

DOMINION DESPATCHS

Twelve Hundred Excursionists Carried Free Into Winnipeg for Christmas Shopping.

Breach of Promise Verdict Proves Costly to the Lady-Ontario Judge Resigning.

Special to the Colonist.

ELECTION PROTESTS DISMISSED

Toronto, Dec. 23.—The West York election protest was dismissed this morning by Judge Macdowell in the Court of Common Pleas. The petitioners in the North York and Ottawa cases were also dismissed.

NEW JUDGE.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—It is announced, not officially but pretty definitely, that Justice Robertson is about to retire from the bench, and that the vacancy will be filled at once by the appointment of William Lount, Q. C., of Toronto. Justice Robertson has held his present office for about 15 years. He lives in Hamilton, for which city he was a representative in the Dominion parliament.

A VACANT OFFICE.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—There are numerous applications for the position of registrar of the court of appeals, made vacant by the death of Charles Grant. Among the applicants are Thomas Langton, solicitor-at-law; Sir Oliver Mowat, J. A. McAndrew, T. T. Rolph, John Bruce, William Keefe, S. G. Wood and others. The place is worth \$2,000 a year.

GASPIESIA FLOATS OFF.

Halifax, Dec. 23.—The steamer Gaspesia, which ran on a rock off Rich Point, St. Peter's Bay, N.S., yesterday morning, came off without accident and arrived last evening at Charlottetown, where she is now loading for Liverpool.

BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

Woodstock, Dec. 23.—Chief Justice Meredith has dismissed with costs the action of Miss Edith Macdowell against Almyer, against Henry McFarlane and his mother, of Tilsonburg. Miss Macdowell got a \$50 verdict against McFarlane for breach of promise, but could not realize on it, McFarlane having died his property to his mother, who formerly owned it.

KEPT DEAD MAN'S MONEY.

Bellefleur, Dec. 23.—Hugh Brown, the man who found the money lost from the body of William Lunness, of Toronto, at the Murray Hotel, on the 11th, yesterday morning, came off without accident and arrived last evening at Charlottetown, where she is now loading for Liverpool.

MR. COLEMAN ASSISTANT.

Winnipeg, Dec. 23.—R. A. Corbett left today for Vancouver to assume the position of assistant to Mr. E. J. Coyne, C. P. R. district superintendent. Mr. Corbett has spent a couple of weeks in the city recuperating after a long illness.

SHOPPING EXCURSION.

Winnipeg, Dec. 23.—Over 1,200 excursionists from the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific railways, in celebration of the opening of the new Belmont-Hartney branch of that road.

TEN THOUSAND REWARD.

Winnipeg, Dec. 23.—J. C. McEneaney, chief of Winnipeg police, is offering a reward of \$10,000 for the arrest of the guilty party or parties and recovery of the money stolen from the Winnipeg branch of Molson's Bank.

A MAN KIDNAPPED.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—Three masked men kidnaped William Morrison from his home at Mile End, by representing themselves as detectives. Since yesterday he has not been heard of. There is no clue.

TELEGRAPHERS TO ARBITRATE.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—All danger of a strike of telegraphers on the Grand Trunk has been averted. Arbitration will be adopted to settle the differences between the management and the telegraphers. It is understood that each side will appoint a representative, and these will meet at Toronto on January 6 to choose a third and proceed to business.

SCHOONER GIVEN UP.

Eight More Lives Added to Roll of Victims of November Storms.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 23.—The underwriters have given up as lost the three-masted schooner Howard H. Hanson, formerly of this city, which was wrecked in the November blizzard, and that the eight members of her crew were lost. She was bound from Philadelphia to Providence.

GAS INTERESTS CONSOLIDATED.

Pittsburg Combination Representing Capital of Twenty-Six Million.

New York, Dec. 23.—It is announced today that consolidation of the local gas, light and heating companies of Pittsburg, Pa., has been successfully accomplished. The combination was managed by Brown Bros., bankers, of this city. The capital invested is \$26,000,000.

ITALY AND THE CHURCH.

The Pope Says Outlook For New Year Is Not Encouraging.

Rome, Dec. 23.—The Pope today, at the reception of the cardinals and other prelates, appeared to be in excellent health. Replying to their congratulations, he referred to the "Blighter events of 1898" and said it was high time the governments of Europe united to stop the "unheard of outrages and exterminations." But, the Pontiff added, this could not be expected until the fear of God, the basis of all morality, shall be revived in the conscience of the people and the principle of the organization of states.

In regard to the present position of the church in Italy, the Pope pointed out that the symptoms were not reassuring for the new year. He added that the conditions imposed upon the head of the church in violation of his

NEWS OF THE CAPITAL.

Knighthood Offered to Postmaster General Upon Inauguration of Imperial Penny Postage.

Washington Business Must Wind Up Within a Month—Session Early in March.

From Our Own Correspondent.

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—The postmaster-general's proclamation in regard to imperial penny postage, which goes into effect Sunday, will be out tomorrow. It is on the same lines as one issued some months ago, commencing, "I, William Mulock," but which had to be withdrawn, owing to pressure from the home government. It is reported that tomorrow the Governor-General will convey to Mr. Mulock the signification of Her Majesty's desire that he should accept a K. C. M. G., although it is just possible that the conferring of the honor may be deferred until New Year's Day.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY HAS CONVEYED TO THE DEPARTMENT THE REVISED OFFICIAL LIST OF COUNTRIES TO WHICH THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY. IT IS AS FOLLOWS: UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN; BRITISH INDIA, NEOFUNDLAND, NANTU, JAMAICA, BERMUDA, BARBADOES, BAHAMA ISLANDS, BRITISH GUIANA, BRITISH HONDURAS, BRITISH WEST AFRICA, NIGER COAST, PROTECTORATE, NIGER COMPANY'S TERRITORIES, UGANDA, ADEN, ASCENSION, SARAWAK, MALAY STATES, JOHORE, BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

A MEETING OF THE CABINET WAS HELD TODAY, AT WHICH WASHINGTON CONFERENCE MATTERS WERE AGAIN UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE MINISTERS CONFIRMED THE REPORT TELEGRAPHED THAT LORD HERSHELL MUST LEAVE FOR ENGLAND ON JANUARY 23, HENCE THE COMMISSION MUST CONCLUDE ITS WORK BY JANUARY 21. THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE WILL THEN AT ONCE LEAVE FOR OTTAWA AND COMMENCE PREPARATION FOR THE SESSION, WHICH UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES CANNOT OPEN BEFORE MARCH 9. IT IS EXPECTED THAT PARLIAMENT WILL BE CALLED TOGETHER FOR THAT DATE. THE MINISTERIAL PROGRAMME WILL BE VERY LIGHT.

