

## NEWS SUMMARY.

## COLONIAL.

The "City of New York," with the Australian cricketers on board, arrived at Sydney, from San Francisco, on Nov. 25th.

A band of Chinese robbers have attacked the Dindings Settlement. Government-Superintendent Lloyd was murdered in his bed, and his wife and Mrs. Jones were wounded. The police who were called in were useless, and fled to the houstetop. Mr. Cecil Smith, the new Colonial Secretary for the Straits Settlement has arrived.

Mr. Frank Scarr arrived at Tennant's Creek, says an Adelaide source, on September 9th, in charge of an exploring expedition from Queensland. He reported the discovery of the evidence of a party having been murdered by the blacks on a tributary of the Herbert, in latitude 22° 22' S., and that he had found five horses, since recognised as belonging to Prout's party of four that started in November last from the Herbert exploring westward.

Commenting on the Victorian deadlock, the *Colonies and India* remarks: The settlement of foreign complications may present more features of interest to the general public, but the end of this Colonial complication would be a matter of much more importance to the hundreds of thousands of Englishmen who have made Victoria their home, and to whom the termination of the present strife would present a new era of prosperity and advancement for one of the foremost of our colonies.

An earthquake took place at Sierra Leone on the morning of the 11th October, shaking every house in the colony, and causing great alarm to the inhabitants, but doing no serious damage. There were three successive shocks felt, travelling inland to a distance of about sixty miles, and the end of each is said to have resembled three very heavy peals of thunder following quickly upon each other. The natives of the interior were so terrified that in many cases they deserted their villages. An earthquake of a similar character occurred about fifteen years ago.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Reporters were refused admission to a recent execution at Northampton.

Two more constituencies have been gained by the Liberals,—Maldon and Bristol.

On account of hard times, the Duke of Norfolk has reduced his tenants' rents twenty-five per cent.

The Right Hon. James Monahan, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland, died at Dublin on the 10th instant, aged 73 years.

Sir Stafford Northcote has stated that he understood only the Russian Envoy, not the Russian mission, had been withdrawn from Cabul.

There have been rumours that the Ameer has sent messengers to ask for peace, but latest despatches from the Viceroy make no mention of this.

Sir Stafford Northcote has announced that Parliament will be asked for a grant of money to relieve the distress among the late insurgents in the Rhodope Mountains.

The question of British jurisdiction in Cyprus is being discussed by England and Turkey. The former recognizes the Sultan's sovereignty, but refuses to be content with consular courts merely.

An Imperial Order in Council is published exempting Canada from the operation of those clauses of the Contagious Diseases Act which require the slaughter of all foreign cattle at the port of landing.

One feature of the debate on the Afghanistan war has been Mr. Goschen's declaration that though a Liberal, he was quite as anxious for England's supremacy in Afghanistan as were the Government.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, speaking at Rochdale lately, said that, acting under the advice of friends—and he hinted that Mr. Bright was one of them—he should not again introduce the Permissive Bill, but would proceed by resolution.

Mr. Fawcett's amendment to the resolution for the consent of the Commons to a defrayal of the Afghan expenses from the India revenue, was rejected, on Tuesday, by a vote of 235 to 125, and Parliament adjourned till February 13th.

Lord Dufferin has been elected President of the Royal Geographical Society in place of Sir Rutherford Alcock. In his inaugural address on the 9th instant he gave an account of his travels in the North-West, with a glowing description of Canada's future.

The standard for recruits for the infantry of the line is to be raised from 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 6 inches, and that for the Royal Engineers from 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 6½ inches. The standard for recruits for rifle regiments remains as at present—5 feet 4½ inches.

General Browne's advance on Jellalabad has met with no opposition, and there are reports that it has been occupied. There has been a good deal of sickness, principally pneumonia, among the British forces, and one Sikh regiment has been sent back to Peshawar.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, died on Saturday the 14th inst., at Darmstadt, of diphtheria. She was the second daughter of Her Majesty, was born in 1843, and married in 1862 to Prince Frederick William Louis, of Hesse. The event is the sadder as happening on the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort.

The debate on the Address was closed by the Marquis of Hartington, with a demand for the recall of the Viceroy of India and a spirited declaration that the country must get rid of the Government, and Mr. Whitehead's motion of censure was rejected on the 13th inst., by a vote of 328 to 227, some score less of a majority than the Government had anticipated.

