

AFTERNOON TELEGRAMS.

NEWS IN NUTSHELL FORM.

Cream of the Foreign and Domestic Intelligence for Free Press Readers.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

Cuxhaven will be additionally fortified and protected with torpedo mines at a cost of several millions.

Mr. Gladstone has started for Naples. A great crowd gathered at the railway station, and the ex-Premier was enthusiastically cheered on his departure.

The London Chronicle's Paris correspondent says Mr. Blaine is freshly mentioned as the successor of Mr. McLane, the United States Minister to France.

Mrs. Kirby telegraphs to Archbishop Walsh from Rome that the story that the Pope refused to bless reliquaries sent to him by an Irish priest is an impudent fabrication.

The Grand Master of Italian Free Masons has sent a circular to all the Italian lodges reminding them that the councils of the Judges of Europe and America have adhered to the appeal of the Italian Grand Orient of March 11 inviting them to assist in preserving European peace, and asking them to calmly examine the causes of conflict between Italy and France, with the view to dissipate misunderstandings.

Lord Hartington, in a speech at Liverpool Tuesday evening, referring to the obstruction in Parliament, said if the objection continued they would have to resort to the French system under the Empire, one set of ministers to decide upon a policy and do the work, and another set to defend and advocate the policy in Parliament.

A notable result of the Panama Canal collapses that both in Paris and in the provinces all the anger and disappointment of the investors is directed against Parliament, while sympathy is extended to De Lesseps.

M. De Lesseps and De Normandie daily receive numerous letters from holders of Panama shares and bonds encouraging them with assurances and promises that every possible sacrifice will be made to save the enterprise.

Nowhere is there heard a word of complaint against De Lesseps, who is rather regarded as a martyr. On the other hand, there is every indication that the Deputies who voted against the Bill come forward for election they will find an intense feeling against them.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday evening, in debate on vote for criminal prosecutions in Ireland, Mr. Sexton asserted that the money, instead of being employed in detection of crime, was employed in creation and fabrication of offences.

In a long speech he censured the Government policy, and declared that if his policy refrained from interfering with people in Ireland nine-tenths of the charges under the Crimes Act would be avoided.

H. H. Fowler (Liberal) asked why the costs of a prosecution in Ireland were double those in England.

Mr. Balfour admitted the importance of the question, but it must be remembered, he said, that the majority of prosecutions in England are private, while in Ireland private prosecutions are unknown.

A protracted debate on this, and the previous vote, mainly supported by the Liberals, ensued. Finally, at 2.30 in the morning, all of the votes were agreed to.

AMERICAN WIRELETS. John Sherman has already been elected upon for U. S. Secretary of State.

Reports of rich finds of gold in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Arizona, come in, but old miners regard them as exaggerated.

Notwithstanding the Governor's announcement that the White Caps had disbanded in Ohio, they are still sending out warnings in different parts of the State.

M. B. Overton, son of ex-Governor Overton, of the Chickasaw nation, on Tuesday murdered Jas. Saca, a prominent stockman, of Sherman, Texas. Overton surrendered himself.

Several failures of small merchants in Augusta, Ga., and neighboring towns are reported. The Farmers' Alliance is charged with being the cause of most of the failures now occurring in the country towns.

Whether the opium smugglers were arrested at Bittineau, Dak., Monday night. His name is Curran, and he was the agent through whom opium was shipped from Manitoba to interior points in the United States.

A Charleston (S. C.) despatch says—The bloody Christmas season of a year or two ago promises to be repeated this year. The wires are loaded with details of killing and wounding going on in different parts of the State.

The organizers of the scheme to form an American Salt Trust deny that it has any connection with the Salt Union of England, but as most of the capital engaged in the new movement comes from England it is regarded as unlikely that there will be any clash of interests between the two.

General Dis Debar, the reported husband of Madame Dis Debar, who was imprisoned for eight months for having assisted the "spook" medium in swindling Lawyer Luther R. Marsh, was released at New York on Wednesday, his term having expired. He departed quietly for the Madame's headquarters.

J. Metz, one of the men who made an unsuccessful attempt to rob the People's Savings and Deposit Bank at Denver, Col., on Thursday and was arrested, was identified on Monday as George Haven, "Little Horace," one of the once noted bank thieves of America.

