

## The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5.

## THE TONQUIN TROUBLE.

The total French loss, in the taking of Sontay, Tonquin, was 320, of which 250 were killed. All the advantages of the victory were likely to be lost owing to Admiral Courbet having to wait for reinforcements. In the present position of affairs the Tonquinese suffer from all sides. The French Government affords no protection against the robbers who pillage and burn the villages, which cannot protect themselves, as they have been disarmed for over twenty-five years. Each expedition into the country reveals on all sides villages robbed and burned, pagodas destroyed and people suffering from the pangs of hunger and terror. If they declare openly for the French they are exterminated by the mandarins imported from Hue; if they are indifferent their property is destroyed and sacked by French reconnoitring parties. Marquis Tseng, the Chinese ambassador, has been staying at Folkestone, England, for a while and was to have gone to Paris to resume negotiations with the French Government this week. He is reported as having said that if the French make the demand for indemnity said to have been in their intention there would be an immediate rupture of diplomatic relations. France has received very satisfactory assurances that Germany has no ulterior designs upon her in connection with the Tonquin matter. The German Government has informed her that no German officers are in the service of China, and explained that a report to the contrary was due to Herr Krupp, the gunmaker, sending a number of artillerymen with the first guns he delivered to the Chinese Government. Further, the German Government warned the Chinese Government that the ironclads now being constructed in Stettin docks will not be allowed to sail from there until it is evident that there will be no war between France and China. A close watch is also kept to prevent two Chinese corvettes just completed at Kiel, Germany, from making a surreptitious departure. The London *Times* believes China wants peace, and will abate some of her first pretensions if France will show a conciliatory spirit. It thinks if France is not satisfied with securing the northern bank of the main navigable branch of the Red River, the anti-foreign party in Pekin would triumph which means danger to all European interests in the country. Therefore, the *Times* considers the powers should mediate collectively, and, if there is any hesitation on the part of any of them, the right of initiative would rest largely with the United States, which is bound by treaty to offer her good offices whenever China requests them.

THE EDWARDS FAMILY, one of the best in West Virginia, is taking measures to press its claims to the ownership of six acres of ground in the heart of New York city, including the site of Trinity Church, the property being valued at six million dollars.

WILLIAM THOMPSON, of Dubuque, Iowa, whose father holds a Government office in Great Britain, has offered, if given the necessary funds, to go to England and "remove" Judge Denman, who sentenced the murderer O'Donnell.

## THE WEEK

IT IS REPORTED in London that the King of Ashantee recently killed sixty-eight of ex-King Koffee's children and massacred hundreds of Koffee's adherents.

TWO GERMAN IRONCLADS have been sent to Japan and New Guinea upon a mission of punishment to the natives for recent outrages upon German residents.

TWO DESPERATE BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS at robbery at the point of the pistol were lately made on a passenger train between Perpignan and Narbonne, France.

ANOTHER BRIDGE across the Niagara is talked of, supposed to be in the interest of the Grand Trunk Railway, giving it greatly improved connections with the United States.

DIPHTHERIA is alarmingly prevalent and fatal in Kennebunk, Maine.

THE LATEST STORY of all the strange ones from the South is that a peck of gold and jewels, valued at \$20,000, has been found at the root of a tree in Wilkes county, Georgia. It is said to be part of the treasure lost by the Confederate Cabinet during its flight.

MR. HENRY VILLARD, the railway man celebrated in connection with the promotion of the Northern Pacific, is said to be in poor health.

AN IMPRISONED NIBILIST has sent a harrowing account of suffering to the Nihilist paper, *Will of the People*. He says the dungeons are below the water level and bitterly cold and damp, causing a frightful prevalence of diseases in summer. Men and women are kept within cells all the year round. The officials extort money from prisoners who have it for necessities. Those without money are fed on horse-flesh and confined in the outer cells, where, between their battles with the waters and the rats, they soon perish.

PROMINENT SCOTTISH CITIZENS of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are combining to bring suit against the Allan Steamship Line for damages for having indirectly caused the death of Mrs. William Henderson. Two months ago Mr. William Henderson bought two full-fare tickets from Glasgow to Pittsburgh, and gave them to his wife and son, who travelled on them to Boston. At Boston the woman was given one full-fare and one half-fare ticket to Pittsburgh although she was entitled to two full-fare tickets. The mistake was discovered on the train, and the woman, having no money, was with her son several times put off trains. In Albany she walked the streets all night. The shock to her system was so great that she died just after reaching home. A criminal as well as a civil action is contemplated against the Allans.

A REPRESENTATIVE of Nicaragua, Central America, has obtained a guarantee of three percent upon ten millions from the Government of San Salvador and is trying to obtain a similar favor from Guatemala, for the purpose of raising money to construct the Nicaragua Canal. This canal, which has long been proposed, and has been a rival of the Panama Canal project, is designed to connect the port of Rivas on the Pacific with Lake Nicaragua, from whence the Atlantic may be reached by way of the San Juan River, flowing from that lake into the Caribbean Sea. It will be a good thing for commerce to have competition in short cuts between the oceans across Central America.

SEALS HAVE MADE a numerous appearance lately in the lower harbor of New York.

