

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger.

### LORD SHAFTESBURY'S DEATH.

One who is entitled to be ranked with the eminent philanthropists, Mr. Peabody and Sir Moses Montefiore, died on the first of this month. Lord Shaftesbury was not possessed of such a large fortune as men of his rank usually enjoy, and was not therefore able to bequeath fabulously large sums for the endowment of charitable institutions. But his expenditure in charitable measures while alive was such as to considerably drain his resources. He established ragged schools in the worst parts of London and all the great towns and cities of England offering considerable inducements to the gutter children to attend them, and he organized a well-disciplined, well-housed and well-fed shoe-black brigade of vagrant boys. These were well cared for as to their education and morals, and if they showed an adaptability to any particular trade they were promoted. Besides all this, through Lord Shaftesbury, cabmen, costermongers and others were furnished with free reading and smoking rooms where free lectures were delivered for the improvement of their minds. These lectures the noble philanthropist often attended himself to show his sympathy with the working classes.

One of Lord Shaftesbury's greatest works was the passing of a measure through Parliament which forbade the employment of women in mines, limited their daily labor in the factories to ten hours, and, above all, prohibited the employment of children under a certain age. This measure was the redemption from slavery of a generation which was devoid of the most elementary education. Before this bill had passed there was a class of people who were in worse than Egyptian bondage. Women stripped to the waist and harnessed to trucks would lead a living death down in the coal mines.

Lord Shaftesbury was born in the year 1801 and throughout the whole of his active life did not cease to work for the social improvement of the working classes. Many stories are told illustrative of his kind-heartedness. Some years ago the costers of London city united to present Lord Shaftesbury with the finest donkey that money could buy. That animal still shares the hospitality of the earl's stables and is treated as well as the best carriage horses.

Many of the newsboys in selling papers containing the account of the philanthropist's death made a curious mistake and shouted "Death of Lord Salisbury." This created a great scare until the error was discovered.

THE FRESHMEN of a college in Williams-town, Massachusetts, wanted to carry canes in public. This appeared to the older college men to be an assumption of too great dignity, and so raids were made on the bearers of the obnoxious twigs. The freshmen were in too great numbers, however, and retained the possession of their canes much to the disgust of their opponents, seven of whom were expelled for a time from the college.

### WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

The weather has again become very changeable, and during the past week has run to extremes of heat and cold, with hard frost in nearly all northern sections accompanied by snow in many localities. Potato digging is about completed everywhere, but in the Province of Quebec, where there is a considerable portion of the crop still in the ground, complaints of rot are very general, and in some sections resulted in the total destruction of the crop. A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writing from Western New York says: "From all I can see and hear, potatoes are rotting badly, even where the vines did not blight during August. Some farmers I know have abandoned fields which, a month ago, gave promise of 200 and 300 bushels per acre. It is a heavy loss, as the potato crop has already cost, in seed and cultivation, nearly as much per acre as an average grain crop. One farmer in a neighboring town has ploughed up a field of fourteen acres of potatoes, and is trying to get the mass of vines off, or under, so as to sow the land with wheat. My early potatoes have rotted more or less since they were dug, though I have kept them spread thinly, and as dry as possible. My late potatoes have not rotted very badly as yet, but the tops are dying, and there is enough rot near the surface to soon spoil the whole. And yet, from all I hear, digging potatoes in such condition is worse than labor lost. As soon as dug, the rot proceeds so violently that it is scarcely possible to save any." Turnips and other roots have been growing rapidly during the warm spell and the pastures have assumed a greener aspect.

### FIGHTING IN THE EAST.

The Roumelian revolt has assumed a more serious aspect than ever and it is said that the Sultan is beginning to lose his head—get a little crazy in fact. This is believed as well as many unfounded stories about attempts to poison him. Things certainly do not look bright for Turkey as the other European powers do not seem to care about interfering.

The Turkish army has been almost entirely neglected and the large sums of money voted for military purposes were diverted to other channels. The inquiry has revealed that the Adrianople army, which was supposed to be 15,000 strong, contains not half of that number of men. The soldiers have no uniforms and are shoeless. The cavalry is unable to march owing to its lack of horses and necessary accoutrements.

On the 29th of September the Turkish troops fired on the Roumelian outposts at the Mustapha Pass, twenty-miles north-west of Adrianople. The outposts were immediately reinforced, and a skirmish ensued, in which the Turks were defeated and forced to retire and carry with them a number of wounded.

During the last two days of September there was heavy fighting between Turks and Arnauts. The latter wish to see Turkey parted between other nations of Europe and hope to come in for a large acquisition of territory themselves in the process. The

general opinion in Vienna is that war is inevitable. In Constantinople it is thought that the Czar is the only real opponent of the Bulgarian union and will try to dethrone Prince Alexander putting an easier tool in his place.

