

Miscellaneous.

At the last lunar eclipse, Raho Sahib, a pious Hindu, weighed himself and gave his weight in silver coins to the poor.

Queen Victoria, it is reported by the London Echo, helps the authors whose works she admires by recommending them to magazine editors.

Great Britain cultivates in wheat nearly 1,000,000 less acres than it did twenty years ago, according to government statistics.

An English firm is about to establish a manufactory at Montreal for receding phosphate. The capital to be embarked will exceed \$50,000.

A spirit merchant in Dublin announces, in an Irish paper, that he has still a small quantity of the whisky on hand which was drunk by George IV., when in Dublin.

Change of Name.—It was decided at a meeting held for the purpose, that the locality known as Summerville, in the County of Antigonish, be called for the future Dunmagglass.

"The strongest propensity in woman's nature," says a careful student of the sex, "is to want to know what is going on, and the next thing is to boss the job."

One million five hundred thousand pineapples have been gathered from one acre of ground in the Bahama Islands. One of these islands, San Salvador, was the first land discovered by Columbus in 1492.

There is a well in Kensington, N. H., which is some thirty feet deep, and which was dug in one instant of time by lightning. The hole is as large round as a barrel and was formed without throwing out any earth.

Birds built their nests in the seaweed, which grows and floats with the Gulf Stream, and in many instances are found a thousand miles from any land. This weed is sustained by pods growing upon it, which act as air-floats.

A German paper asserts that prussic acid only causes suspension of life at first, and that one who takes it can be restored to animation by the pouring of acetate of potash and salt dissolved in water, on the head and spine. Rabbits have been so recovered.

When a buffalo in his way across the prairie, comes upon a spot where one of his kind has shed his blood, he sets up a gathering cry, or roar; one after another, the whole herd, summoned by his inignant cry, hastens to the spot, and lops up the earth with hoof and horn, till they have wiped out the stain.

MERCHANTS BANK OF P. E. I.—This bank, which suspended in October last, resumed business on the 24th inst. Directors and shareholders paid in \$75,000, by which means the bank was enabled to recommence its operations as proposed by the bank soon taking its place among the leading monetary institutions of the island.

Miss Mary Maples, of Norwich, a daughter of a wealthy gentleman, married Edmund F. Chase against her father's wishes. The latter at his death left the property to Mary, to be given over when she renounced "Clive," a daughter who was recently granted Mary from her husband, and her estate married over to her. She has now remarried Chase.

Insurance.—Colonel Walton Dwight, of Binghamton, N. Y., died somewhat suddenly shortly after having taken out policies of insurance on his life to the amount of \$50,000 in the Equitable Life Assurance Society. The company, after full investigation, decided to pay the amount of insurance over to his heirs. Other companies, in which he had insurance, are expected to follow suit.

An official account of the discoveries that have been made at Rome by the police agents, entrusted with the task of tracing to its sources the international conspiracy for the assassination of the king of Europe, will probably soon be published. The discoveries are complete and show the existence of a wide-spread combination for this purpose. The revolutionary propaganda in Italy has been mainly carried on through the agency of this combination, and men in high positions are believed to be members of it. Many arrests have been made. Printed and written documents seized are of an important and interesting character.

A remarkably curious stone has lately been discovered in the Eternal City, on which is engraved an inscription of the time of Adrian. It concerns a circus driver of the name of Crescens, who, in less than two years, realized a considerable fortune by the victories he obtained in the public games. Crescens was of Moorish origin, and was twenty-two years old when he contested for the first time at the games given on the birthday of Nerva. On that occasion, he was the twenty-fourth to start, and circumstances which seem to indicate that a system even then existed somewhat analogous what we now call handicapping, as the driver or the animals the driver had probably previously gained some victories, or were considered as too powerful for the rest of the competitors. Crescens has been quoted to posterity the names of the horses which contributed to his victories. They were Circus, Aceptor, Deliosus and Olympos, appellations which refer to the gamester or exploits of the animals. As we have mentioned above, Crescens was only twenty-two when he commenced his career, which terminated two years later. He took part in eight contests, and gained 47 first prizes, 130 second, and 111 third. Only on one occasion was he placed in advance of his rivals, and thirty times, when he was put in the last rank, he regained the advantage his competitors had redred. He won in money 1,538,356 sesterces, or about 312,000, estimating the sesterce at twenty centimes.

