SUMMARY OF ENGLISH NEWS.

To Thursday, Nov. 30, Inclusive.

DEATH OF SIR ELKANAH ARMITAGE.

Sir Elkanah Armitage died at Hope Hall, Manchester, on Nov. 27th, in his 83rd year. He was originally a hand-loom weaver, but he created and became the head of one of the largest and most prosperous cotton-spinning and manufacturing firms in the world. He was knighted in 1848, when Mayor of Manchester, for the conciliatory, yet firm manner in which he suppressed the Chartist rising in that city. He was high sheriff of Lancashire in 1866. He was a liberal supporter of Congregationalism and all works of charity. He was chairman of the Trustees of the Manchester Grammar School and chairman of the Manchester Waterworks Committee when it constructed the great Woodhead reservoirs. He unsuccessfully contested Salford when Mr. W. N. Massey was first returned to Parliament for that borough.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.

Professor Goldwin Smith writes to the *Daily News*, under date Oxford, Nov. 27th:—"I am much obliged to you for contradicting the statement of one of your contemporaries that I have thrown up my professorship at Cornell University. Will you permit me to add that the statement which appears to have been made by the same journal, that I have been delivering a series of political lectures or speeches in Canada, is equally baseless."

MR. W. E. FORSTER ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

On Nov. 27th, Mr. Forster was admitted to the freedom of the city of Aberdeen. In acknowledging the honour he spoke at considerable length upon the Eastern question. He said he wished to remove the impression that appeared to have been created by his speech at Bradford, that he gave a general approval to all the Government had done. It was absolutely essential, in order to avoid war, that there should be an agreement between Russia and England. The difficulty in the way of such an agreement arose from an unfounded suspicion of Russia. The greater part of the speech was devoted to a consideration of the arguments which justify Russia in her course, which course Mr. Forster believes is the same that England would take if she was in her position. He thought there was no reason for the distrust of Russia which prevailed in some quarters. The chief difficulty before us now was whether Turkey would give satisfactory guarantees, and it was very unfortunate that Lord Beaconsfield, in speaking of the independence of Turkey, had said nothing of the guarantees that would be required from [illegible]

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... on poor fare, consisting of bread, cheese, and wine. In the afternoon the brigands, knowing that the troops were reposing, made prudent exploring excursions. Mr. Rose never undressed from the time of his capture until released. He was set at liberty near the Sciarra railway station, and the brigands gave him a mantle and cap with a third-class passenger's ticket. It is rumoured that he has paid them 100,000 francs (£4,000) as ransom.

THE VANE TITLE AND ESTATES.

Vice-Chancellor Malins has given judgment in the suit by the uncle to recover the Vane baronetcy and estates from his nephew, the present owner, on the ground that Sir Henry's father was born before marriage. The learned Judge pointed out that there was no evidence to support the claim, which had failed in every respect, and he censured the plaintiff for preferring a claim which involved a charge of the grossest fraud against his parents, brother, and sister-in-law without having armed himself with irresistible evidence.

THE INDIAN CYCLONE.

A telegram in the *Times* of Nov. 27th gives the details of a Minute by Sir R. Temple on the recent cyclone. He says that three storm waves in rapid succession swept over an area of 3,000 square miles, containing a population of 1,062,000, of whom it is believed that at least 215,000 perished. The waves completely covered the islands and penetrated about four miles inland. The people had only a few minutes' warning before the waves, from ten feet to twenty feet high, rushed in about midnight. They began to subside about two in the morning, but the survivors were unable to leave the trees, where they had taken refuge, until noon. Some villages lost seventy per cent. of their inhabitants. Dowlutkar town was entirely destroyed. It is impossible to estimate the loss of cattle. Even the birds were drowned in large numbers. Sir R. Temple says that the crops have suffered much, but he hopes that enough has been saved to prevent distress. The whole country presents a bare and wintry appearance. Robbery and crime prevailed for some days, but order is being rapidly restored. An outbreak of pestilence from the stench of decaying bodies of men and animals is the thing now most feared.

INTEREST ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS.