MR. CALLAN, an Irish member of the British Parliament, is at Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, South America, his business being supposed to be negotiating for the introduction of Irish colonization in that country.

MR. TUKE, chairman of the Tuke emigration committee, has published in the London *Times* letters expressing the gratitude of emigrants who had been assisted to America, many of whom are returning their passage money. Of 6,400 assisted in 1883, one-third have gone to Canada and two-thirds to the United States, and Mr. Tuke says:—"From the emigrants themselves, from their employers and from American bishops and priests we have accumulated evidence that they have enjoyed great happiness in helping to swell the ranks of the prosperous, free and intelligent millions of the Irish race in America."

WHEN BARON VON PUTLITZ, a professor in the University of Berlin, committed suicide recently, it was said he did it rather than fight a duel that had been forced upon him by a colleague. Now, however, it is believed the unnatural crime was due to jealousy of his wife, who is already engaged to be married to a diplomat who was Baron Putlitz's most intimate friend.

THE PROHIBITIONISTS in Topeka, Kansas, have elected their candidate for mayor over the candidate of the party favorable to raising a revenue from saloons. Other party issues were absent from the contest, so that it was a fair struggle between prohibition and license.

A MARRIED WOMAN named Vanderhinden, at Leyden, in the Netherlands, is in custody and has confessed to the murder of sixteen persons, nearly all relatives and, it is supposed, including five of her own children. The crimes were committed within the last few years, and the motive was to get the amounts of insurance policies the woman held upon her victims' lives.

A SCHOOL OF THE GERMAN JEWS AT GALATA, a suburb of Constantinople, was lately burned, the flames spreading so rapidly as to cut off the escape of many children. Some were thrown or leaped into blankets held in the street, many being hurt in the descent. Nineteen charred bodies were recovered from the ruins, and thirty persons altogether were missing.

NYIREGYHAZA, Hungary, was unenviably famous within the past year for a trial of Jews charged with slaying a Christian girl by way of sacrifice. Upon trial the charge—which, by the way, was a revival of an invention made by the false accusers of the early Christians—was found to be baseless and the case was dismissed. An appeal was taken by the Jew-haters to a higher court, which has just rendered judgment dismissing the appeal.

WORKINGMEN in the United States and Canada are agitating for restrictions upon the importation of labor under contracts from abroad. They are simply seeking to have the theory of protection applied directly in their behalf, having found that the fine promises of what it would do for them in protecting the manufactures were delusive.

A THOUSAND EMPLOYEES are thrown out of work by the closing of the Vulcan Steel Works in St. Louis, Missouri, which, it is believed, will not resume operations for several months.

THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS, of Russia, attempted recently to escape from his exile in Turkestan, by flight into India on horseback, but he was overtaken and brought back.

MR. BRADLAUGH, member several times elected for Northampton in the British Parliament, declares he will forcibly take possession of his seat in the House of Commons next session. He was kept out two or three years ago because he did not want to take the oath, the solemnities of which, he said, had no meaning to him. Upon every subsequent opening of Parliament he offered to be sworn, but the House refused to let him take the oath because he spoke so disrespectfully of it.

A CONGRESS OF SOCIALIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS has been held in Baltimore. These people seem to imagine that any change that strikes their fancy would be a reform worth fighting for. At this convocation they demanded the abolition of the offices of president and vice-president of the United States, and the substitution thereof of a federal council. Among other demands they made was the submission to popular vote of any law that might be demanded by a given number of applicants. In a discussion of the views of the notorious German Socialist, Herr Most, the congress generally denounced his sweeping doctrines and declared that a more conservative cause would be more effective.

MOUNT AUGUSTINE in Alaska was last October the site of terrific volcanic disturbances. Immense volumes of smoke and flame burst from its summit, obscuring the sky, and in a few hours great quantities of pumice dust began to fall. Ashes fell to a depth of five inches, making the day so dark that lamps had to be lit. At night the surrounding country was illuminated by the flames from the crater. After the subsidence of the disturbances it was found that the mountain had split in two from the base to the summit, and that the northern slope had fallen to the level of the surrounding cliffs. A new island showed above the waters seventy-five feet high and a mile and a half long. During the disturbances an earthquake wave thirty feet in height came rushing in over the settlement, sweeping away all the boats and flooding the houses. Had the tide not been low at the moment the settlement would have been destroyed. Two dormant volcanoes in the peninsula of Alaska were wakened into activity.

ALARM HAS BEEN raised at the destruction of the forests on the Adirondack Mountains by the Canal Boat Owners, and Commercial Association, comprising six hundred members. It had been long observed that the clearing of the Adirondack forests lessened the supply of water, and the Association was informed by a member that unless the process was checked, the State would have to spend millions to build reservoirs to supply the canals with water. It was resolved to memorialize the Legislature to put a stop to the destruction of the forests.

SOUTH AMERICA can, it seems, produce better revolutions than those of the sword. The Government of the Argentine Republic is about to issue four million dollars to advance public instruction in the provinces and for building three hundred schools.

A. D. SMITH & Co., Providence, Rhode Island, running 87,000 spindles and employing 1,000 to 1,200 persons, have failed, with liabilities of \$1,700,000 and comparatively small assets.