

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger.

### BURMAH AND ITS CAPITAL.

This week we give a picture of Mandalay, the capital of Burmah. The city, though some miles from the river, can be seen from it. The houses in the suburbs are frail structures of bamboo framework, and mat covering, with grass or palm thatched roofs, the floors of which are raised above the ground by piles to guard against floods. In the principal streets the majority of the houses are of brick, which, in some cases, are nailed to the timbers. The outside is plastered with lime and mud. The shops only are two stories high, but these are Chinese. Temples and monasteries are thickly scattered about the whole city. The palace of the king had double walls of brick, but the many fantastic roofs are overlaid or

the exception of his own mother-in-law and wife. Over ninety were literally butchered in his presence. One prince was flogged to death, another was tortured until he became insane, and then flung into a burial ditch among the bodies of the other victims. The mouth of another was filled with gunpowder which was exploded. Princesses were slain in the most horrible manner before the eyes of their husbands. The massacre lasted over three days, when the drunken, half insane young demon appeared to be satiated with horrors.

When Burmah has been added to British India two hundred and fifteen thousand more square miles will be under the British flag. Although not so fertile as British Burmah, King Thebaw's territory has a rich soil, well watered by four great rivers, the chief of which, the Irrawaddy, is the fifth or sixth largest in the world. Rice, wheat, maize,

garia and Servia will not likely be a very prolonged one, as the Servians are now marching on Sofia, the capital of the former, and it is expected that the city will fall before the well organized troops of King Milan. It is stated by army correspondents that the Bulgarians will do their hardest fighting after the capture of the Capital. One battle between the hostile troops lasted for fourteen hours. During the last few days the Bulgarians have been picking up heart as quite a large number of Roumelians volunteered to serve in the Bulgarian army. Nothing could more clearly show the satisfaction of the populace of Eastern Roumelia with the Bulgarian union than the alacrity of their response to the call of arms.

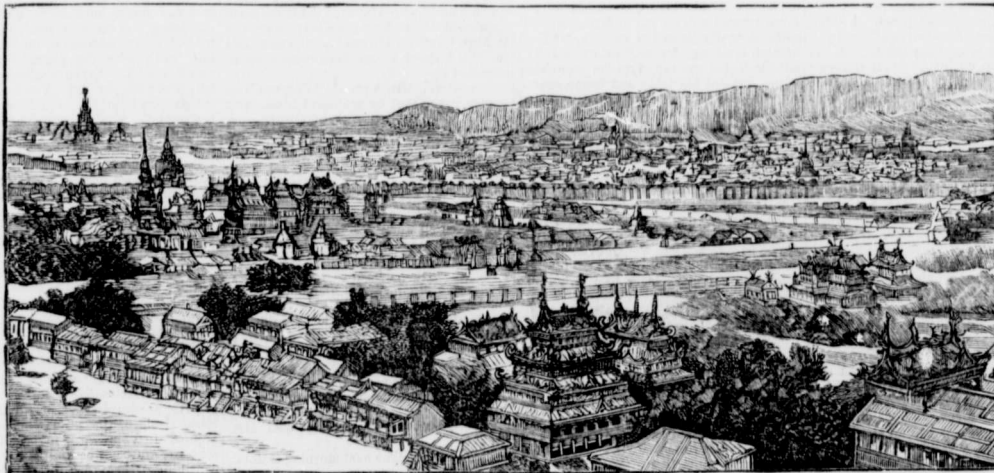
There is no saying at what time Russia and Austria may join in the quarrel, as both are jealously eyeing Servia's progress.

Lansdowne, and a similar communication to Sir John Macdonald saying that while he deemed Riel a dangerous person and one who should be confined for life, he also held that mental infirmity should prevent the execution of the law.

The sentence of the law was carried out smoothly and effectually.

The coffin was then nailed up and temporarily placed in the cemetery pending relatives obtaining permission to take it to St. Boniface. The rope used has been destroyed by Deputy Sheriff Gibson, according to orders, to prevent relic hunters getting hold of it. It was a stout hempen cord, five-eighths of an inch in diameter. The whole arrangements for the execution were arranged by Gibson.

After the execution the body hung an hour and was then cut down and placed in a coffin beneath the scaffold. The result of the



THE CITY OF MANDALAY, CAPITAL OF BURMAH.

washed with gilt, so that it presents a gorgeous appearance, and is called the Golden Palace. The city is a mile square, and is enclosed within lofty and thick walls of bricks, which are not, however, held together by mortar. A broad and deep moat, filled with clear water, runs parallel with the walls. There are two gates on each side of the city, which are reached by a large wooden bridge over the moat. The army consists of about ten thousand men, almost destitute of discipline, but brave and active. There is little artillery, and no cavalry.

King Thebaw, who makes Mandalay his capital, came to the throne without the assassinations which had formerly taken place at the accession of a new king; but fearing conspiracy against him, a year of his reign had not passed before he almost exterminated every branch of the Royal family, with

beans, sugar, cocoa, tea, cotton and indigo are produced in large quantities with little labor. The teak forests are second only to those of Pegu, and all Indian timbers flourish. Almost all the precious metals, including gold and silver, besides the useful ones, iron, tin, copper and lead, are found in paying quantities.

### THE BALKAN WAR.

It was on the 17th instant that the news came that the Servian and Bulgarian troops had met near Widdin, a fortress on the Danube, in Bulgaria. The Servians had a great victory but the loss on both sides was heavy. The Servians captured 1,000 prisoners. King Milan has congratulated Gen. Leshjainin on his brilliant victory at Widdin. The campaign between Bul-

### LOUIS "DAVID" RIEL.

During the early hours of last Monday morning Riel gathered up all his papers which covered his desk, containing the supposed visions he had seen and his prophecies, and asked the privilege from the officer of the guard to destroy them. This was allowed him, and gathering them together he carried them to an open stove fire and thrust them in, watching them until the flames had devoured them. He then returned to his cell and his devotions. His executioner was a man named Jack Henderson, who was a captive of Riel's in the rebellion in 1870. The Rev. Mr. McWilliams, who assisted Father Andre in attendance upon Riel during his last hours, was a classmate of the rebel at Montreal. He is firm in the belief that Riel was insane. In this belief he addressed a letter last Monday to Lord

post-mortem made by Dr. Jukes was as follows:—

"Execution most cleverly performed. From the moment he fell, judging from the nature of the injuries received, he must have been entirely without sensation. The neck was entirely dislocated thus paralyzing all the lower portions of the body. He could have felt no pain whatever. Circulation ceased in four minutes, an unusually short time. No death could be more merciful."

At Last the long and profitless campaign between the Hovas and French in Madagascar has come to an end, and the French Government has announced that the troops would be withdrawn. To hide their shame the French have entered on negotiations with the Hovas which will probably last for some time.