The City Bank, which was one of the very few banks in London which allowed interest to its customers on current accounts, has issued a notice saying that it is not its intention to do so any longer. This, says the *Economist*, is satisfactory, for one of the present perils of the English money-market is that, owing to the competitions of bankers, too much may be given for money, and that, in order to pay this "too much," such money may be employed in an unsatisfactory manner. No doubt at first sight it appears an anomaly that it should not be possible to give as much for money in London, where there are so many opportunities for employing money, as it is found possible to give in many parts of the country where the opportunities of employment are fewer and less productive. But the reason is that, owing to the peculiar construction of the English money-market, the London bankers have to keep a much larger reserve of unproductive money than country bankers have. We know from the returns laid before Parliament that for the three weeks of last year nearest the present time the London bankers' balances at the Bank of England were—November 17, £9,968,000; November 24, £9,970,000; December 1, £10,269,000; and though these balances are by no means large, if we consider what the liabilities of London bankers to the public are, yet they are very much larger than any which country bankers keep. Such bankers have very larger investments in Consols and other convertible securities, and have large deposits at the bill-brokers; but of actual cash, yielding no interest over and above what is necessary for the till, they have very little; and, therefore, it is not possible for London bankers to give as much for money as some country ones, because they are obliged to keep reserved so much more of it. We see at a glance how impossible it would be for the Bank of England to keep the reserve they do, or indeed any sort of reserve, which would be in the least enough to support our credit, if they gave interest on current accounts; if they did so, they would scarcely pay a dividend at all. The same difficulty presses on the other London bankers, though not, of course, in the same degree, because none of them keep anything like as large an unprofitable reserve as the Bank of England, though they keep much more than the country bankers.

A LETTER FROM MR. BRIGHT.

The following letter has been received in Bristol by Mr. W. H. Godfrey, who, acting for a number of Liberal workingmen, had written to the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., asking his opinion whether it would be patriotic on their part to engage in a demonstration on behalf of the Christian population of Turkey:—

ROCHDALE, Nov. 20.

DEAR SIR,—You need not fear being unpatriotic in objecting to war for Turkey or against Russia on account of Turkey. I advise you to protest against war in connection with this Eastern Question, and in any interference on the part of England to urge that we support the propositions offered by Russia as the best that can be done for the Christian population of the Turkish Provinces in Europe. You should condemn this foolish and wicked jealousy of Russia, which springs from ignorance among our people, and is fostered by writers in the press. It suits those who live out of the £25,000,000 spent annually, and for the most part wasted on our monstrous armaments, to keep up this feeling, and the influential among them are constantly acting upon the proprietors, editors, and writers of the London newspapers. Workingmen everywhere should resist this feeling and influence; it is their blood which is shed in war; the destruction of capital and the injury to industry and trade fall upon them with crushing weight. But for the wicked wars of past times, which now we all must admit to have been wicked, the working classes of this country might have been as surrounded by the comforts of home and blessed with education as are the families of what is termed the middle class in our English society. In every city and town the workingmen should denounce the idea of this threatened war, and they should condemn the Minister whose loose and reckless tongue makes peace more difficult to secure. I hope Bristol will not be behind other towns in an expression of opinion on this great question. I am, very truly yours,

JNO. BRIGHT.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

A general court of the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay was held on Nov. 29th at the City Terminus Hotel, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M. P., in the chair. The Chairman stated that he had only returned from abroad within the last two days, and he remarked that he made a point of returning from Egypt in order that he might be present at that meeting, because he felt after the kind reception given him and his colleagues in times and on occasions when they had fairly satisfactory reports to present, that he would have been wanting in his duty if he had not made considerable sacrifice to be present when the report was not so satisfactory. The Directors deeply regretted that they had been unable to decide upon an interim dividend. That Company was a trading company, and trade had been depressed now for some time past, which depression was felt in nearly every department of trade. Unfortunately the company had to deal with two depressions of trade, the depression in Canada and also in Europe. There was also a further difficulty, that on the Continent the political difficulties and the menacing aspect of political affairs undoubtedly affected the fur market [illegible]

... private use. It was urged in his behalf that he could not be legally punished for embezzlement, inasmuch as he had done no more than endorse and use cheques payable to himself. The Court of Criminal Appeal, however, has preferred common sense to strict technicality. The Lord Chief Justice said the prisoner did not take the money, but he took a piece of paper to be converted into money; and as this is embezzlement all the world over, Mr. Gale's conviction and sentence for that offence were ordered to stand good.