TELEGRAPHERS' DEMANDS.

Substance of Proposition Now Before Grand Trunk Management.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—The demands of the G.T.R. telegraphers, as submitted by Grand Chief Powell to General Manager Hays, included the following clauses:

1. When a telegrapher is suspended or discharged for alleged fault, he shall have a fair and impartial trial, and the division will be advised within five days after the filing of the charges, which shall be held in a proper official building. If suspended for investigation, such investigation will be held and the decision advised within five days of the filing of the charges. If blameless in the case under investigation, he will be paid at the regular rate for the period of suspension. If it is determined more than five days are required for an investigation at company's instance he will be paid for extra time in excess of five days at the regular rate. If guilty or not, if the decision rendered is considered to be unjust, an appeal may be made in writing to the general superintendent through the local board of adjustment.

2. Right of promotion of telegraphers will extend to all telegraphers, and vision and ability will be governed by merit and ability. This being equal, the telegrapher longest in the division will have the first claim. In the event of a promotion in telegraphers employed, senior telegraphers on their respective superiors' conduct will be retained in the division in preference to telegraphers junior to them. Telegraphers will have the exclusive right to any position incorporated in the attached wage schedule.

3. Minimum monthly salary will be as follows: Telegraphers not dwelling, and not light, telegraphers with dwelling, fuel and light, \$85; first trick despatchers, \$95; second trick despatchers, \$90; third trick despatchers, \$85; stringers, \$80; and messengers, \$75 (expenses). Terms of agreement are binding on each party subject to 60 days' notice of change.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—The negotiations between the Grand Trunk and the railway operators have been cut off and serious developments are expected by to-morrow.

TESTING ANDREWS' GEAR.

Balloons Try His Steering Device in a Trip Across the Channel.

New York, Dec. 23.—A special London cable despatch to the Times says: The Chronicle will publish this morning an account from its correspondent sent on a balloon trip across the channel, showing that Andrews' steering gear was tested with perfect success.

The sail used was 18 feet square, instead of the 12 feet one used in land experiments. The aeronauts took the course when the two hundred feet of trail rope was in the water, and found they had deflected three points, or about double that obtained on land in Essex several weeks ago. This was not surprising, for the frictional resistance of the trailing rope in the water was immense.

Another test gave the same result, but this time the balloon descended within two feet of the water. To keep the balloon at an even altitude was a task of the greatest difficulty, and owing to the cold air in the water, the heated gas cooled with lightning rapidity, demanding a constant expenditure of ballast to prevent it falling into the sea.

The balloon again rose 2,000 feet, but dropped behind a thick cloud. The sudden eclipse caused a rapid descent, and in a few minutes the balloon touched the ocean. The water was cold, and it was an exciting moment for the aeronauts, their gum boots being filled with water.

Percival Spencer, the famous aeronaut in charge, promptly threw out ballast and saved himself from immersion. The balloon rose 3,000 feet, after clearing the French cliffs and landed safely amid some Norman peasants four miles east of Havre, having in the trip covered 150 miles, of which 100 miles were over the sea.

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TIRRED OF POLITICAL STRIFE.

Spanish Public Men Agree That a New Election Is Not Desirable.

London, Dec. 23.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard says: Most of the liberal leaders whom Senor Sagasta has consulted strongly oppose a dissolution of the cortes on the ground that it would be imprudent to plunge the country into an electoral agitation under existing conditions. Senor Montero Rios and others urge that every effort be made to re-unite the liberal party. Apparently Senor Canalejas is not inclined to be reticent and there are better hopes of a full reconciliation.

CUBAN JUNTA DISSOLVED.

No Reason for Its Existence Since Spain Has Been Driven From the Island.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The Cuban junta in America has dissolved, as the reason for its existence, the freeing of the island of Cuba from the bondage of Spain has ceased to exist with the final signing of the peace treaty. The formal dissolution of the organization was marked by the issuing of a statement by the junta to its members and friends, in which it is stated that the organization is a very long one, going into the detail of the organization of the body, its history, etc.

FIFTEEN GOOD ROUNDS.

Boston Pugilist Makes Game Exhibition Against Englishman at Birmingham.

Birmingham, Dec. 22.—At the Olympic club this evening, Mike Sears of Boston, Mass., was defeated by Wright, of England, in the fifteen round after one of the greatest fights seen here in a long time.

SAVED BY A MATCH.

With It a Fire Was Started That Condensed Sea Water for Thirsting Sailors.

New York, Dec. 16.—When Captain Samuel Shackford, superintendent of the American line, heard through the steamship Italia that his brother, Captain E. Wallace Shackford, and his crew of the wrecked schooner Johanna Swan were safe on the bark Anna approaching this port he started out to sea on the tug R. J. Barrett and met the Anna seven miles east of Fire Island lightship yesterday. Captain E. Wallace Shackford was the mate, E. Cameron, told the story of the Johanna Swan's wrecking, and how he and his crew were saved.

By Thursday, December 16, the men were suffering terribly for water. Mate Cameron said that he was going to start a fire if he could build a fire. I can't use salt," said able seaman Bernard Lightheim.

So they spread sheets of copper on top of the deck-house, poured sea water into the captain's fresh water tank, ran a rubber hose from the top of the tank into a tin bucket, and a braided lead line from a copper sheet. Mate Cameron started a fire with the only match Captain Shackford had, and sent the water into a tin bucket, and a braided lead line from a copper sheet. Mate Cameron started a fire with the only match Captain Shackford had, and sent the water into a tin bucket, and a braided lead line from a copper sheet.

On Friday, December 2, the German bark Anna, Captain Woege, from Bremen for this port, saved all hands, and the wrecked Johanna Swan was set ashore.

BOY SHOT A SHERIFF.

The Officer Was Executing Process of Foreclosure on Family Homestead.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Thomas Crosby, the thirteen-year-old son of Mrs. Margaret Crosby, a wealthy widow living in Edgewater, a suburb of Chicago, shot and instantly killed Deputy Sheriff Frank Nye to-day while Nye was attempting to serve a writ of restitution. The boy was based on a mortgage of \$20,000, which had been foreclosed on the Cross family homestead. The officer was warned by the boy not to enter the house. The boy said he had been instructed to shoot anyone who attempted to enter.

ROASTED ON THE WIRES.

