

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. III.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 29, 1884.

No. 48.

The Weekly Messenger

PREPARE FOR 1885.

Next week our columns will contain the prospectus of all our publications for 1885. We may say, in advance, with regard to the *Weekly Messenger*, that we hope to go on strengthening the bond between our readers and ourselves,—a bond, we are thankful to say, that is already powerful. The public are finding out that it is quite possible for a paper to be interesting and pure at the same time; to not only keep its columns free from immoral matter but fill them with matter of an entertaining and instructive sort. Those who receive the *Messenger* now, we are glad to believe, would not like to be without its weekly visit; and we want all our present readers to introduce the *Messenger* to their neighbors, so that they may also subscribe.

The subscription is only fifty cents a year, and five copies a week are sent for \$2. Any person sending us 25 subscriptions (at forty cents each) will receive a splendid portrait group of the leading journalists of Canada, with their signatures and a facsimile of each newspaper. The portraits, which make one of the finest works of art produced by Messrs. Root and Tinker, of New York, include the likeness of Mr. John Dougall, the senior member of our firm, and founder of the *Witness and Messenger*.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
Montreal.

26th November 1884.

"THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE POISON."

Dr. Jones, President of the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana, in his last annual report says: "It can be clearly demonstrated by facts that alcohol is the most destructive of all poisons to the human race, and to this general assertion the citizens of New Orleans form no exception. Thus in 1857, in the city of New Orleans, the deaths from intemperance and delirium tremens numbered eighty-four; in 1858, 139; in 1859, 138; in 1860, 175; and during the four years specified 526 individuals perished in New Orleans from the direct effects of alcohol." The doctor goes on to say that during 34 years 4694 cases of delirium tremens and alcoholic mania were treated at the New Orleans Charity Hospital alone, 914 ending fatally; besides 1873 cases of intemperance, including 97 deaths. During the same time, 4877 cases of cirrhosis of the liver, abscess of the liver, ascites, gastritis, anasarca and hepatitis, have been treated at the hospital, and 1370 deaths ensued,—these diseases being in a large measure dependent on the use of distilled liquor in a hot climate. Dr. Jones estimates that in that period alcohol has been the direct cause of at least 20,000 cases of disease, and 5000 deaths, in the city; and he remarks: "It is impossible to form any correct estimate of the pecuniary loss to the city and State by the destructive effects of alcohol, for of all poisons it occasions the greatest physical, mental, moral, and industrial loss."

HOW THE WIND BLOWS—Several significant facts have to be noted this week. An important election for the British House of Commons was held at Hackney (a large district in the east of London) to fill the seat of the late Postmaster General Fawcett. The Liberal candidate, Prof. Stuart, was successful, with a majority of 6000. Both candidates, it should be noted, declared in favor of giving localities the power to suppress the liquor trade,—the only difference being that the Conservatives would pay the liquor sellers "compensation" and the Liberal would not.—The new mayor of the town of Conleton is a Good Templar, and instead of the usual wine-feast he gave a temperance dinner to the corporation and \$100 to a hospital.—The present Warden of York County, Ontario, is a teetotaler, and at the "Warden's supper" he has had the courage of his convictions, and proved that alcoholic liquor is not necessary for the most sociable enjoyment.

THE GREAT CONFERENCE at Berlin pursues its labors, and it is likely that the vast Congo territory, including much of Central Africa and the West Coast, will be declared under international protection. No duties will be permitted, except such as are absolutely necessary for the benefit of trade. It is probable that Britain's demand for exclusive authority over the Niger River will be agreed to, after rules have been laid down for that river's trade. There seems to be harmony between Britain, Germany, and the United States, and no great grumbling from any power but Portugal, whose claims are considered worthless.

THE LORDS AND THE FRANCHISE—There is every prospect now of a compromise between the British Government and the House of Lords. Mr. Gladstone has had a conference with Lord Salisbury about a Redistribution Bill, and they are said to have come to an agreement. The Franchise Bill is therefore likely to be passed without much disputing. Some of the Radicals are indignant, as they wanted to have a regular contest, ending in the abolition of the House of Lords. Some of the Conservative leaders are getting ready for an attempt to catch the two million new voters—who are agricultural laborers—by a cry for protection against American grain and cattle.

THE REV. T. R. BACON has resigned the pastorate of the Dwight Place Congregational Church, New Haven, owing to the opposition of certain members of his congregation. He had not brought politics into the pulpit, but he had elsewhere assisted the independent Republicans against Mr. Blaine.

A YOUNG WOMAN at Cleveland has horse-whipped a clerk in a dry goods store because, as one of the managers of a ball a few evenings before, he asked her to take off her hat in the ball-room. No need to seek for the cause of the recent conflagrations, with such a fiery temper in the bosom of a Cleveland belle!

LORD TENNYSON is about to publish a new poem, called "Freedom."

