

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. III.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27, 1884.

No. 39.

The Weekly Messenger

UNHAPPY EUROPE.

The principal place in Europe lately has been Skierniwice, in Poland, where the Emperors of Germany and Austria, with Prince Bismarck and other great men, have been paying a visit to the Czar of Russia. The consequences of this meeting may be great.

Punch, the English comic paper, has a picture of Bismarck holding three puppets in his hand,—and the puppets are the emperors. There is no doubt that Bismarck rules Germany, and that Germany rules Europe. Bismarck would, doubtless, be very glad if he could destroy some of the discontent which his people feel at having to support a huge standing army; and it is reported that the three powers have agreed to reduce their forces at the same time. Nothing would be more welcome to any one of them. The *St. Petersburg Journal* says that the meeting of the emperors has secured lasting peace to Europe.

Meanwhile, the French newspapers continue to howl at Britain as if all the editors had been bitten by mad dogs. One French writer says that the three emperors made a final arrangement that Russia may advance upon India if she likes, Germany may take Holland and part of Belgium, France may take the rest of Belgium and Lorraine, while Austria may swallow up Turkey. Not content with turning against the British, the French have now turned upon the United States. Americans have honestly criticized the proceedings of France in China: America and Britain are therefore equally "perfidious" in French eyes.

Britain smiles through all this noise, and goes on with her agitation for the Reform Bill!

THE FRENCH WAR.

Admiral Courbet is in a rather unpleasant situation, and hardly knows what to do. He is instructed to carry on bombardments and other offensive operations against China, but his government persistently refuses to declare war against the Chinese, although the Admiral as persistently demands that that shall be done. Everybody is disgusted at the existing state of indecision.

The British are annoyed at the death of Lieutenant Hubbard, who was shot by a Chinese officer who thought he was firing at a French ship; but the annoyance is not at China so much as at the French.

A French party of soldiers, which landed at the mouth of a Chinese river, won a small victory over the Chinese troops. Otherwise, the only thing the French fleet has done has been to board a Hong Kong trading junk and throw overboard all the arms and ammunition which she carried.

The Chinese have offered a reward of \$50,000 for any French vessel destroyed, \$8,300 for the head of a commander, and \$330 for the head of a subordinate officer.

The Russians have got several warships on the coast of China.

GOOD NEWS FROM GORDON.

Several messages have now been received from General Gordon, written on small scraps of paper so that they would not be seen if the messengers were captured on their way. Gordon advises that the Soudan should be placed under the Government of Turkey, and asks that 20,000 Turkish troops be sent in for that purpose. He requires \$1,500,000 to pay the arrears of his Egyptian soldiers. Meanwhile he is patiently awaiting the arrival of the relief expedition.

The messenger who brought Gordon's dispatches says that on the 24th of July the general utterly defeated a rebel army that had come against him; and that another battle was fought on the 30th of August, when the rebels were compelled to stop the siege and retire from Khartoum. In consequence of this good news, it was suggested that only a small force need now be sent up the Nile; but preparations for the whole expedition will go on as before.

Lord Northbrook has taken a bold step in Egypt. The deficit in the Treasury was found so large that he has advised—that is, ordered—the revenues of the country to be applied to pay its expenses, instead of to pay the interest on the money lent to former Khedives by European capitalists. The French are therefore more furious with Britain than ever.

THE CHOLERA PLAGUE.

The death-dealing cholera is still at work, Italy being the chief scene of its operations. The population of Naples continues to be terribly decimated by the scourge, every twenty-four hours witnessing from a hundred to three hundred deaths. Among those who have fallen victims in that city was a son of the King of Hawaii. Other parts of Italy are seriously affected, and in one day 65 deaths were reported. The epidemic has spread to the west end of Naples, and the heat is excessive, but the general condition of the city is improving, and the streets are beginning to wear their old appearance again. Great quantities of sulphur are being burned to disinfect the air.

At Peschiano, the doctors have been shot at as they were approaching the houses of cholera patients, the ignorant people believing that the cholera medicines were really poisons. The troops who were preserving order were obliged to defend themselves by firearms.

The Pope has given a large sum of money to establish a cholera hospital near the Vatican, in Rome, in case the disease takes hold of that city. He promises that he will visit the hospital himself.

The epidemic has again broken out at Toulon and neighboring places, and one death has occurred in the suburbs of Paris. Since the first outbreak in France 10,000 persons have been seized with cholera, and 5,000 of them have died.

It is feared that Southern Russia is to feel the plague, one case of cholera being reported from Odessa.

PEOPLE ARE FLOCKING to new gold and silver mines in Murray County, Georgia.