Horrible Death of a Lineman in the Heart of Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Among a network of wires that fell above the ground, Roderick Chisholm, an electrician, was slowly burned to death in sight of several hundred onlookers. The accident occurred at Fifty-fifth and State streets. For nearly ten minutes the horror-stricken crowd watched the workman in the frantic efforts to release the comrade from among the wires.

Chisholm was employed by the Commonwealth Edison company, and was a member of other men was stringing wires along State street. While at the top of the pole it is supposed he grasped a live wire, half a dozen feet above the wires apparently lifeless.

Ladders were secured, and after considerable efforts and not until late in the afternoon were the rescuers, Chisholm was gotten to the street.

When you are nervous and sleepless take Hood's Sarsaparilla. It makes the nerves strong and gives refreshing sleep.

CONTROL IN NICARAGUA

Great Britain Prepared to Abandon Claim to Joint Control of the Canal.

Treaty to That Effect in Prospect—Congress Will Soon Authorize Construction.

London, Dec. 23.—There seems to be little doubt that Great Britain will agree to abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, if the United States will give its opinion, which largely influences the government's policy, points to such action, though no definite understanding with the United States has yet been reached.

Great Britain desires that the Nicaragua canal be constructed, and is willing that the United States should control it, if the United States will guarantee its neutrality and safeguard its British interests. The reports from Washington that the British ambassador there has been instructed to negotiate for the abrogation of the treaty is incorrect, though it is likely he will soon receive instructions to arrange a basis of action.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The state department originally did not contemplate a formal opening of negotiations to secure the desired amendment of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty till congress should make some progress at least towards the enactment of the Nicaragua canal bill, the department wishing not to be placed in the false position of negotiating for an object which congress might not be prepared to accept.

After the experience they had with the general arbitration treaty there is no particularly strong disinclination to be again in this attitude. However, now that the matter has been brought into such prominence the negotiations may be opened at an earlier date than was originally contemplated, though it may be taken for granted that the streets are no longer used as sewers, and the unhappy individual who violates the law and comes under the lash of the sanitary commissioner's whip is compelled to work on the streets for thirty days. This official, Major Harbour, with 125 men dressed in military white, and 32 mule teams and carts, have dug out from the streets of Santiago the filth of ages, is now able to keep the streets absolutely clean. Every day the garbage of the city is burned. The work is not confined to the streets, but extends to the dwelling-houses, shops and buildings of all kinds.

Eminently respectable citizens were forcibly brought before the commanding general and sentenced to do it in cleaning the streets they were in the habit of defiling. The campaign has ended in complete surrender to the sanitary commissioner, and the inhabitants of Santiago, regardless of class, have had their first object lesson in the new order of things inaugurated by the war.

London, Dec. 22.—The Havana correspondent of the Times, in the course of a letter published this morning, says: "President McKinley will have an unfettered hand here. A majority of the Spanish residents are so contented with any regime treating them justly and ensuring the tranquility of the island, that instructions have been received by Sir Julian and communicated to Secretary Hay."

London, Dec. 24.—The question of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty is freely discussed in the morning papers. The Daily News and Daily Chronicle publish editorials asserting that Lord Salisbury ought to get some concession in return for consenting to its abrogation. The Daily Chronicle points out that the canal would make the United States a great naval power in the Far East, increase America's strength in the Atlantic, and to England's disadvantage the carrying trade to the Far East.

The committee appointed to complete the details and, with the Bishop of New Westminster's consent, to make application to the provincial house of the formal formation of the diocese of Kootenay, with the 120th meridian as the Western and the Rockies to Mount Hood as the Eastern boundary, met Thursday in Nelson to consider the Coast section of the committee's report, with the Archdeacon of Columbia as chairman of the joint committee, says the Nelson Miner.

The report was adopted with a few alterations and agreed to, so that all that is now needed is the Bishop's consent to complete what is a most unique proof of the importance of the mining districts of British Columbia. This report may be looked upon now as attained, and the appointment of the regular officials will, no doubt, be made early in the spring.

The necessary provision being made, and in the Kootenays it will not be long before the new diocese will be in charge of the Bishop of New Westminster, who will thus be Bishop of New Westminster and Kootenay.

Pain from indigestion, dyspepsia, and too hearty eating, is relieved only by taking one of Carter's Little Liver Pills immediately after dinner. Don't forget his arrival she had died.

CHRISTMAS AT HAND.

Canadian Society in New York Dine and Banquet in Regular Form.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Canadian Society of New York held its second annual Christmas-tide dinner at the Marlborough house to-night. About two hundred Canadian residents of this city were present. After a general reception in one of the parlors came a typical English Christmas dinner in the banquet hall.

Exec. Sanborn, consul-general for Great Britain, and Dr. Wm. Henry Drummond, of Montreal, were the guests of honor, whose names were followed by the singing of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." "The Queen" was also drunk in silence, standing, after which "God Save the Queen" was sung. "The Governor-General of Canada" was toasted with "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

SPIRIT WRESTLERS SAIL.

Russian Colonists for Canadian Northwest at Last on Their Way.

Montreal, Dec. 21.—The Beaver line steamship Lake Huron, which has just sailed for St. John, N.B., from the Russian port of Batoum, has on board 1,822 persons, comprising the first party of Donkubors, who are going to settle in the Canadian Northwest.

In charge of the party is Count Zerge Tolstoy, son of the idealist and author, Mr. Soudersky, whose name is now familiar in connection with the movement, will conduct a party on the next steamship, the Lake Superior.

The party of Donkubors will proceed directly from St. John to Winnipeg, where arrangements have been made to look after their comfort for the rest of the journey. They will not be allotted lands until the spring.

WILL ENROL INSURGENTS.

Philippine and Cuban Natives to Have Place in Enlarged American Army.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Philippine insurgents and Cuban patriots will all be given an opportunity to enlist in the service of Uncle Sam.

Aguinaldo's followers, as well as Cubans, are to get a share in the \$3,000,000 appropriated in the urgency deficiency bill as a substantial recognition of the services rendered in the late war.

If the President is given authority to increase the standing army, insurgents will be accepted as recruits. This is believed by the administration to be a complete solution of what for a time seemed a vexing problem.

THE DREYFUSS DOSSIER.

London, Dec. 22.—The Paris correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The government has decided to hand the Dreyfus secret dossier to the court of cassation. It will also be communicated to Madame Dreyfus and to M. Morard, counsel for Dreyfus."

CHILIAN PAPER MONEY.

London, Dec. 22.—According to a despatch to the Times from Santiago de Chile the reorganization of the Chilean cabinet under Senor Carlos Walker Martinez entirely eliminates the party which advocates paper currency.

SCHOOL CLOSED AT METHUEN.

