

The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11.

A PRESCRIPTION.

There is a class of persons that seems to be represented in every organization of a mutual sort, such as temperance societies, whose absence, so far as the general good is concerned, is sometimes better than their company. That class is those who seem to be satisfied with nothing that is done unless they have had a good share in its performance, and whose selves bulk so largely in their own esteem that a favorite method of securing their own way in anything, or of having others regard them as important as they deem themselves, is to threaten to withdraw from the organization. Often they carry this method to the extent of tabling their written resignation, particularly at times when they imagine the institution can least spare members. Unless the persons acting thus have made themselves positively obnoxious to their fellow-members, their course in the respect described is usually, too often we think, met by a little petting and more or less flattery and coaxing, and when the requisite degree of penitence for having offended their dignities is accorded, and concession to their whims shown, they with a dramatic flourish and an imperious air withdraw their resignations and condescend to remain in the institution. No further description than the foregoing is necessary to describe the class now under review, as every person of any length of standing in a mutual organization will discern a portion of the lineaments, if not a full length portrait, of some they have endured association with in their experience. If any find the description a mirror reflecting their own images, we can only adjure such, for the sake of the sacred cause of human reformation in which they are enlisted, to mend their ways and try to cultivate more singleness of heart toward the line of duty to which they are solemnly pledged. Let selfish habits of thought and action be abandoned and the good of humanity be the great study of each mind, the animating principle of each heart, and all who are so exercised will find out for themselves that the sweetest blessings of existence lie in blessing others. Probably, however, some of the worst of the class in question will be unable to see themselves as others see them, and for these counsel is vain. It therefore devolves upon those who have to do with them to find a remedy if they would not be perpetually under the infliction. Varying phases of the selfish and self-important distemper will undoubtedly call for a variety of treatment, but some general prescription may apply more or less to all who are infected. While being careful to give needless offence to none, and keeping in view the fact that a member may evince one or two disagreeable traits of character and yet have good characteristics in sufficient weight to overbalance the bad, at the same time one great essential to the successful working of a temperance or any other social organization is to make the maintenance of the dignity of the institution as supreme a consideration as the promotion of its primary objects. Do not let threats of any kind coerce or influence the society to depart from a course that commends itself to the good sense of a majority of the members. Give none the need of flattering or coaxing that they may seem to be bidding for by feints of withdrawing themselves—of course always distinguishing

between a hasty act that a little quiet reasoning will reverse and a habitual policy of fishing for offence and bringing the society to its knees before some little mightiness. An example or two of quietly allowing members to drop out when they, upon frivolous pretences, signify their intention to leave, would last most organizations in good effects for some time. The policy of abating the many to the selfish personality of the few will have a demoralizing effect in every case: our prescription is, therefore—maintain the dignity of the institution at all costs.

FRANCE AND SPAIN.

Among European sensations of the week appear accounts of most opposite movements among the kindred nations, France and Spain. In the former it is said a plot has been discovered to restore the monarchy, which had gone so far as the ordering of twenty-five thousand muskets for use in a popular rising. Some correspondents belittled the matter, saying the plot was confined to small tradesmen and domestic servants, but the official police report shows that a political organization possessed of various means of action exists in France, apparently patronized by Legitimist chiefs, who are constantly looking to the chances of restoring monarchical institutions under the Bourbons or mediæval royal line of Latin Catholic kings. Instructions have been given the public prosecutor to proceed against the suspected conspirators. In Spain, on the other hand, we have an insurrection in the army of those who would dethrone King Alfonso and restore the republic, probably to a short-lived an existence as the last republic. Seven hundred men composing the garrison in the city of Badajoz pronounced in favor of the republican constitution of 1869 and Ruiz Zorrilla for President, and the people are said to fraternize with the soldiery. Several regiments have been despatched to quell the insurrection, and the movement will probably by this time have been effectually nipped in the bud. A poorly balanced people, or a people arriving at civil or religious liberty by revolutions rather than regular growth, are apt to fly at the throat of their country's constitution when things are not going to suit them. With such people it is not so much the form of government that troubles them, but the fact that it is the form under which they are for the time unhappy. Of course, there are always, in a country prone to changes and accustomed to the necessity of having to fight for everything worth possessing in popular rights and privileges, some living persons endowed with the smouldering but not smothered fires of a lost cause, be it good or bad, liable at any time to become the matches for kindling any popular underbrush overdriven by consuming jealousy or discontent or bigoted malice. Thus we see at the same moment in different neighboring nations, whose respective histories have a remarkable deal in common, symptoms of outbursts in behalf of diametrically opposite objects, namely, the restoration of a monarchy and the overthrow of one.

THE EMPEROR WILLIAM, of Germany, who has lived to see the natural heir to his throne of the third generation from himself—having held in his hands his great grandson—is still keeping remarkably well and is visiting the chief summer resorts of Europe this season. His Prime Minister and devoted counsellor, Prince Bismarck, by all accounts, is failing much faster than his Imperial master.

THE WEEK.

THE LITTLE REBELLION in Tamaulipas Province, Mexico, has been quelled.

ONCE MORE peace negotiations are said to be proceeding favorable between Chili and Peru.

