

# Weekly Messenger

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## THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

The *Weekly Messenger* gives in a small space all the world's news for the week and is beautifully printed while its price is but fifty cents a year, or when five subscriptions are sent together \$2.00, or forty cents each. The publishers are MESSRS. JOHN DOUGALL & SOX, Montreal.

## BUSINESS NOTES.

A company is being formed in St. Thomas, Ontario, for the manufacture of bronze monuments, for which it is claimed that, while as durable as marble, they can be made much cheaper. The Bay State Iron Company, a large concern in Boston, is reported suspended with heavy liabilities. Three thousand coal miners have returned to work at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, at three and a half cents a bushel, the lowest wages paid for two years. The failure of the Klonan Iron Steel Company, Moundsville, West Virginia, has involved the firm of Andrew Klonan & Brother, operating the Superior rail mill, Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. Over a hundred and fifty hat-finishers have struck at Yonkers, New York, where the manufacturers had made a general reduction in wages, owing to alleged difficulty in competing with convict labor. It is now officially shown that the liabilities of Follet, the failed note broker of New York, amounted to over three and a quarter millions, besides contingent liabilities of about nine and a half millions, while his actual assets were but one million and ninety thousand. F. & H. Brown, merchants, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, have failed; liabilities twenty-five thousand and assets sixteen thousand dollars. The owner of the plantation of La Mercedita, Cuba, has failed, owing a million and owning six hundred thousand dollars' worth. Louis Lewis & Co., merchants, Montreal, have arranged with their creditors at twenty-five cents in the dollar, half cash and half unsecured at six months. The direct liabilities are twenty-five thousand dollars, and indirect the same amount. The iron firm of John V. Ayers & Sons, of Chicago, has failed for two million dollars; the assets are unknown, but the firm claims to have half-a-million's worth of stock on hand. They are the largest stockholders of the Brown, Bonnell & Co.'s rolling mill at Youngstown, Ohio. The Fox River Iron Company, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, has assigned with assets of ninety thousand dollars, being about thirty thousand over liabilities. That such a large amount of disaster should befall the iron trade is a very bad sign of the times, iron being one of the leading factors in the commercial life of a country. General reports indicate a dull state of trade in the States, largely produced by the floods in the Middle States, which have affected business over a far wider extent than the territory flooded. Iron is quiet and dull, but petroleum is higher, firmer and advancing. Ocean freights are easier owing to less demand for transportation and a larger supply of shipping. There were two hundred and twenty-one failures in the United States during the week, thirty-five less than in the preceding week and forty-nine more than in the corresponding week in 1882, and seventy-six more than in the same week in 1881. Canada had thirty-five, an increase of one failure.

## OLD WORLD MATTERS.

The most exciting thing in British parliamentary affairs has been the procession of twenty-five thousand men which followed Mr. Bradlaugh, the infidel radical member for Northampton, to Parliament when he went to demand by letter the seat to which he had been so many times elected. The letter was read by the Speaker and the Attorney-General, Mr. James, introduced a bill to allow members to affirm instead of swear allegiance upon taking their seats, and this action satisfied Mr. Bradlaugh, and he retired, his followers quietly dispersing. A letter from Mr. Healy, member of Parliament, complaining of being subjected to irritating prison rules in Kilmainham Gaol, gave opportunity to the Irish members to make a demonstration in the House, and they moved for a committee of enquiry, which the Government opposed. Sir Wilfrid Lawson moved an amendment to the address in answer to the speech from the throne, in which he condemned the Egyptian war, and it was defeated by one hundred and seventy-nine to one hundred and forty-four. The most exciting phase of the preliminary trials of the Irish conspirators has been the turning informer of James Carey, one of the prisoners and a member of the Dublin Council. His evidence comprised minute details of the conspiracy to murder public men and policemen. The other prisoners frequently hissed and jeered at their betrayer. The most important event for the week in French politics is the acceptance of the resignation of the Ministry, and the selection of M. Jules Ferry to form a new one.

## THE FLOODS.

The floods in the Middle States have subsided after doing incalculable damage. On the fourteenth the people of Cincinnati were appalled to discover the Ohio rising a second time, and a new reign of terror began which happily only lasted about a day until another fall in the water took place. In that city great destitution resulted among the thousands of people turned out of home by the floods. By order of the Bishop, the Roman Catholic churches were thrown open to receive the homeless. All the bakeries above water were tested to their utmost capacity to supply the demand for bread, and soup-kitchens were established at various points. Liberal contributions for relief come to the authorities, several single gifts of one to three thousand dollars having been made. With the exception of a line running to Baltimore and Washington, there was no communication by rail with the outside world. A railway station platform and sheds became undermined by the waters and collapsed, carrying with them fourteen boys who were watching the floods, and other persons of unknown number. Necessaries of life and comfort rose in price, in some cases doubling, and houses in the inundated districts became unsafe from undermining and the bursting of sewers. Ninety thousand persons were estimated to have been out of employment on the fifteenth, through the stoppage of the factories, and it was at one time thought all would have to shut down to avoid danger of a water famine in the regular supply. About one o'clock in the morning of the

