

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. III.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18, 1884.

No. 42.

The Weekly Messenger

A POLITICAL BOMBHELL.

British politics have been much agitated this week by a bombshell that has fallen in their midst. While the Liberals were declaring that they would not yield one inch to the Lords, but would compel them to submit to the will of the people by passing the Franchise Bill before seeing the Redistribution Bill,—suddenly a Conservative newspaper published what it said was the very Redistribution Bill itself. At first, nobody believed it to be genuine. But it was soon found that the bill was genuine enough, having been stolen by a workman in the Government printing office, and given by him to the *Standard*. The thief has been arrested, but the cat is out of the bag and cannot be got in again. However, it is said that the bill is only one of several plans to be considered by the Government.

The published bill would give England 110 and Scotland 10 more members in the House of Commons than at present, and would leave Ireland's number unchanged, while several small boroughs in that country would lose their members, and several counties get more than they have at present. The change would certainly benefit the Parnellites, but their gain would be counterbalanced by the large increase of members from England and Scotland. It is said that the Conservative leaders have decided to reject this redistribution scheme, if it is offered to them, and will still try to force a dissolution of Parliament. If the Lords again refuse to pass the Franchise Bill at this session, it will most likely be sent up to them a third time next spring—and in the meantime their Lordships' Christmas will be as hot as July!

While the Parnell party in Parliament, representing the Irish tenant farmers, are preparing to oppose the Government, the Irish laborers have come out strongly against the Parnellites and farmers, and in favor of the Franchise Bill, which will put political power in their hands. "United Ireland" is as much a dream as ever, and is likely to remain so while professional agitators are stirring up a perpetual cloud of bitterness.

THE TROUBLES OF EGYPT.

The report that a steamer had been wrecked in the Nile, and the crew murdered, turns out to be quite true, and it is feared that Col. Stewart, Mr. Power, correspondent of the *London Times*, Mr. Herbin, French Consul, and Mr. Nicola, a Greek Consul, have lost their lives. The Arab Sheikhs are said to have offered hospitality to the shipwrecked men, invited them into their houses, and then massacred all but four black slaves. It is still hoped, however, that Col. Stewart and Mr. Power were not on that steamboat, and so may have escaped.

The rescuing army continues to move southward, and now the town of Dongola, from which it was difficult a few months ago to get any trustworthy news, is occupied by

600 British and 1,000 black Egyptian troops. The climate is good, the health of the city is excellent, and the Mahdi's influence is decreasing as the pale faces come nearer. Lord Wolsley—who, by the way, complains a great deal of the failure of the commissariat and transport services,—has ordered twelve hundred camels to be mustered at Dongola. It is thought he intends to march from there to Khartoum across the desert. Lord Wolsley has had a review at Wady Halfa, and the mounted infantry managed their unaccustomed steeds, the camels, perfectly.

The Canadian voyageurs have arrived at Wady Halfa. They aroused great admiration for their skill and pluck. They traverse the rapids as if it were child's play. General Lord Wolsley says he is charmed with their achievements. Eight captains have now been engaged in Canada to take charge of the light stern-wheel steamboats on the Nile, and they are each to receive \$150 a month and all expenses paid till they come home.

Of other news from Egypt, the most interesting is that the Government has officially prohibited the sale of slaves.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

Except in a few localities where the summer's drought still refuses to relax its hold on the water supply, showers and warm spells have been pretty general over the greater portion of the continent for two or three weeks past, and the pastures, the fall wheat, and the root crops have been making remarkably rapid growth for October weather. In many cases early cabbages and onions have been damaged by the second-growth, induced by the spring like weather, making them unfit for human food. In many sections the late potatoes have started to rot, but as the crop is over an average and most of it has already been saved in good condition, there is no danger of scarcity or high price prevailing anywhere on this continent. Turnips and carrots have been improving with the favorable season, and will yield much more than was expected three or four weeks ago. The rapid growth of grass is telling favorably on the herds and flocks, and will add considerably to the income of dairymen and stock-feeders. The cattle also will be better prepared for the winter weather when it comes. Prices of fat cattle, sheep and hogs, have all a decidedly weaker feeling, and though there has been a considerable decline in values they do not yet seem to have touched bottom. On the other hand, dairy products are in better request and the prices of cheese and butter of good quality are likely to be pretty high throughout the winter. The yield of fall apples has been unusually heavy, and prices have declined to a point at which there is little profit left for the grower.

THE COMMISSIONERS appointed to examine the question of making the land round Niagara Falls public property have recommended the State to take over \$1,433,429 worth of land.