PERSONS "MISSING."

The agonised folk, says the *Globe*, who are constantly imploring some one or other to "return home and all shall be forgiven" may find some consolation in the last annual report of the metropolitan police. During 1875 no less than 10,609 persons were reported to the police as either lost or missing. In fact, a small *corps d'armée* went astray in the streets of London, with the result, no doubt, of causing their friends the gravest misgivings. These trepidations might have been spared, it seems, in the vast majority of cases. Out of 7,804 missing children and 2,805 adults the police captured 5,225 of the former and 688 of the latter. This still left an alarming balance of 4,696 to be accounted for under both heads, or equivalent to about eight regiments of infantry. We are happy to say that most of these wanderers also eventually turned up at their respective homes, safe in wind and limb. Only seven children and 102 adults remained in the absentee list at the end of the year, while 74 others had committed suicide. It will be seen from these statistics that only a small margin is left for those deeds of darkness to which nervous people generally attribute the mysterious disappearance of their friends. In all probability, a good many of the 102 missing adults had very good reason for keeping out of the way, especially of the police. Then what becomes of the theory, prevalent in some quarters, that kidnapping is a favourite industry with the dangerous classes? Only seven children under ten years of age to be missing, out of the myriads of such infants with which London streets teem! The statement seems almost incredible, and we should greatly question its truth but for the preternatural acuteness of metropolitan children. They possess a curious instinct for finding their way which almost invariably leads them right in the long run, even when they have been tempted miles away from home by the Orphean music of a German band. We trust the figures will have the effect of tranquilizing the minds of some disconsolate wives and parents in the event of the sudden disappearance of husbands and children.

MR. ALBERT GRANT.

As already stated Mr. Albert Grant contemplates turning lawyer and doing his own law. He has been encouraged thereto by the flattering things which were said to him when he conducted his defence in the Lisbon Tramways Company suit. There is no doubt that he showed great forensic skill on that occasion, and it is possible that, financing being no longer the business that it was, at all events for him, he might do better in a wig and gown. But before one can don that costume there are certain stiff examinations to pass. They are so stiff that a great wail of lamentation has arisen from the students who went up last week, and of whom thirty-nine out of sixty-three were plucked. To practise in the English courts it is now necessary to pass severe examinations in Roman Law, the Laws of Real and Personal Property, Common Law, Equity, and Constitutional Law. The latter is alternative to Roman Law. No "pass" in any subject (except Roman Law) is good unless the student has been successful in all the subjects at the same examination. Thus the difficulties of passing are enormously increased; so much so that numbers of students (eighteen at the last examination) shrink from the ordeal at the last moment. Study for the Bar is thus likely to become unpopular. However, Mr. Grant "read up" with such perseverence that he easily passed the preliminary examination. He, then applied for membership of Lincoln's-inn, but the Benchers rejected his application, as it seems they have a perfect right to do, in the case of any candidate whom they consider ineligible. Mr. Albert Grant has surmounted too many difficulties to be baulked by this refusal, and he carried his application to the Middle Temple, but there again the Benchers preferred his room to his company, and he was blackballed at the ballot. It is said he has [illegible]

... made a third application, and this time to Mr. Kenealy's old associates at Gray's-inn. The answer of that society has yet to be given.

MR. JOHN WALTER, M.P., IN THE STATES.

The London correspondent of the *Birmingham Gazette* writes:—"Mr. Walter, of the *Times*, has returned to England with very pleasant impressions of the United States. He told one of the people who interviewed him, that the Centennial was the best Exhibition which had been held. He was amazed at the generosity of the railway companies in carrying him everywhere gratuitously, and at the infatuation of the country, which, after having by its Exhibition called all the world to compete with it, still maintained protective duties. He had admirable opportunities of witnessing the contest for the Presidency, and came to the conclusion that it cost more to make a President than to keep a Prince. Some one was bold enough to ask him if he had seen many rivals of the *Times*, to which he replied by a smile and a shake of the head."

SINGULAR SLANDER CASE.

