

NEWS OF THE DAY.

CANADIAN.

Heavy snowstorms and intense cold continue in the West.

About 300 cases of influenza are reported as Cornwall, Ont. All the doctors, with the exception of two, are down with it.

The Dominion Government is using some "constituted" or tenants of the old Seigniorie, for thirty years' rent of their holdings.

A custom official at Kingston picked up on the street what he supposed to be a glass stone, but which turned out to be a diamond worth \$700.

There is a large increase in the number of cases of la grippe in Montreal, and some of the city doctors are so busy as scarcely to be able to find time for their meals.

Ottawa rumors say that Sir Charles Tupper will shortly be in American again with authority to assist the British Minister at Washington in the fishery negotiations.

A Bill providing for the removal of all toll gates and tolls on bridges throughout the Province of Quebec will be submitted by the Government at the coming session of the Quebec Legislature.

A new literary and scientific society, the "Albertus Club," was opened in Ottawa on Thursday evening. Its object is to bring into closer union the Irish and French sections of the Roman Catholic population of the Capital.

At an early hour Friday morning a brick-layer named Williams, living on Basin street Montreal, cut his wife's throat while she lay asleep in bed, and then committed suicide. This insane act, for evidence goes to show that the man has deranged, leaves five young children penniless orphans.

Eight Indian chiefs, who were in Ottawa last week complaining that the Canadian Pacific railway has run its Sault Ste. Marie branch through their reserve without granting any compensation, left the city greatly dissatisfied with their reception at the Indian Department. They threaten to prevent by force the passage of trains over the portion of the line that runs through their reserve.

AMERICAN.

The thermometer registered 28° below zero at Deadwood, S. D., on Friday.

Andrew Carnegie, the Pittsburgh millionaire, has a severe attack of la grippe.

Baltimore physicians say there are 50,000 persons in that city suffering from the grip. The doctors of Findlay, Ohio, have formed a trust and advanced prices from \$1 to \$1.50 a visit.

From twenty to fifty per cent. of the pupils of the Boston Public schools are absent with the grippe.

A despatch from Trenton, N. J., says a rubber trust, backed by English capital, is to be formed there.

The bill providing for international copyright seems to have good chances of passing Congress this session.

Bessie Bamford and Lucy Renshaw, victims of the Tilden school fire in Detroit, are dead, making eight fatalities.

Rain has been falling steadily for three days in the south west. Arkansas railroads have been badly washed out.

Negroes in large numbers are migrating from South Carolina to Florida to work in the phosphate mines and turpentine woods.

C. Herbert Freeman, a police justice of Lookport, N. Y., has been arrested for defrauding an old farmer out of nearly \$8,000.

Franklin, an Anarchist, of Brooklyn N. Y., and his wife committed suicide, first killing their little girl, because they were tired of life.

It is stated that Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, is to be invested with the cardinal's hat and made Papal delegate for the United States.

Otto Lenth, the 17 year old boy convicted of the murder of little Maggie Thompson at Cleveland, has been sentenced to be hanged at Columbus, April 16.

On Friday a snowslide buried a portion of Sierra City, Cal., and seven persons were killed, with more still under the snow, whose fate is uncertain.

Governor Richardson, of South Carolina, has assured a deputation of negroes that every effort will be made to bring the Barnwell lynchings to justice.

It is said the American Window Glass Trust has been formed at Pittsburgh, and that the first action decided upon was an advance of ten per cent. in prices.

A quarrel in Des Moines, Ia., commenced by two men over a woman, was participated in by 25 persons, and many serious and some fatal wounds were inflicted.

Percy R. Hatch, who embezzled \$8,000 of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's money while acting as cashier and fled to Canada, has been sentenced to the Elmira reformatory.

At a recent meeting of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, a rule was adopted which prohibits a saloonkeeper from becoming a Mason or remaining in the order if he continues the business.

An English syndicate is reported to have bought up four large paper manufacturing firms in New York State. Another rumor says that English capitalists have purchased the leading cigarette factories in the States.

