

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Weekly Messenger.

SHIPWRECKED FISHERMEN.

Survivors of the terrible gale which occurred on the 11th and 12th ult., on the bleak coast of Labrador, continue to arrive at St. John's, Newfoundland, in a destitute condition. The story of their sufferings is sad indeed. Those who passed through the gale describe it as the most awful hurricane ever witnessed, even by the hardy fishermen who frequent that storm-beaten coast. It first blew from the south-east, continually increasing in violence, then it suddenly veered to the north east and the cold became intense. At intervals the whole atmosphere was darkened by the snow drifts. It was a scene of awe and terror, which the imagination can but faintly realize. In the midst of this war of elements a fleet of little fishing vessels were struggling for life.

Some were caught in the tempest on their homeward voyage, laden deeply with the produce of the summer toils—others lay at anchor, loading in the exposed roadsteads and harbor, where there was no sufficient shelter. On board were hundreds of fishermen, many of them with their wives and children, for it is their custom to take their families with them to aid in handling the fish. As the storm continued and increased in violence the vessels were pressed nearer to the fatal rocks, their affrighted freight clinging desperately to the doomed hulks, which, first one and then another, were dashed against the rocks, the human mass hurled into the seething surge, some sinking to rise no more, others clinging to fragments of the wreck; some flung ashore, more dead than alive, on the huge rollers. Thus perished some 80 human beings.

The saddest scene of all was at White Bear Islands. Here two vessels, the "Release" and "Hope," with all their anchors out, were struggling to ride out the storm. They held on till Monday morning when the moorings gave way. The "Release" drifted on an island to leeward, and was speedily dashed in pieces. Twenty-five of those on board were drowned, all but six being women and children. The "Hope" was carried on a ledge of rock, near the shore. Two punts were launched and filled with those on board, who reached the shore in safety; but before the remainder could be secured the vessel broke up, and fourteen met a watery grave, most of them being women and children. The scene is said to have been appalling. Poor mothers were seen clasping their children to their bosoms in agony, and children crying for aid and clinging to the hands that were powerless to save. The merciless billows rushed on them and covered all with a winding sheet of foam.

Thirty-nine in all perished at this single spot. One man lost his wife and four children.

The dark tragedy is relieved by some traits of genuine heroism. A young man named Reardon had escaped from a wreck by swimming. He had barely reached the shore when he heard the wild shrieks of de-

spair from a woman on board another vessel that was fast going to pieces. The brave fellow did not hesitate a moment. He dashed into the boiling surge, and after a fearful struggle with the waves, he reached the wreck and swam ashore, bringing with him the rescued woman. Just before he reached the wreck two women on board were killed by the falling of a punt on them.

Another touching story is told of a fine manly little fellow of twelve years, who was in his father's vessel when she was dashed to pieces. The father tried to save the boy by swimming with the lad fastened on his back. He struggled hard, but, again and again, with such a burden on his shoulders, he was nearly overwhelmed. The poor boy begged his father to let him go and save his own life; and when he saw that his father would not do this he managed to work himself free and struck out toward the shore. A huge wave came and flung father and son on the shore and both were saved. When asked afterward by a lady if he felt afraid he answered "No ma'am, I was only a little bit frightened, I thought poor father was goin' to be drowned, and what would mother do then—so I got off his back."

The Government, as soon as the news of the disaster reached St. John's, at once sent out vessels to bring the survivors back to the island. The poor people as they arrive are in a pitiable plight, but thankful to reach their homes alive. Many of them have lost everything. All their hard-earned catch of fish is gone, and they come home to face the long, cold winter with hardly anything in their houses. They will receive all the help that is possible both from private charity and out of the public funds; but with all that can be done for them the privations and sufferings will be great.

BLUE RIBBON BEER.

The subject as to whether blue ribbon beer is an intoxicating drink, and within the prohibited clauses of the Temperance Act, has been exciting a good deal of attention in Toronto. It would seem, according to Dr. Ellis' testimony, that the blue ribbon beer tested contained little more than two percent of alcohol. Several medical men declared it to be intoxicating. Some practical tests were made, and they were just as conflicting as the medical testimony. Some could drink almost any quantity without feeling any intoxicating effect. Wm. Munns, described as a mild looking young man, experimented on two other mild looking young men, named Cooper and Beckett. Munns paid for the beer and loaded each man with seven glasses, in an hour. Neither man showed any effect till after the third glass. After that Cooper became more and more melancholy until he appeared somewhat the worse for the drinks. Beckett after the fourth glass began to feel in fine form and told witty yarns; at the fifth he was as jolly as could be; at the sixth he insisted upon setting up the drinks for Munns, and after the seventh, taken within an hour and ten minutes, he was able to walk home. Judge McDougall tasted the beverage in

Court, and pronounced it "very wishy-washy."

