

# Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. III.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 11, 1884.

No. 41.

## The Weekly Messenger

### THE NILE DRAMA.

The curtain is beginning to be drawn away from that mysterious region on the Upper Nile, and seldom has such a dramatic scene been presented to the world as the struggle which an isolated British officer has for months been carrying on with a host of furious and fanatical Africans. Even the European newspapers cannot help exclaiming in admiration. The Vienna *Tagblatt* says that the defence of Khartoum will always be an interesting chapter of the world's history, showing that British energy and wisdom have not yet died out.

A report has been spread that General Gordon has not only sent the besieging rebels away from Khartoum but has taken his army to Berber and recaptured that city, which was taken and deluged in blood some months ago by the Mahdi's troops. This news, however, is doubted. If Gordon is really at Berber, it will be a comparatively easy matter to send a small force to him and find out exactly what he wants.

General Gordon has had medals made and presented to the troops, as well as the women and children, who took part in the arduous work of defending Khartoum.

The British troops, led by Lord Wolsley, are steadily advancing up the Nile, and last reports are that the general health is good. The river is rising, which will be all the better for the expedition, as several steamers have been damaged while passing through the cataracts. One alarming report is that a steamer has been wrecked in one of these rapids, and Col. Stewart and most of the others on board have been killed by treacherous Arabs. The cost of this expedition will be enormous—something like \$750,000 a week, and the sooner Generals Wolsley and Gordon get their affair over, the better will their employers be pleased. The Soudan, say some, is likely to be put under the Mudir of Dongola, who has proved himself a brave ally of the British.

As to the protests of various European powers against Egypt's paying her running expenses in preference to paying interest to foreign money-lenders, the Egyptian government simply replies that the change was absolutely necessary. It is stated that Germany proposes another international conference at London, to try and come to some settlement of Egyptian affairs without leaving them entirely in the hands of Britain.

### FIGHTING THE CELESTIALS.

The most interesting incident reported from China this week is an attempt on the part of the United States Minister, Mr. Young, to mediate between the two hostile powers. At first it was said positively that this was done at the request of France; but the French Government denies this. At any rate, according to the London *Times*, the attempt is not likely to be successful. Li Hung Chang, the great Chinese statesman, declares that the terms offered by

France for a new peace are monstrous. France has already avenged the attack on her troops, and yet she demands \$18,000,000 as indemnity. China, he said, was determined and prepared for war. At Washington, it is not believed that Mr. Young really went to Li Hung Chang in response to any French request for mediation.

It is doubtful where Admiral Courbet is at present, but he has certainly done nothing worth speaking of. One French paper says that the Admiral is instructed to destroy the Chinese fleet, if the Government does not submit, and then return home.

The French Premier has sent a note to the British representative in Paris, expatiating what had been done to ensure the safety of foreigners and foreign interests in China. Premier Ferry goes on to express the solicitude of France for the interests of British commerce. This is polite, to say the least of it, and it is to be hoped M. Ferry means what he says, and is not filled with a miserable jealousy of British colonial and commercial success.

The French Government wants \$2,000,000 to pay its war expenses in China up to the end of this year. There is now a proposal to raise a "Colonial Army." Whether it will consist of Frenchmen or Chinese we do not hear.

### AFFAIRS IN THE OLD WORLD.

The nations of Europe are still in a nervous and irritable state, but there are signs that the fever has run its natural course and is dying out. Some English jockeys have just been brutally treated by a French mob at Parisian races, it is true; and a newspaper which is supposed to be controlled by the President, is declaring that France, in order to be strong, must not be isolated from the rest of Europe, even if she unites in common action with Germany. But when the French people have the simple question asked them, whether they prefer the friendship of the English, who have only criticized them, or the friendship of the Germans, who have conquered them by arms, the Germans are likely to take second place. M. Clemenceau, and other enlightened statesmen in the Chamber of Assembly, intend to declare, as soon as that body meets, the necessity of France being in harmony with England. And M. Jules Valles, a celebrated Communist, who thoroughly understands the British spirit, bids Germans and Frenchmen to beware of rousing the dormant spirit of Englishmen. He says that although England has no immense standing army, in the event of war, soldiers would spring from the ground. The whole militia and volunteers, in fact every man able to use a rifle would rally round the Union Jack. He warns Germany of the presence of Socialists, which is an ever-menacing danger, and at whose bidding regiments may lay down their arms. The article concludes: "Beware lest that silent race, whose voice is raised only amid the cannon, put on their red coats to celebrate the festival of blood!"

The German spite against Britain is showing itself in a way that is not only childish but suicidal. The founder of a German colony at Angra Pequena, on the west coast of Africa,

has forbidden all but his own countrymen from trading or living there. Well, if he will not have the enterprise of Britons or Americans in his colony, so much the worse for his colony.

