

An Awful Gale.

Sweeps Over Sea and Land in the Old World.

Scores of Lives Lost and Incalculable Damage Inflicted.

Sailing of the Blenheim Delayed Till Sunday Morning.

Disastrous Railway Wreck and Loss of Life in England.

Display of "Living Pictures" at Osborne House, The Queen's Residence—Lord Churchill Crazy—Famine in Ireland Threatened.

The Armenian Inquiry.

VIENNA, Dec. 23.—It is stated here that the British, French and Russian ministers at Constantinople have refused to make any change in the instructions given to the delegates of the powers mentioned in the commission to investigate the Armenian outrages as the Sultan desired them to do. As a result the situation has become strained.

Trouble in Samoa.

SAMOA, Dec. 23.—The rebels have declared their intention of making armed resistance to the Government and are retreating the forts at Lutuana recently destroyed by the British and German warships. Everything indicates that serious trouble will again be looked for. King Malietoa is about to marry a girl named Sueina, daughter of one of the greatest chiefs here and a member of one of the largest families. It is thought that this marriage will strengthen Malietoa's position.

Living Pictures at the Queen's Residence.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Active rehearsals have been commenced at Osborne House, the Queen's residence on the Isle of Wight, where her Majesty is now staying, of several short plays and a series of living pictures. The stage managers are Princesses Henry of Battenberg (Princess Beatrice) and Princess Louise, wife of the Marquis of Lorne. One of the series of living pictures will be a scene from the time of the crusaders in which Prince Henry of Battenberg will impersonate the celebrated Saladin, Saladin, and the Marquis of Lorne will represent Richard the Lion Heart.

Churchill Crazy.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The final breakdown of Lord Randolph Churchill, the truth of which is now admitted by everybody, occurred in Bombay, and the stricken man will be accompanied to Marseilles and thence to London by a special physician who has been with him since he left India. He is afflicted with softening of the brain. His malady has long been obvious and has developed into occasional dementia. The progress of the disease accounts for his eccentric conduct on several occasions during the debates in the House of Commons during the last session of Parliament.

The McCarthyites Dissatisfied.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The leaders of the McCarthyite section of the Irish parliamentary party have thrown a bombshell into the Liberal camp by serving notice upon the Government through Mr. John Morley, Chief Secretary for Ireland, that no further confidence in their opinion can be placed upon the vote of the Irish party unless the principles of home rule for Ireland are strongly reaffirmed in the Queen's speech on the occasion of the reassembling of Parliament and in other ways announced as the first plank in the platform of the Liberal party. These demands, it is explained, have been necessitated by the profound sensation created in Irish ranks by the declaration made by Mr. Wm. McEwen (Liberal), member for the center division of Edinburgh, in a recent speech in the Scotch capital, that the Home Rule Bill was dead and that it would be impossible to carry the country with home rule, as the first or even one of the principal issues contended for by the Liberal party.

Marching Through China!

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Antone correspondent of the Central News says that Gen. Inagami's division of the second Japanese army has advanced northward steadily for a month and on Dec. 18 occupied Kai Ping. No defense was made.

On Dec. 17, scouts reported to Lieut. Gen. Katsura, then near Loah Yang, that a large force of Chinese had been seen moving in the direction of Loah Yang. This force proved to be the defeated garrison of Hai Cheng. The Chinese had fled with all possible speed ever since the 13th, when their position was captured by the enemy. They were then in a rather demoralized condition and were making for Moukden. Katsura decided to intercept them. He left camp on the night of the 18th with his whole force, and the next morning overtook the Chinese at the village of Kung Wasi, where they made an obstinate stand. Although the poor condition they were nearly 10,000 strong and were able to force some fierce fighting upon the Japanese. In the midst of the battle Oshima's brigade from Hai Cheng came up and gave Katsura active support. The Chinese held out with surprising bravery, but three bayonet charges finally won the day for Katsura after five hours of the hottest fighting yet experienced by the second army. The Chinese faltered as the third advance began and then fled in disorder toward Ying Kow. The losses are not known, but the Chinese are reported to have left 500 men on the battle field.

