Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. III.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 22, 1884.

The Weekly Messenger

NEWS FROM GORDON.

Every now and then the story is spread that Khartoum and General Gordon have been captured. After a spell of great anxiety, we hear from the brave general himself and he seems as free and hearty as ever. On the last occasion it was said that Gordon had lost his life, and the Chinese, who have reason to be thankful to him for ridding their country of a horde of barbarian robbers, made official demonstrations of respectful mourning.

Again, however, the gloomy anticipation have not been confirmed. Lord Wolseley, who is at Dongola, has received a letter from Gen. Gordon dated Nov. 4th confirming the massacre of Colonel Stewart, Mr. Power and M. Herbin. Gen. Gordon says he is still able to hold out against the Mahdi. He also says he is delighted to hear of the British advance up the Nile, and hopes to be able to maintain his hold at Khartoum until the arrival of the expedition. He says he continues to harass the Mahdi with his steamers whenever the latter attempt to approach Khartoum. The Mahdi is encamped one day's march from Kbartoum. General Gordon's letter also says that his position in Khartoum is very secure and that his troops are in excellent spirits. He says the Mahdi regularly receives European papers by which he learns of the movements of the British troops in Egypt. General Gordon warns the French consul-general at Cairo that the Mahdi possesses M. Herbin's cipher code

Orders have been received to forward the reinforcements up the Nile with great dematch. Friendly tribes have defeated the Hadendowahs, near Suakim, capturing two hundred camels and a convoy of provisions for Osman Digna.

Several accidents are reported. By one, on the Alexandria and Cairo Railway, several English officers were injured and some Arabs killed. While the Stafford regiment was passing the Ambukol cataract, a whale boat sank and two others were damaged. A sergeant was drowned and the stores and outfits lost.

Frank Vizetelly, the artist-corre-Mr spondent of an English illustrated paper, who was captured by the Mahdi before the defeat of Hicks Pasha, is alive and holding the position of doctor in the rebel camp.

A GREAT CONFERENCE.

The International Conference at Berlin, it is to be hoped, will result in some arrangement by which Africa will be preserved from becoming a European battlefield. The conference has now been opened distinction between French, English, Ger- friends, unwilling to admit what they fear, German Empire. In his speech he alluded class them all as barbarians. So far we are a clean breast of it. Alongside all the to the high, beneficent and pacific aims the glad to report all as quiet over our mission teetotalism that exists there is still an appalconference had before it. It had for its object the solution of three main questions. Free navigation with freedom of trade on he had even seen Dr. McKay's head cut off, organs and destroys them more quickly than the Congo River ; free navigation of the but, fortunately, these have so far ended in an occasional debauch. But, as we have said,

of sovereignty. The Chancellor hoped the war against the French, and that the head of a vast body of water that he had seen in labors of the conference would result in the men of the villages would be held responfurthe increase of peace and good will sible for the safety of the mission property. amony the nations.

as the basis for discussion, with the follow-ing reservation : England was willing to see "In regard to the mission work proper, it, the principles of free navigation, etc., ex- of course, suffers considerable interruptic ..., tended to the Niger, but the carrying out owing to the unsettled state of affairs. of those principles should be entrusted to preachers at the various stations have been England, as her duty and privilege, as she advised to be as circumspect as possible in

the conference, insisting on her right to the exerting himself to do all that lies in his Congo, and declaring Portuguese treasure power for the protection of our people, and and bload had been freely spent to main- we can but trust ourselves and the future in tain order on the Congo for the benefit of God's hands. We hear and read many the commerce of all nations. Portugal ad- alarming reports, but this we know, our mits the principal of freedom of passage God rules over all. along the great African rivers, and has no ant for us to find that Tamsui was to be bom-intention of establishing a restrictive tariff. barded, nor to learn that Formosa was to be She would merely exact taxes from trade a French possession, yet such sufficient to the liberty and safety of per- lie before us in the future. We can only son and property.

will probably last for several weeks, will be these events now taking place in this Em kept secret.

Christians of all nations are particularly in- although the lesson is a hard one, it will in terested. Portuguese authority has never the end be for the good of China, for her helped missionary enterprise, and cannot rulers and officials have yet to lay aside be credited with much assistance to legitim- much pride, ignorance, conceit and dupliate trade. British traders have also often city before they can properly fill the posibeen great hindrances to Christianity, but tions which they now occupy. the authority of the Protestant govern has often made itself felt on the right side.

THE FRENCH IN FORMOSA.

The French are reported to have at last drinking-! "

eded in occupying Tamsui, in the island of Formosa, though a later telegram denies arranged for British and American vessels to journal in Britain : "run the blockade" which the French are trying to establish round Formosa.

