

J. G. Davies, the Quebec agent of a wealthy London timber firm, has absconded, leaving a shortage of \$200,000.

The St. John Sun and other papers have published sensational despatches from Halifax stating that Prince Duleep Singh had departed for Paris unexpectedly, leaving many mourning creditors behind him. As the Prince had obtained leave of absence and his intended departure was known, and as he is expected to return to Halifax before the return of the General, it is not probable that there is any truth in the statements made. Prince Victor Duleep Singh must be rather disgusted by the notoriety the press has endeavored to give him, both as to the rumor of his engagement to Miss Turnure, of New York, and this last sensational report.

"The corporation has a beautiful system of keeping the sidewalks in—well, not exactly in good condition, but the condition in which they generally are."—Montreal Star. Montreal is fortunate in having sidewalks of any sort. Down this way the corporation has a beautiful way of getting rid of the necessity of keeping sidewalks in repair by not providing any. In soft weather people who do not want to get mired take to the streets." We clip this item from a city contemporary, and although we cannot say any good words for the condition of our sidewalks, we must protest against having Halifax represented as without them altogether. We are provided with sidewalks, though they are not much to brag of. The Hollis street sidewalks are so badly worn out in places as to be almost dangerous. It is to be hoped that they will be repaired before any one gets hurt.

The University of Toronto, a beautiful Norman pile, situated in Queen's Park, Toronto, was completely destroyed by fire last Friday night. The fire originated by the upsetting of an oil lamp by the engineer, but the destruction of the building was assured by the absence of fire apparatus. Firemen were soon in attendance, but they were unable to send a stream to the second story. In an hour after the fire started the \$100,000 library, the museum with its costly collection, the electrical science department and the entire front of the building, including the tower, were beyond redemption. A company of the Queen's Own Rifles formed themselves into a salvage corps and saved a great deal of property out of the scientific department and the museum. The loss is estimated at \$500,000, insurance \$175,000. The construction of a new building is to be begun almost immediately.

Honey constitutes one of the principal products of California. Last year the output was 1,092,900 pounds from 64,630 hives.

Scientists compute the world's available coal supply at 6,000,000,000-000 tons. The United States has a coal area of 440,000 square miles.

A writer in an American journal, talking about church choirs, says they have become the training school for the comic opera stage. "The good deacons may not believe it possible, but a glance at the history of the most popular soubrettes and prima donnas shows that they have graduated from church choirs."

George Francis Train proposes to circumnavigate the globe in sixty days. If he does it in that time he will be entitled to all the notoriety to be got out of the trip. He proposed to go by the Canada Pacific railway and steamship lines to Hong Kong, thence via Brindisi or Marseilles to Southampton and from there across the Atlantic to New York.

One man in six in the British Navy is a total abstainer.

The University boat race has been fixed for March 26th.

The Queen will leave Windsor for Aix on March 25 or 26.

Another plot against the life of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria is believed to be on foot.

Moussa Bey is not to be tried again for his serious crimes, but only for what are called minor offences.

There have been terrible volcanic eruptions in Japan, and the loss to property amounted to \$3,500,000.

The Right Honorable Sir Louis Mallet, C. B., a well known authority on commercial treaties, died on Monday of influenza.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward has a new book ready for the publisher. It is said to be much heavier reading than Robert Elsmere.

The colonial conference has unanimously adopted Sir Henry Parkes' motion in favor of the federation of the Australian colonies.

The strikes of dock laborers in Great Britain have again assumed formidable proportions, and shipping is suffering to a great extent.

Prince Alexander of Battenberg, formerly of Bulgaria, has been made a commandant in the Austrian army, and is to be created a general.

Mr. Bradlaugh has returned from India, and will introduce in the British Parliament a bill for a constitution for that great dependency.

King Mwanga is reported to have recovered his power in Uganda, destroyed the slave dhows and expressed friendliness towards Christians.

The junction of the Chinese telegraph lines with those of France in Tonquin and with the Russian lines at Kiathka is expected in a few months.

The Sultan of Zanzibar is dead. It is stated that he died of a sunstroke. The new Sultan hoisted his flag and received all the residents of Zanzibar on the 16th inst.

Sir James Ferguson, under secretary of the Foreign Office, stated in Parliament that negotiations relating to the settlement of the dispute between England and France, as to the Newfoundland fisheries, are pending. If a conclusion is not soon arrived at, a modus vivendi will be arranged for one year.

The crematory has now taken the place of the potter's field in Paris. All unclaimed bodies are cremated at the new establishment in Pere la Chaise.

A telephone has been established between Yokohama and Striznoka, a distance of 100 miles, in Japan, by order of the Mikado. It is the first in the country and works finely.

Both Lord Salisbury and Lord Hartington being in ill-health there is a rumor that Lord Dufferin will be asked to assume the port folio of the Foreign Office. Many *on dits* might be much more improbable.

The Duke of Orleans, who violated the law of exile by putting in an appearance in France, was sentenced to two years imprisonment, but it is stated upon good authority that he is to be pardoned and escorted to the frontier.

Two hundred and forty-eight architects and engineers, sixteen of whom are Americans and Canadians, and sixteen Frenchmen and Germans, are designing plans for the tower proposed by Mr. Edward Watkins, to be erected on the banks of the Thames. Many novelties are produced in the designs.

The despatch sent by Lord Salisbury to the Portuguese Government on January 28 said that the Portuguese had invaded disputed territory in Africa, insulted the British flag, killed England's allies, before asking for mediation according to the terms of the Berlin treaty. Portugal, the despatch said, had no right now to claim such mediation. The reply of the Portuguese Government to this despatch explained that preparations for war were being made by Portugal.

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