

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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The Temperance Worker

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

Our readers will be much interested to learn the result of the August competition for the prizes offered to those who should send us the largest number of subscriptions to the *Weekly Messenger*. The prizes have been easily won, as will be seen from the following list:—

1st prize of \$10—H. Austin, Potsdam, N. Y. \$5.00
2nd prize of \$5—John H. Seccord, Fredericton Junction, N. B. \$2.50
3rd prize of \$3—Norah Nickerson, Shag Harbor, N. S. \$2.30
4th prize of \$2 and \$1 each given to the four following, who each sent.....\$2.00
Namely: Charles Green, Litchfield, Conn.; Jennie Wyman, Onslow, N. S.; Mrs. W. S. Chittick, Hantsport, N. S.; John Thompson, Kippen, Ont.

This is far from satisfactory to us and almost discourages us from making another attempt. We thought that August would be a good time especially for boys and girls who are out of school at that time and might have made a good thing by giving their time to canvassing for a paper which, as one of the prize winners says, does not need to be pleaded for, only to be shown. We are not, however, going to give up so soon. There are thousands of readers who, when they see what an easy way it is of getting a prize, will probably think it worth while to make the effort. We therefore repeat the same offer, giving from now till the first of November to work up the lists. We should like if, independently of the prize competition, all readers who think the *Messenger* will do good would use every means, such as lending it, sending it and recommending it, to increase its circulation. There is no reason why it should not have the largest circulation in America.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. A. E. Milligan, Lawrence Station, Charlotte county, N. B., writes some kindly words regarding this paper, and adds the following interesting intelligence:—"Petitions are now being circulated by the rum-sellers and their agents, asking for a vote to be taken on the Scott Act with a view to repealing it and adopting the License Law of last winter. These agents get ten cents for every name they are able to get on the petition. The general opinion among temperance men, however, is that the Scott Act will be sustained, although not by a very large majority."

At a recent meeting the Toronto Branch of the Dominion Alliance decided to bring out temperance candidates for aldermen at the next civic elections. Practical work of this nature, bearing directly upon the body politic, is a most powerful means of awakening the public to its responsibility in respect to the liquor traffic, besides being useful in compelling electors to show where they stand upon the temperance question. When some temperance issue is before the people and the candidates represent the

right and the wrong side of the question, all true temperance men will, of course, be on one side. Where other very important questions are at issue, however, upon which the temperance people may be divided, their only practicable course is to insist upon candidates in their respective interests who will pledge themselves to promote the repression of the liquor evil. It must be a pretty bad cause that has no reliable temperance men in its ranks and the way to secure the nomination of such is as a rule to refuse to vote for any other.

Mr. John Bright, the venerable statesman and orator, than whom none stands firmer upon what he deems to be right ground, has come out in defence of the vested interests of publicans. Mr. Bright's admirable and undying opposition to the evil of war, and his never-failing and powerful advocacy of human freedom and rights and political reform, have given him such a great moral influence that his position upon this question is to be deeply deplored. It is an untenable claim on behalf of liquor-sellers that they should be compensated for what they lose by temperance principles being given force and effect, through the advance of public opinion, upon the statute books of the nation. The steady progress made by the modern movement of total abstinence and prohibition, and the plainness with which the issue has been kept before the nation for about a half century past, ought in all conscience to be deemed sufficient warning to the liquor-dealers of all grades to get out of their bad business. To the extent that the people through their representatives feel bound for self-preservation to declare and treat the liquor traffic as a nuisance, that traffic should be conceded the possession of no rights worthy of respect. Public opinion does not change from a position of supporting an ancient wrong to one of seeking its overthrow so suddenly as to give those who live or get gain from that wrong a claim against the public for losses incurred by its legal destruction.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

The Grand Lodge of the Province of Quebec will meet in Sherbrooke on Wednesday and Thursday next, Sept. 19th and 20th. A public meeting will be held on the evening of the first day. Reduced fares on railway and steamboat routes have been secured for the benefit of members and delegates.

About one hundred and forty Juvenile Templars of Sackville, N. B., under their superintendent, Miss Skrimmings, recently had a picnic at Dorchester, where they were shown through the Maritime Provinces Penitentiary—perhaps with a view partly to show them a very marked stage in the downward career of the drinker—and were allowed the freedom of the grounds of Lady Smith, widow of the lamented statesman, Sir Albert Smith.

DOMINION ALLIANCE.

