

## The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, JULY 7.

## BAD READING.

There frequently appears in the newspapers accounts of boys and young men who, caught in an early criminal career, give as the cause of their having gone astray the sensational reading they had been addicted to from their earliest years. Papers that give nothing but the records of crime in vulgarly fascinating style, embellished with glaring and hideous pictures that familiarize the mind with the human features distorted with revengeful and deadly passion, flourish in some of the leading cities, and boys and girls going to school in town and country share with the vilest classes of the cities in sustaining these pestilential sheets. Then there are the thousands of cheap and vicious novels which are annually streaming from the press, their pages giving false ideas of what is to be admired and what hated in manly and womanly character, and often having vice painted in the most alluring colors that depraved talent can employ. In this class of literature wildness masquerades as chivalry, recklessness as bravery, craftiness as shrewdness, and wickedness of all descriptions is made to appear as marking fine qualities in the persons subject to it. A portion of the publications in question contains vice so thinly veiled as to be in reality undisguised, and this class the law in both the United States and Canada makes it unlawful to print or sell and forbids circulation through the mails. Like other laws intended to promote morality by striking at causes of immorality, those against pernicious literature are, as a rule, negligently administered by officials whose duty it is to enforce them, and, as in the case of liquor laws, private organizations do more in having them executed than the constituted authorities. As, however, the appetite for the legally prohibited article is doubtless to a large extent created by reading novels and papers that do not violate, at least, the letter of the law, and besides, injurious literature that is decent enough in language to escape confiscation is more dangerous in that it makes the first inroads upon innocence and poisons the mind that feasts upon it unsuspecting of its noxious elements, moral rather than legal measures are demanded to counteract the great evil. Prevention must lie chiefly in providing young people with sound and useful reading, which abounds in attractive sort at this day, and in training them to such habits of obedience and frankness that they will scorn to read anything openly or secretly which they are not sure would be approved by their elders. Secret indulgence in bad or doubtful reading is a grave symptom of more than one kind of moral mischief already wrought.

## IRISH MATTERS.

Irishmen in Paris met and denounced the execution of the Phoenix Park murderers as a massacre.

In opening the Irish lace exhibition in the London Mansion House, the Duke of Connaught expressed the hope that the exhibition would lead to an extension of the lace industry and prosperity of Ireland.

The Land Corporation of Ireland, for the occupation and purchase of farms from which tenants have been evicted, has had a successful year. Tenants are returning and paying the rents, and a dividend of five percent has been declared.

An affray occurred at the Carragh of Kildare between the North Mayo and the Dublin militiamen, in which seventeen men were wounded but none killed. It arose from the Mayo men calling the Dublin men "Careys" and "Invincibles."

Norman, the informer, on being offered his freedom, chose to remain in prison until the authorities were ready to send him abroad. James and Peter Carey, the murder informers, have left the country, whither nobody has been found who knows or will tell.

The Nationalists have won an important victory in the election of Mr. Healy, one of Mr. Parnell's most faithful followers, to the House of Commons for the county Monaghan by a majority of about a hundred over the combined votes cast for the Conservative and Liberal candidates. In the course of the campaign Mr. Parnell said the aim of the party was to secure further improvements in the land laws which would bring about a reduction of fifty percent in rents.

A good deal of fuss is being made on both sides of the Atlantic about the shipment of pauper Irish to America. Being questioned upon the matter in the House of Commons, Mr. Trevelyan, Irish Secretary, said that of those who went in one steamer in regard to which, particularly, complaint had been made, all the people who came out of the work-house had friends in America who offered them homes, and of the others he had personally seen them supplied with American railway tickets besides their steamship tickets, and also with a landing allowance of five dollars apiece to adults and half as much to children. Large numbers of assisted emigrants continue to be shipped, and in one case a number of poor people were ordered to be sent back from New York. It is too bad if our fellow-beings are thus to be left without rest for the soles of their feet and spurned from American soil, when millions of acres of farming land are going in gifts to wealthy speculators both in the United States and Canada.

While a heavy hand has been placed upon crime on the old sod, Irishmen in the United States let their tongues wag freely and occasionally indulge in war talk and play. At a reception to Patrick Egan in St. Louis, Missouri, Judge John H. O'Neil, who denounced the murder of Lord F. Cavendish and Mr. Burke as the work of secret societies, was hissed. An excursion of Fenians went up the Hudson from New York on Sunday to see an old vessel blown up with a torpedo. It is said by one of themselves in New York that the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood has condemned Lord Chief Justice Coleridge to death on account of his manner of conducting the trial of the dynamite users. That gentleman is shortly to pay a visit to the United States. Bernard Gallagher, one of those acquitted at the dynamite trials, has arrived in Brooklyn from England, and asserts that his brother was innocent, and that the explosions in London were caused by tramps without character who had no connection with Irish societies.

## CASUALTY.

Mrs. Pope, Milan, Tennessee, while in good health was stung on the nose by a bee, and died from the effects.

An engine driver and twenty-three Chinese have been killed and many injured by a railway collision in Montana.

The Conyngham and Baltimore mines, Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, have been flooded, causing serious loss.

Harry Robinson had both his legs taken off under the car wheels in attempting to get on a moving train at Ilderton, Ontario.