Judge McDougall gave judgment, in this Blue Ribbon beer appeal case, at Toronto on Tuesday, dismissing the appeal with costs, holding that the beer is intoxicating. If the case had been otherwise decided the prohibitionists would have found it hard work to enforce a prohibitory act. For in every case of prosecution for selling intoxicants it would have become necessary to show that the liquor contained more alcohol than the two percent to be found in Blue Ribbon Beer.

THANSGIVING DAY.

In setting apart the 26th inst. as a day of Thanksgiving throughout the United States President Cleveland says: "The American people always have abundant cause to be thankful to Almighty God, whose watchful care and guiding hand have been manifested in every stage of their national life, guarding and protecting them in time of peril and safely leading them in the hour of darkness and danger. It is fitting and proper that a nation thus favored should on one day in every year, for that purpose especially appointed, publicly acknowledge the goodness of God and return thanks to him for his all gracious gifts. And let there be also on the day thus set apart a re-union of families, sanctified and chastened by tender memories and associations; and let the social intercourse renew the ties of affection and strengthen the bonds of kindly feeling, and let us by no means forget, while we give thanks and enjoy the comforts which have crowned our lives, that truly grateful hearts are inclined to deeds of charity; and that a kind and thoughtful remembrance of the poor will double the pleasures of our condition and render our praise and thanksgiving more acceptable in the sight of the Lord. The day appointed as Thanksgiving Day in Canada was, by mistake, last Saturday, but the date was afterwards altered to the 12th inst.

LIONS AND TIGERS AT LARGE.

A Memphis, Tenn., despatch says: There is a reign of terror in the vicinity of St. Francis, Ark., a village twenty miles west of this city, on the Memphis, Springfield & Kansas City Railway. The woods are filled with fierce tigers, lions, jaguars, hyenas and other animals crazy with the taste of blood, and the inhabitants of the little village are barricaded in their houses, earnestly praying for relief to arrive. Boa constrictors freed from their cage crawl through the deserted streets and the howls of the laughing hyenas make sleep impossible. The particulars of the sudden changing of the peaceful village into a raging bedlam of savage beasts have been received here. A crowd of villagers had assembled on the depot platform awaiting the arrival of the train containing John B. Doris' circus and menagerie. The train consisted of twenty cars and was just rushing into the yard at a good speed when the engine ran off the track, followed by a dozen cars containing the animals. The big per-

forming elephant, 141 years old, became crazed with fear, and breaking through the side of his car as if it were but pasteboard, dashed towards the assembled people trumpeting loudly and waving his trunk frantically in the air. While the people were rushing to their homes for shelter many of the other animals escaped from the overturned cars, and the streets of the village were soon filled with them. The big elephant snatched the ten-year-old son of druggist John Anson from the stoop of his father's residence and threw the boy a distance of twenty feet. While the child lay groaning the big lion Jupiter broke from his cage, followed by the lioness Juno and her two cubs. They quickly tore the boy to pieces, and the hyenas and jackals snarled and fought over the bones. The elephant seemed mad with excitement, and placing his immense head against the car containing the tigers he tipped it over and broke open the cages. The smell of blood infuriated the latter animals, and the few men who had ventured upon the streets were forced to seek safety in flying to their residences. The car containing the snakes, some of which were over fifteen feet in length, caught fire, and many of the reptiles were burned to death. Those which escaped crawled through the streets hissing with passion. The villagers kept up a fusillade of revolvers and shotguns upon the animals, and gradually drove them into the woods. The big elephant was captured by his keeper and returned to his car, and several of the other animals were corralled by the circus employees and confined in their cages. There are still several bloodthirsty animals roaming in the woods near the village, and many of the inhabitants are afraid to venture upon the streets.

Mr. Doris offers a large reward for the capture of the escaped members of his menagerie, and several young men of this city are organizing a rifle club to raise the siege and put an end to the horrors which now afflicts the people of St. Francis.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

During the past week the weather has been almost continuously wet, though milder than the previous week, and farm work has been almost impossible except on naturally dry soil. A considerable quantity of turnips, and not a few fields of potatoes are still ungathered, as the soil is in too wet a condition for the removal of these crops. It is probable that owing to the prevalence of rot very few of the undug potatoes would pay for digging, even should the weather and ground become favorable. The early snow has completely disappeared and the grass looks beautiful and green; but in most cases the ground is too wet to permit the cattle to graze without serious damage to the ensuing crop. Hog cholera continues to prevail rather extensively in the western states and shows no abatement either in virulence or in the extent of territory affected. Cattle have also suffered a good deal from exposure to wet and cold during the past three weeks.