

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger

### A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT.

The President of the United States is chosen by an "electoral college" of 401 members, chosen by the various States. At the great elections on Tuesday of last week, the Democrats succeeded in putting in 183 of their electors, and the Republicans 182. It was doubtful what side had been successful in New York; the voting was wonderfully close. But now it is almost certain that the 36 Democratic electors in that State have been successful, by a majority of about 1,234. This gives Cleveland and Hendricks 219 out of the 401 votes, and if there is no error or fraud discovered or committed in the official count, a Democrat President will be installed at Washington, for the first time in these 24 years.

### BRITISH IMPERIAL POLITICS.

The Houses of Parliament at Westminster are still in session, and several battles of word and vote have taken place. Mr. Sexton, a Home Rule member, moved an amendment to the address in reply to the "Queen's Speech"; he wanted the House to say that criminal law in Ireland should be impartially administered, — implying that it was not now. That was voted down by 34 to 14.

Mr. Labouchere, one of the most clever Radicals in the House, has given notice of a resolution to change the relations between the Lords and Commons, so that the Conservatives shall not obstruct legislation.

It is said that the government has not yet decided on a plan of redistribution, but that a number of Liberals are privately consulting the Conservative leaders with a view to a compromise in something of this style: — every 50,000 people in a town or city to elect one member, and any borough containing less than 10,000 people to be merged in the county where it is situated.

The whole strength of the Conservative party supported a motion to prevent the Franchise Bill coming into operation till the Redistribution scheme had been discussed and adopted. This was defeated by the large majority of 194 to 109, and the Bill has now reached its last stage before being sent up for the second time to the House of Lords.

### EGYPTIAN JOTTINGS.

Darkness has again settled down over the Soudan, and no one knows what is happening there. Another rumour arrived on Tuesday, that Khartoum had fallen and Gordon was killed. But, according to the most accurate intelligence that Lord Wolsley has been able to gather, Khartoum was still safe, and the Mahdi had just been deserted by an important tribe of his followers. In the House of Commons Lord Hartington has stated that ample supplies of food and ammunition had been forwarded for the Nile expedition. Mr. Gladstone said that the time and manner of the advance upon Khartoum had been left to Lord Wolsley's discretion.

The Canadians continue to show much pluck and skill in taking the expedition up the Nile, but they find some of the cataracts rather difficult, and complain that the boats are not of the right sort.

The Mudir of Dongola,—whose accounts of wonderful victories over the rebels were first thought too good to be believed, but afterwards proved quite true,—has been created a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The ceremony of decoration was performed by Lord Wolsley, and greatly impressed the people.

### ANTI-SCOTT ACT "ARGUMENTS."

The liquor-sellers have made themselves heard in many ways during the present campaign. They have thrust their arguments before the public in the form of newspaper articles and hired eloquence,—and, so far, with very poor success. Their success is greater when they employ the meanness and the crimes by which King Drink is always accompanied. By raising objections which are utterly without foundation, they are trying to put off elections in some counties so that the will of the people shall be defeated for another year. In Northumberland and Durham they have stolen and destroyed large parts of the petitions, with the same object. In Dufferin, they have added forgery to theft, circulating a document alleged to have been signed by Sir Leonard Tilley, to prevent Conservatives from voting for the act. A copy of this lying fraud having been sent to Sir Leonard, we learn that the writer is likely to find himself in gaol. The forgery failing and the Act having passed by 805 majority, the Antis added burglary to forgery. On Sunday night the office of the returning officer was broken into and five of the ballot boxes stolen: the result will only be to reduce the majority by 152. On the same night, the same crime was committed in Huron,—but the majority for the Act was too large to be affected thereby. The only result of all this rascality has been to show the liquor traffic in its true colors,—an organized system of the most unscrupulous meanness; and the few respectable people who still conscientiously advocate the licensing of the traffic are fast being convinced that suppression is the only proper treatment.

THE WAR IN CHINA.—Money has been voted for reinforcements for the French army in China, but the Minister of War says that he will want \$1,600,000 more if the conflict continues. A report has been published in Paris, and seems well-founded, that France is now again negotiating with the Chinese government, and offers to make peace without demanding any indemnity, if China respects the former treaty with regard to Tonquin. At different times the Chinese and French governments have applied to Britain to mediate; if they had asked at the same time, something might have been done in the matter.

FIFTEEN MILLION feet of lumber with sawmills and other buildings, have been destroyed by an incendiary fire at Duluth.

