the town chosen for this new seat of learning. At present the donations for this establishment amount to 230,000 roubles. The *Kuvschik Revue* suggests that the year 1882, the third centenary of the Russian possession of Siberia, would be the right time for opening the new university.

RELIGIOUS.

Mr. Spurgeon's health is again variable, and he has probably seen his best working days.

A society is being formed in London to carry out the reprinting of the old works of early Presbyterians.

There were only three native Christians in China twenty-seven years ago. To-day there is 12,000.

Rev. S. G. McFarland, of the Presbyterian mission to Siam, has been intrusted by the king with the charge of a Christian college for the education of youth in the Samese and English language, to which the king has given a large endowment.

The Duchess of Sutherland, who has long been a member of the Crown Court Scotch Established Church, London, of which the well known Dr. Cumming is pastor, has left, it is stated, and united with an extreme Rationalist Church in the West End.

The Wesleyan Methodists and the Primitive Methodists in Ireland, who have been separated 62 years, have just reunited. In 1816, the year of the division, the one included 25,000 members; it now numbers even less, there being but 26,000.

In Scotland, after the first of January, persons may be married without proclamation of banns, by giving seven clear days' notice at a registrar's. The cost of this is half a crown if the parties reside in the same parish, and five shillings if in different parishes.

Father Gavazzi expects that in 1880 there will be 300 congregations of his church in Italy. In 1878, there was but one evangelical church member in Italy. In 1872, there were 100 congregations, 10,000 communicants, and 30,000 hearers in the chapels every Sabbath.

The Evangelists' Association connected with Mr. Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle devotes its attention especially to the evangelization of London. During the year just closed it has supplied 82 chapels, established 30 evangelistic services, and conducted in all 1,084 services of various kinds.

The *Journal de Commercio*, of Rio Janeiro, contains an account of the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Brazil and their suite to the American Presbyterian Mission School at Sin Paulo. Their Majesties were very much struck with the proficiency of the scholars, and declared to Rev. Mr. Howell that it was the best school of its grade of scholars that they had ever seen.

ART, SCIENCE AND LITERATURE.

Among the novelties of the Paris Exhibition is a drill which bores square holes—an invention of a Londoner.

Leon Lewis, the famous novelist, is about to begin the publication of a new literary paper of a character similar to the New York *Zeiger*. It is to be issued at his home, Penn Van, and he has established for the purpose a model printing establishment.

Lady Anne Blunt, Byron's granddaughter, is about to publish "Winter Residence Among the Bedouin Arabs." Lady Anne and her husband, formerly in the British diplomatic service, have been admitted by the Arabs to the most friendly intimacy, lived with them in their tents, &c. Lady Anne has a touch of eccentricity about her.

Whose is the best translation of Dante's "Inferno"? Some years ago Prof. Lowell told his class in Italian that Dr. John Carlyle's translation of Dante's "Inferno" was in his judgment the best. It is a prose literal translation, the text of each verse being given, with explanatory notes. Of metrical translations Mr. Longfellow's is probably the best.

We have seen it stated somewhere that Napoleon I. was the deviser of that system of book-keeping known as "double entry." Is that so? The double entry system is of much greater antiquity than Napoleon. It was in use among the Italian merchants in the 15th century; the earliest known treatise on the subject being by Luca di Borgo, published at Venice in 1495.

"Old Hundred," a tune which will endure as long as there are Christian hearts to ascribe praise to Him "from whom all blessings flow," is, says an American contemporary, compiled from four old Gregorian chants, probably by Franc, who furnished the music for the Geneva Psalms, published in 1564. It was known originally as the "One Hundredth Psalm" in that collection. Hence its present title.

An interesting experiment has been made to determine whether the head waters of the Danube found their way through subterranean passages into the Aach. Some fluorescein was placed in the waters of the Danube, and in three days the splendid green color and golden reflections were quite distinct in the waters of the Aach. Ten kilos of fluorescein had coloured at least 200,000,000 litres of water.

Europe has about 14,000 newspapers and periodicals, of which only about one in fourteen are Roman Catholic in tendency. Great Britain and France have the same number of Romanist journals, forty-two, but in Britain it is forty-two out of 2,500, and in France forty-two out of 2,000. Of North America's 8,500 journals only 113 are Roman Catholic, while in South America only eleven out of the 1,000 newspapers represent the dominant religion.

LAW, MEDICINE, &c.

The question of women medical practitioners is not yet settled in Russia. On the 25th of October last the right of women who had completed a course of medical training to practise medicine in the empire was brought formally under the consideration of the Sanitary Council attached to the Ministry of the Interior. After prolonged discussion, the Council unanimously resolved as follows: "Although the right to practise medicine by the female students of the medical faculty has not to the present been recognized by the legislative authority, having regard to the evidence now submitted by the professors, that these students are fully competent to exercise the medical profession, the Sanitary Council will itself endeavor to obtain from the Government the authorization necessary for them to enter upon practice."