

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Weekly Messenger.

A HINT TO THE EMPIRE.

Some confusion was temporarily thrown into the plans of loyal holiday-makers in Canada by the appearance of a proclamation signifying the Queen's desire to have the celebration of her birthday observed on the 28th of June instead of the 24th of May. As railways had advertised reduced rates, and societies had chartered trains and steamers for the usual date, there was a prospect of no little inconvenience being created by the change, which, it may be said, was ordered on account of the court mourning for Prince Leopold. After a little popular commotion, however, matters were put right for all concerned by the announcement that the order was only imperative with regard to official celebrations of the day. So attached are the British people to this very reasonable holiday that it would not be surprising if it were made a permanent institution after Her Majesty's death. It would be, indeed, we think, one of the most graceful and enduring monuments that could be reared in perpetuation of the memory of the bright Victorian era. As the origin of the Empire is so dimly perceptible amid the mists of antiquity as to forbid a natal day, Victoria Day would fitly serve for an imperial holiday.

THE EGYPTIAN WAR.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* believes the proposed conference of the European Powers, to discuss Egyptian affairs, will never meet. It declares that a British protectorate over Egypt is imperative, and it wants Mr. George J. Goschen to be sent to take charge of Egyptian affairs at once in order to save England from disgrace and Egypt from ruin. France and Italy are represented as insisting that the general administration of affairs in Egypt must be discussed by the conference. General Gordon was reported by refugees about a week ago to be well and to have made several successful sorties against the enemy. Native troops had begun the advance for the relief of Berber and Khartoum. The great expedition for General Gordon's relief, designed by England, will comprise 12,000 men, 40 steam launches, 400 shallow draught boats and 40,000 camels. It will start from Cairo on the ninth of June. The British Government is considering the advisability of despatching strong drafts of marines from Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth, England. 431 Egyptian regulars in command of native officers started for Assouan on the 17th of May. On the same day El Mahdi took up the march for Khartoum, with numbers of former friendly tribes in his train and joining him as he proceeded. M. Cuzzi, the British agent, was captured by rebels near Abuhamed on the 2nd instant. Osman Digna, whose forces General Graham with British troops routed two or three months ago, is doing sad mischief, massacring members of friendly tribes and stealing cattle. 200 rebels bombarded Assouan on the 19th, and succeeded in stealing one thousand sheep, but before they had time to commit further depredations British troops landed at the spot and forced them to retire. The rebels are reported to have captured a magazine at Abuhamed, to be advancing upon Korosko and to be welcomed everywhere. Doubtless they will do a great deal of mischief and press General Gordon's stronghold hard before the relief expedition circumvents their dire designs. While it is true that the Arabs of the Soudan are in arms for independence, it will not do to allow them to carry on a barbarous warfare, creating a reign of terror among their own countrymen and obstructing very important trade routes.

AN INDIAN ALARM.

The Indians are getting troublesome in the Canadian North-West. Late accounts represent several bands of them on the way to a sun dance on the Pasquahs' reserve. Chief Piapot complained to officers of the Dominion Mounted Police of ill conditions of his tribe's reserve. His people were compelled to eat too much bacon, bringing on scurvy, and they would like to move to some place where they could catch fish to counteract the effects of that unwholesome diet. The chief complained of promises made by the authorities having been broken. Other chiefs made similar complaints. Piapot said the Assiniboine chiefs would have joined him but for fear of the police. He was not afraid, however, and his men were all armed and had a dance in war paint at Indian Head. They were bound to have their sun dance, and threatened to fight the police if they try to force them back to their reserves. Police reinforced with cannon were at last accounts assembling at Fort Qu'Appelle to be prepared for emergencies. It is said that owing to the lack of fresh food over fifty deaths have occurred in three weeks on one tribe, and Chief Piapot says he has summoned the Indians of the Canadian North-West to his assistance and a council of war.

PRESIDENTIAL NOTES.

It is stated on good authority that General Sherman has written a letter which shows his intention not to stand a candidate for the presidency, and which he intends to have read before the Republican National Convention if any votes are cast for him. General Butler, of Massachusetts, has written a letter saying that if there is any portion of the people desirous of voting for him as President he will not oppose their doing so. The New Jersey Democratic State Convention has declared for a reduction of the tariff and the re-nomination of Mr. Tilden and Mr. Hendricks for President and Vice-President. Several hundred prominent citizens of New York have addressed a letter to Mr. John Jacob Astor and others asking them to appoint a committee in the interest of securing the nomination of President Arthur.

CHURCH NEWS.