The mania for private theatricals is fast approaching a limit closely bordering on the "professional." Lady Sebright and Sir Charles Young and their clever corps of amateurs have lately been giving a series of representations for the benefit of certain charitable institutions, and a recent fair *debutante* at the Globe Theatre was no other than the Hon. Mrs. Harry Needham, granddaughter by marriage to the Earl of Kilmore.

A novel entertainment was given in the Mission Chapel, Little Wild street, in London, the other evening, the guests being 250 thieves, all of the lowest grade. It may be said to their credit that they all behaved in a most exemplary manner, with the exception of two very hardened offenders, who did their best to excite a riot after eating all that they were capable of holding. They passed the remainder of the evening in a prison cell.

The recent London scandal—the attempt of Lady Gooch to palm off another woman's baby on her husband as her own—has come to an end. The woman's counsel admitted to the court that her confinement was merely fictitious, and that she played a part to get a settlement when she should be left a widow. She threw herself on the mercy of the court, and her husband (Sir Francis Gooch) also said that he pardoned his wife and did not wish to press the case further.

The English courts have at length decided that the agricultural population have rights which fox-hunters are bound to respect. Heretofore it has been assumed that the latter are at liberty to go over any man's land in pursuit of their "game," regardless of growing crops and of the owner's objections. It has just been decided that this is all a mistake, and if a farmer objects to a troop of horses and hounds tramping and racing over his demesne they must keep off or be liable for damages.

Tradition has long pointed out a certain field, called the Court Garden, about a mile from Wedmore Church, as the site of the old palace of King Alfred and the West-Saxon Kings. And now the rector, Mr. Sydenham Hervey, has dug up in this place the remains of the palace. The walls are massive, the mortar of an ancient character, and the whole appearance of the building speaks its great age. A large quantity of pottery has been found, some Roman and some of early English character.

A queer case springs from the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank. A lady died recently having no heirs and leaving no will, and her property went to the Crown. Among her possessions was some of the stock, and as each shareholder is individually liable for all the debts it is proposed to hold the Queen responsible! One bank which had taken four

shares from a customer in its debt has been called upon to put the whole capital, £150,000, at the order of the directors, who are winding up the Glasgow concern. At the last service which Mr. Lewis Pelly, one of the imprisoned directors, attended, the hymn was, "The hour of my departure's come," and it was sung to the ominous tune of "Duke Street."

In an English railway carriage recently, a young mother sold her three-weeks-old boy to a gentleman and his wife of Newcastle, for five pounds. The mother refused to give her name, but said the child's name was George Henry. Singularly, this happened to be the buyer's Christian name, and served to increase his own and his wife's delight in their bargain.

Mr. Butt has sent a second letter to the Irish newspapers on the Home Rule question—in which he seeks to show that through the exertions of his Irish party, while it remained united, repeal of "Coercion Acts" and other advantages were gained for Ireland, and in general the tone of English Parliamentary opinions towards Ireland improved. There is a passage in which the delay of such further useful legislation is attributed to the Obstructionists, and their policy styled a "policy of exasperation." He accuses them of having damaged the "National cause" by violent language and "writings," and takes credit to himself for assisting the passing of the Intermediate Education Act, declaring likewise that by the admission of the Lord Chancellor one of the first measures next session will be one on university education as its complement. He concludes by urging that even before a dissolution of parliament a better franchise could be secured for Ireland, and by promising in another communication to make a still further defence of himself, and put issues and give counsels to the Irish people, which in their determination will affect their welfare for future times.

## UNITED STATES.

The cotton crop for 1878 averages 191 pounds per acre as against 156 lbs. in 1877. The total, at 430 lbs. per bale, will be 197,000 bales.

General Grant is to have a trip round the world in the U. S. frigate "Richmond," going to India, Spain, China, Japan and the Sandwich Islands.

Women were allowed to vote on the question of selling lager beer at Plymouth, Mass., the other day, and the sale of the lager was prohibited by a two-thirds majority.

Rev. R. Lamborn, the Colorado commissioner at the Paris exposition, advocates the introduction of the Yak or Thibet ox into Colorado. This animal yields the fine hair which is knit into shawls.

A computation from all sources shows the aggregate wheat crop for the past season to have been 425,000,000 bushels. The yield of some of the Territories was considerably more than double that of the previous crop.