SAVS 1 and chapels; for the Chinese are a people is his physical destruction, often before he, and enapsis, for the consector violence or perhaps she comes under medical notice, easily excited, and if once aroused to violence or perhaps she, comes under medical notice, no one can tell to what lengths they may go. Jaundice, or dropsy, or albuminuria, or de-Also, the greater part of the people make no lirium tremens, may have been reached before field. There have been threats of violence ling amount of tippling which does not disagainst converts, and one man reported that tinctly intoxicate, but saturates the principal

These proclamations have already do Sir E. Malet, the British Commissioner much good in pacifying the people. We verars, but scarcely anything has been known echoed the sentiments expressed by Prince are glad to say that the Chinese officials have

Portugal has drawn up a memorandum to disturbance. So far Dr. McKay has been It would not be pleasresults may n and property. The proceedings of the conference, which his own Church and people, overruling pt secret. The African question is one in which the deemer's Kingdom. We all believe that

" MORTAL DRINKING."

"Yes, I believe in temperance, but the way you teetotallers talk about moderate

We have all of us heard that remark often enough. Listen to this article from a recent the capture. The Chinese government has number of the Lancet, the chief medical

The Bishop of Exeter and others have been declaiming against moderate drinking. A very interesting letter, written at Tamsul It is high time to define what moderate on the 1st of September, by the Rev. J. drinking is not. It is not drinking in public. Jamieson, of the Canadian Presbyterian house; it is not drinking on the sly; it is Mission, has just been published. At that not drinking early in the day; it is not time, Kelung, ten miles distant, had been drinking by itself at other than meal-times; bombarded, but French war vessels had not it is not drinking to procure sleep or to recompared at Tansai. The Chinese were lieve pain. All men, and especially all wo-blocking up the harbor with torpedoes and men, who do such things, are not moderate sunken barges full of stones. Mr. Jamieson drinkers, and had better beware. It is "A time of trouble such as this is terrible, to see how soon a drunkard is made fraught with danger to converts, preachers by thoughtless drinking, ard how complete

nex African territory. The conference would where we have chapels, stating that the not concern itself with the present questions missionaries have nothing to do with the French Jesuit missionary wrote an account the wild country far north of the lower St. Lawrence. The Hudson's Bay Company has had a trading station there for many ion and Provincial governments have appointed an expedition to spend perhaps two years exploring that most interesting country. Mr. F. H. Bignell, who was sent The out first with the provisions and stores for the use of the explorers, has just returned to Quebec. He reports that he was the chief, if not the only priving, as are having to be as circumspect as position in found a boiling prond or small lake on his Lower Niger. of water, a sort of inland sea, full of all sort of fish. Wild fowl and black bears are abundant, and there are a few wolves. The Indians are nominally Christians, but very degraded. Fortunately, liquor has not yet been introduced, and they are almost free from crime. Birch, spruce, and balsam thrive there, though it can neither be called an agricultural nor a lumbering country.

No. 47.

THE CORK "WEEKLY NEWS" gives the following account of the eviction of a priest's tenant in Tipperary : On October 22nd the assistant sub-sheriff, Mr. Quinn, accompanied by three bailiffs, protected by twenty policemen, visited the lands of Soloheadbeg, near Limerick Junction, to evict, at the instance of the Rev. Wm. M'Keogh, parish I jiest, Ballynahinch, in the Diocese of Cashel, a nant named Patrick Hanly, who holds about one hun-dred and five Irish acres. Shortly after the evicting party arrived a crowd collecincreased to some hundreds ted, which during the day. Hanly gave up posses-sion peaceably, His wife, who is the mother of nine young children, the youngest being only two months old, fainted as her children, having heard of the news at school, rushed toward their home crying loudly. She was taken to a neighbor's house, where the cries of her children and herself were extremely distressing. Rev. Mr. M'Keogh three weeks ago proceeded to America to collect money for a parochial charity.

BRITISH POLITICS .- The Franchise Bill ssed its third reading in the House of Commons, as before, without even a division. Now it has gone to the Lords. Mr. Gladstone has announced that the Government will pass a Redistribution Bill next year, if the Lords pass the Franchise Bill now but providing that it shall only come into force in January 1886. The Government insists, however, on the passing of the Franchise Bill before the other, and the Lords' answer is anxiously awaited. Shaw Lefevre, First Commissioner of Works, has become Postmaster General, with a seat in the Cabinet ; Lord Rosebery, Scotland's favorite, will succeed him, and will also become a cabinet minister, as Lord Carlingford is going to retire.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD, Premier of Cathe Congo River ; free navigation of the but, fortunately, these naves in entering in because in the bar in th nada, has now the right to put G. C. B.