

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. IV. No. 40.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING, AUGUST 31, 1885.

FIFTY CENTS A YEAR.

The Weekly Messenger.

A LIVELY TALE.

How Billy Knox went up in the world, what adventures he had, and how he had his love affair, was—but you will see how he came out by reading our new continued story which is just as lively a tale as one could wish for. We have determined to give the *Messenger* from now until the end of the year for

FIFTEEN CENTS,

so that everyone may have a chance to take it for a short time on trial. Our new story begins in next week's number, so there is no time to lose. Speak to your neighbors at once, and if you cannot get them to take the *Messenger* for a year, ask them to take it on trial till the 1st of January, 1886. Every day that passes there is less chance of getting so many papers.

To the person who sends us the largest number of subscribers to the end of the year at fifteen cents each, we will give a prize of \$5 and our book of reprinted stories. To the one who sends us the second largest list of subscribers to the end of the year, we will give a prize of \$2.50, and to the next 15 most successful competitors, we will give our large story-book described in last week's number of this paper. There is

A CHANCE FOR EVERYONE

to obtain one or other of these SEVENTEEN PRIZES. Clip this offer out and keep it in mind.

Remember, too, our special offer in regard to yearly subscribers. In obtaining yearly subscribers to form clubs of five, you may either send \$2.00 for each five, keeping fifty cents for yourself, or you may send \$2.50 and obtain our story book. Young folks will find that they can spend a few hours very profitably in canvassing for this paper.

THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD.

We have already announced the death of James W. Marshall, the discoverer of gold in California. One who knew him writes this account of his life, which was romantic in the highest degree. In 1849 every sailing vessel and steamer landing at San Francisco was crowded with adventurers. These were told that gold had first been found at Coloma, and many went there. Without saying so much as "by your leave," they squatted upon Marshall's land about the mill, seized his work oxen for food, confiscated his horses and marked the land off into town lots and distributed them among themselves. Thus robbed of his property he, perforce, became a prospector, but never succeeded in finding much gold. The neighbors who had despoiled his possessions added insult to injury by presuming that he knew the whereabouts of rich deposits of gold, and refused to give information of them, and persecuted him on these false suppositions. To add to his troubles, his title to the land he had purchased prior to his great discovery was questioned; he lost it and died a poor man, though his discovery had led to the addition of untold millions to the wealth of California.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

The weather has been much more favorable for harvest work during the past week and in most sections the greater portion of the grain has been secured in good condition. In a few localities, especially in Wisconsin, there have been heavy rains, and much of the grain that was cut, as well as the standing grain, has been more or less damaged by the wet. The spring wheat in Ontario is turning out very poor owing to blight and rust, which has also done more or less damage to the wheat in the western states, but in the North-West the spring wheat is excellent. The cooler weather has checked the rapid growth of corn, but all of the earlier planted is nearly matured and out of danger, and should frost keep off for a few weeks longer an enormous crop will be secured. Potatoes are doing remarkably well and continue nearly free from rot. The wheat harvest in Britain has turned out more than an average, or about twenty-nine bushels per acre, but the oats will not come up to the average of other years. It looks as if great scarcity, if not famine, was to follow the pestilence in Spain, where the cholera has in many districts deprived the fields of the hands needed to gather the crops, and in many districts the crops have been almost destroyed by frequent and terrible storms.

THE CHOLERA.

That the outbreak of cholera in Marseilles is far more threatening and dangerous than the epidemic was last year in the same city is shown by a comparison of mortality statistics. On one day there were 140 deaths in Marseilles. On no day during the progress of the disease there last year did the number of deaths exceed 70, and at the corresponding date last year, the number of deaths had fallen to 14 a day. The facts are all too plain. The cholera of this year is more searching and more deadly than the cholera of last year. The disease which attacked the south of France and Italy in 1884, and greatly aroused the fears of the inhabitants of Europe, the British Islands, and the American continent, lasted from the middle of June till the cold of winter set in, yet the recorded deaths, and probably every death from Asiatic cholera, was included, amounted only to 19,632. This year the cholera has reaped its harvest in Spain, and although it is likely that the number of deaths recorded from cholera is too small by half, yet the recorded deaths number 27,296. A great deal now depends on the weather whether the plague will continue to rage or not. The outlook is certainly not encouraging, for the hot season is far from being at an end. It is curious that Spain should have been so largely the sufferer, for it is no worse, from a sanitary point of view, than many other countries in Europe. The deaths in Spain still continue to average over fifteen hundred a day. The Government of Gibraltar is about to impose two days' quarantine against all arrivals from the country reported. If this is done the Spaniards, in spite of their Government, will retaliate by cutting Gibraltar off from all supplies from the towns.