Rev. T. M. Joiner, who claims to be a British subject, has laid a complaint before the British Minister at Washington, to the effect that he was maltreated by a North Carolina mob, because he was educating negroes.

The common council at Frankfort, Ky., recently passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale of cigarettes within the corporation limits. The law went into effect on January 1st, and there is not a cigarette to be had in the city.

Joe Donoghue, the well-known amateur skater, succeeded in breaking the world's record for five miles. He skated the distance at Minneapolis on Sunday night, in 17 mins. 3 secs., beating the previous record by 9 seconds.

Col. Charles H. R. Nott shot and killed himself near Wallingford, Conn., yesterday. He had la grippe and had been taken large doses of quinine, which made him temporarily insane. Col. Nott was on Governor Harrison's staff.

In the United States House of Representatives Mr. Stewart, of Georgia, introduced

a bill requesting the Executive Department to change the extradition laws with Great Britain, so that persons charged with grand larceny, embezzlement, and other crimes, may be extradited from Canada.

FOREIGN.

Wm. O'Brien has utilized his time while in prison by writing a novel.

It is reported that Russia has ordered in France 1,500,000 repeating rifles.

It is understood that Russia objects to the Italian protectorate in Abyssinia.

The Dowager Empress Augusta died on Tuesday from an attack of influenza.

The schools of Halle have been closed owing to the prevalence of influenza.

Sir Charles Russel has been retained by Mr. Parnell in the O'Shea divorce case.

Mr. Gladstone says he regards the condition of Italian finances as a national danger.

It is reported that the Brazilian Government has increased the export duty on coffee.

Stanley has accepted the invitation to a banquet extended to him by Americans in London.

The Anti Slavery Society is making arrangements for an expedition to Lake Tanganyika.

The English court will wear mourning for three weeks for the death of the late Empress of Brazil.

Explorer Bazmann will proceed in a short time to Zanzibar in the interest of a German company.

Disastrous floods, covering a vast extent of territory, are reported in Queensland, Australia.

The Cossacks engaged at the recent massacre of exiles in Siberia ultimately declined to obey orders.

The Marquis of Salisbury is much better, and is taking walking exercise in the corridors of his house.

Major Wisemann has gained another victory over the Arabs, taking a fortified position from them.

Cholera is reported to have broken out in Hamadan, Persia, and is expected to reach Teheran in the spring.

Emperor William has ordered that all civilians who take part in State ceremonies shall wear knee breeches.

The conference having in view the federation of the Australian colonies will meet in Melbourne on February 3rd.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, speaking at Leamington, referred to the difficulty with Portugal as merely a passing cloud.

Within the past few days a number of Russians have been expelled from Berlin and many more are under surveillance.

It is officially announced that the Queen has been suffering from rheumatism, and will not open Imperial Parliament in person.

In the trial in connection with the London scandal, a lad named Algernon Alliers gave testimony seriously implicating Lord Arthur Somerset.

La grippe is decreasing in France and Russia, but continues to increase everywhere else, even extending into Africa. Gibraltar is affected.

It is reported the Portuguese Government has employed German engineers to lay a torpedo mine in the Tagus in view of possible action of the British fleet.

The Duchess of Marlborough has applied for and secured \$60,000 of the \$70,000 income from the New York estate of the late Louis C. Hamerley, her first husband.

M. Tirard, the French Premier, is thinking of introducing a bill giving to women engaged in any trade the right to vote at elections for judges of commercial tribunals.

It will be likely close on a year before the O'Shea divorce suit comes to trial, if then, and in the meantime no confidence will be withdrawn from Mr. Parnell by his followers.

Mr. Edmund Yates cables that the Czar has greatly offended the French government and the Orleansists by granting a commission in the Russian army to Prince Louis Napoleon.

Great preparations are being made in London for a monster reception to Henry M. Stanley. The Royal Geographical Society has provided accommodation for 6,000 persons at the Albert hall.

The firm of Doerr & Reinhardt, manufacturers of leather, at Worms, has presented to its employees the sum of \$35,000, to be used in the erection of dwellings and the establishment of an invalid fund.