Interesting Exercises in Which the Scholars Have Benefited.

Among the many pleasant events which have transpired at Methuen recently the school examinations must certainly be ranked. On Friday, the 16th instant, a number of parents and friends of the district assembled at the school house to honor the closing exercises of the school, and listen to the recitations, etc. The teacher, Miss M. Y. Robinson, capably exercised and questioned the pupils in various subjects of school work, and the ready answers showed the thorough acquaintance of the pupils with the subjects taught. The expertness and cleverness of the senior class at the black board rivaled the work of teachers.

Another element of interest was the presentation of a special prize in Canadian history, given by Mrs. (Dr.) Watt, of the quarantine station, William Head. The prize consisted of two nice volumes. In the competition, which was very closely contested, the prize was carried off by Miss Annie Duke. Then to each pupil a note book was given as a souvenir of the happy Christmas season, and after some very appropriate remarks by Rev. W. H. G. Elliott, the event closed with the singing of "God Save the Queen."

A CHINESE CHRISTMAS.

Methodist Mission Church on Fisguard Street the Scene of a Pleasing Entertainment.

A programme given in Chinese, Japanese and English is something rarely heard even in Victoria. It was, however, the attraction at a Christmas entertainment in the little Methodist church on Fisguard street last evening.

The building was ornamented in Oriental fashion within and looked very pretty. A large number of white people were among those present, while on the platform were Miss Churchill and a number of the ministers and 12 or more Chinese converts. During the evening addresses were given by the Chinese. The programme opened with a hymn, followed by a prayer by Rev. Mr. Swainson and the numbers appended: Address by the chairman, Rev. J. C. Speer; a chorus of songs; address in Chinese by Mr. Hall; song, Miss Christine Riley; a part chorus; address in Chinese by Mr. Chan Sing Kai, who is the son of a missionary living in China, was unfortunately absent from last evening's entertainment. A few weeks ago he was notified by letter of his mother's illness and hastened home to see her, but before his arrival she had died.

PLANS COMPLETED FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW DIOCESE.

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ROYAL Baking Powder

Made from pure cream of tartar.

Safeguards the food against alum.

Alum baking powders are the great danger makers to health of the present day.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

CLEANSING SANTIAGO.

Sanitary Commissioner Has Removed from Public Places the Filth of Ages.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Robert P. Porter, special commissioner for the United States to Cuba and Porto Rico, has returned from Santiago and has submitted his report to the secretary of the treasury. The machinery of the military government, Mr. Porter says, is running with a fair degree of smoothness, and the men responsible for it understood their business thoroughly.

The disagreeable smells of the typical Cuban city are less pronounced in Santiago. Wharves, lime water, fresh paint and all sorts of disinfectants have been used to deodorize the atmosphere and made the old town quite habitable. The streets are no longer used as sewers, and the unhappy individual who violates the law and comes under the lash of the sanitary commissioner's whip is compelled to work on the streets for thirty days. This official, Major Harbour, with 125 men dressed in military white, and 32 mule teams and carts, have dug out from the streets of Santiago the filth of ages, is now able to keep the streets absolutely clean. Every day the garbage of the city is burned. The work is not confined to the streets, but extends to the dwelling-houses, shops and buildings of all kinds.

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COAL MAY BE FREE.

Solitary Concession Made to Canadian Commissioners at the Washington Conference.

American Boast That Canadians Have Been No Match for Dingley and Associates.

Expected That Treaty Will Be Formally Drafted Before Close of January.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The next session of the joint Canadian high commission will be held in Ottawa on the 27th of January. Lord Herschell, the British member of the commission, is booked to sail for Europe on the 25th of January. He cannot delay longer in the United States for the reason that he is obliged to attend the opening of the Paris arbitration tribunal on the boundary, being one of the arbitrators.

There are indications that after all, the joint commissioners regard the prospect of reaching an agreement as much brighter than they did just before the adjournment of the session, and the opinion is now held that the preliminary circles that before Lord Herschell's departure a treaty will have been agreed settling all the points in dispute between the two countries and even making some slight progress towards the attainment of reciprocity.

CONCESSION TO CANADIAN COAL. Seattle, Dec. 22.—Under the heading "Washington Coal Trade Threatened—Its Destruction May Be the Price of Reciprocity With Canada," the Post-Intelligencer publishes a despatch signed by its Washington correspondent, Allan B. Sloan, as follows:

"Washington, Dec. 21.—The one concession which the Canadian members of the joint high commission have succeeded in securing at the free trade conference in American ports. This much has been definitely agreed upon, and the treaty which will be drawn up for signature immediately after the holidays will contain this provision. The coal industry of the United States is the vicarious sacrifice for the benefit of the Atlantic fishermen. As this is the solitary concession made to the Canadians, the result of the negotiations is looked upon here as a triumph for American diplomacy, although it is characterized by the Canadians as an exhibition of "Yankee shrewdness."

"Certain it is, however you call it, that the Canadians have been no match for the quiet, clever chairman of the ways and means committee, Dingley, of Maine, and his associates."

"In the matter of the seal fisheries, North Atlantic fisheries and right to construct warships on the great lakes, the United States has secured what it wanted almost to the fullest extent, and gave almost nothing in return."

"Canada hopes to get reciprocity in trade to a large degree. What she will get is a very small measure of this. Free coal is about the only concession the Canadian diplomats can point to with pride, and even in this the balance of trade will be in our favor. Canada will have to give up this nothing in return for a brief, an outline of the treaty to be drawn up by the joint high commission after the holidays."

BURGALAR FOUND DEAD. Probably Shot by a Pal in Mistake for Owner of House.

Quincy, Mass., Dec. 22.—A most peculiar shooting affair occurred early this morning at the winter home of John Shaw in this city, when a robber who had plundered the house, lost his life. The whole affair is mysterious, as the occupants of Mr. Shaw's house declare that they heard no shot, and that they do not know that their home had been entered until the body of the man was found by a servant.

The body lay directly in front of a bay window, which was open. The burglar's coat, hat and shoes were on the piazza, just outside the main door, a new suit, in the pocket of which a gold watch, diamond pin and two pairs of earrings belonged to members of the Shaw family were found. There was a bullet hole in the left breast.

The police are working on the theory that the robber was shot by a pal, who was watching outside and who may have mistaken the robber for the owner of the house.

BARGE HURT'S BATTLESHIP. Massachusetts Struck a Submerged Wreck and Not a Rock as First Supposed.