The excitement among the people of the Canary Islands, caused by the fear of cholera amounts to a panic. They now refuse to permit any person from Spain to land. They made an exception in favor of the new Governor and allowed him to come ashore, but received him with riotous demonstrations and threw stones at him. The local authorities have resigned, and many people have gone into the interior in fear of the approach of the scourge. To-day soldiers occupy the streets and all the public buildings.

In Marseilles the cholera is taking a form that the doctors cannot deal with. The victims die suddenly and there is no time to administer medicine even. On catching the plague the patient feels a coldness which neither stimulants, hot applications nor violent rubbing will do away with. Two hours after death the body becomes black and soon begins to decay. Although the epidemic is not contagious it is feared that one hundred deaths will soon be recorded every day in Marseilles.

Captain Dawson, of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, writes to the Halifax *Herald* that all the swallows and martins had left that section of the country. "An old inhabitant" of Halifax comments upon the fact as follows: Referring to the early and unaccountable flight of the swallows and martins—leaving, as in some cases they have, their young behind them to die in their nests—permit me to mention that a precisely similar phenomenon was observed in 1834 immediately before the outbreak of cholera in this city. At that time not only the swallows and martins but nearly all the birds took flight and their entire absence during the period of cholera visitation was noticed and commented on. It, of course, does not follow that the early flight of the swallows this year is to be followed by the same pestilence, but the coincidence is sufficiently striking to be worth calling attention to.

A CHAPTER IN THE SEQUEL.

There remain several Indians to be tried for the part they took in the Riel rebellion, and it is believed that all Indians guilty of murder will be hung. Poundmaker's sentence of three years to the Penitentiary is looked on as very severe, in the face of the doubt that he was responsible for any portion of his people's misdeeds. There is a prevalent opinion amongst those who know him and have some idea of his many good qualities, that his sentence will be commuted or greatly alleviated. The chief expressed his desire to be hung rather than go to gaol for three years. He knew what he was about when he made that statement for if he had been sentenced to death he stood a fair chance of a reprieve and his liberty. What he would like would be a similar punishment to what Riel had after his first rebellion—a good round sum of money to leave the country.

The New York *Tribune* says:—We hope that the State Department will ignore the petitions asking this Government to interfere in behalf of the Canadian rebel Riel.

It is hardly likely that he will be hanged; but, at all events, his fate is for the Dominion Government to decide. As to the assertion that Riel is an American citizen, it seems sufficient answer to say that even his counsel at the trial did not try to get him off on that weak plea.

Riel's wife has been prostrated ever since hearing of her husband's sentence. At one time it was feared she would die, but latterly she has slightly rallied. Riel's mother and family being visited were found grief-stricken. The poor old mother of seventy has refused almost all food since she heard of her son's sentence. They all expect he will be hanged, and offer prayers daily for his safe conduct to heaven.

How fare the volunteers who have returned from their campaign in the North-West? Everyone is enthusiastic over the erection of a monument in honor of those who sacrificed their lives for their country and the collectors of funds for this purpose are meeting with every success, so that the necessary sum will soon be raised. But help for those who are still living and who are in pinched circumstances does not appear so easy to obtain. Many volunteers are now waiting for their pay, which is slow in coming. Not a few have lost situations through their enforced absence and are not able to get new ones.

BOOKS GIVEN AWAY.

Take a look over the article headed "A lively tale" at the beginning of this paper and read this:

From now till the end of October we have decided to give a large book of stories, which sells at sixty cents, to anyone who will send us a list of five new subscribers, to the *Weekly Messenger* at fifty cents each. This offer does not include the club rates, but is of greater benefit to him who wins it. Take care, on sending in your list of subscribers, to write the names and post-offices very distinctly. The book in paper covers is eleven inches by fourteen and contains sixty stories of great interest, the continued ones not being too long. There are 237 pages and about 140 pictures illustrative of the stories. Anyone who has seen the book would be well pleased to take the trouble to secure it by sending in five new subscribers to the *Weekly Messenger*. The offer is too good a one for us to be able to make it for an unlimited time and we therefore place the time till October 31st, about two months from now.

O'DONOVAN ROSSA has written a notable letter to his dynamic agents in Havre and Antwerp. Rossa blames these agents for their present inactivity and says to them: "You have plenty of oatmeal and won't use it." He then commands them to recommence the dynamite war and arrange for several "simultaneous explosions in England forthwith." The more moderate dynamiters seem to be inclined to give Lord Salisbury a chance to benefit Ireland before doing any destructive work in England, Rossa, however, is not for letting the grass grow under his feet.