On the occasion of his birthday Mr. Gladstone received 3,000 messages, from all parts of Europe, America, Australia, etc., which he has acknowledged through the press, in view of the impossibility of his doing so otherwise.

Russia has sent a circular note to all the powers who signed the treaty of Berlin, contending that the condition of things in Bulgaria, more particularly the pretended sovereignty of Prince Ferdinand, is a violation of that treaty.

Prince Bismarck has advised Lord Salisbury to deal gently with Portugal on the African question, and not to insist on any humiliating terms, which would shake the foundations of Portuguese monarchy and strengthen the present Republican agitation.

Bishop O'Callaghan, of Cork, addressed a large assembly of young men on Monday, stating that he was aware of the existence of a secret revolutionary society in Ireland, and warned his hearers against identifying themselves with that or any similar organization.

The Dowager Empress Augusta of Germany, who has been a sufferer from the influenza epidemic in Berlin, was the first royal victim to the disease, and died Tuesday afternoon. The King of Spain is also ill, but it is not thought that the malady in his case will prove fatal.

A curious story comes from London accounting for the lengthened absence of Prince Battenberg, the husband of Princess Beatrice from England. It is stated that some years ago, with his face as his fortune, he put himself in the hands of a Russian match-maker, who, after hawking him through the matrimonial markets of Europe, established him in London, where Princess Beatrice fell in love with him at sight. Since their marriage the Russian has made frequent and heavy demands on his purse, and at last, when the Prince stopped supplies, she laid the whole story before the Queen, who was so incensed that she ordered the Prince abroad during pleasure.

"The Crime of Capital Punishment."

The discussion arising out of the late Capital trial, and the disappointing verdict in the case have turned the thoughts of some to the consideration of the question: "Is capital punishment justifiable under any circumstances?"

In the January number of the "Arena" the Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost is out with a slashing article on "The Crime of Capital Punishment." The arguments in support of his position are advanced in the two propositions: (1) Capital Punishment does not act as a deterrent and preventive of crime; (2) Capital Punishment outrages the enlightened thought and conscience because of the measure of revenge it contains, while it tends to brutalize the minds of the people and familiarize them with the thought of killing.

Under the first proposition he cites as instance which he assumes to be typical and not exceptional. Says he: "Four men were recently hanged in New York, the scandal of the world. Each had killed a woman—his wife or mistress. The execution was the talk of the whole country for weeks before it occurred. Every one felt about it. It was particularly horrible because of the large number of women who were slaughtered. If ever an execution was calculated to strike terror into the heart of a prospective murderer this one was. But there were two women murdered in New York State within two days of that execution, and the famous Lis murder occurred at about the same time. Coming to his second proposition he makes bold to say: "Every judge who sentences a fellow-being to death, every jurymen who votes for a verdict of death against a fellow-being, every sheriff who carries out the sentence, every hangman who actually springs the drop, every priest or minister who assists at an execution, is a murderer none the less because they act in accordance with the statute law and social custom. (As so) these legal murderers are admitted to our courts and highly honored because of their murderous crimes they fill, and a of them except the wretched hangman are quite respectable) murder never will be looked upon with the abhorrence it should produce in every mind." The new method of despatching the criminal by means of electricity comes in for his scathing condemnation. O. says: "It is a killing device that rivals in horror the worst tortures of the worst ages of the world. A chair to be constructed, a reclining chair, in due imitation of those chairs that we use for restful comfort. When everything is ready, the criminal is seated in the chair, the electric machine works as it is hoped that, in one moment of anguish, his life will go out."