New York, Dec. 22.—The finding of several long splinters in the edges of the hole in the bottom of the battleship Massachusetts today has set the belief that the ship struck the wreck of a barge which sank off Governor's island several years ago, and that the damage was therefore not caused by her running too close to a reef in low water. The examination of the battleship disclosed three large dints in the port side of the vessel forward. One of the officials told a reporter that the injuries were much more serious than had been anticipated. Three plates, he said, would have to be removed and replaced with new ones.

GEORGE SNELL'S FATE. Provincial Detective Finds No Evidence of Foul Play, and Thinks He Was Drowned.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—(Special)—Inspector Jos. Rogers of the provincial detective force, has been at Ferry Sound investigating the disappearance of Donald Snell, a British subject, who was seen on November 20 and was feared to have met with foul play, his hat and coat being found on a rocky shore near Rose Point, a few miles from Depot Harbor. Rogers reports that there is no ground for suspecting foul play, and it is generally believed that Snell was drowned in an arm of Georgian Bay.

WINNIEP CLEARINGS. Winnipeg, Dec. 22.—The weekly report of the Winnipeg clearing house issued today is as follows: Week ending 22nd December, clearings \$2,418,815; balances, \$483,938. Week ending 15th December, clearings, \$2,141,510; balances, \$400,306.

SUGAR CHAPER. New York, Dec. 22.—The American Sugar Refining Co., to-day announced a reduction in the price of package sugar from 4.15 to 3.60 cents, equal to 1/4 of a cent a pound.

PACIFIC COAST INTERESTS.

President Hill Denies That They Have Passed Into Hands of Great Northern.

Los Angeles, Dec. 22.—The Herald today says: "Positive assurance has been received that the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, with all its accessories and ramifications, has passed into the hands of the Great Northern Railway Company. This brings the Great Northern into the bold and competitive arena for California and British Columbia trade."

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 22.—The report from Los Angeles that the Great Northern had come into possession of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company seems to be unfounded and when the report was presented to President Hill today by the Associated Press representative Mr. Hill said it was news to him. Similar statements have been made by others in the office.

BIRD SAVES A TRAIN. Broke Headlight and Caused Engine to Slowly Approach Obstruction.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 22.—The north-bound passenger train on the International and Great Northern railroad escaped a serious wreck forty miles below here through the intervention of a bird, whose misdeeds had tied a rail secure across the track, and prevented it from reaching the spot a bird, blinded by the headlight, flew against the glass, breaking it and extinguishing the light. This necessitated running slowly to the next station. The train proceeding at reduced speed struck the obstruction, tearing up the track and damaging the front of the engine but no one was injured.

THE ANARCHIST PROBLEM. Conference at Rome Winds Up Without a Formal Convention.

Rome, Dec. 21.—The anti-anarchist conference which has been in session for some weeks under the presidency of the minister Canevaro, Italian minister of foreign affairs, closed its sittings today. The delegates appended their signatures to a protocol, it is understood, that number of practical resolutions were adopted, but the proceedings have not resulted in a convention binding the states participating.

NEWS OF THE CAPITAL. Minister of Justice Claims Province Has No Right to Prescribe Judges' Qualifications.

Postage Within Canada Not to be Reduced—Elaborate Returns of Trade.

From Our Own Correspondent. Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Mr. Wm. Mackenzie-Kennedy, minister of finance, today announced that the government has decided to reduce the domestic letter rate to two cents, but nothing will be said about reducing the international letter rate to two cents.

Hon. David Mills considers that the British Columbia statute which provides that anyone appointed to the judiciary must have been a member of the provincial bar for ten years is ultra vires of the legislature.

Attas Line Steamer in Danger of Becoming Total Loss. Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 22.—The Atlantic line steamer, Capt. Colebrook, from New York, was wrecked on Plum Point reef at 2 o'clock this morning. Tugs and lighters are endeavoring to float her. The high wind and heavy sea prevailing will probably cause the Andes to be a total loss if the tugs fail to pull her off.

L. E. W. PRESIDENCY. New York, Dec. 22.—It is announced that Mr. George L. Bradley, the present vice-president and general manager of the Lake Shore & Western railroad, will succeed to the presidency of that railroad, vacant by the recent death of Mr. Calvin Bryce.

ALASKAN SEAS STRORY. Steamers Seek Shelter Rather Than Take the Exceptional Risks. Seattle, Dec. 21.—As severe storms as were ever known on those waters have been raging for the last week in the inner passage to Alaska. The steamer Alki, which arrived from Lynn canal yesterday morning, was delayed at Mary Island a day on account of the terrible winds and rough seas, and even then got through with great difficulty, every sea sounding over the pilot house, and all decks being washed.

She arrived at Dixon's entrance Thursday morning, but after proceeding an hour and a half, it was so rough that a consultation of the pilots and officers was held, with the result that the vessel put about to Mary Island. She made the distance, that had taken ninety minutes against the southeast gales, back in less than half an hour. The steamer Alki, which arrived from Lynn canal yesterday morning, was delayed at Mary Island a day on account of the terrible winds and rough seas, and even then got through with great difficulty, every sea sounding over the pilot house, and all decks being washed.

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THE BREAD AVAILANCE.

Further Details of the Latest Catastrophe on the Dread Chilkoot Trail.

The Killed had Camped for a Rest at Most Dangerous Point of Journey.

Seattle, Dec. 21.—Further particulars are now available as to the latest horror added to the list of catastrophes on the Chilkoot pass. While six persons are known to have lost their lives, others are believed to have perished. The known dead are: Mrs. Darling, supposed to have been Mrs. F. H. Darling, wife of the liquor merchant and Seattle where Harry Shaw, who had a hotel on Chilkoot trail, and had a hotel on Crater lake; Bert John, of Juneau, a jeweller of Pendleton, Ore. There were also two young men and another whose names could not be learned.

The snowslide that resulted in the death of these people occurred December 9 at the foot of the summit of Chilkoot pass, on the south end of Crater lake. The bodies were found two days later at a searching party, and were taken to Skagway at once. News of the disaster was brought to Seattle by the steamer Alki, which arrived from Skagway yesterday morning.

At the foot of the summit, the scene of the disaster was a snow and ice slide, considered the most dangerous point on the dread Chilkoot trail. It is the route over the pass, from the north end of the trail, where the bodies were found, to the south end, where the trail crosses the divide of last April occurred, when between fifty and sixty persons lost their lives, from a mile to a mile and a quarter this side of the summit. From there the trail is a steep descent, but beyond that, although the ascent is comparatively safe, the descent is a steep one. The pass down to Crater lake, there is a drop of 535 feet, at an angle of forty-five degrees, that is as perilous as a toboggan slide.

