

THE WEEK.

SEVENTEEN PRIZES.

We have determined to give the *Messenger* from now until the end of the year for

FIFTEEN CENTS,

so that everyone may have a chance to take it for a short time on trial. Speak to your neighbors at once, and if you cannot get them to take the *Messenger* for a year, ask them to take it on trial till the 1st of January, 1886. Every day that passes there is less chance of getting so many papers.

To the person who sends us the largest number of subscribers to the end of the year at fifteen cents each, we will give a prize of \$5 and our book of reprinted stories. To the one who sends us the second largest list of subscribers to the end of the year, we will give a prize of \$2.50, and to the next 15 most successful competitors, we will give our large story-book described in last week's number of this paper. There is a chance for everyone to obtain one or other of these

SEVENTEEN PRIZES.

Clip this offer out and keep it in mind.

Remember, too, our special offer in regard to yearly subscribers. In obtaining yearly subscribers to form clubs of five, you may either send \$2.00 for each five, keeping fifty cents for yourself, or you may send \$2.50 and obtain our story book. Young folks will find that they can spend a few hours very profitably in canvassing for this paper.

GOVERNOR ST. JOHN tells a very touching story which we have printed on the 6th page. Who will accuse him for setting the man free who was but the instrument which the murderer used to accomplish his wicked deed?

SOME STORIES there are which fascinate without giving anything further to those who read them than a sense of pleasure. Everyone should read the story which we begin in this number which is both fascinating and instructive.

YOUNG FOLKS! We invite you to write us letters on all sorts of interesting subjects, addressing them to the "Editor of the *Weekly Messenger*." If you have questions to ask, write, and some of our readers will, no doubt be able to answer them. The last page of our paper is peculiarly a young folks' page, and they can use part of it in writing letters to one another. For instance, if a boy finds a nest and does not know what bird the eggs belong to, let him write, giving a description of the eggs and nest, and some other reader will be able to tell him at once what bird it is. If any of our readers live in places which have legends, witch stories or anything of that sort connected with them, we will be glad to hear from them. All who write should remember the following rules: Write very briefly. Write plainly and punctuate carefully. Write on one side of the paper only. Sign your own name or any other, but never omit to send us your own name, address and age.

A DYNAMITE EXPLOSION which occurred in Philadelphia broke all the windows in a dozen stores in the vicinity.

EX-GOVERNOR ST. JOHN of Kansas addressed a large audience in Milton, Ontario, a few days ago, his subject being prohibition.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, while in Norway took tea on board Mr. Gladstone's cruising yacht, the "Sunbeam," with Mrs. Gladstone. The Prince has invited Prince William, third son of King Oscar of Sweden and Norway, to visit England this fall and be his guest during the autumn royal hunting season.

GENERAL BOOTH, of the Salvation Army was mobbed at Hull recently. An unknown person threw a stick at the General and struck him, but he was not badly hurt.

THE BELIEF is growing among military and other friends of General Gordon that he really escaped alive from Khartoum and succeeded in fleeing to the Equator. So strong has this faith become that a mission will be organized to search for and rescue him. It is scarcely possible that the hero of Khartoum can be living, but the faintest indications that he may be are eagerly seized on by those who almost worship him.

MR. GLADSTONE states that his cruise to Norway and travels through that country have greatly benefited his health. He pronounces Norway admirable, and says its inhabitants were hospitable and he was received everywhere with such cordiality that the only regret he entertained was that he was unable to accept all invitations tendered him. The yacht "Sunbeam," with Mr. Gladstone and party on board, arrived at Wick, Scotland, on Monday. A deputation of the inhabitants of the town went on board the "Sunbeam" and greeted Mr. Gladstone very warmly, inviting him to land. Mrs. Gladstone, speaking for her husband, said that his health was unequal to the fatigue of landing. The "Sunbeam" afterward proceeded south. Mr. Gladstone reached Aberdeen, on Tuesday last, and was met by an enormous crowd and accorded a popular ovation. Mr. Gladstone will remain in Aberdeen a few days, the guest of his brother, before proceeding to his own residence. He has arranged to return some time during the coming campaign and make a political address to the electors of Aberdeen. Before leaving the "Sunbeam" Mr. Gladstone addressed the crew in a clear and strong voice. His physician, Sir Andrew Clark, declares that his patient is better and that a further change of air will restore him completely.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND is now spending his holiday in the Adirondack Mountains far from any inhabited spot. The journey to the place is a very difficult one as a great part of it lies through the thick woods. The President acts in a very democratic way, chatting and joking with his guides, who call him "governor" not "President." He has a doctor and a lawyer with him, the first to attend to his health, and the latter probably to decide any little disputes that may arise. The President has managed to get where he will not be bothered with telegrams and the affairs of state. His physician thinks it is doing him good. With the restlessness of one who is not accustomed to a camping out life, the President is ever on the alert for game, and what with fishing and deer-shooting by day, and hunting again at night, it is said that Mr. Cleveland does not get more than three or four hours sleep out of the twenty-four.

