

Weekly Messenger

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

The *Weekly Messenger* has already reached a circulation of seven thousand and it is increasing every day. It may yet reach ten thousand before February, the time of cutting off the names of all who have not renewed their subscriptions for 1883. We hope that the number will be small if there be any at all. The very remarkable success of the *Weekly Messenger* shows that it is such a paper as was needed, one that briefly and clearly tells the story of the world's progress during the week, that gives valuable information that interests each member of the household, that is beautifully and clearly printed so as to be a relief to the eye, rather than distressing to it, and that is sold at a very low rate, the price being but fifty cents a year, or when five subscriptions are sent in one envelope, two dollars or forty cents each. In the case of clubs the papers are sent to the separate address of each subscriber, unless otherwise directed. Address all letters to John Douglas & Son, Montreal, Q.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

The Government continues with a steady hand to drag criminals to light, and punish crime, while leading Irish politicians are inviting their own ruin by spreading disloyalty and encouraging treason throughout the country. In a recent fight between bailiffs and peasants in the county of Tipperary, one of the latter was killed and others wounded, five being arrested. A coroner's jury found the bailiffs guilty of wilful murder and they were arrested. De-laney, who was arrested while suspiciously following Judge Lawson in Dublin, has been sentenced to ten years' penal servitude for conspiring to murder that gentleman. Murders connected with the land agitation have been very frequent of late. Many arrests have been made of persons charged with conspiracy to murder. Carey, a member of the Municipal Council of Dublin, is one of these and has long been suspected as an associate of the most desperate conspirators. It was behind his house that were found the knives supposed to have been used in the Phoenix Park murders. At the Munster Assizes two persons convicted of shooting with intent to murder were sentenced respectively to penal servitude for life and for twenty years. Patrick Higgins, one of the murderers of the Huddys, Lord Ardilaun's bailiffs, at Lough Mask about two years ago, has been hanged. Mr. Biggar, member of Parliament, has been committed for trial at the Spring Assizes on a charge of high treason contained in recent speeches. A number of minor agitators have been sentenced to short terms of imprisonment for intimidating language concerning landlords, used at League gatherings. Messrs. Davitt and Sexton, members of Parliament, have both boldly declared the main object of their agitation to be the independence of Ireland. A free fight occurred at one of Mr. Davitt's meetings, produced by attempts to howl that gentleman down made by an organized gang. Mr. Davitt denounced them in strong language and told them they were a disgrace to the name of Nationalists, and at the close the meeting gave him a vote of thanks. If all the applications for aid under the Arrears Act received up to the

last of the year, when the opportunity closed, were granted, the Government would have to pay four million dollars to the landlords on behalf of the tenants. Two hundred young laboring men and women from Clare, Limerick and Tipperary have lately left for America. The distress in the West of Ireland still gives the authorities great concern, notwithstanding all that has been done to relieve it. The houses of priests are besieged by people piteously begging for meal and potatoes. Lady Florence Dixie, a traveller and writer noted for benevolence, raised and distributed a quarter of a million dollars for the sufferers, but declines to do more on the ground that it is the duty of the Government and the Land League to help the people. The conduct of the League in presenting their Treasurer, Mr. Egan, with a service of plate while so much distress existed, has been unfavorably commented upon. The depreciation in the grain crops last year as compared with the previous year is estimated at twenty-five million dollars and as compared with the average of the ten previous years at twelve millions. The loss on the potato crop was twenty-one million dollars compared with the previous year, and eleven millions compared with the ten years' average.

BUSINESS NEWS.

A damaging drought prevails in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, mills being compelled to shut down for want of water and hundreds of hands thus deprived of work. An unusually large number of spruce logs are being taken out in the Eastern Townships, Province of Quebec, this season. Five-cent nickel pieces of a new design are about to be issued in the United States. The new coin will be a little heavier and larger, but thinner, than the present one. Grain may now be taken across the border by Canadian farmers, to be ground in mills in the United States, without duty being paid upon it. The oil market, at Bradford, Pennsylvania, continues to have intermittent panics over reports of oil strikes. As an instance of the peril of speculating the case of Henry Miller, of Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, is a striking one. He lately returned from the West with twenty thousand dollars made in silver mining, and lost all in oil speculations. The Moulders' Union of Albany, New York, have resolved to resist the proposed reduction of fifteen percent in the wages of stove moulders. The cartridge manufactory of the Dominion Government at Quebec has begun operations and its work is well spoken of. The new Pig Iron Manufacturers' Association will include manufacturers of the South and East as well as of the West. The Golden Rubber Company, of Trenton, New Jersey, which lately failed, is found to have been a rather crooked concern. Although there was a loss of over three hundred dollars on the first six months' business, the company declared a dividend out of the capital, and continued to lose money until it suspended. A new National Bank is to be started in Chicago, with a capital stock of three million dollars and some of the richest capitalists in the city at the back of it. The Traders' National Bank, of Charlotte, North Carolina, goes into

liquidation, ready to meet the demands of both creditors and depositors. There is an extensive strike on the Caledonian Railway in Scotland, in consequence of which only ten of forty engines in Hamilton can be used. Five hundred men paraded at the latter town and afterward left for Glasgow. The cotton trade has improved in prospects so much in Oldham, England, that new mills are projected. An improved feeling is reported in general trade circles of the chief cities of the Union, and that in spite of numerous small failures. The iron trade shows no improvement last, over the previous week, petroleum oil tends upward, coal is dull and ocean freights keep high. Three hundred and forty-two failures were reported to have occurred in the Union during the week, thirty-five more than the preceding and one hundred and thirty-nine more than in the corresponding week of last year. Nineteen failures in Canada are an increase of eleven over those of the previous week.