A strange action for slander has been tried in the Irish Court of Queen's Bench. The plaintiff, a Mr. Dooley, had formerly been in the Excise, but left it. He was afterwards in the London police force, but was dismissed for "some trifling neglect of duty," as his counsel stated. He then entered the service of Messrs. De La Rue, but left that "through slackness of business," and now he is in no employment, but resides with his mother in Queen's County. Lately, in the parish chapel of Kinelty, in that county, the plaintiff and the defendant, a man named Hackett, sat near each other. The preacher was declaiming against vice, and every time he uttered the words "housebreakers, rogues, and robbers," the defendant turned up his eyes, "clasped" his hands, and then shook his hands sadly at the plaintiff, muttering in an under tone, "There is one," or words to that effect, by which means the attention of a large part of the congregation became fixed upon the unfortunate plaintiff. Some further slanderous language to the same effect was subsequently used outside the chapel. The jury awarded the plaintiff £40.

DR. SLADE.

The trial of Dr. Slade will come on during the third week of January. Serjeant Ballantine, who is likely to increase his practice by the promotion of his old rival, Mr. Hawkins, to the Bench, will probably defend the "doctor," and, as his fee will be heavy, appeals are being made to Spiritualists generally for funds to meet the cost of the trial. Over £300 has been raised, including £40 from that classic land of the Spiritualists, the United States. It is reckoned that at least £500 will be required to carry the case through. But Dr. Slade is making so much money by his *séances* that he ought to have no difficulty in finding the balance.

SENTENCE OF DEATH.

At the Norwich Assizes, Mr. Justice Lush passed sentence of death on Robert Browning, 25, tailor, found guilty of the murder of Emma Rolfe, 16. The prisoner, who had been discharged from the army for bad conduct, was in the company of the deceased on Cambridge Common about nine o'clock on the night of the 24th August. Shrieks were heard from the girl. Prisoner went into a public house, and was seen to be greatly agitated. Going out he met a policeman, to whom he said he had murdered a woman, and he took the constable to the spot where the body lay, with the throat cut. Prisoner said he did it because the girl stole a shilling from him. He felt tempted to do it. He added, "Poor thing, I hope she is in heaven. She had no time to repent." A razor wet with blood was found on the prisoner. The defence was that the prisoner was seized by an uncontrollable impulse—a sort of insanity. The Judge said there was nothing in the prisoner's conduct to show insanity. The sentence will be carried out at Cambridge. The Judge told the prisoner he must not hope that the jury's recommendation to mercy would have any effect.

MAHOMETAN FANATICISM.

A recent number of the Pesth *Naplo* announced the equipment of an army of 50,000 Mahometans in British India. As to the feeling which prevails among the Mahometan subjects of Queen Victoria relative to the Eastern embroglio, a correspondent of the London *Times* observes:—"It does not seem to be so known as it ought to be that the Queen has more Mahometan subjects than any other ruler in the world. There are 41,000,000 under direct British administration in India, and the feudatory states contain several millions more. They are a military race; the finest men and best soldiers in our Sepoy army are men of that creed, and led by English officers to fight 'for their faith,' would fight like Turks indeed, and prove themselves a match for Russian troops. There is no point on which they are so sensitive as their religion, and they look on the Sultan of Turkey much in the same light as the Roman Catholics look upon the Pope of Rome, and, I believe, would rise as one man and fight to the bitter end when once it was made known to them that they were fighting for their common faith."

NEWSPAPER GOSSIP.

A statement has been made in two or three quarters that the *Echo* is going to change hands again. Mr. Passmore Edwards strenuously denies this in to-day's issue. It is stated that the High Church daily paper, the *Express*, will appear next year, but this statement will probably be denied. We are to have a new comic next month, in addition to Mr. Labouchere's new paper *Truth*; and in March will appear another magazine, called *Israel's Watchman*, and edited by Dr. Edersheim. The proprietors of the *Times* are about to issue weekly a digest of news and comment at the price of one penny. The first number will appear on the 5th January next.

THE FIJI ISLANDS.

The latest British acquisition does not seem to be a very satisfactory investment. The Fijian Budget for the current year estimates the expenditure at £71,381 and the revenue at £40,400, "which revenue," says [illegible]

... tended to encourage qualified native students to complete their studies in England. This project is not only a useful compliment to India, but it is a felicitous method of perpetuating the memory of the Prince's visit.