With these sentiments of the Rev. Mr. Pentecost the editor of the Arena is in the heartiest accord. Though less austere and more diffident towards those who differ from him he is not less unequivocal in the statement of his views. Postulating the principle that justice, when considered from a high moral plane, demands that when a criminal is judged, all the extenuating circumstances shall be taken into the consideration, he concludes that wire this rule observed, the victim of the law would seldom appear in to bad a light as the government that passed sentence. In the first instance the criminal by the great law of heredity has in all probability to a great extent inherited the vices and criminal instincts of his ancestors; by early home association rife with sin and degradation, the young nature has been warped toward criminality, while the public nurseries of sin and schools of vice have fed the basest instincts while they smothered the nobler impulses. In the very nature of the case no person cannot comprehend the value and sanctity of life. On the other hand the Government, supposed to represent the loftiest embodiment of wisdom and justice; to breathe forth in its laws the highest conceptions of right and equity; to know the precise worth of a human soul and to fully appreciate how dear life is to a darkened spirit, this august representative of justice sentences to a horrible death the wretched criminal, thus emphasizing in a startling manner the law of retaliation by sending a detestable soul into the great unknown, clothed in sin, degradation and crime." These liberal quotations have been made for the double reason that the line of argument adopted by those who protest against the death penalty is somewhat new, and also because they contain the strongest presentation of the case that has yet appeared. Not that they have silenced all opposition and have spiked the enemies' guns. Indeed, so far from this being the case both the propositions laid down by Rev. Mr. Pentecost are open to question and may be disputed. One swallow does not make a spring, so one or two cases in which capital punishment does not appear to have had any deterring effect, do not prove that the death penalty has no influence on lessening the crime of murder. Stubborn facts are against his proposition. Quite recently the Italian Government which had for some time appended capital punishment, has been contemplating a return to the old order on account of the great increase of the crime of murder since this death penalty was set aside. There is a question which will not be decided by sentimental gush or bitter invective. The first duty of society is to protect herself and if it is found that this can be accomplished only by following out the old principle "Whosoever shed man's blood by man shall his blood be shed," society will hesitate to adopt any more lenient measure. There is doubtless much force in the contention of Mr. Pentecost that society ought to seek to prevent the crime of murder as much as possible and the incentive as the history of crime shows that there is a close connection between poverty and crime, the attention of society should be directed to the solution of the problem "How shall we so enrich the people that the temptation to crime shall be minimized to the last possible degree?" But while exercising herself in this direction she is bound to protect herself even at the cost of the life of those who seek her destruction.

Mr. Labelle will leave next week for France, where he will endeavor to induce a large immigration from Brittany and Normandy for the northern part of the Province of Quebec.

PASSING NOTES.

An aged maple tree in Wilmington has been acting in a peculiar manner. People who leaned against it received more or less severe shocks, and one man said that as he lights gleamed among the branches. The colored people thought the tree was haunted, but Caucasian wisdom decided that it had become charged with electricity. There seems to be a good chance for some Company to secure an electric plant at a trifling cost.

The Statistician takes cognizance of booting and tells us that nearly nine million dollars were embezzled in the United States last year. A large share of this money found its way into Canada, together with the persons of the bootlers. As Canada has shown the utmost anxiety to get rid of the bootlers, and as the American Senate has rejected a treaty providing for their extradition, both countries must be credited with indifference to considerations of filthy lucre.

Kemmler, the first prisoner sentenced to die by electricity under the law of New York State, still lives, but the last turn of the judicial wheel is against him. A New York Court has decided that execution by electricity, though necessarily "unusual," is not cruel. Casualties by lightning and accidental contact with electric wires were referred to as showing that instantaneous death may be caused by electricity. The time originally fixed for the death of Kemmler has long since expired, and a new sentence must be passed. In the meantime his counsel will undoubtedly appeal against the last decision.

Boston Budget: There is a man in Rochester who predicts that within 5 years the weather will be as much under the control of man as a steam engine is now. That is not a pleasant prospect. The weather is not all that could be desired now; but what a sorry jumble it will be if man ever gets control of it. The man who delights in the umbrellas and gossamers will surely turn on the rain as often as possible. On the whole, things are less confusing now than this prediction promises, and we'd better "bear the ill we have, than fly to others we know not of."