CRIME.

Polk, the Treasurer of Tennessee who ran away after secretly robbing the Treasury of hundreds of thousands, is in custody, having been recaptured. He has charged Price, the detective who had hold of him at his first arrest, with having taken fifty thousand dollars to let him go, and now Price is himself in jail. Some of the banks will be proceeded with for aiding the fallen Treasurer in his dishonest practices, and it is believed that many politicians will be involved in his disgrace as they have been in his guilt. The entire deficiency created by Polk amounts to nearly half a million dollars. The City Bank of Jersey City, New Jersey, has been completely wrecked through a conspiracy of Boice, the president, Shaw, his son-in-law, and the cashier, and Beach, the bookkeeper, who robbed it of forty-nine thousand dollars. Two savings banks are thought to be involved in the ruin. It is feared depositors will get little or none of their money. The capital of the City Bank was fifty thousand and its average deposits seventy-five thousand dollars. Henry Clementson, wool broker, has left Boston suddenly for England, leaving debts of several thousand dollars. Bertha Heinman, imprisoned on Blackwell's Island for confidence frauds, is accused of swindling one Charles Karpe while on the Island out of nearly a thousand dollars. A man named Duval, lately released from an insane asylum in Detroit, Michigan, came to Aylmer, Quebec, where he formerly belonged, and soon revealed a dangerous disposition by a terrible assault upon Mr. John Gordon, high constable for the county of Ottawa, depriving him of one of his eyes and inflicting other serious injuries. Thomas Milton and wife and a man named Theophile Barrette have been arrested at St. Henri, Montreal, for stealing a cheque for one hundred and thirty-three dollars, belonging to Gideon Harnois, the employer of the men. Dr. Ballard, aged seventy, a prominent and wealthy resident of Audubon county, Iowa, while alone sick in his house lately, was robbed by a burglar of nearly three thousand dollars. John Morgan, horse thief and manifold murderer, was shot and killed while resisting arrest near Pleasant Hill, Louisi-

ana, after mortally wounding John Furlow, one of the arresting party. Samuel Scott, Aberdeen, Ohio, having insulted his niece in a quarrel, was shot by her brother and died. A man named Sheehan some time ago forged a cheque for over seven thousand dollars in New York, and was traced to Montreal after he had been in the latter city for months under the name of Schafers and got nearly through with his ill-gotten money. The detective who secured his arrest received a reward of five hundred dollars. The conductors of the Alton Railway are being discharged in Chicago, under a charge of having kept two-thirds of the cash fares collected, causing a loss of about fifty thousand dollars a year. The city of St. Louis has been excited within the week by a case of alleged abduction. The story was that Miss Zerelde Garrison, one of the belles of the city, had been abducted by a gang of gentlemanly-looking ruffians while she was on her way to a convent, and that after having been detained for ransom a few days a woman in the house where she was held allowed her to escape. The leading citizens were aroused to a high pitch over the alleged outrage and were taking vigorous measures to recover the young lady when she returned to her family herself. Doubts have, however, been cast upon the abduction story, it being stated that the girl wanted to be kept in the house where she stayed to save her from going to the convent. She strongly denies having acted a deceptive part, but it is strange that neither her relatives nor the police are taking proceedings against the alleged abductors. Patrick Maloney, a former resident of the city of Ottawa, was lately so badly abused by Thomas Drewers, at Rat Ptage, Manitoba, that he died of his injuries in a few days. "Purring" is the name given to a heathenish "sport," in which men are matched to kick at each other's bare shins with brogans on their feet. A contest of this sort lately took place in Pennsylvania between a saloon-keeper named Robert Tavish and a coal-miner named David McWilliams. After both had been terribly abused in several rounds and Tavish had been refused bandages for his fast-bleeding legs, the latter fell like a log and both were carried off with legs raw and swollen out of all proportion. A man has been arrested on suspicion for setting the Newhall House in Milwaukee on fire and thus producing the recent fearful calamity. A number of people at Shinagill, Iowa, were lately prosecuted for stealing a case of large Bibles on the occasion of a wreck of two freight trains by collision, and one man was sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment and the rest were discharged. All who had Bibles were arrested and the books recovered, but only the man who had the smallest number confessed and he was the only one punished.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, in session at Napanee, Ontario, has decided in favor of Methodist union by a test vote of seventy-four to twenty. Of the number voting for the union on the joint commission's basis, forty-five were ministers and twenty-nine laymen, which leaves fourteen ministers and six laymen in opposition.