The storm of the 10th instant was felt very severely all through Pennsylvania, New York and the New England States. The heavy freshets and land slides did much damage and caused several serious railway accidents.

The Socialists of New York on December 11th admitted to their number the first coloured man that has joined them, one George Mack, who is to become an apostle of anarchy among the coloured people of the States.

Four residents of San Francisco have died since the beginning of this year—Hopkins, Colton, Reese and O'Brien—all of whom began life in poverty and died reputed millionaires, each of three of them leaving an estate estimated at more than \$8,000,000.

It is said that the coloured voters of South Carolina are going to petition Congress for disfranchisement. They say the practical effect of negro suffrage is to increase the strength and power of the southern democracy, and they would rather lose the privilege of the ballot than that this should be so.

A society has been existing in New York for two years past, called the Maternity Society, its object being to provide medical attendance, clothing and supplies for poor women in their hour of need. The good done by it has been so great that its example is being imitated in St. Louis.

The distribution of the balance of the Geneva Award, some ten millions of dollars, was before Congress last Friday. It seems clearly established that the money will not be handed over to the Treasury for general use, but that it is to be considered as held in trust for those who have suffered loss by the Confederate cruisers. No decision as to its disposal was however arrived at.

Great presence of mind was shown by the principal of the Worcester street school, New York, the other day. A serious fire broke out, but he dismissed the 1,200 children in attendance without allowing them to know anything about it, on the plea that some carpenters were coming to work. When all were safely out, the alarm was given. In other circumstances a dangerous panic might have arisen.

A Wyoming correspondent of the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* comes forward with a point blank contradiction of the reports that woman suffrage has failed in that territory. He says that large numbers of the better classes of women visit the polls, that they are not degraded by the suffrage, that their influence on the ballot has been salutary and purifying, and that there is no desire to take the elective franchise away from them.

Dr. Leo, of the Medico-Legal Society, has prepared a paper showing that infanticide in New York ranks far ahead of the cities of the Old World. Statistics from the Coroner's office show that in 1873 there were 113 cases of infanticide in this city; in 1874, 112; in 1875, 102; in 1876, 101; and in 1877, 95. It is generally believed that this list does not represent more than one-fifth of the actual number, and the need for more stringent legislation is apparent.

Mr. Edwin Einstein, Congressman-elect from the seventh district, is the second Israelite who has been elected to Congress from New York, the first having been Emmanuel B. Hart, who served from 1851 to 1853. Philadelphia sent Henry M. Phillips from 1857 to 1861; Boston sent Leopold Morse in 1877, and has just re-elected him. Judah P. Benjamin was United States Senator from Louisiana from 1853 until 1861. These, we believe, are the only Jews who have served in Congress.

The Workman's Coffee House movement has reached New York. In the Bowery a house has just been opened where the best of coffee, tea, cocoa, and lunches can be obtained at cost price. There is also in the same building a reading-room and a library and other attractions, open to all sober, respectable men free of charge. This enterprise is started at the expense of a good citizen who does not wish his name to appear at all in connection with it. It is designed to be conducted on strict business principles.

## FOREIGN.

Russia is said to be negotiating for leave to build railways in Persia.

According to the new budget the revenue of Turkey is £16,000,000 Turkish.

Another conspiracy to dethrone the Sultan of Turkey has been nipped in the bud.

News from Turkestan says the Chinese are concentrating against Kuldja, a post in Kashgar occupied by the Russians.

Russia has now 25,308 elementary public schools, in which are instructed 1,152,712 pupils, 193,871 of these being girls.

The amount of paper money in circulation in Japan is announced by the Government to be one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

A fleet of Russian iron-clads and swift unarmoured vessels is gathering in the Chinese Seas, but for what purpose has not transpired.

The difficulty between Russia and China on the frontier is growing fast. It is reported that a Russian expedition from Yart Vernaic has been fired upon by Chinese troops and forced to return.

The British barque "Glamorganshire," which, while on a voyage from Hong Kong to Nagasaki, struck on an island in the Japanese sea, during a hurricane in September last, was got off by the help of the natives. A number of them immediately put off to the ship, which was rapidly filling with water, and assisted in pumping and in throwing overboard the ballast. The next day two mandarins, who could speak a little English, visited the vessel

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