

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. III.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 6, 1884.

No. 49.

The Weekly Messenger

WE COMMEND our readers' particular attention to the prospectus of all our publications, which we publish in another column.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR'S MESSAGE.

President Arthur on Monday sent his annual message on the opening of the United States Congress. He refers to the praiseworthy conduct of peace-loving citizens in the recent elections, but says it is necessary to provide more definite rules for counting the votes. The relations of the United States with all other countries continue friendly. A convention with Belgium has been signed, by which the citizens of each country obtain more equal privileges with those of the other. A convention is to be negotiated with Chili, to settle the claims of American citizens for injury received during the recent war in Peru. The hostilities between France and China continue to embarrass the eastern relations of the United States. The Chinese government has promptly paid the claims of Americans whose property was destroyed in the riots at Canton. The President says the Chinese immigration question will have to be again considered: as some Chinese who left the country with certificates to allow them to return, under the old law, have been prevented by the new law from landing. The commercial importance of the United States, says the message, has been considerably increased by the purchase of a large Chinese trading fleet.

The President advocates an extradition treaty with Germany, expresses pleasure at the continued friendly relations with Britain, and suggests an international copyright law. He announces that the reciprocity treaty with Hawaii has been renewed for seven years to come. The most courageous and praiseworthy recommendation of the whole message is that the neutrality law should be changed so as not to protect dynamites and filibusters.

Among the other questions which receive attention, says the message, are the defence of the cities on the coast, the new steel-clad cruisers of the navy, the restoration of the navy to its former efficiency, and the prevention and punishment of polygamy.

A correspondent of the *New York Times* says that very little work is expected to be done at this session of Congress.

THE CHINESE DIFFICULTY.

In the Chinese Chamber of Deputies, Prime-Minister Ferry has declared that he had accepted England's offer of mediation, stipulating that France should occupy Kelung and Tamsui for a certain number of years. China, however, had demanded that France should leave Annam, and had forbidden the importation of French goods into Chinese provinces. The premier therefore asked the Chamber to vote \$8,000,000 extra for warlike operations in Tonquin during the first half of 1885. This was greeted with loud cheers, and the motion

was granted by a vote of 351 to 179. The chamber had already voted \$3,200,000. Ships and men are consequently being prepared with great energy for service in China.

Until the reinforcements arrive, we are not likely to hear of any great fights. On the 14th November the French tried to drive the Chinese from a hill near Kelung, but were repulsed with a loss of twenty men; two days later, the bodies were recovered.

The French fleet does not succeed in keeping steamers and junks from running the blockade at Formosa. Fourteen of the crew of the French war ship "Rigault Genouilly," doing duty on the Formosa coast, have been killed by the bursting of a boiler.

The Catholic mission at Hong Kong has advised that the viceroys of Canton has closed all the chapels there and razed the entire Catholic settlement to the ground. A missionary, who arrived at Canton from the interior, states that Christians in the western provinces are fugitives in the the wilds of Tonquin. He says the Chinese authorities in the northern provinces issued a decree ordering the expulsion of all missionaries. Upon appeal to the higher authorities at Peking the decree was reversed and the missionaries were taken under the protection of the Chinese Imperial government.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The great event of the week has been the conclusion of peace between the Government and the Opposition leaders. Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury, accompanied by other leading men on each side, have had a conference, and agreed upon a Redistribution Bill more or less satisfactory to both parties.—Lord Salisbury promising to pass the Franchise Bill at once through the house of Lords.

The new Redistribution Bill, as introduced by Mr. Gladstone on Monday, makes some great changes. For one thing, all towns of less than 15,000 inhabitants will no longer have separate representatives as at present; the inhabitants of these towns will vote in the counties, which will be divided into districts of equal population, each district having one representative. By this stroke, no less than 98 towns will be wiped out, depriving 106 of the present members (61 Liberals and Home Rulers and 45 Conservatives) without seats.

By this scheme, Wales and Ireland will have the same number of members as now; England will have six more, and Scotland will have an additional twelve. London, which has now 22 members of parliament, will have 59; Liverpool will send nine instead of three; sixteen additional members will be given to Yorkshire, and fifteen to Lancashire.

This Bill will be referred to a committee to report after the Christmas Holidays.

A DEPUTATION from the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Britain has asked Sir John A. Macdonald to pass a bankruptcy law in Canada, or in some other way put an end to the fraudulent preferences given to creditors. Sir John said he would lay the matter before parliament when he got home.

