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The Weekly Messenger.

GEN. GRANT'S EVIL GENIUS IN PRISON.

Ferdinand Ward who has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at hard labor for his infamous dealings in connection with the firm of Grant & Ward is blamed for much of the suffering of Gen. Grant and his sentence is therefore thought by many people to be too lenient.

It was Sunday morning when Ferdinand Ward saw the morning light for the first time in his strong cell at Sing Sing, of the thirteen hundred tired convicts he was the one who was the most tired. But he did not sleep. Even the stern guard looks in through the thick iron bars with pity at the lean, lonely man, sitting on his little cot and picking at his rumpled livery of disgrace.

Now there is a wild clamor as the prison bell is jerked roughly by a keeper. Hundreds of feet begin to shuffle and stamp, heavy doors open and shut with startling accompaniments of chain rattling. Suddenly all the cell doors in the five long, gloomy tiers are opened and the whole thirteen hundred silent men step out and put their hands upon each other's shoulders as they form in line. Ward is there. He puts the tips of his long, thin fingers on the back of the sullen man ahead of him and shivers as he realizes that his companion's hands have been red with human blood.

Ward is at the end of the stove mousers' gang. If he were in the middle his awkward attempts at the lock-step would break up the line. Past hundreds of dark, yawning cells into the great dim mess room, with its scores of benches, hundreds of tin cups and platters, the long line of speechless prisoners go. The once rich man shows that he does not relish the coarse but wholesome food set before him. Hunger is always the best sauce, however, and he makes a fairly good meal.

After breakfast all but the Catholic prisoners file into the Methodist Chapel. At the door of the chapel Ward falters. Then he bends his head as he enters a long low-ceilinged room filled with rows of rough wooden benches, stiff-backed and unpainted. Ward sits in the middle of a bench thirty feet from the pulpit with its open Bible. A burglar rubs elbows with him on one side and a manslaughterer on the other. At the first hymn "Will Jesus Find us Watching" he is silent, but starts in a shrill terror voice at the beginning of the next hymn, nodding his head gently and beating time with his little foot as he sings:

The mistakes of my life have been many,
The sine of my heart have been more,
And I scarce can see for my weeping,
But I'll knock at the open door.

I know I am weak and sinful;
It comes to me more and more;
But when the dear Saviour shall bid me come in
I'll enter the open door.

When the keeper came round Ward said:
"I'll have nothing but prison food offered to me, I'll starve."
"Oh, no, you won't," said the kind-

hearted keeper: "you'll get fat on it. Keep a stout heart and you'll be all right yet."

Ward will be treated as an ordinary convict. His money can not procure him any favoritism or exemption from the common lot. Ward had been assigned work in the stove-mounting shop, his task being to fit the rough castings before they are finished. The work is easy and comparatively clean. He will begin his labor at 7.30 in the morning and end it at four in the afternoon. The State will receive 56 cents a day for his services.

CANADIAN SCHOOLS TO EXHIBIT.

A great exhibition of everything in connection with schools is to be held in London, England, beginning on the 6th of May, 1886. Each institution in Canada, whatever may be its rank in the educational system, is invited to prepare with care whatever will tend to give a correct idea of the state of education in the province.

The schools are asked to send: A photographic view of the school building accompanied by a historical sketch of the institution; anything that is peculiar to the institution in the way of school-books and school apparatus; copies or specimens of scientific or literary works prepared or published by the professors or pupils of the institutions; specimens of the daily exercises of the pupils in writing, drawing, arithmetic, history, geography, needle-work, tapestry, etc., etc. As it is important that the specimens of penmanship prepared by the pupils for this exhibition should be written upon good paper of uniform size, the commission requests that the specimens from French schools should be prepared in the series of copy books of the Christian Brothers, or in that of J. A. Langlais, book-seller, Quebec; and that the specimens of writing from the English schools should be prepared in Gage's Series of Copy Books. I may add that all the specimens prepared for the exhibition should be forwarded to the Department of Public Instruction before the first of March next.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

The very mild, genial weather which prevailed through the greater part of the month of October has given place to a rather boisterous period, and during the past week we have had throughout the Dominion and many of the northern states a superabundance of rain and wind, snow and sleet, frost and slush, which has prevented nearly all outside work on the farm. In many cases live stock have suffered sorely owing to exposure through the neglect or carelessness of their owners in not stabling them soon enough. A considerable portion of the turnip crop is still in the field, and not a few fields of potatoes in the Province of Quebec are still undug, and are likely to remain so unless there is a return to more genial weather. As the rainfall has been considerably above the average this fall and the "swamps are now full of water" winter will probably set in earlier than usual.