Telegraphic News.

EUROPE.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—Gordon Grant, acting United States Consul at Basel, Switzerland, died there on Tuesday, very suddenly.

A man named Madden was arraigned at the Bow Street Police Court, yesterday, charged with having made threats against the life of the Queen. It appears he is a harmless lunatic, and has been known as such for 20 years past.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—Officials and notables of the city of Jeddah arrived at Dakka to tender submission and their services to the British authorities. The news from Cabul represents that eight regiments of Afghan infantry there have shown a disinclination to fight. The natives in South Shikhar-Gardian Pass seem friendly to the British.

The following despatch is from General Roberts, dated 9th:—"I hope to reach the top of Shinar-Gardian Pass to-day. I shall then return to Ali Kehl."

LONDON, Dec. 13.—In the Commons Northcote said there was no truth in the statement that a confidential communication from Germany alluded to by Mr. Bourke in the Commons recently was a proposal that England should assume the protection over Constantinople, etc. Sir Stafford Northcote declared the communication referred only to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. He also announced he would shortly move for a grant of money by Parliament in aid of the distressed people in the Rhodope mountains.

UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—There has been considerable activity at Camp's shipyard for the past few days, preparing the Russian vessels for sea. It is understood that two of them will sail in a few days.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The Irish Internationalists will give O'Connor, the released felon, a reception this evening. He is on the steamship City of Chester now coming up the Bay.

A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR ROBBERY.

St. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 12.—A robbery of over \$100,000, the largest amount of bonds, stocks, etc., from a vault in the private office of Messrs. W. W. Turnbull & Co., Ward Street, is the sensation of the hour.

It is one of the most remarkable cases of robbery ever heard of in St. John, and fairly puzzles the detectives. Entrance to the private office can only be had through the main office. In the private office is a vault in it is a hall safe in which was kept a bronze box containing Bank Stocks, etc.

Last evening Mr. Turnbull requested some of the papers, and on entering the vault it was ascertained to find that the box and contents were missing. The cash box was a bronze in one, and contained long 6 inches wide and 3 deep. It contained so far as known, 46 New Brunswick Railway Company D-bentures of \$1000 each; \$21,000 in Sterling Hill Coal Company stock certificates, \$15,000 in Peoples Bank stock certificates with Bank of New Brunswick and Maritime Bank certificates in other papers, in all representing it is supposed about \$100,000.

The small tray of the cash box had been taken out some time ago and placed on one of the shelves in the vault, where it was found after the robbery. None of the other papers or securities in the safe were disturbed, though there was about \$2000 in bank notes and some bonds &c., in a package close to the apartment where the cash box was kept. For some days a plumber and carpenter were engaged doing some repairs in the office, but with this exception no stranger had access to this apartment.

The Bonds, Stocks, &c., will be of no value to the thief as notice has been given in the proper quarters, and they will not be negotiable. Mr. Turnbull will not be at any financial loss, but the abstraction of the papers will cause some inconvenience.

Operations on the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway have been totally suspended in consequence, as we learn, of certain action on the part of the Local Government. The only thing we regret is, that they were not sooner stopped—rather, that they were ever commenced, to the manifest waste of an enormous amount of the public money, and the imminent risk of Provincial bankruptcy. Where the will of the late Administration were when they sanctioned the inception of so bareheaded an undertaking, just over remain an unsolved conundrum. Probably it was the case in several other instances—it was subjected to an unfair pressure from certain of its supporters, which it, with the aid and untimely majority at its back, could not afford to despise, and was therefore powerless to resist. The present Government, having a majority about which there can be no mistake, labors under no such disadvantage as its predecessor could afford. If so inclined, to do the thing which is right. The right thing, in this case, is the stoppage of all further waste of public money on such a "wildcat" undertaking as the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway. About that there can be but one opinion from Cape North to Cap-Sable.