Famine Impending in Ireland.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Mr. Morley is reported to have asked the Cabinet to give official assent, and without waiting for the assembling of Parliament, and a subsequent act by that body to alleviate the sufferings of the people in certain sections of Ireland through the impending famine. In consequence of the total loss of at least one half of the potato crop in Galway, Connemara, Mayo, Clare, and Sligo, the distress among the peasantry is al-

ready urgent. The poor law relief, according to the Freeman's Journal, is totally inadequate to meet the needs consequent upon the calamity.

A Dreadful Storm.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A severe gale has been blowing since Friday evening all over Great Britain, and the mail boats have been delayed at all ports. In some parts of England the wind has been blowing 60 miles an hour. The steamer Helen Mar has been driven ashore on the north coast of Ireland. Four of her crew were drowned.

Reports of the storm received from all parts of England show that immense damage has everywhere been caused by the recent gales. The loss will reach tens of thousands of pounds. Many buildings have been blown down and telegraph wires have suffered greatly. Traffic has been completely suspended in many places on account of the floods. Many ships have been driven ashore by the winds. Thirty or forty persons have already been reported dead as a result of the storm, while hundreds have been injured. Eight persons while attempting to escape from the bark driven ashore at Holyhead, were drowned. A chimney at Sheffield was blown down, and it is reported that five persons were killed and many injured.

Three fishing smacks went down last night off Stornoway, on the Scotch coast, and all three crews, numbering 22, were drowned. The British bark Kirkmichael, which was driven on the breakwater at Holyhead yesterday, has floated. Seven of her crew were drowned.

At Teelin a house collapsed and the three occupants were killed. In Stranorlar two persons were killed by a falling chimney.

Several vessels went adrift in Aberdeen harbor and grounded. The brig Loven was wrecked in the Frith of Clyde near Ardrossan and her crew of five were drowned.

At Loch Winnoch, near Paisley, part of a three-story cabinet factory was wrecked. Forty persons were buried in the ruins. Four were killed outright and twenty were injured seriously. Only five persons escaped without injury. Throughout the Netherlands and Belgium many persons were injured and a few were killed by falling chimneys and timbers. The pilot cutter Manour capsize off Dunkirk and three of the crew were drowned.

Honors to the Dead.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—After a night of pitiless rain, the weather cleared shortly before 9 o'clock yesterday morning, and under a bright sky the body of the late Sir John Thompson, Premier of Canada, left London for Portsmouth amid the profound silence of a large crowd of people who stood bareheaded in and about the railroad station until the train was out of sight. Special arrangements were made along the entire route to Portsmouth, under which no stop was made until the train reached its destination.

The funeral procession reached Victoria station at 8:45 a.m. The coffin was in an open four-wheeled hearse, which was followed by four mourning coaches. Over the coffin was the Canadian flag and upon the latter rested the Queen's laurel wreath, which she had personally placed upon the temporary coffin previous to the removal of the remains from Windsor Castle. In the first carriage following the hearse was Senator Sanford, Mr. Joseph Colmer, C.M.G., secretary to the office of the High Commissioner for Canada, and Father Longinotti, of St. Stephen's Chapel, Windsor.

In the other carriages were the Canadian and home government officials, all bareheaded. As the coffin was silently borne from the hearse to the funeral car, in which the tapers were then lit, the Marquis of Lorne entered into conversation with Mr. Colmer and was presented to Senator Sanford, to whom he offered his condolences.

Punctually at 9:10 a.m., the funeral train left the station for Portsmouth, and the remains of Sir John Thompson entered the first stage of their journey home. Shortly after the funeral train with the remains of the late Sir John Thompson had left Victoria station, Father Longinotti commenced a private funeral service which lasted while the train traveled a long way on its journey to Portsmouth. So soon as the funeral train was signaled outside of Portsmouth at 11:20 a.m., all the ships in the harbor hoisted their ensigns and the first of the three twenty-minute guns boomed a salute across the waters. At this sound all flags ashore were dipped. Then the officers of H. M. S. Blenheim gave several sharp orders and eight bluejackets removed the coffin from the train and a procession was formed, headed by the Bishop of Portsmouth. He was followed by a number of clergymen. Behind them came the coffin borne by the pallbearers, Messrs. Sanford, Colmer and Just on one side, and Sir Frederick Young, Mr. John Howard and Mr. Reynolds, Sir Charles Tupper's secretary, on the other. Behind the coffin walked Lord Pelham-Clinton, master of the Queen's household, who represented Queen Victoria. After representing the Queen in this procession was Major-Gen. Sir John McNeill, the Queen's quarry. After these officials followed the other mourners.