Parties which have followed the Chilkoot route to the lakes in the autumn, and returned to wrap their supplies in tarpaulins and send them sliding down the hill, have followed in much the same manner. The heavy snow has cut and packed paths in the snow that are frequently so deep as to reach to a man's shoulders. The descent of the journey being the most difficult, there is generally a rest made at the foot of the Chilkoot trail, and the base of one of the highest mountains in that vicinity.

It is estimated that the people killed were camped in the direct path of the avalanche that swept them to their doom. There are frequent snow slides in the path, and old men say that it is hazardous to delay there for even a day. The path down from the summit is a steep descent, and the descent is a steep one. The pass down to Crater lake, there is a drop of 535 feet, at an angle of forty-five degrees, that is as perilous as a toboggan slide.

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ALONG THE LINE OF ISLAND RAILWAY.

What other railway line of equal length can be found in either the new or the old world presenting the diversity of attractions offered by our own E. & N.—to the artist, the student of aboriginal life, the typical tourist or the ardent sportsman?

It is not a long line by any means, but 75 miles of steel connecting Victoria and Wellington, the two terminal points, yet weeks will be required by the intelligent observer to exhaust the variety of its attractions.

Forest and lake, towering mountain peak and peaceful valley, mild and mine, tumultuous torrent and field of waving grain—all are gathered within this short strip of 75 miles, and it would seem that Nature in her thoughtfulness had aimed to here present all her multitudinous attractions in panoramic form for the convenience of the visitor, the artist or the lover of sport and the primitive woodland.

The scenery all along the line is bold, grand and impressive, broken not infrequently by some of the most charming bits of landscape that could be imagined. At times the effects are kaleidoscopic, so abrupt are some of the transitions; while other views for long stretches follow in their succession to make one harmonious and wonderful whole.

Starting at Victoria, only a few minutes are required to transport the sight-seer to the shores of Esquimalt harbor—not the village side to which everyone goes with half an hour to spare, but the opposite shore, from which the vessel town, the docks and the warships are seen in the soft light of morning, afternoon or evening as details in a majestic and ever-fascinating picture.

All the way from Esquimalt station to Parson's Bridge are ideal camping spots, of which scores of city folk in the summer take possession, while Langford Plains, a little farther on, presents the perfection of picnicking grounds, with plain and wood, lake and bubbling spring.

Here it is that the Victoria Hunt Club hold their annual tournament, and here the members of the Gun Club gather for their yearly reunion affair, a tribute to the Plains being the favorite resort of British Columbia's best prized game bird, the royal pheasant.

Of Goldstream, the beautiful river near-by resort of the provincial capital, what can be said that artists and men of letters have not told already.

The "stream," with all the beauties of the mountain brook penetrating the primeval forest; the falls, framed in a tracery of luxuriant foliage, giving constant play of light and shade with all manner of fantastic and elfin effects; the electric power station, where the waters

THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

Its Situation Discussed Apropos of an Expedition in Search of It.

W. Marshall Adams in London Times.

Sir—I learn from the press that the distinguished explorer, Major Seton Karr, has just left Aden for Somaliland, in order to discover the precise position of the Garden of Eden, which he places in that locality. And I think, therefore, that it may not be without use if I am allowed to recount the reasons which induced me as long ago as 1890, to indicate, indeed, that very spot, but the immediate joining plateau of Central Africa, as the cradle of the human race described in scripture. As I then pointed out (first in a book now out of print, and afterward incidentally before the Oxford University extension in a lecture on the hieratic alphabet of Egypt), the territory of Egypt was not a district, through which four rivers had their fall course, but essentially a watershed containing a single river and four "heads." And thus it exactly corresponds with the great basin of Central Africa, containing the single river, the Nile, together with heads of the four great rivers—Zambesi, Niger, Nile and Congo—as described by Mr. Stanley in his paper before the Berlin conference.

Again, the garden was not identical with Eden itself, with which it is so frequently confounded, but was situated in the eastern part of it, and thus exactly corresponds with the magnificent "paradise" or park covering 3,000 square miles of the most gloriously beautiful lands in the world, full of all kinds of animal life, which the same author describes as being to the eastward of the central basin.

Among all the innumerable pretenses at identification, in how many are these three simple but absolutely essential features, the single river, the watershed, and the eastward position of the garden, even recognized, far less fulfilled. Nor are the minor characteristics less obviously satisfied. Thus to confine ourselves to two examples. Beyond the Zambesi lies the land of gold where the mines of the highest antiquity are to be found, while the Niger encompasses the whole land of the blacks.

These points may, I think, be of some importance in regard to the present expedition, and of some curiosity also in the light of present events. But the matter would be, comparatively speaking, of little more than academic interest were it not that, if this spot be the true starting point of man, we are enabled to connect it at once with the subsequent history of his never-ending migrations. According to the Scriptural account the parents of our race went forth from Eden toward the east.

A Weird Tale of the Mojave Desert.

You have asked me to write you a story, and if in complying I may relate of things which seem improbable, bear in mind that many happenings take place in everyday life which would appear unaccountable, and of which even I could hardly afford an explanation. I say this because there has come to me through my great grandmother a strain of Zingari blood, and with it that unfathomable and indomitable inclination to roam which has marked the gypsy freeman since he first wandered through Pharaoh's land, before a stone of the pyramids had been laid.

But I inherited more than the roving tastes of my Romany ancestors; for from them has come to me that spirit, shall I call it of presentiment, which warns me of things that are to be. It comes not as a well defined actuality, but rather as a dreamy, whispering voice, depicting to me an outline of the future, leaving it to my inclination and feelings to fill in the details. Were it not that I know that the moment is nearing when I shall leave this world for ever, I would not have related what follows in these pages, and of which nothing before has ever passed my lips, though every word is true.

In 1886 I was ordinary seaman aboard the British ship Hereford, a three-masted schooner of some 1,000 tons, bound with a cargo of coal from Newcastle, N. S. W., to San Francisco, California. It matters not to discuss the voyage, which differed but little from that of the usual run across the Pacific. I was in the port watch, and my shipmate who occupied the bunk beneath mine in the

water tank to make our breakfast of hard tack and cheese, washed down with a hurried drink, we searched around and found a couple of old lard cans which we cleaned out and filled with water for our journey.

Years before the Southern Pacific road was constructed one of the stage lines from Los Angeles to the North had been run across the desert and the old trail still remained, though then used only by an occasional team that chanced this short cut from the Elizabeth Lake district to Mojave. With the pack on his back and carrying each a can of water, we took the trail and started to pierce what seemed to be a sea of sand.

In the cool morning we made good headway, and Pennant seemed suddenly to have been seized with a feverish activity.

