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The Weekly Messenger.

THE LATE VICTOR HUGO.

Those who have read his works will feel that the death of the great French novelist, Victor Hugo, which took place a week ago, has deprived them of a friend. He was a perfect master of descriptive language, much of the force of which is lost in its translation into English. He was very radical and was a thorough communist at heart. His violent writings have raised many in enmity against him, but he never seemed to enjoy writing more than when he was defending a down-trodden class, or attacking some one who was thought eminently respectable. He was born in 1802, his father being a colonel in the French army. When twenty years of age, a volume of his "Odes and Ballads" was published, and seven years later appeared the "Last Days of a Condemned Criminal," the terrific interest of which secured it immense success. All his writings were full of violations of the rules laid down by the French Academy for the use of the French language. It was some time, therefore, before he was admitted as a member of the Academy. His clear-cut sentences were a thorough revolution against the labored writings of the time, and were such as could be understood by the common people. The Academy went so far as to lay a complaint against these innovations which they feared would become so popular that they would in a great measure supplant the heavy literature which they would have had the people read. The complaint was laid before Charles X. who refused to do anything to suppress M. Hugo's writings. The king said that he himself was no more than a private person in matters of art. Victor Hugo was exiled in 1852 to the Channel Islands. He returned to his native country, France, on the fall of the Empire, and entered heartily into the Republican movement. He went to Brussels after having resigned his seat in the French National Assembly because the Assembly would not hear him. The Belgian Government alarmed at his violent writings and his avowed sympathy with the communists, expelled him from the country. The chief of his works is the "Notre Dame de Paris" which is known in English as the "Hunchback of Notre Dame." The esteem in which the dead writer is held by people is shown by the fact that the Chamber of Deputies almost unanimously adopted a motion to grant \$4,000 to pay the ordinary expenses of the funeral, and also by the crowds of people who gather round his house, waiting for hours to get a chance to sign their names on the list. M. Hugo wished that his body be buried beside the remains of his wife and daughter in the graveyard of the parish church of

Ville Quier, halfway between Rouen and Havre. This wish will be carried out unless the Government decide to inter the poet's remains in the Pantheon. He also wished that he might have a pauper funeral, but this, one of his last requests, will not likely be granted. On this page we give a picture of the poet as he looked recently.

THE SOUDAN AND THE NEW CONGO STATE.

The British evacuation of the Soudan has

hand. The French seem anxious to get a footing in the Soudan, and it is believed that a revolt which was raised at Cairo was fomented by French agents to afford a pretext for landing French troops in Egypt. It looks a little as though many of the European nations were combining against British influence in Egypt, and this is taken into account by the English Government who have decided to leave quite a number of troops in possession of the Red Sea ports. Over 3,000 English troops will be left in Suakin to aid the Italians to keep that place.

Congo State. Tipu Taib has a very strong army, three thousand of whom are well armed with modern rifles. This new mahdi of the Congo declares that the Congo territory belongs to the Sultan of Zanzibar, and says he will suppress all opposition offered to his taking possession of it for that Sultan. He has already done some massacring and pillaging.

IN A PARIS GRAVE-YARD, called Pere la Chaise, there has been a serious riot raised by Communists and Anarchists. The Communists were decorating the graves of their comrade killed in the rebellion of 1871. An Anarchist association then marched into the cemetery with band playing, a red flag flying and with a red banner. The police appeared and ordered the Anarchists to give up the flag; they refused and made a sudden rush at the police. A lively fight ensued; police reinforcement arrived, also a battalion of the Garde Republicaine, who dashed into the crowd. The Anarchists retreated, jumping over tombstones and dodging behind graves and monuments, soldiers and police following at the charge. The scene was most exciting. Gravestones, sculpture and metallic wreaths were smashed into a thousand fragments. The Anarchists finally made a stand among some newly dug graves, near which were large piles of stones for paving the tombs. A perfect shower of stones fell among the soldiers and police. Carnet, a lieutenant of police had his head smashed open and fell almost lifeless; another lieutenant had his jaw fractured. Another detachment of police took the Anarchists in rear, dashing into them with drawn swords, cutting and smashing right and left, and so compelled the Anarchists to retreat. The enemy's red standard was captured. By this time half the garrison of Paris was under arms, and dragoons and the Garde Republicaine patrolled all the approaches to Pere la Chaise. Fifty Anarchists and thirty soldiers and police were wounded in the melee. Most of the wounds were mere bruises. The Anarchists' blood is now aroused, and it is expected the coming week will be a lively one.

On the following day another fight occurred between the police and Anarchists. A large party of the latter went to Pere la Chaise Cemetery to inter the remains of a revolutionist. They entered the cemetery quietly, but became excited by violent orations delivered over the grave. They sallied out with a red flag flying, and the police made a rush to capture the flag. A desperate fight ensued in which knives were freely used. Several were wounded on both sides and many arrests made. In the riot the previous day thirty persons were wounded but none killed.



VICTOR HUGO.

begun and merchants are leaving, fearing to remain after the departure of the troops. At Suakin and Berber the thermometer often registers 115° in the shade and half of the soldiers are sick. There are frequent warm breezes which are very enervating. The Italian ministry have received word that the Italian troops holding Massowah have been surrounded on the land side, and that typhus fever has attacked them. The Italians find they have a heavy task on

News has come from the Upper Congo that the large Mohammedan population inhabiting that region have been very much excited by tales regarding the wonderful feats of the Soudan Mahdi. Tipu Taib, who conducted one of the Stanley expeditions across the continent, witnessed the immense ivory trade that might be carried on with the natives of the interior, and has lately been stirring up the Mohammedans to make matters hot for the settlers of the