It is to be hoped that the British, in the midst of all their worries, will keep their traditional coolness. Their worries have been increased by the Transvaal Boers invading a neutral territory, and perhaps troops will have to be sent to keep down the land-thieves. The outcry about the weakness of the British Navy has caused the appointment of a commission to examine the matter. And it is also reported that Dover is to be bombarded from the British Channel, to test the strength of the fortifications.

### THE CHOLERA SCOURGE.

A steamer from Genoa has arrived at Cardiff with several of her crew ill with cholera, and has been placed in strict quarantine. Several cholera cases have arrived at Cardiff, and yet the disease seems unable to get a foothold in Wales or England.

In Italy the death list every day is a terribly long one, a number of cities being now affected; but the number of deaths in Naples has fallen to about twelve a day. The disease seems to have run its fatal course in that pestilential city, and the Government is "locking the stable door behind the horse," by spending \$1,000,000 on rebuilding the filthy slums in which the victims lived. Naples is looking herself again, but a serious commercial crisis is feared; trade has been much injured, and hundreds of notes have fallen due and been "protested."

The superstitious lower classes of Italians in Turin have broken out in riots against their more prosperous and better educated countrymen, under the impression that they wanted to poison them.

There is very little cholera in Spain now. The Spaniards, however, are mortally frightened, and their fear has led to some unpleasant incidents. A British steamer, the "Woodside," stranded on the Spanish Coast, and the consul wanted to send a tug to her assistance. He was forbidden by the authorities to do so. The steamer was left for two weeks at the mercy of the sea, and became a total wreck.

### THEIR UNHAPPY LORDSHIPS.

The members of the British House of Lords must be rather disgusted with their leader, Lord Salisbury, even if the majority of them agree with his political opinions. He has been speaking to large meetings in Glasgow, and he seems to hint that he will persist in opposing the Reform Bill, even if he stands alone—and it is quite possible that his ordinary supporters will refuse to follow him any farther. The more the question is agitated, the more clear it is that the House of Lords itself, and not only their lordships' action in this one case, is being attacked. Mr. Gladstone himself will not attack it, nor will his government. But its obstruction in this case makes people ask what good the House of Lords really does, and what right has it to its present position.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster, one of the most Conservative politicians on the Liberal side of the House of Commons, has come out squarely in support of Mr. Gladstone. He says the question is whether the people shall govern themselves, or whether their affairs shall be managed, their policy ruled, their will constantly defeated and baffled, by three hundred privileged families.

The Queen and the Prince of Wales are said to have tried to arrange a compromise, to get Lord Salisbury to pass the Reform Bill through the House of Lords as soon as an "acceptable redistribution bill" is brought into the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone naturally refuses. Lord Salisbury of course could object to any redistribution bill brought in by Mr. Gladstone as "unacceptable."

### DR. NEWMAN HALL.

The Rev. Dr. Newman Hall, the celebrated preacher, of London, Eng., has been visiting many towns of our continent. At a crowded meeting of the American Temperance Union in Chickering Hall, New York, the Rev. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler, of Brooklyn, introduced the Rev. Dr. Hall. In presenting him, Dr. Cuyler said: "I won't stand as a buffer between you and Dr. Hall long. My temperance lecture in a nutshell is that drink ruins the pocket, the brains, and the soul. Dr. Hall comes to us as one who stood side by side with William Foster and John Bright and raised his voice for American freedom during our struggle for independence."

Dr. Hall in his address said that temperance was one point on which the church and all political parties should unite. Legislation was too slow to wait for, and every man should take the work in his own hand.

"The people who indulge moderately," he said, "have no idea of their responsibility to those who overstep their limits. They give encouragement to all others who may have a constitutional tendency to drink as yet undeveloped to go as far as they have gone. Make abstinence respectable and then you will see no more young men running into temptation by accepting drink simply because they bring themselves into notice, and maybe, are subjected to ridicule, if they refuse. It seems strange that people will not give up their little indulgences, when by the denial of them they might do so much good."

IT IS A COMMON MISTAKE to assume that Australia is a country destitute of large rivers; on the contrary it possesses one of the longest in the world, viz., the Darling, which is navigable for 2,345 miles, placing it third in rank among the rivers of the world, estimated by their navigable length, and considerably above the Nile, navigable for 1,500 miles; the Danube, navigable for 1,700 miles; the Rhine navigable for 600 miles; and the Thames, navigable for 185 miles.

IT IS STATED in Spain that the United States have offered a large reduction in the duties on Cuban tobacco and sugar if Cuban duties on American goods are also reduced.