A heavy rainstorm in Scranton, Pa., on Sunday night and Monday caused a rise in the Lackawanna river. The water overflowed its banks and submerged one of the principal thoroughfares for a quarter of a mile.

LABBY'S LONDON LETTER.

SPECIAL CABLEGRAM TO THE LONDON "FREE PRESS"

Mr. Labouchere's "Round-up" of the British and Foreign News for Canadian Readers. London, Dec. 19.—Henry Labouchere telegraphs—A few weeks ago I announced the sale of the Murtly and Grandtully estates in Perthshire, which extend over 34,000 acres, to Mr. Kennedy, of New York, who had agreed to buy the property from Sir Douglas Stewart on the condition that he obtained possession in May next.

No sooner had the preliminaries of the transaction been completed than Sir Douglas Stewart repented, and now declines to complete the bargain. Mr. Kennedy has, in consequence, commenced proceedings in the Court of Sessions to compel him to do so, or if he finally refuses the execution of the contract to pay a sum of £30,000 as damages.

I learn that Lord Sackville, who intends to pass the winter in the Riviera, will probably be appointed Ambassador to Constantinople next spring, when Sir William White is going to retire on a pension. Lord Sackville's appointment, however, is not yet confirmed.

Understand that the Prince of Wales is desirous of the presentation of the economic reforms which are to be carried out in the Queen's household. His Royal Highness foresees that whenever a demise of the Crown takes place the civil list will be settled on the basis of the new arrangements, which will make a very considerable and disadvantageous difference the next sovereign of these realms.

An attempt is to be made to introduce salmon into the Aude, which flows into the Mediterranean near Narbonne, and 1,000,000 ova of Sacramento salmon have been brought from America and will shortly be placed in the river.

I hear that the Queen is desirous that Sir Theodore Martin should undertake to write an elaborate biography of the late Emperor Frederick, on the same scale as his Life of the Prince Consort. It is to be hoped that the Empress will not be so inquisitive, so that from an economic standpoint THE FELT BRUSH IS, NOT ONE TENTH SO DEAR AS ANY OTHER.

Reconciliation has been patched up between the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Austria, and the threat of divorce has been abandoned. So the marriage which will remain at Vienna through the winter.

Anton Rubinstein has completed the cantata which he has composed to celebrate the presentation of the Emperor and Empress of Russia in the recent railway accident at Borki. It will be performed for the first time at the Court concert to be given next month at the winter palace at St. Petersburg.

Gladstone intends to occupy himself during the next few weeks by writing an article for one of the reviews on the working results of the Divorce Act. Our divorce laws are absurd. They only permit divorce in the event of one of the two persons concerned not wishing for it.

With Sir William Pearce dies a man of genius. He began life as a shipwright, entered the great Clyde firm of John Elder & Company on a salary of £500, and ended as sole partner and owner of the finest ship-building business in the world. It is to him, more than to any other man, that the splendid record of the British navy is due.

He designed and built all the fastest Atlantic steamers. The Queen made him a baronet, one of the best earned distinctions conferred during the jubilee year.

A funny scene took place a few days ago in a small northern town at the fortnightly meeting of the local literary society, at which a paper was read on the works of George Eliot. The vicar was in the chair, and in the course of his preliminary remarks he explained that he anticipated this paper with much interest, because he had for many years enjoyed Mr. Eliot's personal friendship.

The paper ventured to remind the reverend gentleman that "George Eliot" was a lady. "Eliot—what?" cried the vicar. "The observation was repeated in a louder tone, and the reply was, 'Oh!—yes!—of course—exactly so!—just what I meant to say.' The vicar, abruptly sitting down, thereupon the reverend friend of "Mr. Eliot" turned round in sad anger and exclaimed "I am sorry to hear that you described the laughter of fools as resembling the crackling of thorns under a pot."

GLADSTONE'S PECULIAR TACTICS He Seems Unable to Unite the Liberal Franchise-A Noted Man. London, Dec. 19.—Geo. W. Smalley writes—In default of serious topics Mr. Gladstone has been indulging in a little political gossip. Lord Hartington's retirement from the National Liberal Club and his refusal to re-join the Liberal party.

