

## Summary of News.

A THEATRE to hold 3,000 persons is to be built at Antwerp.

THE outbreak of civil war at Panama is said to be probable at any moment.

RUSSIA intends to occupy Quelpart island, south of the Corea, as a naval station.

IT is reported the Mudir of Dongola will be asked to govern the Nile up to and including Kharioum.

A FORCE of 1,200 soldiers is going to Suakim. It is expected they will be used to open the road to Berber.

THE Lord Lieutenant has forbidden the circulation of the *United Irishman*, O'Donovan Kossa's paper, in Ireland.

THE Scott Act has been carried in the counties of Kent, Lanark, and Lennox, in Ontario, and Brome, Quebec.

A TERRIBLE colliery accident occurred last week at Lievin, France, by which it is believed forty-eight men were killed.

AN attempt to assassinate the President of Chili by means of an infernal machine was made at Valpariso on Saturday.

THE Queen will not visit Cannes this winter, but will go to Germany in the middle of March and remain abroad for about three weeks.

THE Dublin castle authorities are alarmed over the activity of secret societies. Fenians have been swearing in a large number of recruits.

A CHINESE squadron has been despatched to Formosa to attack the fleet of Admiral Coubet, recapture Kelung, and raise the blockade.

IT is believed that the Nicaraguan Congress will reject the treaty with the United States, even should the United States Senate agree to adopt it.

A LETTER from Khartoum, Nov. 15, says, General Gordon remains in the entrenched quarter of Khartoum, and only has a supply of food for the garrison.

IT is announced the Duke of Edinburgh will publish a collection of poems dedicated to the Duchess of Edinburgh, entitled "Love Songs of a Violinist."

OWING to information recently divulged to the police, the Customs authorities at Liverpool strictly examine all vessels, passengers, and baggage on arrival.

THE Pope on Tuesday gave audience to one thousand students from various seminaries, and addressed them in Latin upon a non-political subject.

A BILL has been introduced in the Tennessee Legislature, and will probably be passed, providing for the punishment of teachers of the doctrine of polygamy.

THERE is a fair prospect that the Congo Conference will approve of Gen. Sandford's proposal to build a railway to connect the upper and lower reaches of the Congo.

A MEMORIAL asking President-elect Cleveland to exclude intoxicating beverages from the White House has been adopted by the United States National Temperance Society.

THE aggregate yields of the corn, wheat, and oat crops of the United States for last year are the largest ever recorded, being respectively 1,795,000,000, 513,000,000, and 583,000,000 bushels.

TWO hundred and seventy thousand tons of coal were raised and shipped from the mines at Springhill, Nova Scotia, last year, an increase of forty thousand tons over the preceding year.

MR. EDMUND YATES, whose appeal against the sentence in the Lord Lonsdale libel case was dismissed, has surrendered himself to the officers and will serve out his sentence of four months' imprisonment.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOPE addressed a large meeting at Barnstaple on Monday evening, in which he declared himself in favor of the federation of all the colonies of Great Britain, and the establishment of a central Colonial Council.

ANOTHER severe shock of earthquake has been experienced at Granada, causing great alarm among the inhabitants. The snow storms and frost continue. In Malaga the sugar-cane crop has been destroyed, and the orange and olive groves damaged. The situation is most critical.

THE amount standing to the credit of depositors in the postal savings banks of the Dominion at the end of 1884 showed an increase over the previous year of \$1,603,253. The number of depositors in the first-half of last year also increased nine per cent. and in the last half fourteen per cent. over those in 1883.

THE newspapers agree that the Cabinet has to consider the gravest Egyptian problem presented since the bombardment of Alexandria. The *Times* says the Ministers must decide upon what terms they are going to remain in Egypt or confess that they are reduced to the necessity of a disastrous and degrading retreat.

THE advent of frost and snow has done wonders for the great winter carnival in Montreal. The ice palace and the condora are within a few days of being completed, and the preparations for the other attractions are well advanced. Accommodation has already been secured by thousands of intending visitors from all parts of the continent.

THE proposals of Earl Grey and the Marquis of Lorne to create a Council composed of the High Commissioners and Agents General of the British Colonies to be attached to the Colonial Department have been submitted to the Government. It is reported that Lord Granville, Foreign Secretary, and Lord Derby, Secretary for the Colonies, approve of the scheme.

IT is reported the Cabinet decided that, if the French counter proposals in regard to Egyptian finances were modified, they would afford a basis for parleying. The German Ambassador had a long conference with Earl Granville. Earl Granville and Right Hon. H. Childers received M. Waddington and communicated to him the result of the Council's deliberations. It is inferred the reply to the French proposals has been prepared, and that the next step in the Egyptian question will be taken in Paris.

THREE villages in Piedmont, including the important village of Frassinio, have been buried under avalanches from the Piedmontese mountains. The town of Chaumont in France, at the foot of the Vosges mountains, is partly overwhelmed with snow. Many

people there have been killed. Another fatal avalanche occurred at Sparone, a few miles south of Irrea. Fifteen persons are known to have been buried under the snow. The villagers are in great distress. Troops have been sent from Rome to assist the villagers in digging out those buried.

THE march of General Stewart's column from Howieyat to Gakdul was a terrible ordeal for the men and camels. Thirty of the camels died, many of the water skins leaked, and most of the water was lost. Provisions ran short because of the lack of animals to transport them. The soldiers suffered principally from thirst. In hundreds of cases the men's tongues were so swollen they could eat no solid food, and it was impossible to make soup for lack of water. They also suffered greatly from bowel complaints and from the glare of the sun. The men bore their hardships bravely, and were anxious for a fight.

EDMUND ABOUT died on the 17th inst. He was born in 1828; was educated in Paris and Athens. The work which first brought him into notice was "La Grece Contemporaine," published in 1855. He wrote frequently for the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, one contribution in particular, an autobiographical novel, drew upon him a charge of plagiarism which he could not altogether repel. In 1856 he wrote his "Le Mariages de Pain" and in the following year "Germaine," which were succeeded by a series of novels. He acted as special correspondent of the *Soir* during the Franco-Prussian war, at the close of which he assumed the editorship of the radical journal, *Le XIXe Siècle*. "Alsace" appeared in 1872, and in the following year it was well known that M. About was to be the Paris correspondent of the *Athenaeum*.

IT is officially reported that serious fighting has occurred in Egypt, and that the result was satisfactory to Lord Wolseley. The battle took place near Metannah. Ten thousand rebels attacked the square several times in which the British forces were advancing, but were compelled eventually to retire. The rebels lost 800 killed and 800 wounded. The English lost 65. Among the British who fell was Col. Burnaby, who made the famous "ride to Khiva."

ADDITIONAL particulars say the battle was a fearful hand-to-hand fight. Most of the Arabs were armed with spears and protected by spiked shields of ox hide. They rushed to close quarters and swarmed over the bodies of their dead and wounded comrades. The English troops after the first two rounds fought with shortened sabres and sword bayonets wielded at half-arm length. Colonel Burnaby was killed by the thrust of an Arab's spear, which severed the jugular vein. The English soldiers had neither food nor water since the night before the battle. The British had no idea that the enemy was so near. Native reports led them to suppose that only a few rebels held Abu Klia. At the first shock from the enemy the fate of the whole British force trembled in the balance, but the steadiness of the guards, marine corps, and mounted infantry prevailed, and the enemy retired. The news of the battle in Egypt surprised the Government, as severe fighting was not expected. Serious doubts are expressed as to whether Lord Wolseley's force is sufficiently strong to reach Khartoum. Col. Burnaby's death is greatly deplored and has been the great topic of conversation, being more talked about than the battle itself.