The Blenheim presented a most impressive appearance. She was painted black fore and aft and her wide gangway was draped with black cloth. From the gangway to the mortuary chamber prepared for the coffin a black carpet was laid. The coffin was received on board the Blenheim by the officers of that vessel. It was carried on board between two files of marines with reversed arms, while the sailors and marines of the cruiser, drawn up on the upper deck, saluted the body. A solemn service followed in the mortuary chapel, but only a few of those present were able to attend, as the space at their disposal was very limited. Throughout the voyage the coffin will lie on a handsome catafalque in the captain's room, which has been draped with crepe-bound Canadian flags and black cloth ornamented with silver stars. In each corner of the chapel stand marine sentries. The chief mourners stood around the coffin during the religious service, at the conclusion of which the priests incensed the coffin six times, and the funeral party left the ship after bidding adieu to Senator Sanford, who accompanies the remains to Canada.

Unhappily, during the funeral ceremonies the wind had increased in force until a heavy gale was blowing, and it was decided that the Blenheim would not weigh anchor until tonight.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The cruiser Blenheim, with Sir John Thompson's body, sailed

from Portsmouth at 8:45 o'clock this morning.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The United Empire Trade League yesterday telegraphed Sir Chas. Tupper, whom they assumed would be on the Blenheim: "Our earnest sympathy accompanies you on your sorrowful Christmas voyage to Nova Scotia which gave your services also to the great Dominion and United Britain." The dispatch spoke also of the keen sympathy felt by the league with all the friends and colleagues of the late Premier.

A Thoughtful Gift.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—When the White Star steamer Majestic arrived at Queenstown, en route to New York, and bearing Miss Thompson and Mrs. Sandford and daughter, a beautiful basket of flowers was sent on board for the orphaned young lady—a thoughtful gift from the Countess of Aberdeen.

Damaging Discovery

More Light on the Killing of Wm. Hendershott.

The Missing Axe Found Hidden Beneath a Log.

Blood Stains on the Weapon That Could Not Be Washed Away—The Handle Shattered.

(Special to the ADVERTISER.)

ST. THOMAS, Ont., Dec. 23.—In Wardell's woods today was found hidden under a log the axe with which William Henry Hendershott is supposed to have been murdered a week ago last Friday. An attempt has been made to wash the blood from it, but without success. On the blade and handle are several partly washed-off blood marks. The back of the handle at the butt of the axe is the most discolored of any part of the weapon.

A piece of the root of a tree, with hairs the color of the deceased and clotted blood thereon, was also found this afternoon.

It is reported that the prisoner, Welter, is beginning to weaken and that a full confession may be expected in a few days.

The News Confirmed.

ST. THOMAS, Dec. 23.—The case for the crown in the Hendershott tragedy was still further strengthened today by the discovery of the missing axe with which the murder is supposed to have been committed. The axe was found beneath a log and covered with bark. The handle was splintered and the blade and handle

SPATTERED WITH BLOOD. An attempt had apparently been made to wash the blood from the axe, as a small pool nearby is discolored with blood. The axe has been identified as the one which was used by WELTER AND HENDERSHOTT in the woods. Upon the root of a tree was found a clot of blood with some hairs of the same color as that of deceased mixed with it.

THE ACCIDENT THEORY FAILES.

This evidence is all that is required to do away with the accident theory and to confirm the assumption that one of the most cold-blooded murders in the criminal annals of this country has been committed. It is reported that the prisoner Welter is very despondent.

Late Canadian News.

Conscience Money From Reformed Smugglers.

A Boy Drowned While Skating—Luck of a Lady Who Lost Her Pocket-book Containing \$300.

The Ministers have taken charge of their new departments. Mr. Miller, of Belleville, last week shipped eight tons of poultry to the English market.

