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The Weekly Messenger.

TAME AND WILD LITERATURE.

Just as the cannon-ball stops a dead weight on the ground when the force of the exploding gun power which sent it whizzing through the air is expended, so does literature fall flat when the force which is carrying the reader along dies out. If the sentences used are pointed they sink into the mind of him who reads. If they are dull, they are read merely in a mechanical way affording neither pleasure nor profit. Now, when good literature which is full of spirit is so plentiful, there is no need to subscribe for anything of an inferior sort. For local papers it is all very well to put news in the most flat and prosaic form possible, but for papers such as the *Weekly Messenger*, such writing would never do. Besides his local paper, every educated citizen of Canada takes one, two or three other periodicals. A man who reads well and thinks well, is well thought of by those around him. To read well the first necessary is good, wholesome and above all, enjoyable reading matter. This will be found in abundance in the *Weekly Messenger* which supplies the most interesting news of the world, continued stories by good authors, markets and all sorts of household and general information. The paper takes the place, in fact, of Cookery Books, Reference Books, Story Books and is a whole library in itself. To those who have received it for several weeks, we would say that the time has now come for them to forward fifty cents as subscription for the next year to the "Weekly Messenger, Montreal, P.Q." If five subscriptions are sent together the price is \$2.

THE BLACKFEET.

The Indian chiefs of whom we have already given pictures belonged to the Cree Indians. The Crees, as we have already explained, possess a much larger extent of territory than the Blackfeet, but the latter are by far more powerful. There are considerably over 6,000 Indians in the Blackfeet confederation which is composed of these five tribes: Blackfeet, Bloods, Stoneys, Piegans and Sarcees. Of this confederation Crowfoot is the grand chieftain and the other three whose pictures we give Eagle Tail, Red Crow and Three Bulls, are his councillors and under chiefs. These chiefs are loyal now, but there was some fear of them rising in rebellion when things looked brighter for Riel. In 1852 Canada was perilously near having an Indian war with this confederation, which would

have been as great a calamity as the present trouble. Crowfoot, with his personal followers, the greater part of his own tribe, in that year returned from the United States, where they had, for two years lived as brigands, stealing horses, fighting the American Indians and killing cattle. A band of soldiers' lodges, a species of regular body guard drawn round the chief, composed of the most daring men of the band, had been formed, and the tribe was a military power. A quarrel took place between the Indians and the agent and contractors who served out the beef rations, and a shot was at last fired at one of the butchers. At first the Indians refused to give up Bull Elk, the firer of this shot, and Inspector Dickens found it impossible to make them with the small force at his command. Word was at once sent to Fort McLeod, and with twenty men Major Crozier rode up to Blackfoot Crossing the following day, fortified the ration house and went in and took the man without opposition. Since that time there has been no trouble. This picture of Crow-

from his window. This was a pleasant experience for General Grant to be able to renew his youth and vigor by entering on the pursuit which even in his sickness occupies the greater part of his attention. In his sickness even more than in health he has received kindnesses from those who knew him. His house in Philadelphia was sold by auction for over twenty-two thousand dollars. Immediately after the sale the house was given back to the General by the citizens.

MURDEROUS INDIANS.

Geronimo, the savage chief of the Apache Indians, who have the San Carlos reservation in the state of Arizona, has left his reserve and is on the war-path. The number of Apache Indians is now very small as they have been gradually thinned out by a succession of wars with the authorities. At first it was thought that there were fifty braves in all but there are in reality not many more than thirty men in the band.

the idea of the band of insurgents seems to have been to escape across the border into Mexico. It is reported that General Crook has succeeded in intercepting their flight into Mexico and has possession of the mountain passes. A detachment of cavalry encountered Geronimo and his band in Cook's canon, one of the passes. Geronimo seems to have been surprised having expected to have time to escape. In the encounter four hostiles were killed and twice as many wounded. Two soldiers were killed and eight wounded. The Apaches would not likely have been able to make much more disturbance than they have already, but that they have been joined by the Utes and Navajos making the total strength of the three bands of insurgents about two hundred men. Two years have passed since the Apaches, who are now making so much trouble, were permitted, through the intercession of General Crook to return to their reserves after having been suppressed in rebellion. General Crook's policy with the Indians is to make them self supporting,

and he succeeded very well with the Apaches until these became maddened by intoxicating drink. General Crook has about 1,200 men under him, but as the Indians have spread themselves over a large country this force is not thought sufficient. One who served in the campaign against these Indians several years ago writes as follows: "The Apaches will go on the war trail for the simplest cause, and the friendliness, hospitality, and fidelity to promises that have characterized some tribes of the north find no counterpart among them. It is now feared that a body of Navajos, Ute and Pi Utes, three times as large as Geronimo's band, may soon take the war path and should they do so there will be a reign of terror in the South-West among the settlers, prospectors, miners, and railway surveyors, which may far surpass anything we have heard of in the North-West of Canada. Probably no fighting man in the world is better fitted than the Ute, Pi Ute or Apache for the kind of campaigning to which he resorts. Fierce,



EAGLE TAIL.

RED CROW.

CROWFOOT.

THREE BULLS.

CROWFOOT AND HIS CHIEFS.

foot and his chiefs will be interesting inasmuch as the Blackfeet nation has been a great deal talked about in connection with the North-West rebellion.

GENERAL GRANT'S PROSPECTS.

The disease from which General Grant is suffering is progressing very slowly but very surely. Dr. Sands thinks the General will last three months and Dr. Shady thinks he will hold out six months. Decoration day was very generally observed in New York. The 7th Regiment, while marching, was reviewed by General Grant

It appears that the outbreak was occasioned by the Indians manufacturing a lot of "Tamin," an intoxicating drink. This was against the rules, and fearing to be punished for it the Apaches went on the war-path and murdered about their own number of whites. The Indians, committed some of the most barbarous murders possible, in New Mexico, where the body of one woman was found horribly mutilated with the eyes gouged out, while that of another had apparently been hung up while the victim was still alive by means of a meat hook stuck in the back of her neck. After the murders,

cunning, of great physical endurance, tireless riders and almost universally good shots, the red men of that race have long been formidable enemies of the whites. The nature of the country in the South-West aids their predatory warfare. The mountain ranges have never been thoroughly explored and abound in secret and inaccessible fastnesses. They can go for days without food or water, and their ponies are as tough as their riders, and have often worn out the horses of the United States Cavalry sent in pursuit." It is good for the United States that such a band is small in numbers.