A Hyde druggist has been fined for selling adulterated milk of sulphur. The article contained only 39 per cent. of milk of sulphur, the remainder of the bulk being a substance identical in its constituent parts with plaster of Paris. Dr. Newton, who presided on the bench, said that this drug was given by mothers to their children, and if a dose of the mixture before the court were given to a child the probable result would be inflammation of the bowels, and even death.

A correspondent writes that the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, in his second prayer on Sunday morning, thus expressed himself:—"And, oh God, give our Senators wisdom, especially at this critical time. Let not the extraordinary folly of our rulers lead our country into war, and change our rulers, oh God, as soon as possible."

Sir W. Vernon Harcourt induced the Dean of Westminster to allow his marriage to take place in that rarely used portion of the Abbey known as Henry the Seventh's Chapel.

At the Cambridge Police Court, Edmund Cross, a solicitor's clerk, was ordered to be imprisoned for a day and pay the costs, for having, at a recent municipal contest at Cambridge, contravened the Ballot Act by informing a candidate that a certain elector had not voted.

Of forty-three persons who died from small-pox in London in one week, nine were certified to have been vaccinated, twenty as unvaccinated, and in fourteen cases the medical certificates did not furnish any information.

TORONTO ITEMS.

The Toronto Police are to have a new shaped helmet for the summer.

The City Engineer has reported favourably on the York street pavement.

A new street railway is talked of for Toronto. The City Council has approved of the scheme.

The York Court of Quarter Sessions opened on Tuesday, Judge Mackenzie presiding. The docket is very long.

Mr. J. Gillespie has been appointed a trustee, on behalf of the citizens, of the General Hospital Fund.

The Caledonian Curling Club held their annual meeting on Friday, and made arrangements for the coming season.

A handsome oil painting of Chief Justice Harrison has been hung on the wall near the entrance to the Court of Queen's Bench in Osgoode Hall.

The Yorkville Village Council has agreed to the proposition to forward a petition to the Legislature, praying for the abolition of tax exemptions.

Mrs. Livermore, the American lady lecturer, appeared at Shaftesbury Hall under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. on Monday. The lecture, "Superfluous Women," was highly appreciated.

Instead of a gift of $400, the York Pioneers are going to make a loan of $700, without interest, towards the building of the Canadian Institute, in return for which the Pioneers are to obtain the use of a room for meetings, and another for the storage of memorials.

In consequence of the great Brooklyn theatre fire, the Toronto City Council has instructed the City Commissioner to inspect the different theatres and places of public amusement in the city, with a view to seeing that there are proper means of exit in case of fire.

In consequence of the large quantity of goods sent from Ontario for the Australian Exhibition, it was found necessary to despatch another vessel. The barque Escort was chartered, and she was to leave New York on the 13th inst. The display of carriages and furniture will far eclipse that made by Canada at Philadelphia.

It has been decided to change the year for holding the proposed Canadian International Exhibition from 1878 to 1879, in view of the French Exhibition having been arranged for the former year. A meeting of Mayors, Wardens, Presidents of Boards of Trade, and manufacturers is to be held in Toronto some time in January, to consider the matter of arrangements.

The members of the Carlton Cricket Club held their annual dinner at the Rossin House last Friday night. A sumptuous dinner was provided, to which ample justice was done. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, Mr. Coen, the captain, replied to the toast "The Carlton Cricket Club." After thanking the second eleven for their support, he presented them with a cup, to be given to the best batsman for the season of 1877.

The annual meeting of the supporters of the Toronto Dispensary was held last Friday. Dr. Wright read the report, which noted the steadily increasing usefulness of the Institution. It had ministered to the wants of some 9,000 patients and had only received $400—the City Council grant. During the year some 300 or 400 persons had been regularly visited at their homes by the medical officers of the Institution, who kindly gave their services gratis. The report pointed out the necessity for increasing facilities for carrying on the work, which could only be furnished by liberal subscription from the public. The report was adopted, and a vote of thanks was given to the ladies who manage the charity.

A mass meeting, under the auspices of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, was held last week in the St. Lawrence Hall, for the purpose of expressing views opposed to Prohibition. Hon. Frank Smith occupied the chair. Mr. James Fahey made a lengthy speech against Prohibition, in which he argued that it would interfere with the rights of the people. Several other speakers followed, among whom were Rev. E. H. Dewart and others, who favoured Prohibition, after which a resolution was carried to the effect that the meeting, while in favour [illegible]

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