The above is from "last week's" Yarmouth Tribune. Ho! ho! brother Huntingdon, you forget that Yarmouth has a "wildcat" undertaking on hand in the shape of the Western Counties' "brush-heap."

While the western part of the Indian Empire is a scene of war, famine and unprecedented rigor exists in the east. One-half of the whole population are either dead or wandering about the country in a frightful state of emaciation. Large villages are perfectly deserted. Enormous tracts of country—once celebrated for their verdure—are as brown and barren as the African desert. The flocks and herds have perished by thousands. Even the wild animals that live among the solitudes of the mountains have been swept away by this awful season of hunger. One traveller recounts that he saw no less than fifty skeletons of men in one of the passes. Independent of this he met with dead bears and panthers in other places. Many years will it take for this notoriously poor but beautiful part of India to recover.

The American Minister for Agriculture has recently stated that in the extensive caverns of Texas enormous masses of guano are deposited. The quantity is estimated at 20,000 tons, and the quality is said to be superior to that of fish guano. Its origin must be looked for in the immense numbers of bats which inhabit these caverns.

The people of Scotland are generally an excellent class of people, and the fortunate Glasgow Bank shareholders. In almost every town a subscription was commenced, and already more than £250,000 have been promised.

DEATH OF H. R. H. THE PRINCESS ALICE.

DARMSTADT, Dec. 14.—The Grand Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt (Princess Alice of England) died at 7.30 this morning, of diphtheria. Her father, Prince Consort, died on her death. She was 36 years of age and was unconscious from 2.30 until her death.

THE QUEEN INDOPROUD. LONDON, Dec. 14.—Her Majesty, the Queen, is indignant.

PRINCESS ALICE'S DEATH. LONDON, Dec. 14, 6 p. m.—The blinds are down at Buckingham Palace, the Queen's London residence, St. James' Palace, her official residence, and at Marlborough House, the residence of the Prince of Wales.

In consequence of the death of Princess Alice, Dean Stanley left London last evening to spend the anniversary of the Prince Consort's death at Windsor, and remains there, though the memorial service was not held.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice are also at Windsor with the Queen.

All Her Majesty's Ministers and members of the Government sent expressions of sympathy to the Queen.

MONTEBELL, Dec. 13.—The city churches generally were draped in black, and the sermons contained feeling allusions to the death of Princess Alice. The Courts adjourned on receipt of the news.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The Queen is informed that the news from Darmstadt, is not ill.

The flag at Windsor Castle is at half-mast. The bells at the Royal Chapel and Eton College are tolling, and nearly all houses, public and private, in the Royal borough are closed.

In consequence of the death of the Grand Duchess of Hesse, Beaconsfield requested a postponement of presentation, fixed for today, of addresses in respect of English residents on Pacific coast of United States.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 14.—The King has ordered the marriage of the Princess Thyra to the Duke of Cumberland to be postponed until after the funeral of the Princess Alice.

From the Morning Chronicle.

It is a token of the profound affection entertained for Her Majesty by all classes of her subjects, both at home and abroad, that any event affecting the royal family affects the Queen's subjects.

The death, not altogether unexpected, of the Princess Alice, the second daughter of the Queen, has struck a blow which will be felt in every household in this country ever saw the Princess, yet when the news came that she had sickened and was dying in her palace at Darmstadt there was experienced a feeling of sorrow and sympathy which deepened when, on Saturday morning, a bulletin announced that she had imperially summoned prince and peasant, had robbed the Queen of a daughter and England of her favorite Princess. It is not a death which should just now feel even more regret than under other circumstances at the untimely death of Princess Alice. 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