HERR BEBEL, the leader of the Socialist members of the German Reichstag, made a stir at last Friday's session, by denouncing the present military system. He declared that there were fourteen times more suicides in the army than out of it, and he stated as the cause of the deficient revenue that the country was deprived of the work of men forced to serve in the army. He demanded a decrease in the length of service. During the same debate, Prince Bismarck said that it would not be wise to tamper with the army, which largely gives Germany her position among the nations. The members, bye-the-bye, want to receive payment for their services; Prince Bismarck opposed this, and also attacked the members for travelling all over the Empire on their free railway passes,—but he was defeated on a vote.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, who wants to become leader of the British Conservative Party at some time in the future, declares himself in favor of protection to farmers by putting a duty on food. Perhaps he will gain some votes in the country by this dodge, but the towns will turn against him. Lord Randolph is going for a tour through America, Australia, Egypt and India; perhaps he will be a little wiser when he returns home. He will find almost as great distress in America as in England, with the additional circumstance that in England living is much cheaper, and he will find the one free-trade colony in Australia going far ahead of those which remain in protective swaddling-clothes.

A REPORT FROM INDIA states that trouble is feared from the discontent of some of the natives. If the natives are really excited against England, it is probably because the English officials in India have shown so little consideration for the rights of the natives. But we learn that immense demonstrations have been held in honor of Lord Ripon, the departing Viceroy. He has done much to show that Britain really desires to govern India for India's good; and Lord Dufferin, his successor, may be depended on to strengthen the good feeling by his good policy.

ALCOHOL IN DISEASE.—Dr. E. Symes Thompson, of London, England, in a recent lecture, said: "Judged by the immediate effect upon the symptoms, the value of alcohol was unmistakable, but when judged by its ultimate effect, and comparing the 'natural history' of similar cases without it, his experience was against its use. Coming to its use in chronic cases of disease, he would take those cases of chronic lung disease of which he, as senior physician to the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, saw so much. He had come to the conclusion, after fourteen years' experience with 'in-patients,' that the results were at least as good when alcohol was not administered, and in this conclusion the resident medical officers, who saw the cases treated under all plans and methods, were, he believed, quite in accord with him."

THERE ARE SIGNS that the strike of miners in Hocking Valley is coming to an end; it has lasted for six months.

THE LEGISLATURE OF VERMONT has upheld prohibition by a vote of 123 to 72, on a proposal to allow localities to vote for licenses. Prohibition has been only partially enforced in Vermont, but more than half the towns are absolutely free from the liquor trade, and the absence of public saloons has had so good an effect that the law is only changed from time to time to make it stronger.

THE CONGO CONFERENCE at Berlin is not yet over, but it has practically decided to allow absolute freedom of trade in the Congo district. Unfortunately, a proposal to tax spirits does not seem to have been well received, as the Germans are large exporters of the fire-water. The African International Association has been recognized as controlling the district, and offers Mr. Stanley \$10,000 a year as its representative. The Association, it seems, imports instruments used in the slave-trade; and Mr. Stanley says that, though the slave trade may be abolished, domestic slavery cannot. With whiskey and slavery, the Association is not likely to be very successful in "civilizing" Africa.

A COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER who has just been through the plague-stricken district in Eastern Kentucky, describes the state of affairs as something frightful. Whole neighborhoods were depopulated, and the last man, after burying his family and friends, lay down to die without burial. A thousand deaths are said to have occurred in two weeks,—largely through starvation. The people are almost cut off from communication with the outside world, and when the crops fall there is intense suffering. There has now been some rain; the people will no longer have to drink the poisonous liquids found in the earth, and the plague is believed to be at an end.

UP THE NILE go the troops, Canadian boatmen and all, and their speed is greater than was expected. Still, the progress is slow, and Lord Wolsley has issued a general order urging the men,—almost appealing to them,—to push on and save Gordon. All the news we have from Khartoum is somewhat old; so far as it goes, it shows that Gordon continues to make the Mahdi keep at a respectful distance. Gordon is reported to have captured Shendi and Berber.

A "CLEVELAND JUBILEE" has been held at Atlanta, Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina and Alabama were represented. Mr. S. J. Randall said the Democratic party would be equal to the responsibility which came with victory. There was not a right of white men or colored men that would not be sacredly protected.

THE OTEO INDIANS were last year cheated of about \$20,000 by "white" land speculators, and a grand jury in Omaha has returned fifteen indictments for fraud committed at an auction sale of the land in question.

THE QUEEN and her daughter-in-law, the Duchess of Albany, are going together to visit Cannes on the 25th March, the first anniversary of the Duke of Albany's death there.