"We have a twenty-mile walk ahead of us," he said, "and after that we must reach Elizabeth Lake before nightfall, as there is no water this side of the hills unless we cut back to the old stage house, where there is still a spring along side of the ruins."

He then relapsed into a moody silence, but kept travelling at a far more rapid rate than I gave him the credit of accomplishing. Mile after mile we walked; but travelling through that sandy waste, with nothing to relieve the monotony of the journey but stunted cacti on every side, with here and there an occasional jack rabbit scampering fifty yards to sit on his haunches and gaze in wonder at the trespassers on his domain, with a wearisome job, and the sun had not risen very high over the horizon before I began to suffer from the heat.

Still we kept on, and it must have been ten o'clock before Pennant began to slacken his pace. He seemed to be looking very carefully for some landmark to the left of the trail. We had travelled as nearly as I could reckon twelve or thirteen miles, when Pennant stopped, and I noticed about two hundred yards away a withered cactus stump which from its size was easily to be noticed amongst its dwarfed but living companions.

We turned from the trail, and walked or rather ran towards it, as Pennant in his eagerness fairly broke into a trot.

"There," said Pennant, pointing to the ledge, "is enough gold to make us wealthy men, but we will pack away what we can now and come again with a proper outfit."

We went round to the other side of the hill, and with little dimness made our way to the top of the rock. I then understood the reasons for Pennant's preparatory work.

After driving the marlin spike firmly into a crack in the rock, he made one end of the rope fast to it, and carefully buckling on the leather belt he tied the other end of the rope to it. Taking the hammer and cold chisel in his pocket he proceeded to let himself down hand over hand, from the face of the rock to the ledge. He took with him the gnyssack in which our tools had been packed, and told me when he cried "all ready" to haul up the rock by the rope, and let the sack down for another load.

Several minutes had passed, and I heard the sound of the hammer on the chisel, when there came distinctly to my ears the "all ready" agreed upon.

I commenced to pull up the rope, and to my surprise there seemed to be little or no weight on it, but I heard a sound like a lot of dry bones rattling against the rock.

This was followed instantly by an ear-piercing yell, and a moment later there was a dull and ominous sound below, and rushing to the brink I saw the body of Pennant prostrate on the ground. I rushed down to his assistance, but when I reached him, he was already dead and hurrying back, evidently in great pain, toward the trail.

On his face was a look of livid terror, and not a word would he speak, but clutching my arm, dragged me away. We had covered perhaps two hundred yards, when looking back I saw the body saw, or fancied I saw—for the shimmering air quivering on the hot sand may have deceived my eyes—standing on the ledge a white skeleton, which I took to be the body of Pennant, as he beckoned to us with his fingers to return.

"Stop!" I stopped in amazement, but Pennant broke his silence, muttered, "Come on to my death, Jim said he would follow me to my death, and he will."

We hurried on as fast as we could, but Pennant walked with great difficulty, as he was evidently terribly injured.

Suddenly he began to cough, and with every step the blood would ooze through his lips. A few more paces and he lay down upon the sand.

"It's all over, boy," he said, "my time has come, and I know it. Ten years ago my partner, Jim Elliott, and myself made this same journey. He fell from the ledge and broke his leg. Impelled by avarice and fears for my own safety, I hurried off, knowing that if I stayed with him or tried to help him, I might die of thirst. But as I went he cursed me for a coward, and I still hear the terrible death he breathed that I might meet a similar fate. I am going to help, but stay with me till the end comes. There is some rock in my pocket which you can take. It will give you a start if you ever get out of this hell."

He then began to ramble in his speech and for five minutes he prayed and quoted scripture alternately. Suddenly he rose on his elbow and pointing towards the south, he shrieked: "There he is! There he is!" and with a gasp fell back dead.

I followed the direction of his finger, and all I could see upon the desert waste was a thin column of white sand, edging across the plateau.

I took the rock from his pocket and started back for the desert trail. How both lake and through the canyon to Newhall, and thence out to San Francisco, would take too long to tell. But this I know—that the man who gave me four hundred and seventy-four dollars for my specimens would have paid me a hundred times more to have pointed out to him the place where I got them, but that I would not.

You ask me why not? The Zingari have a proverb—"It is not well for the Romany to go twice over the same trail."

ing me promise by all that I held sacred never to divulge his secret whilst he was alive, he told me that ten years before he had discovered the Mojave desert, a small ledge of gold-bearing rock, so rich that a few pounds of it was all that a man would need to take at a time. I had told him some time previously that I intended to desert the ship as soon as she got alongside, and as he was minded the same way, he proposed that I should accompany him on a trip to the ledge, but owing to his peculiar formation it was a very dangerous and difficult task for one man to secure any amount of the rock.

I laughed at his proposition at first, thinking that his imagination had become disordered by religious brooding, but when I represented to him that neither of us had a cent, that the most we could expect from Captain Ingles was two or three dollars apiece for spending money, and that I did not care for the prospect of journeying 350 miles on that amount of capital, he showed me something that gave a tangible shape to his story and decided me in joining my luck with his.

He took from his pocket a small chamber bag, and out of it he produced a round piece of quartz as big as a pigeon's egg, and without exaggeration it was half gold.

"This," he said, "is the last piece that remains from my first trip. I have kept it to secure the means for another visit, so that some what may, I can go provided with everything necessary. It will be a wearisome journey, as we must beat our way, but the reward will be well worth the trouble."



ALONG THE LINE OF THE E. & N.

V. Y. C. FLEET AT ANCHOR.

of the pretty stream are caught and made to do their part in providing light and street transportation for the city, 12 miles away, before the vessel reaches freedom; the fairland lakes nestling in the shadow of great mountains, and each inviting admiration and exploration; the not far distant placers of the highest river, where Chinese are to be seen washing the gold from the abandoned diggings of the white men; the sharp-shouldered argonauts worked with spade and rocker a quarter of a century ago; and—if Mr. Blair will permit—the quartz mines, which may yet introduce Goldstream to as favorable notice from the money-making world as it now commands from the mountain.

Game birds abound, too, on the mountain sides and in the valleys, while farther in the depths of the forest the deer await the coming of the hunter. It is at the "next station above," however, that the big game seekers most generally leave the train, the Summit being the entry point to the home of the deer, with mountain grouse to fill the game-bag in the interval of waiting for nobler sport.