When Big Bulgaria was artificially divided into the Principality of Bulgaria and the Province of Eastern Roumelia, the change was for the purpose of making a "buffer" between Turkey and Russia. This was accomplished by Lord Beaconsfield while Premier of England, and Lord Salisbury highly complimented his great chief and himself on the manoeuvre. The sudden disappearance of this live "buffer" now gives him some little shock in his office of Premier and that is the reason why the Liberals have rejoiced over the Roumelian revolution.

What makes this revolution so important is that it is possible that the whole Eastern question may be opened up by it, resulting in a great war involving the chief nations of Europe. The question of peace or war does not rest with the Sultan to answer, but entirely depends on the course the other powers take, and chiefly on the advice which Prince Bismarck sees fit to advise the Sultan to adopt.

### THE HORRORS OF DELIRIUM TREMENS.

An Italian laborer of Chicago, Gastone Molinari by name, has been in the habit of frequenting saloons until he now is in delirium. He told a queer story the other day in a Chicago police court in a warrant which was issued for the arrest of the keeper of one of the saloons he patronized.

He says that on Sept. 21st he was ill at De Bartolo's boarding house and saloon, and asked his landlord to go for a physician. By a ruse, according to Molinari's story, De Bartolo lured him into a cab. Away they drove through the streets for a long time. By-and-by they reached a building, which Molinari says he never saw before. In a room devoid of furniture three young men sat waiting. When he entered they turned down the gas and tried to make him drink some sort of liquid. He refused and they left him alone. Then they brought an iron bedstead, on which a smooth slab was placed instead of a mattress. He was stripped, thrown on a slab face downward, and forced to lie there for an hour. The young men, who he believes were medical students, sat on his body, tried to force his mouth open with a two-pronged fork and make him take the liquid, and when they could not do that went away and left him naked and alone in the dark for the night. The next day they returned, and when he threw himself face downward on the slab tried to turn him over, and after succeeding made small holes in his back with some sharp instruments. A terrible struggle ensued, and he drove them from the room with a chair which one of the men had brought in. He fell asleep from fatigue and weakness, and somebody stole the chair. Hour after hour he remained in the room, suffering tortures from thirst, hunger and fright, hearing wild shrieks from other parts of the building,

Then, on what he thinks was the third day, an old man gave him a suit of clothes and twenty-five cents and released him, telling him he would find a street car line a few hundred feet away. He found the line, and made his way to the house of a friend, where he has been since.

He says that since his escape he visited De Bartolo's place. The saloon-keeper seemed greatly surprised to see him, and cursed him roundly, telling him he was sorry he had not died. Molinari has a slight wound at the edge of his mouth, and two or three little punctures in his back. He can give no description of the building where he was taken.

On enquiring concerning this tale it was found to be purely imaginary. The man had, through the kindness of the saloon-keeper, been taken to a hospital where his delirium turned the hospital and its attendants into horrors. The wounds in his back were made whilst infusing restoratives beneath his skin with a syringe.

DESPATCHES just received tell about a one-sided battle which was fought in the Congo district. A German, Lieutenant Wissmann, who was exploring one of the tributaries to the Congo, states that for twenty-four hours he had to navigate between crowds of ferocious cannibals belonging to the Bakoutous tribe. Men and women gathered in thousands on the river banks shouting, yelling and gesticulating furiously. The women were more ferocious than the men, and finally the Bakoutous attacked the expedition in fleets of canoes, the men beating their breasts and throwing spears. Lieut. Wissmann and his men repulsed them after a hard fought battle, which lasted six hours, killing hundreds of men and women. The entire region traversed was found to be very rich in ivory and was covered with vast forests of Indian rubber trees. In shooting a catarract one of Lieut. Wissmann's canoes was wrecked and a dozen of his blacks were drowned. The Kasai is a noble river, being in some places ten thousand yards wide. In many parts navigation was blocked by the thousands of hippopotami bathing in the river bed.

ONE WHO SAW the aerolite fall near Claysville, Pennsylvania, says he never beheld a more awful or impressive scene. His horse suddenly stopped, and he heard a noise as if the winds were rushing onward with great violence. Looking up he saw, moving high above him, with incredible velocity, a huge mass, which he describes as resembling a great coal of fire as large as a barn. There appeared to be attached to it an immense flame of a deeper color than the coal which tapered off into a dark tail. All in a moment the noise accompanying it ceased, the firelike appearance, the flame and the black tail disappeared, and in their stead the stone assumed a whitish-blue hue, which it retained until it passed out of sight. When the stone fell it broke into three pieces. It is grayish in color, with a tendency to red in streaks, and is more than 30 feet square. The people flocked to see the wonder in great numbers.