Ex-Lieut. Gov. Royal has assumed the chairmanship of Munroe, owing to the dangerous illness of Senator Tasse. Geo. Radick, a Sidney farmer aged about 60, fell down stairs in a fit on Saturday and broke his skull. He died on the spot.

On Saturday a boy named Marley Bain, about 10 years of age, while skating on the Mississippi River in the township of Bathurst, skated into open water and was drowned. J. W. Fish, a laborer living at Hockley, a small village a few miles from Orangeville, was arrested on Friday on a charge of incest, Fish's 18-year-old daughter being the alleged victim. Fish protests his innocence.

Saturday evening at Toronto Junction John Musgrave, aged 57, a miller, died suddenly while working in the Queen City mills. No one saw him die. A son and daughter of deceased were to marry on Christmas Day.

A young man in Winnipeg named Richardson shot a bullet through his cap on Friday and fell down on the sidewalk. He was astonished to find himself alive, as he had notified his friends that he was going to shoot himself.

Some conscience-stricken smuggler has sent to the collector of customs an unsigned letter inclosing \$20 for unpaid customs duties. It is said they get about a dozen of these remittances a month at the customs department.

The Governor-General, Lord Aberdeen, attended the annual dinner of the Dominion Commercial Travelers' Association in Montreal Saturday night. He made a feeling reference to the late Sir John Thompson, to whom he paid a high tribute.

A lady from Forest dropped her pocket-book containing \$200 while alighting from a train at the G. T. R. station, Hamilton, Saturday. The train was stopped at Dundas and a search made, when the pocket-book was found on the Miller coupling between the cars, having rested there from the time it was dropped at Hamilton.

—Fred Darville, of Chicago, is in the city for a few days.

Feeding the Hungry.

St. George's and the Irish Benevolent Christmas Cheer

Brings Happiness to Hundreds of Homes.

The Scene at the Annual Distribution Today—A Goodly Supply for All.

St. George's Society and the Irish Benevolent Society made happy several hundred of London's poor but deserving citizens today with their Christmas cheer. Both societies distributed wholesome food and plenty of it without regard to color, religion, nationality or politics, and if the heartfelt out-spoken thanks of the recipients are worth anything the promoters of the charities are already well repaid. St. George's cheer was given out in a vacant store in the west end of Dundas street. It began at 10 o'clock, but for a couple of hours before—and a couple of hours after, for that matter—a mixed crowd of citizens and citizenesses, small boys, small girls, larger boys and larger girls, all with some means of carrying away the provisions, found their way to the spot in a constant stream. Of the means of transportation there were many. Disused baby carriages were pressed into service; of small express carts there was a little army; baskets of every variety, shape, size and color, meal sacks, flour sacks, wooden boxes, and, in more than one instance, the good old-fashioned apron, were brought into service. It was a pushing, jostling, but withal good natured crowd that struggled for admittance around the back door, where P. C. Gib. Woolway stood guard. There was no need for any undue haste, and a peep through the window would have shown that there was

ENOUGH AND TO SPARE for all in the huge carcasses of beef, rows upon rows of bread, chest after chest of tea, barrels of biscuits and sugar, and boxes of raisins.

Each person on being admitted produced a ticket with the name, address and number of the family marked thereon. And in proportion to the size of the family was the food distributed. In each basket was placed a nice roast of beef, two or more loaves of bread, a large package of flour, a parcel of biscuits, a package of tea, some sugar and some raisins—sufficient, indeed, to make a luxurious Christmas dinner.

A BIT OF SUPERSTITION.

With Englishmen's love for holly the members of the society provided a quantity of that plant, and a sprig was stuck into each piece of beef. One woman who might be from Devon by her accent found that her sprig of holly had been overlooked. She struggled back from the front door to ask for a piece, and was profuse with her thanks on receiving it. "You know," she said, half apologetically, "I would be afraid to spend Christmas without a bit of holly in the house. They say that if you do you will lose a child by next year."

And poor and all as the woman evidently was she could not afford to lose a child.

