

# Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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## The Weekly Messenger

### AN OPEN LETTER.

DEAR READERS,—We want to give our best thanks to those of you who have so successfully canvassed for us and sent us new subscribers; and we now repeat our offer. We will send a copy of the *Weekly Messenger* to any address till the end of the year for *fifty cents*; and we will give to the person who gets us ten new names *half the money*. That is, anyone who sends us the names of ten new subscribers need only send us *seventy-five cents*, keeping the other seventy-five cents as commission.

Set to work with a will, canvass for your friend the *Weekly Messenger*, and when you send orders mark every letter "Autumn Trial Trip."

JOHN DOUGALL & SON.

"Witness" Office, Montreal, P. Q.

### OFF TO THE NILE.

In spite of the warnings of some "Egyptian experts" in England, who seem to have an idea that Canada is a land of snow and ice, and who declare that it is simply murder to take Canadians to Egypt, Lord Wolsley's invitation was promptly responded to. On Saturday last, between three and four hundred hardy boatmen arrived in Montreal and went on board the "Ocean King," a steamer chartered especially to convey them to the Nile, where they are to conduct Lord Wolsley's expedition up stream for the relief of General Gordon. Two hundred men came from the Ottawa—their lumbering operations there being over for the season: one third of them were English-speaking, one third French, and the other third Indian. Ninety men came from Manitoba, one third being Indian. And sixty Indians came from Caughnawaga, on the St. Lawrence. Others joined at Three Rivers and Quebec, where the Governor-General and Lady Lansdowne saw them off.

The water in the Nile is still very low, and Lord Wolsley is preparing to march across the desert from Debeh to Khartoum if he cannot get up the river. Agents are scouring the country for camels, 30,000 of which are wanted for the expedition. Three thousand troops have just been ordered to Egypt from England.

The Mudir of Dongola, about whose supposed treachery so many reports have circulated a little while ago, has now defeated a large force of rebels under command of the Mahdi himself, and several rebel chieftains were killed. A fight is reported near Suakim, in which a thousand friendly Arabs were defeated by 4,000 of Osman Digna's forces, and the same despatch says that it is feared the friendly tribes will be forced to join the rebels. On the other hand, many tribes are declared to be tired of misrule, and desirous of again coming under the Egyptian government. That they are tired of anarchy is likely enough; but it is not probable that they wish their Egyptian tyrants

back again. They would probably not object to be governed by the British; and, though the British don't want the task of governing any more foreign nations, the task will very likely be forced upon them.

Lord Northbrook is said to have promised the Khedive that Britain will guarantee a new Egyptian loan, if the Vacoufs department is placed under British control. It is also said that the British propose to pay the indemnities to those who suffered by the bombardment of Alexandria, cash down, less 25 percent; or, in full, spread over ten years.

Several German and Austrian men-of-war are to be sent to Egypt to protect the interests of the two governments if necessary. The necessity is as yet far distant.

### AN INDIAN EXHIBITION.

The Iroquois Indians living at Caughnawaga, near Montreal, have just had their second annual exhibition, in a fine new building that would do credit to many a white man's town. The live stock shown would not stand much chance of winning prizes in ordinary exhibitions,—except the pigs, which were very creditable. In their display of potatoes and grain the Indians won considerable praise from visiting farmers, and the many fine heads of corn were superior to anything at the Dominion Exhibition. The beadwork was extensive and elaborate, and bore testimony to much hard work on the part of the ladies of the tribe. A brass band was brought from Onondaga, near Syracuse, N. Y., and was of great service during the exhibition. War dances and scalp dances of the most blood-curdling description were performed, and seemed to be as interesting and curious to the dusky natives as to the pale-faced visitors. Among the latter was Mr. Dingman, Inspector of Indian Agencies, who referred to the act which will come into force next January, by which the more advanced tribes will be allowed to have their own municipal institutions and manage their own affairs.

At a church-door meeting after mass on Sunday,—this tribe being entirely Roman Catholic,—one of the Onondaga Indians gave a fervent temperance address in his own language. Old Chief Martin, of Deseronto, followed with a stirring speech in the same tongue, after which he turned to a few white men who were present and delivered the following little oration:—

"And now a few words to the English language. My dear white faces friends, I thank you for all you have done for us. I hope you will do all you can to help us with our Indian Exhibitions when they are held once every year. I hope you will do all in your power to prevent the intoxicating liquors. I am temperance; I was not always temperance; I find it was ruining my body and soul and my family, so I gave up that business, and now I am always feeling well, and always more happy than I was the day before that. I have done."

The speech was received with loud applause, and it is to be hoped it will have its effect.

### THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

Although in some parts of the country the crops have been considerably damaged by rain, and in other places frost has injured garden stuffs, buckwheat and corn, yet on the whole the prospects for an abundant harvest continue to improve. While the hot wave interfered considerably with trade it has secured to the country an unprecedented crop of corn, which, owing to its lateness, required just such weather to force it along so as to be out of danger of early frosts. A good corn crop means that hog and cattle products will be abundant and low priced. So far as threshing has been done, the wheat is turning out even better than was anticipated, and the potatoes in most sections are abundant, of superior quality, and nearly free from rot. In many sections, the dry weather has severely affected the pasturage, but the late rains have been pretty general all over the continent and will greatly help the fall feed for live stock. With an unusual abundance of farm produce in the country, even if prices are low, the conditions of improved trade exist, and the whole community will receive more or less of the benefits to be derived from abundance.

### THE KING AND THE CHOLERA.

France is no longer the scene of the cholera's most terrible ravages. All eyes are now turned to Italy, and especially to the city of Naples, where this disease has got a firm footing and is sweeping off the inhabitants literally by hundreds. The medical science seems to be unable to cope with the epidemic, to such an extent has it grown. Between midnight on Friday and Saturday afternoon there were 1,299 cases reported, and 687 deaths in the city. The average daily number of deaths, however, is about one third to one half of that figure.

The King went about like a hero, personally inspecting the cholera wards in the hospitals and helping the needy. He also subscribed 60,000 lire (nearly \$12,000) for the relief of distress. His bravery has provoked his subjects' admiration, and he received an enthusiastic welcome on his return to Rome. The state of Naples is altogether dismal. The superstitious people, forgetting that God helps those who help themselves, rely upon religious processions more than on cleanliness, and at the close of the processions come drinking bouts, which sweep the participants right into the cholera's arms. The panic has spread to the prisons, and the inmates of one goal broke out in insurrection, which had to be quelled by soldiers.

The disease is now spreading in other parts of Italy. In France, statistics show that the victims belonged to the following nations: 114 French, 427 Italian, 19 Spanish, 11 Greek, 6 Austrian, 5 English, 4 Swiss, 3 German, 2 American, and 1 Swedish.

There is something extremely pleasant in the fact that Queen Victoria has sent a telegram to the Queen of Italy, condoling with her on the outbreak of cholera in Naples. We hear of such courtesies as this when a

member of some Royal Family is sick; and this is as much as to say that to a good ruler all her subjects are dear as her own children.

### THE FRENCH IN CHINA.

The French ministers have decided to go on with their operations against China, and a suggestion that the dispute should be settled by arbitration is indignantly scouted. No formal declaration of war by France, however, has been made: whether the Chambers shall be called together to do this, will be decided at a Cabinet Council on the 23rd.

It is reported that the Emperor of China has issued a manifesto declaring that France has committed acts of war, and calling on his subjects to repel the invaders.

In the meantime, people are wondering what the French fleet is going to do next. It has left its anchorage at Matson and has started for the north. It is supposed by some that Admiral Courbet is going to land an army and force the Chinese troops southward, where they will meet hostile hill tribes. Another rumor is that the fleet has gone to the Gulf of Pechili; if so, it is near Peking, the Capital. A third report is that the Admiral has put to sea to destroy Chinese shipping.

A telegram from a Chinese firm to its agents in New York says that 65,000 troops are going to recapture Tonquin. Hundreds of boats, laden with stones, are ready to be sunk in the river Woonson, in case the French venture up the river to attack Shanghai. Shanghai is a "neutral port," and the neutral powers will have something to say about this matter. Some of the more cool-headed French journals are now attacking their Government's policy for its interference with trade.

### PROHIBITION.

The prohibitory amendment to the constitution of Maine was carried by over three to one. The vote stood: for the amendment, 64,507; against, 20,224; majority, 44,283.

The prohibition campaign is particularly lively just now. The liquor traffic threw its whole force into one little county of Ontario to get prohibition repealed there; the traffic was ignominiously defeated; and now recognizes that it is doomed to be blotted out of the Dominion. It is accordingly acting somewhat like the poor, that offered to "come down" as soon as Colonel Crockett's rifle was aimed at it. The liquor men are making proposals for surrender with compensation. As the sympathetic *Toronto World* puts it: "If the trade is to be extinguished, there is no doubt but what partial—not total—compensation would be the cheapest method. These fights in each county are expensive undertakings for both parties. In some instances, in other words, the liquor men have been poisoning and robbing people for centuries, and now they kindly offer to leave off if they are paid to do so."