An express train struck a street car at a crossing in Chicago and injured twelve out of thirteen passengers, some it is feared fatally.

Six villages have been inundated in the Missouri flood, five thousand people turned out of their homes, and six thousand cattle drowned.

William Boyle, a little lad of Centralia, Ontario, dangerously wounded himself in the thigh while hunting rabbits with a revolver.

Robert Clems, George Quinn, S. N. Falles, Angelo Adams, S. J. McKee and M. Downs have been killed in a railway accident near Bradford, Pennsylvania.

In Glasgow, Scotland, on July 1st, a new steamer upset while being launched, and at the very least fifty persons were carried down by the vessel and drowned.

Forty-seven persons perished in the burning of the Puppet Theatre, at Dervio, Lake of Como, Italy. A large proportion of the victims were women and children.

A very disastrous fire has overtaken several warehouses and mills near St. Petersburg, Russia, and several persons were killed during its progress.

A team became frightened at a band in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and dashed into a procession of little school girls, killing one, fatally injuring another and hurting many in various degrees.

A daughter, son and daughter-in-law of Mr. Charles Reeves, Miss Georgie and two Misses O'Beers were drowned at Indian River, Prince Edward Island, last week, by the upsetting of a boat.

A Cuban official was travelling on a steamer with eleven thousand dollars in gold, and while leaning over the rails of the steamer the strap of his satchel broke and all the money was lost in the sea.

Major J. C. Echord, while drilling militia at London, Ontario, last week, was thrown by his horse and kicked on the head. The skull was fractured, but the patient was able to speak half an hour after the accident.

J. H. Ashdown's hardware store in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was on fire on Friday of last week, when a large quantity of powder stored in the building exploded, killing George Seale, formerly of Montreal, and seriously injuring a number of others. William McRobie, son of the chief of the fire department, was scarcely expected to survive his injuries. At last accounts an inquest was in progress, and a verdict of manslaughter against the proprietor of the store was thought possible. The city was shaken by the explosion, and much glass broken.

## CRIME.

The Savings Bank of Woodbury, Vermont, was lately entered by burglars, who took two thousand five hundred dollars.

Charles Buchanan, a dissipated printer of Toronto, lately stabbed his wife fatally in the neck, upon meeting her in the street after a separation of two years.

Richard Wagner, station agent at Cornwall, Ontario, lately stabbed by a tramp while on night duty, has died of his wounds, but his assailant has never been found.

St. Andrew's Church, Belleville, Ontario, has been repeatedly broken into and the contents of mission boxes stolen. The money was intended for the heathen, but it was not supposed they were to help themselves to it in that manner.

Charles Rogers, otherwise Rufus Minor, a noted bank thief, has been caught in New York. The stealings charged to his account amount to over a hundred and fifteen thousand dollars.

A. B. Hall and son on the one side and Bob and John Mullens on the other engaged in a fight about a fence at Collinsville, Alabama, and the whole four were killed and fatally wounded with pistol shots.

John Benoit, an old man going from Quebec to Michigan, was done out of three hundred dollars on a Grand Trunk train by sharpers, who escaped. This kind of criminal seems to be growing numerous in Canada.

Roderick Howell, aged seventy, who shot and killed Thomas Wallace at Malpeque, Prince Edward Island, last December, having been convicted of manslaughter, was sentenced to imprisonment for life, and seemed satisfied.

Isaac A. Briggs, a broker, and Wesley Lyon, a lawyer, of New York, and Emil Brie, a lawyer aged seventy, of Stamford, Connecticut, have been arrested charged with selling forged Missouri State bonds. They have each a reputation for that kind of work.

Four journalists of Berlin, Germany, have been found guilty of blackmail, in the practice of which they had obtained great sums of money. They have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment of one to six years. The chief of the gang, who was once a member of the Imperial Guard, fled.

A desperate attempt to murder and rob the Rev. Mr. Witchborne, of England, was made lately in a railway train between Calais and Paris, by an architect named Ducrot, who afterward shot himself just as he was about being arrested after an exciting chase. He had inflicted six severe wounds on Mr. Witchborne's head with a chisel. Both the assassin and his victim are reported to be in a dangerous condition.

The Marquis De Mones, Little Missouri was lately threatened with killing by Frank O'Donnell, leader of a gang of outlaws, who objected to the ground taken up by the extensive sheep and cattle ranges of the Marquis. About five o'clock one morning the gang began firing revolvers into all the buildings about the place. A telegram for assistance was sent to the sheriff of Morton County, who came with a force of citizens and friends of the Marquis. In the fight that ensued one of the desperadoes was killed and two were captured.

## BUSINESS AND LABOR NOTES.

Fast trains are announced to reduce the time between New York and Chicago to thirty-four hours.

There is a bad state of affairs in the money market of Paris, France, all confidence in investments being gone.

A strike of iron workers is threatened at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, against further reductions, and on the other hand the company threatens to shut down and lock out seven thousand men.

A new telegraph cable is to be laid and operated between England and America, by the American, British and Continental Cable Company, with a capital of seven and a half million of dollars, all subscribed in England. One line will run to Canada and another to New York.

Only a moderate trade movement is indicated by reports from leading business centres for the past week. There were a hundred and sixty-five failures, thirteen less than the previous week, twelve more than