TORONTO ITEMS.

There have been only 317 dogs registered in the city this year.

The Very Rev. the Dean of Edinburgh was in town last week.

The Toronto Field Battery attended service in the St. James Cathedral last Sunday.

The celebrated Vokes family, comedians, will appear at Mrs. Morrison's Opera House, next week.

Rev. J. S. Boddy, incumbent of St. Peter's church, left for a trip to England on Monday.

The Holman Opera Troupe commenced an engagement at the Horticultural Gardens last Monday.

Adelaide Neilson has signed articles to appear at Mrs. Morrison's Grand Opera House in January.

Miss Grier, the daughter of Rev. J. Grier, has been appointed Lady Principal of the Orillia Strachan School.

The proposition to lend $25,000 to Mesars. Hamilton & Son has been rejected by the citizens by a very large majority.

The Crystal Fountain and Coldstream Divisions of the Sons of Temperance held their annual picnic this year at Port Credit.

The city corporation, on invitation of the Mayor of Rochester, visited Rochester and participated in the celebration of 4th July last week.

The Reformed Episcopal churches of this city have passed resolutions of condolence with the family of the late Bishop Cummings.

The heat last week was oppressive. The thermometer ran up between Saturday morning and Sunday evening from 70 to 95 in the shade.

The Orangemen attended service as usual, in the various city churches on the Sunday before the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne.

The total number of burials in the city cemeteries for the last six months was 906 of which the number of deaths registered with the city clerk was 778.

Burglars entered the house of Mr. F. A. Knapp, on Huntley street, last week, and after ransacking it stole some old family plate to the value of $100.

The Dry Goods merchants in convention assembled, have determined to close their places of business at seven o'clock on ordinary days and at ten o'clock on Saturdays.

Rev. Mr. Hunter, of Queen St. W. M. church, has signified his intention of discouraging pulpit advertising by announcing only such notices as strictly affect his congregation.

During the thunder storm of last Friday, the house of Mrs. Mills, Adelaide street, was struck by lightning. After breaking several panes of glass and shattering some ceiling therein, the lightning flashed across the room and singed Mrs. Mills' cheek, but fortunately did no further harm.

Rev. John Potts, who has been appointed minister of Rim street W. M. church, was last week presented by a few of his friends attending the Metropolitan church with an illuminated address, a bronze clock, and a pair of statuettes, on his retirement from the pastoral charge of their congregation.

The Toronto Field Battery concluded its drill on Saturday. The battery was inspected by Col. Strange who complimented the men highly on their appearance. He regretted the fact that the government had not properly equipped the men, but he expressed a hope that in future years this would be attended to.

The convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada and the United States commenced in this city on Wednesday. The attendance from all quarters was very large and the reception of the delegates was very enthusiastic. Among those present are the celebrated "Railway Quartette" from Galesburg, Ohio, whose performances are very fine indeed.

A man named Hugh Jackson, a brakesman on the Northern Railway was observed in the bay last Saturday, while bathing near the Queen's Wharf. Two persons fishing near the scene of the accident are said to have been too busily engaged in their piscatorial exercises to lend assistance to the drowning man who sank to his grave in another reason why bathing houses should be erected in the city.

The Canadian Press Association after a visit to Philadelphia and New York returned to town last Saturday. The party, accompanied by the Lehigh Valley and Erie railroads of their destination, a route which is considered to be the best from every point of view. At Philadelphia the excursionists were introduced to the Centennial Commissioners. At New York, the party were met by the New York Club and most kindly treated. Three hours spent in that city passed all remembrances of their reception by their conferes of that city.

The contract for the improvements to Osgoode Hall for which a vote was taken at the last session of the Ontario Legislature has been let to Mr. W. Booth for $14,449. The plans, which were prepared by Mr. Kivas Tully, include the extension of the present Practice Court ten feet northward and the addition of several windows to the apartments, the erection of a new clock block building, 50 x 60 feet, on the ground floor of which will be the various Judges' offices, and on the second story the Judges' library and other rooms. The present "Judges' Library" is to be used for the sittings of the Court of Appeal. The drainage of the building is also to receive alterations.

Tuesday afternoon a boy named Hugh Hillis was arrested by Police Constables Archibald and Sweeney, after an engagement of five hours' duration at Sobine, in Bonnia, the Servians were driven into Ashtaria.

LONDON, July 11.—A *Standard's* correspondent telegraphs that troops, guns, and stores of all kinds continue to be sent to the seat of war. The feeling against the Servians is very strong, and the expressions of Turks are now so thoroughly roused that the Servians, if beaten, must expect to receive no mercy. The Servians are drawing all their troops to Gen. Tchernaeff's army. The City of Belgrade is almost depopulated, and is completely drained of troops. The cold and damp of the nights are telling upon the recruits, have been already called out to aid in defence of the frontier against the Turkish cavalry.

LONDON, July 12.—The *Times'* Berlin special has the following:—At the Turkish headquarters, Count Andrassy offered to mediate between Russia and England. Count Andrassy considers it impossible that Germany would co-operate in the mediation. Russia having given no definite answer to the proposals of the mediators. In the negotiations preceding the above offer Count Andrassy said he was unable to accede to any territorial change in Turkey unless approved by the other Powers. He was, however, willing to mediate, stating arrangements and support the Berlin memorandum.

The *Daily News* Belgrade despatch says the correspondents who were reported killed and wounded have just arrived there in safety.

The Royal Egyptian yacht Mahrausser and the steamer Sarbich and Rodolph sailed for Constantinople with 3,600 troops. More are going soon.

The *Standard's* Vienna despatch says Turkish telegrams report that General Tchernayoff has suffered a crushing defeat and fled to Servia in disorder. The report is unconfirmed.