In the Methodist Convention in Philadelphia the committee on missions recommended the establishment of evangelizing stations in Roman Catholic settlements. A resolution was adopted by the Conference declaring that direct negotiations between pastors and churches in advance of appointments by the bishops are contrary to the spirit of itinerant ministry, subversive of ecclesiastical polity and should be discouraged by bishops, pastors and people.

A committee of forty-two has been appointed by the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly in Saratoga, to consider the question of reduced representation. Apparently this great religious parliament is becoming unwieldy when such action is found necessary. Resolutions against Sunday papers and Sabbath desecration were debated and referred to a committee. A congratulatory telegram was received from the Southern Presbyterian Assembly and the Rev. Dr. Stratton, of Mississippi, representing that Assembly, was received with applause. The Rev. Dr. Hayes, of Denver, Colorado, is Moderator of the Assembly sitting in Saratoga.

The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa adopted a strong report on Temperance, urging upon members of the Presbyterian body within its jurisdiction the duty of supporting the Canada Temperance Act.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada will hold its annual session in Toronto this year, opening on the fourth of June.

In the African Methodist Episcopal Conference in Baltimore, Bishop Payne gave an address on the reconstruction and redemption of Africa. He said the slave trade of Africa still went on, people being driven across the country like cattle and shipped from the coast. A letter of greeting from the Methodist Episcopal Conference in Philadelphia met with serious opposition to its reception, it being affirmed that the white Conference sent delegates to other churches and only greetings to the African Church. Many members considered such conduct insulting.

AN EXECUTION BY SHOOTING is to take place in Salt Lake City, the Mormon capital, on June 13th. Fred. Hopt, three times tried and convicted of murder, being sentenced to death at that date, chose to be shot rather than hanged. The statutes of Utah give malefactors their choice of hanging or shooting. Hopt's lawyers gave notice of appeal, but lynch law is threatened in the event of a stay of the execution. The murder was committed four years ago, and the case has cost the Territory \$15,000. During the past eleven years 110 murders have occurred in the Territory, and only one execution. In the past nine months there have been three lynchings in Utah, chiefly inspired by the delays and failures to punish criminals.

AT THE CLOSE of the Hungarian Diet the Austrian Emperor said the relations of the Empire with all the European states justified the hope of long-continued peace.

AN AGREEMENT IS BEING ARRANGED between France and the International Congo Society, of which the principal points are reported to be as follows: France respects the Society's station, territories and rights, and the Society gives to France the first refusal of all its possessions in the event of being obliged to sell them. The treaty shows that Belgium under whose auspices the Association was formed, has abandoned English sympathies and now fraternizes with France. Prince Bismarck has informed the signatories of the treaty that he cannot allow its stipulations to apply to German subjects. Probably his chief objection is to a clause recognizing the claim of Portugal to sovereignty over the Lower Congo. Germany is in communication with the governments interested in the African trade and the Prince hopes she will procure a settlement of the Congo traffic question which will ensure the protection of Germany's commercial interests. It will be almost remarkable if there is not a big war over this rich portion of the dark continent before very long. A good many wistful eyes are now upon it.

THE NEWS OF A SHOCKING SUICIDE reaches us from East Farnham. An old man named Saul Bull, who was a pedler and had for many years gone with a wooden leg, took it into his head that as Christ had been pierced with a lance and was crucified so he must pierce himself with a lance and hang himself. These sentiments he put down on paper and then, with a lancet, made several incisions in his throat. When weakened by the loss of blood he hung himself with a pair of reins. In his letter he requested that a plain coffin should be bought by the sale of three pairs of boots which he had just finished making. It is supposed the man must have been temporarily insane.

FUNNY FREE TRADERS are those in Congress, some may think, to vote in an almost solid body against the bill to reduce the duty on painting and statuary. Probably, however, they took the view that it would be absurd to lighten the taxes upon articles imported by the rich while leaving the most burdensome imposts upon the common necessities of life and labor.

SOMEONE, UNKNOWN, started a switch engine at Mechanicsville up the Delaware & Hudson Railway track at full speed. The engine collided with the Montreal sleeper and both engines were badly wrecked, expressman Tieknor being dangerously injured and engineer Myres having his leg broken. Curiously enough no one else was badly hurt.

ONE AMERICAN JUDGE at any rate is doing his duty toward the gamblers. Judge Brown has issued instructions to the Grand Jury to indict pool-sellers in Baltimore and Pimlico. Of course the latter do not like this, and say they will take the case into the courts.

AN EPISCOPAL CLERGYMAN of Cedar Town, Georgia, has recently become insane on account of being jilted by a lady.