

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger.

### A WAR ENDED.

The latest news from the North-West is most gratifying. The chief object of hunting Big Bear down at an enormous expense was rather to rescue his captives, the McLean family, than to punish him for the massacres committed at Frog Lake. Mr. McLean and his family have been taken away from Big Bear by the Wood Crees who forced that chief to give up all his prisoners to them. The prisoners were then allowed to start for Fort Pitt on foot, alone. They reached the fort in good health but very much worn. They had received no insults from the Indians which was rather surprising. All the captives having now been released the necessity of keeping a large force of volunteers in the North-West for the purpose of hunting Big Bear, is gone, and the campaign may therefore be regarded as over. Big Bear, if he has not already fallen into the clutches of Colonel Irvine at Green Lake, may be safely left to be run down by the regulars and the police force. His force has been broken up into a dozen or two small bands, and one by one these are coming in or are being captured. Band after band of Wood Crees have come in, bringing in the captives. Yellow Sky's band, one of the largest of those that were with Big Bear, has been captured by five of Boulton's band of scouts who have so distinguished themselves during this whole campaign. The preparations for the return home are being made by many of the volunteer corps.

A correspondent with the Montreal Garrison Artillery at Regina writes as follows concerning Riel, the rebel chief: "His gait is rather unsteady. At almost every step he seems to start slightly as if fearing some injury, he appears especially uneasy when any stranger is watching him. Both his ankles are fettered, the shackles being connected by a chain. Suspended from the wrist of his left arm is a weight of about fifteen pounds. The chain which is attached to this weight is also connected with the foot chains. To look at him no one would for a moment suppose that he had been the leader of the rebellion and the chief of such a wild and hardy race. Yet, notwithstanding this, there is a look of indomitable determination and purpose about him that justifies the conclusion that he would succeed in almost anything he took in hand. His cell is small and dark, and up and down its narrow limits he treads nearly the whole day, counting his beads. He is not allowed to converse with anyone beyond expressing his wants, nor is anyone, excepting the doctor, allowed to speak to him, so that he is kept in solitary confinement. His appetite and health remain good. When he goes out for his daily exercise he is strictly watched by four guards, so the chance of his escape is very small. Riel's mother seems to have been greatly affected by her son's danger and is reported to have died of grief.

The distress among settlers in the North-West is great. A despatch signed by fifty of them and reading as follows has been

sent to the Government at Ottawa:—"An order has just been issued, stopping the settlers' rations. There is no food here except in the Government stores. We cannot purchase provisions. What are we settlers to do? The majority of us have lost everything."

### GENERAL GRANT WORSE.

On arriving at Mount McGregor, N. Y., General Grant got out of the car without help and to the astonishment of everyone began to walk unaided. He had not walked a hundred feet, however, before his strength gave way and he was willing to take the aid of those near him. In the evening of the same day, the fears of his friends that his walk had greatly hurt him were confirmed in a saddening way. He had not spoken

one of the notes. It was addressed, "Memoranda for my family." Col. Grant opened it with trembling hands, dreading its contents. Agonizing as were his fears, the note intensified them. It was a brief and simple death message. The General felt, he wrote, that he was failing, and in case the worst should suddenly happen he asked that certain directions be carried out.

The next day the General took several short walks. Speaking of one of these which was perhaps a hundred yards, Dr. Douglas, who is in almost constant waiting on the patient, said, "He couldn't have done it in New York. It certainly indicates that the cool, fresh air has had a bracing effect upon him. I wish I could say it meant more, but the truth is, as he and the family realize, that the disease is following its characteristic course, which is one of steadily



HON. EDGAR DEWDNEY.

since the walk. Now he tried to speak, but could not. After great difficulty he made his wish understood. He wanted pen and ink. When they were brought him he began writing with unaccustomed vigor and speed. That lasted for 15 or 20 minutes. Then he rose and went out on the porch with two notes in his hand. For the rest of the time that he was there he changed about less frequently, and seemed as he had been earlier in the day. When the sun sank and the General turned to go in he handed the two notes to Col. Grant and then passed slowly to his own room. The Colonel opened

increasing exhaustion. No one hopes for a cure from this change. Nothing can be curative. The most that can be hoped for is to prolong his life. What he has done today is, of course, the direct result of exhilaration. It may last several days. Our responsibilities and anxieties do not lessen but rather increase with such an afternoon as he has passed."

THE CITY OF YORK, England was visited by an earthquake shock which shook the houses considerably. There was great alarm among the people.

### FRESH RUMORS OF WAR.

Russia does not feel so much inclined to settle the Afghan boundary question peaceably now as when the Gladstone ministry was in power. There is some fear on the part of Russia that the ministry which Lord Salisbury has formed will bring about war. A Vienna paper says that Russia would be glad enough to take half of Afghanistan and give England the other half. There is little doubt of this, but bad, medium as it is, it is better for England to have Afghanistan between Russia and India than nothing. The Afghans are generally friendly to England and can do much toward keeping Russia within bounds. The Russian Government has been secretly doing all in its power to establish a good understanding with the wild tribes in the mountainous northern regions of Afghanistan. The Ameer of Afghanistan has massed many thousand troops under his command. Of these 3,000 are armed with breech loading guns, presented by the Indian government. This precautionary measure has been rather alarming to Russia. Herat has been well fortified and large numbers of English troops with guns have been sent to occupy that post. It has been ascertained that an army could be landed on the coast of Beloochistan and marched to Herat in a five days journey without either trespassing on Afghan or Persian territory.

At an influential meeting in London it was decided to take immediate steps to form a naval volunteer torpedo corps at every seaport in the Kingdom for coast defence. The Admiralty supports the movement.

### GOVERNOR OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

A picture of the man, who is thought by many to be in a great degree responsible for the North-West Rebellion, will be of interest. The Hon. Edgar Dewdney, who is a civil engineer by profession, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1835, and emigrated to British Columbia when twenty-four years of age. His predecessor was the Hon. David Laird whose administration had been highly successful. The seat of the Government of the North-West is at Regina which assumes extra importance in the eyes of Canadians just now, from the fact that Louis Riel is confined there awaiting his trial.

MR. H. M. STANLEY in his new work, "The Congo and its Free State," shows how wine is doing much to deteriorate the value of African territory in the eyes of Europeans. Many of the new settlers, he says, are accustomed to take their glass of wine at meal-time. What can the wine matter, the inexperienced ask pleadingly. Stanley answers: "To me, personally, nothing. To you a sudden death, or perhaps a sun-stroke. Should you recover, you will blame Africa. 'Africa is cruel! Africa is murderous! Africa means death to the European!' And your stupid unreflecting friend in Europe will echo the cry. Simply because a weakling like you could not resist your little glass at mid-day, must all this continent be subjected to the scourge of your fault-finding powers?"