

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. III.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27, 1884.

No. 51

The Weekly Messenger

SALUTATORY.

The *Weekly Messenger* is only in the third year of its existence, yet, we are happy to say, it has made many warm friends, and we hope that at the beginning of the year on which we are just entering, it will succeed in making many more. When renewing their own subscriptions, the readers of this paper would confer a great favor on us were they to induce some of their friends and neighbors to subscribe with them, and so materially swell its already increasing circulation.

This issue is the last number for 1884, and we cordially wish its readers, one and all, A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

THE FRANCO-CHINESE WAR.

One of the first bits of news on this subject during the past seven days, was the receipt of a despatch from Admiral Courbet, from Kelung, stating that his force had dislodged the Chinese from works that they had thrown up. In the sortie, two hundred of the Chinese are reported as killed or wounded. China in order to attack her enemy by sea has sent out several cruisers. All the despatches that come via Paris claim successes for the French. On December 17, a cablegram received from Hanoi, states that three thousand Chinese troops made a desperate attempt to capture Chu, but after severe fighting were completely routed, a French garrison, occupying, and remaining in possession of the place. The loss of the Chinese in this sortie is put down at eight hundred killed. The French claim but thirty-four killed and wounded. In Tonquin the French forces were by December 18, strongly entrenched at Lang Kep, the Chinese being also in force at a point four miles distant. The French, although claiming so many victories are reported to be very anxiously awaiting reinforcements. Many deaths have already occurred among the soldiers and a large percentage of those remaining are unfit for service on account of sickness. The operations in Formosa are at a standstill.

On December 20, the Cabinet at Paris approved of a new plan for a Chinese campaign. All reinforcements are to be sent to Tonquin, General de L'Isle directing his forces in two columns on Ling Song and Cao Bang, where solid garrisons will be formed upon the Chinese frontiers; Admiral Courbet to have a force of about eight thousand men massed for an attack upon Kelung and Tamsui.

The *Figaro*, of Paris, has published the text of the protest of the King of Cambodia against the treaty with France, which he was forced to sign at the point of the bayonet by Governor Thomson, placing the king's dominions under the protection of France. The *Figaro* expresses a hope that France will not ratify such a treaty, but the Colonial Council urges the home government to demand of parliament its sanction,

stating that such sanction is simply necessary to the peace of Cambodia and to the interests of France in the east.

THE NICARAGUAN TREATY.

England is dissatisfied with the published terms of the Nicaraguan Treaty, and the *Times*, of London, Eng., says that the proposal will excite profound amazement in England and America. It will doubtless elicit a distinct protest in both countries as being in direct violation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. Americans, it says, must not suppose that Englishmen will depreciate the treaty owing to any alarm at the extension of the American dominions or from any mistrust that the advantages gained will be abused to the injury of British trade, but they cannot approve of the example afforded by one state purchasing control of such a waterway for its personal, and not as a trustee for the benefit of the world. The navigable highway between two oceans must not be made a petty matter of sale and barter between a couple of states.

The *New York Tribune* in discussing the question, says that the Sovereignty of Nicaragua will not be involved, that the United States does not propose acquiring territory. The canal, primarily, would be a domestic means of water communication between the Atlantic and Pacific of the two countries which unite for its construction, the one contributing the territory and the other furnishing the money.

From Paris, it is learned that M. De Lesseps is undaunted by the American-Nicaraguan scheme, and that he never felt better disposed to carry out his great task.

THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM.

Lord Wolsley is expected to complete the concentration of his army at Korti during the first week of the New Year, and begin his march through the desert upon Shendy on the seventh day of January. The distance from Korti to Shendy is some two hundred miles, and Lord Wolsley calculates that the march will occupy about sixteen days provided he meets with no resistance from the enemy on the route. Simultaneously a march is to be made from Suakim against Osman Digna in order to secure the flank of the Nile expedition. General Stephenson is to assume command of the latter expedition. At Suakim, out of one thousand two hundred marines and sailors, it is reported that there are only one hundred effective men. Fresh troops will in consequence be sent there. General Stephenson, it is reported, insists on the necessity of raising the effective force to five thousand men if he is to successfully operate against Osman Digna.

The correspondent of the *London Daily News* has telegraphed from Korti, that he has ridden 140 miles through the country alone and found the natives courteous.

The Peace Association of England assert that were proper authority given them, they could negotiate a safe conduct for General Gordon and the Khartoum garrison to Dongola. The association thinks that it

could also secure a general pacification of the Upper Nile region, and avoid the need of an expedition to that quarter.