The King's County Branch, Prince Edward Island, met at Souris lately, the president, the Rev. C. McDonald, of George-

town, in the chair, and an influential representation of the membership being present. It was decided to appoint a prosecuting officer and to provide him with necessary financial support, for enforcing the Scott Act. Another meeting within a week was arranged for, and appearances indicate that there will be warm work for the law-breakers in King's forthwith.

LATER ACCOUNTS show that the estimates of seventy-five thousand lives lost in the volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tidal waves in Java and surrounding islands of the Indian Archipelago were not beyond the truth. It is believed in Amsterdam, Holland, that one hundred thousand persons perished in North Bantam. Notice has been issued to mariners of the destruction of lighthouses in the Strait of Sunda, but the injury to navigation in that water is proved by steamers that have passed through to be less serious than at first feared. The neighboring island of Sumatra did not escape the calamity, whole towns being destroyed. At one place in that island the tide suddenly rose eight feet and then fell ten feet, causing widespread devastation. Several bays within the region of the disturbances are reported ruined by being filled with pumice stone. The temple of Boto Buddor in Java, the largest Buddhist temple in the East, was destroyed by falling rocks. Great anxiety is felt in Holland for the safety of the mail steamer "Prince Frederick," which is believed to have been in the Strait of Sunda during the eruptions. A terrible condition of affairs is reported in the district of Lampong, Sumatra, where everything for a distance of five leagues inland was destroyed. Thousands of dead are lying on the ground and it is impossible to approach to bury them on account of the fury of the natives against the Dutch, whom they hold responsible for the calamity as being the vengeance of the gods for the Acheen war.

THE ISSUE OF PEACE OR WAR is still undecided between France and China. France is sending fresh troops and supplies to Tonquin, and on the part of China it is said to be out of the question that she should cede her ancient sovereignty over Annam. It is now believed probable that the mediation of Great Britain will be invoked between the two nations. Serious riots broke out at Canton, China, a few days ago, brought on by a little row at a steamboat wharf, but believed to be due chiefly to the Chinese hatred of foreigners created by the French operations in Annam. Several shops and warehouses belonging to Europeans were burned by the mob, and British gunboats from Hong Kong had ultimately to take the foreign population under protection.

ALTHOUGH GOVERNOR SOLOMON, of Hayti, has been gaining strength, the rebel leader, Bayer Bazelaïs, has the qualities of a great general. Chances are said to be even, yet all the successes reported are by the rebels. They have just raised the blockade of Jeremie and Jacmel, and these ports are believed to be now completely in their hands.

CAPTAIN HAWLEY, a railway contractor at Swanton, Vermont, recently took heroic measures to put down a strike of Italian laborers. He went to their quarters and ordered the strikers off his property and upon their refusal he rushed into the midst of the gang and began pitching the men out of doors. After about a dozen had been tossed through the door the remainder, seized by terror, sprang through the windows and, rushing to the gravel bank, resumed their work.

MRS. FRANKLIN SMITH, of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, seeing her child aged two and a neighbor's aged three having great fun in the yard, found the cause of their glee to be a big rattlesnake, that poked its tongue out at them when they struck it with a stick or stroked it with their hands. After a moment's helplessness from fright she killed the reptile with a club, and then fell fainting by the side of the children. The snake was between four and five feet long with seven rattles.

UNDER TREATY French fishermen have certain rights upon a portion of the coast of Newfoundland, but according to account they are abusing their privileges not for the first time. The British flag-ship "Northampton," of the North American naval division, has been on the grounds investigating alleged outrages committed by French fishermen, with a French war cruiser accessory, upon English fishing vessels.

IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, Father Hennessy ordered all the boys of his charge to attend school in the basement of the church, on account of the public school board having refused to permit the use of the schools after hours for instruction in Roman Catholic doctrines. In consequence of the priest's order, which was emphasized by a threat of refusal of the sacraments to disobedient parents, fifty of two hundred pupils left the public schools.

IN VICTORIA, British Columbia, the three white men charged with the murder of the Chinese last spring have been acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. The Chief Justice tried the cases, and he remarked at the close that the satisfactory manner in which the Chinese witnesses gave their evidence and the reluctance of the white witnesses made him ashamed of being a white man.

HENRY ROBINSON, a convict dying from being shot by a guard in attempting to escape from the penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, said he had a brother in Congress, was of good family, married a lady in Florida, spent all his money, two thousand dollars, on his wedding trip, went to Georgia to steal and was arrested while robbing a safe.

AN EXAMINATION of the exploded boiler of the steamer "Rivendale," that sunk in Hudson River, New York, lately, showed the bottom to be corroded almost through. It is to be hoped there are not many more such steamboat boilers that escape proper inspection to the deadly peril of human life.