An Irishman writes to the Chicago "Tribune" suggesting a brilliant scheme of revenge upon England for the wrongs done by her to his country. Having heard that if a sufficiently large channel was made through the Gulf Stream would be so changed that it would no longer strike the shores of the British Isles, he proposes that those who wish to free Ireland should buy a controlling interest in the Nicaragua canal and convert it into such a channel. The result would be, he says, that England would freeze up. Ireland, of course, would meet the same fate, but to meet this difficulty it is proposed that all her people should be brought out to the United States. This would be "freeing Ireland" with a vengeance.

Although men are usually better paid than women for doing the same kind of work, it said that when men find it much easier to obtain employment than men. William Blake, an American Superintendent of the Poor, says in The Epoch:—

"Poverty-stricken men are worse off than the women, for there are fewer avenues of employment open to a man than to a woman. A woman can always get housework or washing to do, there is a constant demand for such kind of help. It is better for a poor family that the father should die rather than the mother. A woman, as I say, can always manage to find employment and so keep her family together, while a father soon becomes discouraged after the death of his wife at the unusual duties put upon him, and the family soon drift apart."

It is sickening to be obliged to chronicle no less than 250 deaths at railroad crossings in Chicago during the last year, four during the last week, and more than 1,000 in the last four years. The public indignation will not much longer stand such a state of things. The city authorities and the railroads are the parties to blame. The city statute requires of the latter that they shall provide the suitable protection at the railroad crossings; this law it is the duty of the city authorities to enforce. Neither the one nor the other is done in any such way as to approach the necessities of the case. It used to be said that "corporations have no souls." It will come to be the prevailing conviction, soon, that they have not even a gizzard, and that city aldermen are no better provided than they.

Electricity and the Death Penalty

The experiments that took place in Auburn prison the other day, will probably settle the minds of the state authorities as to the feasibility of electricity as a means of inflicting the death penalty. A special Commission having been appointed to test the machinery that has been provided for that purpose, chose an old horse and a young calf for the purpose. The horse was killed first. The contact of the current with his body was less than half a minute he was killed instantly, without any sign of struggle. The current registered only one half the power which the machine is capable of producing. In the case of the calf with whose body the contact was only of ten seconds duration, an experiment was immediately performed to see whether the animal was really dead, or if animation had simply been suspended. The apparatus employed in the experiment has been successfully used in resuscitating human patients who were thought to have died, but through artificial respiration was kept up for half an hour there was no sign of returning life; the heart of the calf could not be made to beat again. The Commission are said to be in high glee at the result of their experiments. And now that the feasibility in this connection has been established, it is highly probable that New York will not be the only State to adopt this means of execution, so that throughout civilized countries the hanging work of hangings may be simple remembrances at the past.

More Appropriate.

"Got to have a line to fill out this column," sang out the foreman of the Spiketown "Snipe" office.

"Run in 'Happy New Year' to fill!" replied the editor. "O—no I wait a minute!" Williams, Naught's naught, six and five's eleven, three and one's four. Four hundred and ten delinquent subscribers! Gee-roo-aleem! Run in this line instead: "Where do you expect to go when you die?"

—[Chicago Mail.

OUR FISHERIES.

A New York View of the Unreasonable Demands of the New Englanders.

Very slight attention has been paid to the recent investigation by a senate committee of our relations with Canada. There is no objection pending now, and consequently no reason for fishing ourselves into fury respecting the fishery question or the encroachments of Canadian railways. The testimony of ex-Collector Babson, of Gloucester, Mass., however, seems to call for some notice. According to the newspaper reports Captain Babson contended that American fishermen had a grievance in "the denial to them of the right to buy anything that is lawful and proper in every Canadian port, or the denial to them of rights that are accorded other commercial vessels. The witness advised as a remedy that proper legislation in Congress should be taken, and advocated retaliation as the very best way to obtain the end sought for."