Last night, in the House, he again complained of Lord Hartington and his friends for sitting on the Liberal benches. "I am speaking," he said, "for those about me—then he paused—'but there are some gentlemen about me for whom I am still less entitled to speak than for those opposite.' This may seem slight details. To those familiar with club life, with House of Commons life and with Mr. Gladstone's usual reserve on such topics, they signify more than half a dozen solemn political harangues.

Another "Jack, the Ripper," Crank. Montreal, Dec. 18.—Considerable excitement was occasioned at the Central Police Station yesterday by an individual who was arrested for disorderly conduct, and who when asked his name by the sergeant in charge replied, "I am Jack, the Ripper; all Whitechapel is looking for me. I came over in a cattle boat and have just arrived. I have come to give myself up. Produce your telegrams and investigate. We killed fifteen, and I'll complete the number in Montreal. I confess my sins, give me my sentence; I want to be hung by the neck until I'm dead, dead, dead," and he laughed uproariously. Then in a course of a medley of ejaculations he said his real name was John Longhorn, aged 25. On him were found a large and very blunt pocket-knife, and a quarter of a dollar. He had no scrap of paper or writing, any description. Chief Hughes has received this letter—"Windsor Hotel, Dec. 15.—DEAR BOSS,—Owing to the annoyance and trouble the police and the enraged citizens of Whitechapel have been to me of late, I determined to cross the water, and having heard so much of your beautiful city, made up my mind to come here. I wish to inform you that I have not finished the number I first decided upon to kill, and that I am going to begin work in your city at once. This is to give you fair warning. I want no quarter and expect none. Yours truly, JACK, THE RIPPER."

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

THOS. BEATTIE & CO.

WILL OFFER THIS WEEK Special Reductions in the Dress Goods Department FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

GRAND DRESS PATTERN SALE

Table with columns for item description and price. Includes 'THE FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS BARGAINS:' and 'DOUBLE FOLD GOODS.'

GRAND DRESS PATTERN SALE

Table with columns for item description and price. Includes 'BLACK DRESS GOODS' and 'A SILK DRESS.'

Great Bargains in Ladies' and Gentlemen's Silk Umbrella

THE BEST PLACE TO BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. THOS. BEATTIE & CO., 176, 178 & 180 Dundas

"Cheaper Than Bristles." WHY? THE "American Analyst," of New York, answers...

C. McCALLUM CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, Corner of Dundas and Richmond Street



Has been appointed agent for B. LAURANCE & CO.'S Celebrated Spectacles and Eyeglasses.

Each Felt Puller lasts from One to Three Weeks, and can then be replaced. The Handle and Metal Loop are almost indestructible...

A full assortment kept on hand, and by arrangement DR. WOODRUFF will be in attendance one hour daily, from 11 to 12 o'clock, when he may be consulted as to the selection and adjustment of spectacles and eyeglasses.

THE GREAT CLOSING OUT SALE

The GOLDEN LION Is proving a great success. The public appreciate the bargains.

Think of it! Fifty thousand dollars' worth of direct import of Dry Goods, Clothing, Mantles, Millinery and Carpets being sacrificed from 10 to 50 per cent. discount.

R. WALKER & SON

South Side Dundas Street, London.

Christmas Goods

HOLLY, HOLLY FOR CHRISTMAS

GREAT VARIETY.

MISTLETOE, NEW PLUMES, SPIRIA.

New & Beautiful Styles & Designs.

John S. Pearce & Co.'s, 119 Dundas Street and Market Square LONDON, ONT.

HOLIDAY GOODS

Call and see before purchasing elsewhere.

SUMMERS & ORELL, 204 Dundas Street.

R. C. MACFIE & CO., London WE HAVE IN STOCK

SANAGAN & CO. MERCHANT TAILORS.

Goat Robes! BLACK, GREY AND WHITE.

NEW STOCK. NEW STAND, No. 9 Masonic Temple, First door west of Richmond Street.

Hudson Bay Wolf Robes, Ladies' Long Raw Furs Wanted. ADVERTISE IN THE FREE I