THE BRITISH, having been attacked again and again in their stronghold at Suakim by the Mahdi's forces, have thought it was time to show fight themselves, and seeing a good chance have made an attack on Shinat, a village a hundred and forty miles north of Suakim. Two hundred and forty friendly natives in one of their own steamboats accompanied an English steamer to the village which was attacked and destroyed. The British and allies in battle killed a large number of hostile Arabs who inhabited Shinat, and captured enough grain and cloth to make a large cargo. The Mahdi's son will find it a difficult thing to carry out his father's threat and drive all the English soldiers from Suakim into the Red Sea.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

The weather has been rather cold during the past week, with frost in many places in the North-West, but the damage done is comparatively small. The *New York Commercial Bulletin* says: "The fuller accounts which are now reaching us of the effects of the last week's cold snap on the North-western grain fields are such as to confirm previous statements, that no damage has resulted to either wheat or corn to any considerable extent. In Illinois only slight damage is reported. In Iowa the rain has spoiled some of the grain that was not in stock. Throughout Minnesota everything is in good shape, and the harvest is so well advanced that it is independent of the weather. Indiana's corn crop, we are told, will be "enormous," and in Kansas it bids to be the best ever raised."

The last few days have been very favorable for harvesting the small grains, which is now almost completed except in a few northern localities. The cool weather has been favorable to potatoes and other root crops and the yield of potatoes promises to be large and very few symptoms of rot have yet appeared. The rapid maturing of corn has been checked, but this will rather improve the yield should frost not come for two or three weeks longer. The certainty of an abundant harvest has had a beneficial effect on the general business of the country, especially in the west and the south.

HOW THE SPANIARDS FARE.

A description of the state of things which the plague has brought on in Murcia, a town of Spain, may be taken as an example of what the cholera can do. The aspect of the town is dull. Many of the shops are closed and many houses untenanted. A few people gather in the cafes and casinos. Processions from the churches pass along the streets with unwonted frequency, the priests carrying the host to the dying, and people kneeling in the streets uncover their heads and cross themselves. Other processions twice a day parade the infested streets, and carry about the relics and images of saints. The bishop has instituted solemn services in the cathedral and the churches to implore the Divine assistance. The bishop and the governor are also uncasing in their visits to persons attacked, and in the distribution of rations and medicines to the poor. Day and night the dreaded "dead cars" pass to and fro along the streets, and often take bodies away without coffins within an hour after the decease.

King Alfonso has visited the cholera hospitals in Madrid where the plague is gradually abating. In a town of Andalusia, Spain, the cholera has driven most of the wealthy people from the place. The desertion on the part of the rich employers deprived many of employment. The laboring people were angry and showed it by rioting. Many of the houses of the wealthy were wrecked by the mob. The soldiers were called out, and in the fight which followed, eight persons were killed and twelve wounded.

GERMANY AND SPAIN QUARREL.

Germany having seized the Caroline Islands will not surrender them, let Spain say what she will. France is taking a hand in the quarrel, and has offered Spain material support if she sees fit to make her demand with arms in her hands. Great and imposing meetings were held in numerous cities of both France and Spain last Sunday, to protest against the action of Germany on the subject. It is thought that the seizure of the Caroline Islands is merely a ruse by which Germany means

in the end to obtain possession of Cuba, having secured an understanding with the United States. A German paper, and an influential one it is too, remarks that the beautiful ladies of Cuba will soon be lovely subjects of the Emperor William. Some measures have been taken, according to French papers, to have the Spanish army in readiness. Whether this be true or not it is certain that all Spain is in great excitement about the affair. The German Government have answered the indignant messages of the Spanish Government explaining that its action had been inspired altogether by friendly motives, and that Germany regarded the affair as unworthy of interrupting the ancient amity between the two nations. The reply further explains that Germany, seeing no evidences of Spanish rule in the Carolines, thought the islands to have been virtually abandoned. The German Government, however, does not mention whether any of the islands have been actually occupied.

THE YACHT RACE.

The coming international yacht race which is to take place in New York on the 7th, 9th and 11th of September is to decide the championship of the world in the matter of sailing-yacht racing. The race is creating interest and even excitement. There have been five contests between English and American sail-boats for the challenge cup, and at each contest the American yachts have won. The first race was in 1851, the second in 1870, the third in 1871, the fourth in 1876 and the fifth in 1881. After another lapse of four years the English cutter "Genesta" appears as a contestant for the much coveted cup. The "Puritan" of the Eastern Yacht Club and the "Priscilla" of the New York Yacht Club (both new boats) are now having trial races with other yachts to determine which is the best boat to meet the Englishman. It is only fair to state a fact well known to yachtsmen, that new boats labor under more or less disadvantages and that a year's trial is generally considered to greatly increase a boat's racing qualities.

The "America", which won the race in 1851, stands to-day the pride of Americans, as having won the cup in a race against the entire fleet of the best English yachts, which for 34 years have been—after four trials—unable to recover it. The cup is of solid silver, ever shapely and elaborately ornamented. It stands full two feet high and weighs at least 100 ounces. Around its broadest part are medallions variously inscribed. The first inscription is as follows: "One hundred guinea cup, won Aug. 22, 1861, at Cowes, Eng, by yacht "America" at the royal yacht squadron regatta, open to all nations." It is an understood thing that the cup does not belong to the owners of the vessel that wins it, but to the club, and that it is to be a perpetual challenge cup which is to be forever open to be sailed for by organized yacht clubs of all foreign countries.

As to the qualities of the English cutter, she appears to have made her best races in heavy winds, but she has lately been given more canvas and it must be supposed that her ability in light breezes is better now than before. The "Genesta's" fastest time averaged 4 m. 12 s. to the mile. She is longer by a foot than the "Puritan" which will likely be the boat chosen to compete with her. The greatest difference between the two boats is in the width, the "Puritan" being 22 feet wide whilst the "Genesta" is only 15 feet. This difference, it is thought, will tell against the American yacht. The "Puritan," however, has a good deal more sail than the English cutter.