Shawngnan! The prettiest inland sheet of water in all the wonderful island. Here it is that Hanlan and Stanbury met in court, unanimously pronouncing the course "finest in all the world." Here, too, do all true fish stories originate, for so prominent is the lake with trout, bass and occasional whitefish that it is but waste of energy and weariness of the spirit to invent extravagances. The fishermen visitors have in recent years grown so numerous that they populate a summer town, to which the name of Gilesville has been given, while to meet their wants in the way of transportation facilities to the more distant parts of the lake, the Shawngnan Lake Lumber Co. have supplemented Koenig's rowboat fleet with a fine little steamer that during the season is constantly in demand.

Here, too, the summer cottage flourishes and grows annually more numerous; the summer hotel boarder is to be seen in all his (or her) glory; and the merry tennis ground is seldom to be found deserted.

Nor are the trout the only temptation to the hunter—game birds abound (grouse and pheasants, quail and ducks), while up in the mountains deer and bear await the coming of their conquerors.

Cobbie Hill, Koksilah and Raymond's Crossing—each gives admittance to a splendid shooting and fishing country. Raymond's Crossing being the key to the Jordan Meadows, which has been prize—one of the greatest game preserves in all America.

At Duncan is found quite an English settlement, with any number of splendidly

THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

There is, however, something in a national language. One may imagine the unhappy position of a poet in Switzerland. He is, perhaps, the world's champion in literary achievement; he feels the inner consciousness of it; yet there is the unlucky choice of language. In which does he think? Probably he does not know; yet it makes the whole difference. If he thinks in French and writes in German the literary achievement will certainly not come off. Then, again, a Frenchman writes in French, and has behind him a stimulating history of great poets and great writers gone before. So also a German. But a Swiss—there is no behind him? Really, I do not know. Geneva has produced great divines and scholars—in French. Perhaps other parts of the country have produced poets—in German. So that the position of the young Swiss poet is embarrassing, if not cruel. Again, it must be a great misfortune, if one is born a genius, to belong to a small state such as Denmark or Holland. It is true that there is in both countries a glorious past; the annals of Holland, especially, are perhaps the most heroic in the whole range of history; it makes one angry and ashamed to think that we were ever at war with people of this heroic strain. Yet—consider. With the finest poem, perhaps, that the world has ever seen, what audience has the Dutch poet? Five millions at most. But he can be translated? No, he can not; a poet can never be translated. If, in any future existence, my lot is to be that of a poet, let me belong to a great nation with a world-wide language—our own, for choice.

forecastle, was a man named Henry Pennant. He was a grizzled-looking mariner, and though but fifty-six years of age looked nearer seventy, so much had care lined his countenance. An excellent seaman, and fairly well educated, he was hardly liked by the rest of the crew, for though by no means taciturn, he attended to his own business, and outside of myself, he made no confidant of anyone aboard.

To me, however, he had on several occasions suggested in a half-hearted way that he would have a proposition to make, when we reached San Francisco, which it would be to my advantage to accept, but as he never allowed a Sunday to pass without devoting four hours at least to a well-thumbed edition of the Bible, and as I looked upon him as a semi-religious crank, I paid little attention to what he said.

On the afternoon of September 23, 1886, we sailed through the Golden Gate, the breeze being so favorable that the services of a tug were not required, and by five o'clock we were at anchor in San Francisco bay, with a harbor stow on the Elizabeth, and as I looked upon him as a semi-religious crank, I paid little attention to what he said.

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As soon as we reached it, he examined it, and there, roughly cut, about a foot from the top, was a cross, with a rude S underneath it. Taking small compass from his pocket, he took our bearings and after drinking what water remained in our cans, we threw them aside and started due south into the desert.

It is a very common fallacy to suppose that these wastes are dead flat expanses of sand. They are really rolling hills, so that when one is crossing them, it is impossible to see anything except a dreary sameness, unless some object rises so far above the horizon as to come in the range of vision. We had covered about five miles, when as we reached the top of an undulating bed of that shifting sand, we saw before us perhaps half a mile away, what appeared to be a small rock jutting out of the surf.

"At last!" shrieked Pennant, and once again he broke into a trot. In a very short time we reached what seemed to be a most peculiar formation in such a country.

Imagine a hill of rock some forty yards long and at no part more than 60 feet in height, rising where it faced us, sheer out of the desert sand. On the side towards us, perhaps thirty feet up, there was what appeared to be a hole, which was a crevice or ledge about ten feet in length, and six in height.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

The Music That Belongs Essentially to the Birth of Christendom.

The first Christmas carol was sung to the startled shepherds of Judea, nearly 2,000 years ago. It voiced the praises of the newly born, and it rang out on the frosty air.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

This is sung to-day by us and all Christendom, to celebrate the birth of Christ. The "first carol" has been repeated yearly by all mankind.

Christmas is the first joyous festival of the Christian church and carols are the songs of joy sung at this festival. And, though the word carol is used for the Easter hymn and songs of the festival, it rightfully belongs to the Christmas alone.

The history of the carol in England has been varied from reign to reign. In early days a chapel royal chose sang carols at court. There is a record of the highest rank kept by Henry VII., when the singers sang carols. Queen Elizabeth kept Christmas in royal fashion, "with the singing of carols and dancing." Charles I. ordered the abolition of dancing, but open house on Christmas day at the country seats, and made them sing "carols and joyous music." But Parliament did away with "all observations of the five-called Christmas day," and the Scotch parliament in 1832 decreed against the singing of carols without or within kirks and all other superstitions and papistical rites.

The great number of writers of music in England are one and all writers of church music. And the carol has been one of their proudest compositions. Carol writing has been successfully tried by Sullivan, Stainer, Barnby, Monks, Dykes, George William Warren, Gerrit Smith, John Bryant, Brewer, Homer N. Bartlett, Frederick Grant Gleason, Harry Rowe Shelly and others.

The Christmas carols of the 1800 years have changed greatly. At one time they were only wassails, to be sung over the door of the dissolute king. But the carol of to-day takes its highest rank in music.

There is no other reason than that of having been set to music by Mendelssohn of the "Hark! the Herald angels Sing," by the immortal Charles Wesley, would be a favorite. There are other qualities that make it appreciated, however.

"Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King, Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled, Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angel host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'"

"Christ is born in Bethlehem! John Morrison's simple Christmas song telling of the birth of Christ is probably the only one so closely modeled after 'The Hymn of the Nativity.'" It is quite a favorite with children.

"To us a child of hope is born; First to write Song give us, Him shall the tribes of earth obey, 'Star of the East,' by Richard Heber, without a doubt enjoys all the popularity of the popular carol. Its most popular musical carol, perhaps, is 'The Star of Bethlehem,' who has adapted it to a most delightful melody. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, Dost thou appear when our darkness is thine, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid."