PARIS, July 12.—Several of the journals here published the intelligence that the Turkish army have captured Zaitsche and Gravitsa. General Tchernaeff is between two Turkish armies marching from Widdin and Sophia. Intelligence received at Semlin states that the position of the Servian General Antischmar Novi Bazar is threatened.

LONDON, July 12.—The *Telegraph's* Vienna special says moderate calculations show that Servia since the war has lost 50 per cent. of her forces. There is considerable discouragement at Belgrade. It may be the day of armistice proposals.

The *Telegraph's* Paris special says:—"I hear on very trustworthy authority that the Servians are about to crave an armistice through the intervention of Russia.

ROUTCH, July 12.—Turkish advices received here state that an engagement had occurred at Podgoritza between two battalions of Turkish regulars, assisted by volunteers, and 5,000 Montenegrins. The latter were driven from their fortifications, losing 400 killed and 400 wounded, including 30 officers. The Turkish loss was only 36.

Reuter has a Scutari despatch, however, stating that firing was audible throughout Montenegro. The Turks in the direction of Podgoritza endeavored to re-open the road to Medun. The attempt apparently failed. There was fighting throughout the day at Vernia, on the west of Lake Scutari. The Turks suffered considerable loss. Many of their wounded are arriving here.

BELGRADE, July 12.—A Turkish gunboat has bombarded Novo Celo, which was previously captured by the Servians. Some houses were ignited. It is officially stated that the Servians have captured Little Zewornia. The defenders, consisting of two battalions of regulars and large forces of Bashibazouks, lost 200 killed and many wounded.

VIENNA, July 12.—The *Presse* says: It was agreed at the Reichsrath interview between the Russian Ambassador and the Grand Duke Constantine had an interview with M. Tchertchenski. What then transpired shows that Russia is determined to uphold non-intervention and endeavors to induce Turkey to exercise moderation, when her honour is satisfied by some important triumph.

ROME, July 12.—The Foreign Minister replying in chambers to a question relative to Eastern affairs, said the government adhered to the principle of non-intervention at the Reichsrath interview strengthened the assurance for the maintenance of peace between the great powers.

THE EASTERN WAR.

LONDON, July 11.—A despatch from Constantinople to the *Daily Telegraph*, dated the 10th, says "a great battle was fought yesterday near Pirot (Servia)."

The *Telegraph's* special from Vienna announces that the Servian squadron left Salonica on Sunday with sealed orders to be opened at sea. A Berlin telegram on the same subject says: "It is the Porte will soon formally notify the Powers that it cannot recognize the Servians and Montenegrins as belligerents.

PARIS, July 12.—Official despatches announce that the Turks have withdrawn from the right bank of the river Pirot.

The Servian army of the Timok has occupied several villages, and reconnoitered the country to Widdin, to which place the Turks have retreated.

The Servians, under General Benifan, fought a sanguinary battle with the Turks on the 9th instant at Kruschevo. The Turkish loss was considerable.

Servians lost slightly, and captured some flags, a quantity of arms, and occupied several villages.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 11.—The Porte has sent the following despatch to its representatives abroad:—"In the engagement of five hours' duration at Sabaskadi, in the District of Salgradik, the Servians numbering 2,000, were beaten and pursued to Servian territory. The Turks captured a quantity of war stores and ammunition. After an engagement of five hours' duration at Sobine, in Bosnia, the Servians were driven into Ashtaria.

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FARM AND OTHER NOTES.

THE COMPOST HEAP.

By Alexander Hyde.

Planting is finished, and during the season of hoeing and haying there are many wet days in which it will not answer to stir either soil or grass. How shall these days be usefully filled? Farmers formerly calculated to work out their tax by doing a little road mending after planting, but nowadays the road business is generally and wisely committed to men who give all their time to it, and the farmer has leisure to do something more immediately connected with his calling. We suggest that some of this leisure be devoted to the preparation of a compost heap.

In the first place let us have a clear understanding of what a compost is. The word literally signifies "a putting together," and no word could better express the idea. A compost is the compounding of such elements of plant food as will best render and feed the soil. A good cook brings his food on to the table so compounded with fat and lean, so seasoned with salt and pepper, and so prepared for easy assimilation that the very smell stimulates the appetite and the stomach finds no trouble in its digestion. What the cook does for the food of man the farmer should do for the food of his plants, compost such elements of nutrition as will best nourish vegetation, and let them lie together and cook during the warm weather, as they will by the heat generated internally by exhalation, heated by the genial outward heat of the air. The compost heap may be likened to a loaf of bread, in which a little leaven has leavened the whole lump, converting by a chemical process unpalatable dough into sweet food.

We wish to controvert at the outset the notion we have frequently heard advanced, that fertilizers cannot by combination be rendered more fertilizing, that they contain in themselves the elements of plant food which are neither increased nor diminished by cooking. The notion is such an ignorant proposition that, were it not so common, it would scarcely deserve notice. The truth is, plants do not assimilate any element of food in its simple form, whether it be carbon, one of the most abundant results of vegetation, and consequently one of the most necessary elements for vegetable growth, is never absorbed in its purity, but compounded or composted with oxygen. Just so with nitrogen, another very essential element of vegetation. The air abounds with nitrogen, in fact is made up of seventy-nine parts of it, mixed with twenty-one parts of oxygen, but with all this nitrogen constantly floating around plants they would die for the want of it, unless administered in the form of ammonia, that is composted with hydrogen. And so we might go through the whole catalogue of elements and we should find that no one constituent plant-food is in the simple or unamposted state. And, moreover, we should find that neither carbonic acid, nor ammonia, nor any other compound of two elements would sustain the vegetation. The simplest form of vegetation requires a half-a-dozen elements for its perfect development. Hence a compost properly prepared in the true idea of the word, is, in fact, a