HENRY FAWCETT, Postmaster General of Britain, is dead, at the age of 51 years. He was a wonderful man. When quite young he was made absolutely blind by the accidental firing of a gun in the hands of his father. But his energy rose superior to his blindness. He wrote much on political economy, and was made professor of that science in Cambridge University. While a very advanced Liberal in politics, and one of the strongest defenders of his principles in the House of Commons, he was wonderfully respected by the Conservatives. His administration of the Post Office during the last four years has won the admiration of the whole people. Even those most ready to find fault with everything done by the Government could find nothing but praise for the work of its Postmaster-General,—and the British Post Office Department also manages the whole telegraph system of the kingdom, a system of Government insurance, and the thousands of Government savings banks.

A GIANTIC SWINDLING scheme has been discovered in New York. An ex-convict named Alex. C. Branscom planned to get up a guide book to the New Orleans Exposition and a work on "The Resources and Attractions of the South." To raise money for their publication, he forged a number of letters of introduction and notes, with the names of prominent southern business men, and so got contracts with a number of firms, some of whom paid him thousands of dollars in change. If the forgeries had not been discovered, Branscom would have been paid \$111,000 on the publication of the books one month hence. He had also unpaid debts amounting to \$40,000. The peculiar thing is that the books are said to be of really great value, and while the author has been put in gaol his creditors are arranging to go on with his work.

A SPECIAL OFFICER of the United States Treasury Department has visited Toronto to unearth some smuggling operations that were said to be carried on by parties residing there and in Hamilton. The scheme was a neat and clever one, and succeeded because of its simplicity. All that was necessary was to lift up the cushion part of the seat in the Pullman car, and deposit the contraband articles under it, then let down the cushion, and the bold smuggler resumed his seat, and when the customs officer came round looked as innocent as a lamb.

GENERAL SHERIDAN, in his annual report, says that it would need more than a million and a half of men to make war against the United States on land, but the seaboard cities and harbors are perfectly defenceless. He recommends the government to establish horse-breeding grounds in Kansas.

TERRIBLE ELECTION FIGHTS have occurred in Mexico,—caused, it is said, by the government attempting to force the citizens to vote for certain candidates. Five men were killed at Saltillo, a number at Santa Catarina, and the colonel, the district judge and twenty soldiers, at Salinas Hidalgo.

A UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION will be opened in Paris on the 5th of May, 1889: so says the President of France.

AT THE LORD MAYOR'S Banquet to the Imperial Ministry, in London, on Monday, Sir John Macdonald was present as Prime Minister of Canada, and in a speech said Canada was proud of the fact that she was no longer a cause of trouble and weakness to England. He looked forward to the time when some form of confederation would be brought about between England and Canada. If a great confederation should be made of England and all her colonies he thought any power coming into collision with England would be obliged to count on the resistance not of England alone but of all their auxiliary kingdoms.

THE RESOLUTION proposed by the Hon. Mr. Solomon in the Jamaica Council, in favor of entering the Canadian confederation, was defeated by eight to one. Mr. Solomon was the only member who voted for it. In the meantime the Legislative Assembly of the island of Dominica has adopted a resolution asking Britain to hand them over to the United States, as in no other way can Dominican produce be admitted free to the American market.

THE HON. L. F. R. MASSON, who has been appointed the new Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, refuses to take the oath. Certainly, no Roman Catholic can conscientiously swear that no foreign prince or prelate has or ought to have any jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence or authority, ecclesiastical or spiritual, within the realm.

CHOLERA has broken out in Paris, and visitors are fast leaving the city. Damp and mild weather assisted the disease, and many deaths have already taken place. There has been a renewed outbreak in Naples, but only a few deaths have occurred.

FATHER CHINQUY has been preaching in the French Protestant Churches of Montreal, and the more fanatical members of the faith to which he once belonged have been stoning him and breaking the church windows. Two of the rioters were arrested and fined.

EIGHT ANARCHISTS, accused of attempting to blow up the great statue of Germania, were confined in the Elberfeld prison, but it was discovered that a plot was arranged to rescue them, and they have been removed to Leipzig.

THE LIQUOR-SELLERS at Michipicoten were quieted by the Toronto police, but have renewed disturbances since the latter returned to Toronto.

GERMANY is going to appoint a governor for the Cameroons country, West Africa, and to send a steamer for service in that neighborhood.

THE PROPERTY of the late Tom Thumb, after paying all expenses, amounts to \$16,000.

THIS YEAR'S COTTON crop of the United States is estimated at 5,726,000 bales.

SIX LABORERS on the Canadian Pacific Railway have died from eating diseased pork.

TWO MORE FRENCH warships, with troops, have arrived off Madagascar.