The "anything" which he denied to American fishermen in Canadian ports (which means Newfoundland) is bait, which is caught only in the bay and inlets of Newfoundland, and which gives to that island all the territorial value which it has in respect to its fisheries. To surrender this privilege is equivalent to surrendering its short rights and its territory, and this Collector Babson knows full well; but he talks in a way to give a popular impression that the Dominion of Canada is denying to the United States something contrary to international comity. The Dominion of Canada might as well allege as a grievance against the United States that its fishermen are not allowed to collect oysters in Chesapeake bay, or in the inland waters of Virginia. The authorities of Newfoundland have as much indisputable right to say how this bait, caught only in her inland waters, shall be collected and shall be used, as the United States have to deny to Newfoundland fisherman the privilege of selling their fish in our markets. And yet Collector Babson would try and persuade our people that we have a cause of grievance against Canada worthy of such retaliatory proceedings as might occasion war; and in so doing his conduct is open to the most serious animadversion.—[N. Y. Post.

Odd Bits of Life.

Everybody in Oakland knew Police Judge Laidlaw had been on a howling racket, says the San Francisco *Ata*. The papers had recounted the story of that wild debauch at the white house and people wondered what the outcome would be. The press was fittingly clouded yesterday by the arrest of Judge Laidlaw and the imposition of a fine of \$50. The amusing part of the affair is that the judge ordered his own arrest, fined himself, and also paid the fine.

There was rather more than the usual attendance at the Oakland police court yesterday and a ripple of excitement ran around the room as the judge's voice was heard pronouncing the words: "Mr. Bailiff, you will place Alexander Laidlaw under arrest for violating an ordinance. Mr. Laidlaw is released on his own recognizance," continued Judge Laidlaw. "Mr. Clerk, you will enter that name upon your docket and he pleads guilty."

Judge Laidlaw adjusted his glasses, took a roll of manuscript from his pocket, slipped off the little elastic band, opened out the roll and read as follows:

"Mr. Clerk, you will please enter upon the docket of this court a charge of violating an ordinance of the city of Oakland against Alexander Laidlaw. To this charge I plead guilty and before passing sentence I have this to say: That I feel it my duty to make some statement of his facts concerning this case. The charges and allegations as printed in the press of this city are, to a certain extent, true. A number, however, are incorrect and untrue. That I was drunk, or to use the language of the ordinance, "under the influence of intoxicating liquors," is true. That there was no palliation or extenuation shown, nor is there now, for this offense, is also true. That the entire occurrence is lamentably, sincerely, and sadly, regretted I can honestly state, and I do so state. I, who have sat here day after day, week after week, and month after month, dispensing justice with an honesty of purpose, sense of justice and every other motive of right that can possibly animate an honest man, can now pass by this greatest offense of my life. Is it right? Is it just? Is it honorable? Is it honest to myself or to the people of this city to permit myself to go unpunished for the commission of an offense for which I punish others daily? My answer is, no! Emphatically, no!

"For a tramp or a vagrant, lost to the world, to his home, to his family, to decency and to fame, there may possibly be some excuse in the commission of an offense of this character, but to one of my past standing in this community there is no excuse. But for the sake of one I hold most dear, and who inculcated these early precepts which I shall never forget, I deem myself in duty bound to show my manliness, and admit frankly and sincerely that I have committed a wrong, and frankly ask forgiveness for the same. "I have made this statement freely and voluntarily and with a better consideration of the fact that many a better man than I have put an enemy in his mouth to steal away his brains," but I sincerely hope that this affair may serve as a warning to all such as are beset by that curse of modern civilization—drunk. Upon a repetition of this offense I shall not ask for mercy, neither will I expect it. In conclusion I wish to exonerate and exculpate all persons from any blame whatever whose names have been coupled with mine in this unfortunate affair. The sentence of the court is that the defendant pay a fine of \$50, with the usual alternative."

The judge closed this remarkable proceeding by handing over to the clerk \$50 to save himself from the fifty days' sojourn in the county jail.

The Arabian Peninsula.

Vast tracts of Arabia have never yet been traversed by the foot of an explorer, and there are ancient ruins which have never yet been seen by the eye of the European. What has been accomplished already with the scanty means still at our disposal is an earnest of what remains to be done. The dark past of the Arabian peninsula has been suddenly lighted up, and we find that long before the days of Mohammed it was a land of culture and literature, a seat of powerful kingdoms and wealthy commerce, which cannot fail to have exercised an influence upon the general history of the world.