The committee in charge of St. George's cheer consisted of ex-Ald. Wm. Skinner, G. B. Clappitt, R. A. Jones, John Pannell and Samuel Roberts. They were assisted by Mr. H. T. Smith, president of St. George's; James Carter, first vice; John Sussex, second vice; Ald. Coe, Richard Ashton and others. Over 300 families were "cheered" by St. George's Society alone. The provisions distributed amounted to 2,500 pounds of beef, 600 loaves of bread, 1,500 pounds of flour, 4 barrels of biscuits, 170 pounds of tea, 350 pounds of sugar, 300 pounds of raisins.

THE IRISH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

While the St. George cheer was being distributed in the west end a similar scene was being enacted at the corner of Maple and Richmond streets, where the distribution of the Irish cheer took place. Here also a brawny policeman was necessary to control the crowd, and P. C. Charles Tuke was on hand. The same methods of transportation were noticeable, and the thanks of the recipients were just as deep and as fervent. There was the characteristic "blarney" of the Emerald Isle and a pleasant banding of the season's compliments and good-natured Irish wit.

The applicants were admitted one at a time and, presenting the necessary tickets, were treated to a bountiful supply of beef, pork, bread, biscuits, oatmeal, barley, raisins, currants, sugar and tea. Over 250 families were made happy and some of them ran as high as twelve members.

One woman handed in a ticket. "Six" was the number printed on it. "How is your family?" asked one of the assistants.

"'Tis fine and healthy, please yer honor."

"It must be growing rapidly," continued the assistant, as he looked from the ticket to the woman.

"'Yis, indeed it is," answered the little old woman, "and," she continued, with a knowing glance, "it always gets larger about Christmas cheer time. Bless yer honor."

The committee in charge of the distribution consisted of Messrs. John Daly (secretary of the society), John M. Keary (treasurer), James Grant, Arthur Magee, John Turner, M. Gauld and Dr. Mitchell (president).

Heavy Sentence for Dreyfus.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Albert Dreyfus, charged with having sold plans of fortifications and other Government secrets to foreign agents, was found guilty on all the charges. The sentence was confinement in a fortified place for the term of his natural life and to suffer degradation of all military rank and honors.

Card from Lady Thompson.

MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 23.—The following card to the public has been issued by Lady Thompson: "Lady Thompson desires to express her deep and lasting appreciation of the assurance of sorrow and sympathy which have reached her from all quarters. As it is impossible for her at present to send a separate response to each, she trusts that this acknowledgment will kindly be accepted as marking her grateful thanks."

Steamship Arrivals.

Dec. 22	From
Belgravia	New York.....Med. Ports
Dania	New York.....Hamburg
Dec. 23	From
La Bretagne	New York.....Med. Ports
La Champagne	Havre.....New York
Rockar	New York.....Med. Ports

But One Day More

KINGSMILL'S

Is What You Want Here?

STORE OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

For 5 Cents.

Your
Christmas Nickel.

Colored Border Hemstitched Handkerchief.
A Yard of Silk Ribbon.
A Ruche for the Neck.
A Christmas Booklet.
A Boy's Tie.
A Linen Doilie.

For 10 Cents.

Your
Christmas Dime.

A Silk Handkerchief.
A Christmas Book.
A Pair of Hose.
A Pair of Cashmere Gloves.
A Pair of Wool Gauntlets.

For 25 Cents.

Your
Christmas Quarter

A Japanese Handkerchief.
A Pure Silk Tie.
A Gentleman's Scarf.
A Dozen Doilies.
An Antimacassar.
A Pair of Men's Gloves.

For 50 Cents.

Your
Christmas Half.

An Umbrella.
A Lady's Hat.
A Pair of Kid Gloves.
A Pair of Lace Curtains.
A Rug for the Floor.
A Knitted Shawl.
A Blind for the Window.

For \$1.

Your Christmas
Dollar.

A French Fan.
A Child's Coat.
A Pair of Evening Gloves.
A Silk Muffler.
A Suit of Underwear.

For \$5.

Your Christmas
V.

A Persian Hearth Rug.
A Lady's Mantle.
A Wool Shawl.
A Black Dress.
An Umbrella.
A Silk Fichu.

For \$10.

Your Christmas
Tanner.

A Silk Dress.
A Pair of Curtains.
A Suit of Clothes.
A Table Cover and Napkins.
A Lady's Dining Gown.

KINGSMILL'S

The Great Drygoods and Carpet House of the West.