

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. III.

MONTREAL AND NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1884.

No. 24.

FIFTY CENTS

buys the *Weekly Messenger* for a whole year:—a little fact, with a great deal of significance. There was a time when a single newspaper containing the same amount of reading matter cost the reader about as much as the year's subscription to this. Change and progress are seen in everything nowadays, and in nothing more than in newspapers. One of the greatest changes that are likely to be made in the future will be to follow the example set by the *Weekly Messenger*, which gives all the news without lumbering its pages or its readers' heads by a mass of useless details, and without destroying the eyesight of its subscribers. This change will come about when the public want it: for newspapers do not generally put a new idea into practice till they think it sure to pay. Judging by our own success, it is evident that we are supplying a real need, and we are therefore sure that the hearty goodwill and constant recommendations of our present readers will result in our supplying thousands more, over the whole continent, with interesting and healthy reading week by week.

GREEN AND ORANGE.

There was great excitement in the Old Country over the prospect of a riot last Sunday. The Irish Nationalists had announced that they would hold a great meeting at Newry on that day. The Orangemen then announced that they would also be there,—and it was feared that the collision between the two parties would end in bloodshed. The British Government, seeing that the Orangemen had deliberately set about holding meetings at the same times and places as the Nationalists, warned them not to do so any more. Lord Arthur Hill, the Orange leader, promised to do all he could to keep order, and advised both sides to give up their proposed gatherings. This did not suit his irritated followers, and, with the prospect of serious disturbances, five hundred horse-soldiers and six hundred extra policemen were sent into the town. The mayor thought even that force not enough, saying that the priests had actually advised their flocks to attend the Nationalist demonstration.

When Sunday afternoon came, the Nationalists marched into Newry, where they held their meeting and passed all the usual resolutions. Returning into the town, they began to stone their opponents, and in the Protestant quarter the inhabitants showed fight with the same weapons. The police stopped the affair, but the Nationalists broke the windows of the Orange Hall, and several shots were fired, injuring many persons in the crowd. The police and the soldiers succeeded in stopping the row, and arrested a number on both sides. Most of the Orangemen were discharged, but two are to be tried for firing with intent to murder. Mr. Parnell has written a letter congratulating his party on what he calls their victory.

The Orangemen and Tories are furious with the government for not allowing them to turn Ireland into a slaughterhouse. The

two parties are always ready to cut each other to pieces on the slightest provocation, and it is certainly wise not to allow them to come together in force. But the Orangemen are going to have a monster meeting in Belfast to protest against the "encouragement" which they say is thus given to the Nationalists.

THE DYNAMITERS.

Friends of the dynamite plotters in Paris say that the men who carried out the explosions in London have escaped in safety, and that another bigger outrage will soon be accomplished. It is said, however, that the police are on the track of the cowards, and by using money to buy information the hunt may prove successful. Several of the dynamiters are believed to have had a hand in the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish. The English detectives asked the French to search for dynamite in some houses in Paris, and this was done, but nothing was found.

The British Government has written to that of France, calling attention to the fact that dynamiters are allowed to concoct their infernal plots in Paris without interruption. A communication has also been sent to Washington, pointing out that the duty of a friendly nation is not to allow criminals openly to carry on all their preparations for murderous attacks upon a neighboring country. No answer has yet been received, but the United States Government, unless it wishes to be despised by the whole civilized world, cannot now avoid taking some firm action.

A proposal has been made to flog dynamiters when they are caught. As a matter of fact, when a man blows up, or tries to blow up, public buildings, he commits "an act of war," and the law punishes such treason by death. As a law newspaper says,—“If extraordinary weapons are used against the law, the law must resort to its own extraordinary weapons.”

THE "PLATFORM" adopted by the Republican convention at Chicago is made up of a variety of planks, some sound and some rotten. The party is made to declare in favor of "protection" for home industries by high customs duties, especially on foreign wool; railways should be compelled by law to charge reasonable rates and not to favor any one person over another; the importation of "contract labor" from Europe or Asia is denounced; government aid should be given to education, where required; corporations and individuals, especially when foreign, should not be allowed to acquire tracts of land; the United States are to be kept from entangling relations with other nations; the Mormons must be compelled to keep the law against polygamy; and the party pledges itself to promote legislation to permit all citizens, of whatever race or color, to enjoy their full rights.

BISMARCK is not worshipped by all Germans, as some people suppose. In fact, a number of workmen gathered outside his house and used very strong language to him, on account of his taxation schemes.

BLAINE OF MAINE.