A St. Petersburg despatch, in referring to the demand of Russia and Germany for admittance to the Caisse de la Dette Publique of Egypt, says that it is impossible to permit a continuance of the present state of things in Egypt so harmful to common interests. It considers the solution of the Egyptian Problem as having become more urgent because the political movement of Europe tends in the direction of colonial acquisition. It favors the appointment of a mixed commission, charged with the task of studying on the spot whether the British proposals are well or ill-founded. This despatch is believed to embody the opinions of the powers in regard to the creation of a mixed commission, and that such action is tantamount to a rejection of the English proposals. At Cairo, the prevailing opinion is that the government gave an illusory reply to demand of Russia and Germany for admittance to the Caisse when it informed those powers that it would consent to their admittance in case all the signatory powers agreed to the change necessitated in the law of liquidation. The Russian consul in consequence at once wrote a sharp reply, and the German Consul visited the Khedive and accused Nubar Pasha of bad faith.

THE CONGO CONFERENCE.

The Congo Conference held a session recently, at which the delegates tacitly supported America's proposition, except those representing Portugal and France. Experts are experiencing great difficulty in forming a formula to meet the American project and the conference will probably last for some days yet.

One of the acts of the meeting was an agreement to put on record a protest to restrict as far as possible the liquor traffic in the Congo and Niger countries. France is reported to have made secret overtures to England and Holland for their recognition of the claims of France in the Congo territory and with a view to their withdrawal of their proposal to make neutral the territory of the African International Association. M. Ferry, it is said, proposes to Lord Granville that France and England agree as to the terms of the Egyptian question on condition that England supports the claims of France on the Congo and her Chinese policy.

MR. HENRY GEORGE, the well-known advocate of the "land for the people" is at present on a lecturing tour in Scotland, and his meetings, which are largely attended, have resulted in the general acceptance of the doctrine of the nationalization of the Land wherever he goes. Landlords and agents declare that it is almost impossible now to collect rents, and that the value of property has greatly decreased.

ARCHBISHOP LEROY, of New Orleans, approves of the Exposition being kept open on Sundays; and recommends Catholics, who are unable to attend on week-days, to visit it on Sundays after their religious duties are performed.

THE DYNAMITERS have been again at work in England. An attempt has just been made to blow up the Windsor Railway station. It is supposed that the original plan was to blow up Windsor Castle, but that the person in charge of the operation finding that the Queen had gone to Osborne, took the infernal machine to the railway station in order to get rid of it. A suspicious-looking stranger, with the appearance of an American, was noticed loitering about the station on Friday. After the explosion he disappeared. The police have no clue. Meantime the government seem seriously alarmed. The guards have been doubled at Windsor castle, and have been armed with rifles loaded with ball cartridges, a large number of detectives have been despatched to Osborne for the protection of the Queen, all the members of the Royal Family have received extra guards, while public buildings and railway stations are being closely watched.

PREPARATIONS for the Montreal Winter Carnival proceed apace; and it is confidently anticipated that the displays this year will greatly exceed those of the two preceding demonstrations. The ice castle will be a much more elaborate structure than that of last year. While the Egyptian condora will not only be a unique feature, but will prove one of the most brilliant attractions of the carnival. Then there will be an immense toboggan slide on St. Helen's island, any number of tableaux formed of snow-shoers, a handsome boulevard across the river, a Mammoth ice-lion on Place d'Armes, colossal ice-columns on Notre Dame street, torch-light processions, snow-shoe processions, and races, and masquerades, and fancy tournaments, &c. A very large inflow of strangers is expected; and we certainly intend carnival week to be the gayest yet experienced since the inauguration of the movement two years ago.

THE MAN Nicholson, who was arrested a few months ago at Montreal for the murder of his wife in Boston, was on Thursday last, sentenced to death. The prisoner confessed his guilt. He stated that he had always lived happily with his wife, whom he loved. The latter, upon her mother's death, went to keep house for her father. To this the prisoner objected. On the day of the murder he went to see her, spoke to her, and then (as he stated) a feeling came over him that he must kill her. He fired at her several times, and then fled.

WITH REGARD to the recent explosion at London Bridge, the *Irishman* alleges that the government sent a woman to Ireland with authority to offer a contribution of £500 towards the cost of a launch to be used on the Thames for throwing bombs at the parliament buildings. It connects this story with the launch seen near London Bridge shortly before the explosion. No sane person believes this story, nor is it likely that the paper which circulates it attaches the least credence to it.

IN THE engagement with the Chinese at Cau, the French had twenty killed and ninety-three wounded.