THE REPUBLIC OF CHILI has been celebrating the anniversary of its independence, with great rejoicing. The first Spanish invasion of Chili took place about the year 1535. Santiago, the present capital, was founded about 1540, by Don Pedro de Valdivia, who invaded the country with Spanish troops and allies taken from the conquered natives of Peru. For 180 years there was constant warfare between the intruders and the Araucanians, the most important tribe of Indian inhabitants. The Spanish viceroys and governors only looked on the people as a means of increasing their own wealth. The more educated classes were the strongest in their resolve to end this state of things. On the 18th of September, 1810,—when Spain had more than she could do to preserve herself from Napoleon's French armies without caring for her colonies,—the Chilians deposed the Spanish Governor and put a Committee of Seven in his place. After several years of hard fighting, Spain once more put her yoke on Chili, but in 1817, after three years of subjection, the Royalist troops were completely defeated. Under the present Republican constitution, which was established in 1833, Chili has enjoyed remarkable prosperity and freedom from the perpetual revolutions which are the curse of most South American republics.

SEVERAL NATIONALIST DEMONSTRATIONS in Ireland have been forbidden. It is said that the Invincibles are planning more dynamite outrages for the foggy season, and that a Russian Nihilist is engaged making infernal machines for them. Several prominent statesmen and members of the Royal family are reported to be among the victims already marked out. Michael Davitt is in Ulster imploring the Orangemen and Protestants to unite with the Catholics in order to get Home Rule for Ireland. At a meeting on Saturday, one of the Nationalist members of Parliament said that they opposed the Liberal Government because they expected to get more from the Tories. As the Tories have consistently denounced the Liberals for giving Ireland anything but cold steel and hot lead, the Nationalists seem to be leaning on a badly broken reed.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT lately raised the duty on woollen and mixed silk goods from 100 per cent to 300 per cent. In answer to a petition from an English wool city, the extra duty has been taken off again. A deputation of British workmen has been to Berlin, protesting against the unfairness of the bounties given to German sugar-refiners. The Free Traders are going to bring up this question at the next session of the Reichstag.

CAPTAIN DUDLEY, of the wrecked yacht "Mignonette," who killed a cabin boy belonging to the yacht to keep himself and his two men alive, has been committed for trial in England on a charge of murder. The mate, named Stephenson, has also been committed. Public opinion is very much divided about this case; many say they think it was quite right that the boy should provide food for men who had families depending on them.

THE NATIONALISTS IN IRELAND are making a great noise, even if they are doing nothing else. One orator at a Dublin meeting declared, amid great cheers, that if the Irish problem were not solved by parliamentary methods, the people would certainly try other means. The Limerick town council has been making itself very conspicuous by refusing to welcome Lord Spencer, the Lord Lieutenant, on his visiting the place. Mr. Gladstone, however, in a recent speech at Edinburgh, points out that nearly every case of over-representation in Ireland has now been dealt with; that people are therefore getting to have confidence in the courts of justice; and that crime has immensely fallen off. He says that the Irish question will still have unfortunate results, and may even cause dissolutions of parliament and defeats of governments, but the troubles are nevertheless certainly drawing to an end.

THE TURKISH GOVERNOR of Zavia, in Tripoli, recently fell in love with a young Arab girl; she was also loved by an Arab sheik. The Turk had his rival arrested and nearly flogged to death, and then impaled him by his own hand. There was the wildest excitement, the whole population rising and demanding the death of the Governor. The young sheik's brother fired at the murderer twice, but missed his aim. Turkish troops came and charged the people, and more were sent on to put down the rebellion. Tripoli is really independent of the Sultan's authority, but the cruel tyranny prevailing there is not much worse than that perpetrated by the Governors in Armenia and elsewhere, who are appointed directly by the Turkish Government.

THE MEXICAN CONGRESS has just been opened by President Gonzales, who congratulates the nation on the election—almost unanimously—of General Diaz as President. The President expects the reciprocity treaty with the United States to be soon completed and declares that Mexico's foreign relations are satisfactory and that peace rules at home.

LIEUTENANT SHUFFELD, who has arrived in Madagascar as a representative of the United States, has been received by the Queen and all her subjects with extraordinary warmth. Madagascar is badly in want of friends just now, with French guns battering at her brave independence.

THREE ELECTION MEETINGS advertised by the Socialists in Berlin have been prohibited by the German Government. The Socialists say they will take revenge by obstructing the meetings held by other parties.

A MONSTER NEW STEAMSHIP, the "Etruria," has been launched for the Cunard line at Glasgow. She is a vessel of 8000 tons capacity.

THE COD FISHERIES of Labrador have been very unsuccessful this year, and 800 families on the north-east coast of Newfoundland are reported to be starving.

A BANKER named Danford has left Chenay, Washington territory; and taken his wife and assets to British Columbia.