day just mentioned a sad event supplemented the general distress. Some men went into the cellar of a four-tenement, three-story block to get some lumber for a raft they were making, when a lighted candle taken with them ignited fire damp or sewer gas that had collected, and a terrific explosion ensued, wrecking the entire building and filling the whole neighborhood with terror. The people, fearing further explosions of sewer gas forced up by the water pressure, fled from adjacent houses in scant attire. By five o'clock the firemen had taken out all the occupants of the house, when three were found killed, two perhaps fatally injured and several more or less hurt. It is calculated that twenty-five thousand people in Cincinnati will be in want for perhaps fifty days, while the loss in property is placed among the millions and a great deal of business embarrassment has been produced by the serious obstruction of trade. Jeffersonville, Indiana, was flooded from two to twenty feet, and five thousand people were homeless in the city. Hundreds of people were quartered in the upper stories of public buildings and food was taken to them in skiffs. The scenes of suffering were most woful, and the material loss is set at over a million. At Louisville, Kentucky, over three hundred squares and two thousand houses were submerged, five thousand workmen were driven from their shops and twelve thousand people from their homes, and the total loss is three millions. The authorities decline all offers of assistance outside of the city. New Albany, Indiana, appealing to the Legislature for relief, reports that it will take from a hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand dollars to relieve the absolute distress of its people. The whole valley of the Licking River and Clear Creek was under water, and a thousand acres of wheat were destroyed. From Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio joins the Mississippi, there was hardly a town or city not wholly or partly submerged. For thirty miles beginning in the upper suburbs of Cincinnati and ending with Lawrenceburg, twenty-five miles below, the damage, destitution and distress is unparalleled in American history.

## FIRES.

An explosion of gasoline started a fire in Blaisdell & Co.'s knitting mills, near Amsterdam, New York, which caused a loss of fifty thousand dollars. David Dodge's store at Mitford, Ontario, was burned; loss of two thousand five hundred, partly insured. Colender's billiard factory, Stamford, Connecticut, caught fire by spontaneous combustion in the varnish room, and was burned at a loss of two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. A loss of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars was caused by the burning of Crofthead's twisting mills, Milton, Scotland, and five hundred persons thrown out of employment. Two or three thousand dollars' loss was caused to R. Baird, Mitchell Brothers, Messrs. Ross Robertson and H. Wilde by a fire in Kinross, Ontario. The United States Iron and Tin Plate works at Demmler's station, Pennsylvania, were burned, loss one hundred thousand dollars, and three hundred men out of work. Mr. George Robertson's

carriage factory, Kingston, Ontario, was damaged a thousand dollars by fire and was insured. The steam lumber mills of James Robertson, Milleroches, Ontario, were damaged, without insurance, four thousand dollars' worth. Valentine's knitting mill, Bermington, Vermont, was burned, loss over a hundred thousand. D. Masson, & Co.'s, wholesale grocery store in Montreal was burned out; loss to building and stock more than covered by eighty thousand dollars' insurance. The Mignonne street boys' reformatory, managed by the Christian Brothers, in the same city, was damaged to the extent of thirty thousand dollars, and several firms occupying portions of them lost in amounts from one to ten thousand dollars each.

## CRIME.

Body-stealing continues to be practised to a heavy extent in the rural districts of Quebec, the plunder being sold to medical colleges in Montreal and the United States. A negro named William Hughes brutally murdered his wife at Willow Grove, twelve miles from St. John, New Brunswick, because she refused to live with him on account of his bad usage of her. Mr. Ketchum Graham, a former Provincial legislator, was attacked with knives while going into his house at Sydney, Ontario, and severely wounded in the face and hand, his assailant escaping. Three of the defaulting officers of the Jersey City Bank have been convicted and sentenced—Boyce to ten years, Beach to four and Shaw to six. The New York press is on the track of a ring of officials in the department of taxes and assess-ments, which is alleged to be robbing the rate-payers right and left.

SEVERAL PROMINENT MEN have recently died. Mr. James Court, a wealthy citizen of Montreal, died in Glasgow, Scotland, at the age of seventy-two. He had gone to Europe to spend a portion of the winter and just returned from Switzerland. Mr. Court was a native of Hamilton, Scotland, and came out in the same ship as Sir Hugh Allan, and both were employed by the same firm. He was identified with every moral reform in the city, and his generosity was a distinguishing feature of his character. Mr. William E. Dodge, of New York, widely known for his activity in moral, religious and philanthropic works, died in that city from the effects of a cold contracted while presiding at a political meeting. He leaves a wife and family and an estate valued at fifteen million dollars. Mr. Dodge was associated with the temperance reform for the past fifty years. The Hon. Mr. Morgan, ex-Governor of New York, is dead; also the Hon. John McMurich, a prominent merchant and politician of Toronto.

A CRAZE FOR LOTTERIES has suddenly struck the Province of Ontario, and among a number of proposed schemes of that sort is one to wipe out the debt of the city of London at one stroke, by the issuance of two hundred thousand tickets at five dollars each. Some influential newspapers have been carried away by this sudden gambling mania, but others join a portion of the pulp in denouncing lotteries as dishonest, immoral and demoralizing.