A QUEER REMEDY.

Physicians who have just returned from Peninsula, a small town in the state of Ohio, report the wildest demonstrations in that town yesterday in an effort to save the life of Anton Pfau, who was given morphine for quinine by a green boy in a drug store. Pfau took from three to five grains of the drug. His life being despaired of, the entire populace turned out and all day fully one hundred men were engaged in running Pfau up and down the streets in the wildest manner in order to keep him awake, while women and children followed, adding greatly to the excitement. At four o'clock Pfau began fighting the crowd and several desperate struggles ensued. His condition was very critical, as in the case of a struggle for life against severe cold, so it is in the case of a struggle against the effects of morphine, if the almost irresistible impulse to sleep is given way to there is little hope for the sufferer.

PREPARING FOR WAR.

War preparations have been going on day and night in Burmah under the direction of Italian engineers in King Thebaw's service. The Burmese army, excepting a small body of soldiers, consists of an undrilled rabble, and numbers at most only 15,000 men, but the number might be largely increased by a levy of peasantry. The only European officers in the army are an Italian and a Frenchman. There is a woman in the question between Burmah and England, namely, King Thebaw's wife, who exercises great influence over her husband. She thinks and declares that fighting and the smell of gunpowder will be injurious to her health just at present and to that of her little child. She advises King Thebaw to quietly submit to the British Government, for the present at least, and fight after her health has improved. It is believed that Burmah will answer the Indian Government in an evasive manner and try to postpone but not to put off the war altogether. It was not at first thought that King Thebaw would be so foolish as to be fight, but it seems as though that will prove a wrong impression.

BREAKING UP A NEST OF THIEVES.

During the past month numerous depredations have been committed in the neighborhood of Niagara Falls. Cellars have been broken into, and in many cases the labors of the summer canning for the winter have disappeared in a single night. Farmers have had their potato pits opened and the contents carried off in a mysterious manner. Buffalo robes, horse coverings, and almost anything that hands could be laid on were spirited away until the depredations became so bold that blankets, quilts, &c., were stolen from off the beds of a number of residences. Officer Thomas H. Young, of the Ontario police force, was made acquainted with these facts, and on Saturday last made arrests in a number of houses tenanted by Italians in what is known as "The city of the Falls." Here a large quantity of the goods were recovered, and the empty jars and cans which were scattered

around told of an unlimited feast indulged in by the sons of sunny Italy. Further warrants were issued to-day, and a wholesale raid made upon every house in that locality. These miserable hovels are inhabited by, besides Italians, as low, mean and dirty a set of people as is to be found on the face of the earth. Wretchedness, poverty, unknown crime, exist at every turn. The houses are one mass of filth and vermin. The people are too drunken and lazy to work and in many cases the goods stolen are disposed of or traded off for whiskey, and when one debauchery is at an end they are ready for any kind of thievery to obtain the necessaries for another. A few days ago when Officer Young, who was accompanied by some of the victims, entered one of these dens he was confronted by a score of swarthy Italians, who with smothered oaths drew their weapons and showed fight. They were armed with dirks made from old files, revolvers and all kinds of weapons, and appearances looked very much against the officer. His companions at this stage fled, but he, undaunted, calmly drew his revolver, locked the door to prevent the occupants escaping and continued his search. He then demanded the Italians to lay down their weapons, which they did reluctantly, when he arrested the ringleaders and brought them to Niagara Falls, where they will await trial.

PRINCE BISMARCK is not at all one of those men who take a delight in unreadable handwriting. The illegible signatures of public officers have called forth his attention and he now threatens to dismiss all from office who do not write distinctly. "A legible signature," says the Prince, "is not only demanded as an official duty, but as an act of common courtesy. Many gentlemen who address official documents to me attach names of a kind which may to them appear equivalent to a signature, but which are unintelligible to others. I insist that every public officer shall so write his name that it can not only be deciphered, but plainly read at the first glance."

BISHOP GRANDIN, who has a great deal to do with the Indians of the North-West Territory, says that he fears the Blackfoot Indians may make trouble in the future unless all their demands are complied with. During the rebellion the Government, in order to keep them quiet, gave them all they asked for, which it is feared has made them consider that the Government are afraid of them, and as they are scattered along the line of railway they may commit much damage should they take the warpath.

LAST SUNDAY a mounted sword contest took place in San Francisco. The contest was conducted something in the manner of the tournaments. An instructor of swordsmanship in a local club named Jennings was pitted against an athlete named Ross. On the twentieth attack Jennings dislocated Ross's elbow with a terrific blow. Ross continued the fight left-handed, but Jennings was declared the victor by one point at the end of three more rounds.