A TRAGIC INCIDENT is reported from Eastern Hungary. A clergyman, with his wife and child, were driving in a sledge from Krasnisora to the neighboring village of Kis-Lonka. A pack of ravenous wolves pursued them. The mother was terror-stricken, and let the child fall from her arms. The father leaped from the sledge to save the child. He and child were at once fiercely attacked by the wolves. The father fought desperately and killed two of the wolves, but he was at last overcome, and both he and his child were devoured. Meanwhile the horses had rushed onward with the sledge, still bearing the agonized mother. In her agony of terror she gave premature birth to a babe, which was dead when it was born. This terrible shock, with all the rest she had suffered, proved too much for the poor woman, and when the sledge reached Kis-Lonka she too was dead. The whole family had perished inside of an hour.

THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE receipts for the year ending 30th June last were \$43,338,127. The expenses were \$3,066,883 more than the receipts. The receipts were \$2,170,565 less than in the previous year, mainly owing to the reduction of letter postage to two cents. The number of stamps, stamped envelopes and post-cards, issued during the year, was 2,166,130,396, of the value of \$41,515,877,—a decrease of \$1,394,452. No less than 4,843,099 letters and other parcels could not be delivered, owing to want of full address, and other causes; 2,539,477 letters and 17,513 packets of cake, fruit &c., were destroyed. Of letters sent to foreign countries, 210,436 could not be delivered and were returned. The number of letters and parcels "registered" was 11,246,545, and only one in every 21,795 of these went astray.

BERNARD COLERIDGE, son of the Lord Chief Justice of England, has just been condemned by a jury to pay \$15,000 damages to a Mr. Adams, who was engaged to Miss Coleridge. Bernard wrote a letter to his sister declaring that her intended husband was immoral in the extreme, and she showed the letter to Adams. The judge who tried the case has overruled the verdict, and is accused of favoring the defendant.

GENERAL GORGEI, the commander-in-chief of the Hungarian forces in the rebellion against Austria in 1849, has ever since been accused of treachery to his cause by surrendering. Only now, after 35 years, 280 of his former companions have signed a declaration freeing him of all suspicion. The old general was greatly affected by this restoration of confidence.

A WILD "LABOR DEMONSTRATION," was held in Paris on Sunday, when many of the speakers were in favor of killing and robbing the rich. Soldiers were called on to put down the meeting, and the radical papers are more furious than ever.

AGAINST THE FOLLY of the French Government in proposing a tax upon food, must be set their wisdom in proposing a tax on intoxicating drinks and a reduction in the railway passenger duty.

LIEUTENANT GREELY read a paper on his recent travels before the American Geographical Society in New York, and said:—"I started on the expedition, as most have done before me, without all the appliances they should have, without all the instruments that should have accompanied such an undertaking and which we found necessary." Concluding, he said: "You all know of our timely rescue; what happened then you have all read of—and you will read more." This sentence caused something of a flutter in the audience. Greely made no reference to the most horrible scenes that had been published.

FRANCE AND CHINA.—Reports of French victories at Formosa and in Tonquin have been received, but in Hong Kong it is asserted that the success in Tonquin was unimportant and in Formosa no success was obtained. It is evident that the French cannot do much against the Chinese without many more ships and soldiers. In the meantime, the French government has to put up with the sharpest criticism and opposition from the more enlightened members of its own party.

THE MERCHANTS of St. John, New Brunswick, have appealed to the Canadian Government to protect their West India trade from destruction. That, they say, will be the result of the treaty between the United States and Cuba, by which the island admits American manufactures almost free of duty. Several of the speakers were in favor of annexation to the United States.

THE INSPECTORS, appointed to examine the cow-stables in New York, Brooklyn and New Jersey, report the condition of the cattle trade generally good and the cattle brought from the West in good order. They have learned much about contagious pleuro-pneumonia, and of the possibility of controlling the disease in America.

PENNSYLVANIA, says the Philadelphia Record, is losing \$22,720,000 a year through the stoppage of anthracite coal mining; the loss by railway companies' pools and restrictions, and by the coke syndicate, is \$9,247,000 a year.

QUEEN VICTORIA will have been fifty years on the throne if she lives till 1887, and plans are being discussed for a grand celebration that year.

MRS. BLOOD, mother of Lady Colin Campbell, has just got a verdict for \$5,000 damages for libel, against a paper called *Modern Society*. Her daughter recently obtained a divorce from Lord Colin Campbell, son of the Duke of Argyll.

THE TURKISH SOLDIERS, who were becoming mutinous because they could not get enough pay to keep them in food, have been quieted for the time. The Government agrees to pay part of the arrears, and to cut down the term of service by two years.

THE CHOLERA epidemic in Paris has almost died out. London is expecting a visit from the destroyer next summer, or even sooner. We, on this side, should be prepared for every emergency.