THE CUSTOMS RECEIPTS of the United States have increased nearly a million in July, the first month under the operation of the new law.

SEVENTEEN MORE CHINAMES are reported to have been smuggled into Washington Territory from British Columbia, in violation of United States law. This is said to have been the third lot clandestinely got across the border within a week.

WHILE DRUNK, James West, of Matamora, Ohio, confessed he and two men named Ward and Kirkbridge, twenty years ago, murdered a New York oil prospector and robbed him of three thousand dollars. He said the body was thrown into a well and, sure enough, a search revealed a skeleton. Ward dropped dead three years ago, but nothing is said of the third man.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR is travelling in the West. His party arrived at Cheyenne, Dakota, on Saturday night. He responded to calls for his appearance at the towns passed through by showing himself on the platform of the car. All in the party are astonished at the great agricultural development of Iowa. The railways will be severely taxed to carry the wheat crop to market this year.

IRISH CATHOLICS in Waterbury, Connecticut, are angry at the removal of their pastor, Father Lawrence Walsh, late Treasurer of the Land League, to Westerly, Rhode Island. It is considered that the transfer was intended as a rebuke of the priest's excessive patriotism, and a specimen of the discipline to be practised upon the clergy by the hierarchy in keeping with the spirit of the Pope's circular upon Irish affairs.

A STRANGE STORY comes from Cape Lookout, North Carolina, of an immense iceberg that had been floating about there for several days, upon which some pilots discovered a Greenland boat, containing the frozen body of an Esquimaux. What makes it a strange thing is the unseasonable time and the unlikely place for the iceberg to appear, but the story would be so odd an invention that we must accept it as true until it is proved otherwise.

THERE IS A REPORT of a scheme afoot to attack a slice of Mexico to the United States, which, it is well to say at the outset, is looked upon as a baseless story in Washington. According to the reported scheme, however, the ten thousand or so Americans in Chihuahua are to pronounce a dissolution of that Province's relations with Mexico, while the American Congress is convened next session, and at the same time apply for admission into the United States and form a local State organization.

GREAT PREPARATIONS are being made for the celebration of the four hundredth birthday of Martin Luther, the great German Reformer, on November 10th. The Emperor has directed that the anniversary shall be observed by all Protestant schools. At Erfurt the students of the universities will celebrate the entry of Luther into that town, in the convent of which he met with the convictions that ultimately compelled him to abandon the Church of Rome and head the formidable defection from it which marks the sixteenth century as one of the most prominent epochs of all time.

INOCULATION has been discovered to be a remedy for pleuro-pneumonia in cattle, by the health officials of New York State.

QUEEN VICTORIA is rallying from the mental depression into which she had fallen, and anxiety regarding her condition is disappearing.

A BLACK SNAKE with bright blue eyes is a curiosity come across in a hay field at Canterbury, Windham County, Connecticut, and it has been preserved.

AMERICAN VESSELS taking pickled pork into the port of Bremen, Germany, must notify the Customs authorities of the quantity, under a penalty of three hundred marks.

QUIET WAS RESTORED without any serious outbreak having occurred at Rat Portage, in the disputed borderland between Ontario and Manitoba, and there is no doubt matters had been made much worse than their real condition by partisan reports.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER, Canadian Agent in London, Great Britain, has been notified by the Dominion Government that a thousand men are wanted to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway, in order to have it completed by the end of 1885.

NORTH-EAST GEORGIA is in a reign of terror by a revival of persecution of Negroes similar to the outrages practised some years after the war by what was called the Ku-Klux-Klan. Masked men beat, whip, shoot at and even hang Negroes upon the slightest pretext, and sometimes for no cause at all. In prosecution of these malevolent acts they prowled about the country at night, dragging their victims from their beds to be tortured or killed.

NEARLY SEVEN HUNDRED ICELANDERS recently went out to the Canadian North-West to join a colony of their countrymen who had previously formed a settlement in what has been called "Icelandic Block." Most of them intended to take up farming, and all of them were pretty well off in money. They are likely to prove a valuable element in that country, whose climate will not be as uncongenial to them in winter as it is at first to emigrants from more southern latitudes.

AFTER AN ENQUIRY of the most extended and exhaustive kind, the Treasury Cattle Commissioner reports no trace of foot and mouth disease in the United States, apart from herds just landed from Great Britain. In the British House of Commons it has been officially stated that although the above disease had not existed in the United States during the past four months, there was pleuro-pneumonia to be found in the Eastern States, and the Government could not discriminate in favor of the Western States. Cattle have therefore to continue to be slaughtered immediately upon their arrival from America in English ports.

MONSEIGNEUR CAPEL, the Papal delegate sent out to America, preached in New York, on Sunday, on the occasion of the celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus. The sermon, which reviewed the life and character of St. Ignatius Loyola, is described as having been a masterpiece of eloquence. It represented the Saint as one of the highest types of spiritual workers the world had ever seen and one who by imitating closely the life of Christ founded an organization that, so long as the world lasts, will be a powerful agent for good in society. The Jesuit society is certainly one of the most energetic and potent auxiliaries to the extension and support of the Church of Rome which exists within her pale.