EUROPEAN ECHOES.

While we in America are finding plenty of scope for our pugnacious energies in elections, whether for Scott Acts or for Presidencies, it is impossible for us not to look with interest and anxiety at the many and mixed quarrels going on in the countries from which we or our forefathers came:—that gunpowder magazine called Europe. The powder-barrels have been lying wide open for some time, ready to explode with a very small spark. Moreover, the sparks have been plenty, and it must be with great thankfulness that the world hears of the danger decreasing. The French newspapers and public men are becoming more conciliatory in their language to Britain; and the British, who have quietly listened and kept their temper, are perfectly ready to forgive their neighbors' little outburst.

The German Government has issued invitations to the other powers for a conference to be held at Berlin on the 6th of November, to discuss the Congo question. France and Germany have agreed upon a preliminary arrangement, to be submitted to the conference, and it is expected that the powers will decide to make commerce on the Niger and in the Congo country free to all nations. Lord Granville, the British Foreign Secretary, is going to attend the conference himself, and a representative of the United States will also be present.

Prince Bismarck has sent a very friendly message to the British Government, giving an assurance of Germany's good will and co-operation in the settlement of Egyptian affairs.

THE FRENCH ABROAD.

A battle took place last week in which the Chinese, attacking the French, were driven back with a loss of a thousand men. The invaders also captured all the ammunition, with mules and horses. The French General, however,—General Negrier,—was wounded.

Since then the French have had a serious defeat. The city of Tamsui was bombarded by the fleet, under Admiral Lespes, and the houses of European residents were riddled with shells, though the inhabitants did not suffer. The harbor was defended by a number of torpedoes, so that approach was dangerous. Six hundred of the French troops were landed to reconnoitre the positions from which the torpedoes were fired; but the Chinese hid in bushes, sprang out upon their assailants, and drove them back to their boats. Seventy French soldiers were killed in the course of five hours hard fighting, and one of their guns was captured. The Chinese—who had themselves lost 200 men—cut off the heads of 23 French corpses, and only stopped when the British Consul protested. More French troops are now to be sent to China.

The strong feeling against all foreigners, provoked by the French invasion, has shown itself in a riot at Oenchow, where the missionaries' houses were burnt. No lives were lost.

The only news from Madagascar is that

the natives are preparing to offer a desperate resistance if the French attempt to advance into the interior.

BOERS, BEWARE!

The British, and Christians generally, have always had a strong sympathy for the Bechuanas, among whom the great missionary Moffat labored for so many years. Most people are therefore glad to hear that the Boers are not to be allowed to persecute these unhappy natives any longer. The Transvaal Government has taken fright and withdrawn the proclamation annexing Bechuanaland; but as the Boer invaders continue to hold the lands taken by them in that country, the position of affairs is not much altered. The British Government calls upon the Transvaal to put down the filibustering of its subjects and to observe the treaty. The demand will probably be enforced by the arrival of several thousand British troops in South Africa. An English newspaper says that the Canadian Government has offered men and money to help the Cape Colonists, which is, to say the least, very unlikely.

JOHN B. GOUGH the great temperance orator, speaking of the coming Presidential election, says: "I do not believe in compromises of any sort, nor have I believed in them at any time in my career. I have fought the drink traffic right straight through, and I want Prohibitionists to show an uncompromising front to that traffic. We are fighting a tremendous evil, and we must make sacrifices if they become necessary. But there must be no compromise with the enemy. You must stand to your principles. They talk about protection, but we temperance people have no protection whatever. We want protection from the liquor traffic for the widow and the orphan and the children. That is why I changed my politics, and if I live until the first Tuesday in November I shall give my vote for a Prohibitory candidate."

OF EIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS founded recently in connection with Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., four have just been won by ladies. McGill University, Montreal, now gives the same lectures to women as to men. Eleven ladies entered for the full course to begin with, and the male students assembled at the door and gave them a hearty cheer as they entered. The ladies have not yet decided whether they will wear the college cap and gown.

THERE IS A DISCUSSION as to whether or not Lord Dufferin is an Irishman. That he was born in Ireland there is no doubt. But the Saxon inhabitants of Ireland are usually denounced by their Celtic countrymen as intruders, and not Irishmen at all. When, as in the case of the Duke of Wellington and Lord Dufferin, these Saxon Irishmen become distinguished, the fact of their being "intruders" seems to be at once forgotten and buried!

SOME OF THE KURDS have revolted against Persia, and two thousand men have been sent from Bagdad to put them down.