When the delegates of the Republican party in the United States assembled in 1880 to choose a candidate for the Presidency, thirty-six votes were taken before a decision was reached,—and then, as none of the "favorites" could get a majority of the whole convention, they were thrown to one side and General Garfield was nominated. The convention which has just been sitting at Chicago, after three useless ballots, have fixed upon James G. Blaine as their candidate by 544 votes, against 207 for Arthur. General Logan was nominated for Vice President. The selection of Mr. Blaine has caused a great deal of enthusiasm among some of the Republicans, and a great deal of disgust among others. The *New York Times* advises no man to vote for Blaine, and looks forward to the coming defeat of the Republican party as likely to result in purging it from the office-seekers and rogues who now lead it. The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher opposes Blaine, saying, "If we can't elect a good Republican, we will elect a Democrat." The *New York Herald* calls the nomination a fearful blunder, and only takes comfort from the belief that Blaine will be thoroughly defeated and so got rid of forever. The *Tribune*, however, says that no candidate has been more popular for twenty-five years, and he will be elected. Some of the English newspapers doubt whether Blaine will be elected, but the *Times* says he is well fitted for the dignified office of President; the *Daily News* hopes that, if elected, he will not continue his sensational foreign policy; and the *Standard* says that Mr. Blaine's career has been creditable neither to himself nor to his party. Mr. Arthur, the present President, has written accepting Blaine as the party's candidate.

The Independent Republicans oppose Blaine, the *Independent* declaring,—“The level head and downright conscience of the Republican party demand devotion to principles and devotion to party is not enough.” A meeting takes place in New York on Saturday. It is said that if the Democrats nominate Cleveland, Bayard, Carlisle or Morrison, the Independents will vote on that side; but that if the Democrats do not choose a better man than Blaine, a third candidate will be nominated.

James Gillespie Blaine was born in 1830 in Washington county, Pennsylvania. He is a grandson of one of George Washington's most trusted officers. He has considerable money, largely won by his father's land speculations. At his marriage, he removed to Portland, Maine, and engaged largely in journalism and politics. When Secretary of State under President Garfield, Blaine did his best to get his country mixed up with outside quarrels, with the worst results. His intrigues in Central and South America, and his opposition to all British influences on the whole continent, made him disliked by Britons and distrusted by those of his own countrymen who wanted the United States to continue in the old path of Peace and Progress.

THE Provincial Legislatures of Manitoba and Quebec have finished their sessions.

ON THE NILE.

The rebellion against Egyptian rule in the Soudan continues much as before. The rebels have got possession of Darfour, with twenty thousand Remington rifles stored there. A messenger who left Berber on June 3rd says that that town is still safe; though others say that Berber was captured on June 2nd, and that the European inhabitants were massacred by the rebels. The latest news from Khartoum is that General Gordon has not abandoned the place, and has no intention of doing so, as he has defeated his assailants several times lately. Another account says that the town is well fortified, and has plenty of provisions, and that the rebels are retiring.

Osman Digna, the chief who was twice beaten by the British soldiers, has five thousand men under him, and swears that he will capture Suakim. As that town is on the Red Sea, and British ships can protect it, Osman may have to break his oath. More Egyptian troops have been sent to this town.

General Gordon's sister has been offered \$100,000 to rescue him, but she refuses to take it, as her brother is a British officer, and anything that is done for him is of course to be done by the government.

Mr. Gladstone says that the Sultan has been asked to send troops to protect the Egyptian ports on the Red Sea, but has not been asked to take part in operations in the Soudan.

THE WEATHER-PROPHET DEAD.

Henry G. Vennor is dead. He was born in Montreal on December 30th, 1840, and while still young he distinguished himself by his studies of animals and minerals, writing papers on these subjects in various magazines. When twenty years old he went into the employ of a wholesale hardware house, but after five years he was appointed to help in a geological survey of the Manitoulin Islands, in Lake Huron. For fifteen years he was engaged in the same kind of work in different parts of the country. As a weather-prophet, Mr. Vennor became famous in 1875, by publishing in the Montreal *Daily Witness* a prediction which was exactly fulfilled. He began to publish a yearly weather almanac, which had an enormous circulation in the United States and Canada, and for some time he published a monthly weather bulletin. Many of Mr. Vennor's prophecies turned out untrue, like those of all weather prophets. But he was more successful than most in this line, probably because he carefully studied the movements of birds and other animals, whose instinct tells them far more about the weather than men can tell by themselves. In 1875 he published a very valuable book, called "Our Birds of Prey." Mr. Vennor died of a spinal disease, which he said was caused while camping out on a long geological expedition. His father and a brother died only a few weeks ago.

BY A RAILWAY TRAIN going over an embankment in England, five persons have been killed and thirty injured.