

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. IV. No. 39.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING, AUGUST 24, 1885

FIFTY CENTS A YEAR.

The Weekly Messenger.

UP IN A BALLOON.

The county fair was just coming to an end, and "everywhere there was bellowing, grunting, shouting, scolding, and some grumbling. This last was chiefly done by a noisy party who came to the fair, not to bring the grain or cattle raised by their industry, but to stare at the two-headed calf never raised by anybody, to bet on horses, to steal water-melons, and join at last the crowd that was elbowing around a man with a balloon, in which he was to go up when ready."

This is the scene with which our new, continued story "How Billy Went up in the World," commences. It is a story of rare merit, in which the interest increases as the tale proceeds. Billy, the hero, by an accident which proves to be providential for him goes up in a balloon by himself when only fourteen years of age. With this incident his journey up in the world begins, and though he rose very high he soon came down to earth again in a rather unpleasant manner. He rose high in the world again, not so high as previously, but it was in a better way than in a balloon. He rose from a street boy to be the owner of the very farm on which he had alighted when he came down from his journey through the air.

We announce this story two weeks previous to its commencement. All who wish their friends to take the *Weekly Messenger* should talk to them at once about it, or if they live in another town should write to them. Remember this paper may be had in club rates at forty cents each for five numbers sent to any address. If you have five friends then in any part of the Dominion or United States who would like the *Messenger* you may get it sent to them for \$2.00. That means that you may keep 50 cents yourself for every five new subscribers you send us, no matter where they live in the Dominion or the United States. Surely every one who has a couple of hours to spare can make fifty cents in this way. Those who have had this paper for some time know its merits well enough to describe it to their friends. To anyone who asks we will send sample copies. The circulation of this paper has increased considerably this summer, and we hope to widen its field of labor still more.

See our special offer in another column.

THREE CATTLEMEN while travelling over the prairies near Billings, Montana, met a marauding band of about twenty Piegan Indians, who had with them seventy-five stolen horses. The three cowboys fired at the Indians killing one of them, but being greatly outnumbered they were forced to retreat. Obtaining reinforcements, they set out in pursuit of the Piegans. After an exciting chase and a smart battle with hand to hand skirmishing, the whites succeeded in killing the entire party of Indians, and recovering the stolen horses. It is feared that this escapade may have some effect in provoking the neighboring bands of Indians to hostilities.

ON GUARD.

Every European nation is now thoroughly awakened to the necessity of taking every precaution against the cholera, which is making such havoc in France and Spain. The English Government have issued an order prohibiting the importation of rags from France. This precaution had previously been taken with regard to Spain, but now that the plague has increased so much in France, it has been thought necessary to take every precaution against contagion from that quarter. Four cases of cholera have appeared on a British steamship now quarantined off the coast of Algeria. One person has died of the disease on the vessel.

The ravages of cholera in Marseilles are alarming to the last degree. In three days there were as many as 109 deaths from cholera in the city, many of them not being due to any negligence or imprudence on the part of the victims. The Mayor has secretly opened five new temporary hospitals, but he refuses to make any announcement of the fact, for fear, as he says, of alarming the public. No nurses can be found to take care of the sick, as people are disgusted with the injustice received and the small recompenses awarded during the last epidemic. Corsica has ordered a three days' quarantine for ships arriving from Nice, thus giving an advantage to those from Italian ports. The Governor of Algeria causes all mails received from Marseilles to be disinfected. The commerce of Marseilles is paralyzed by these quarantines, and in their distress the people are talking of holding a meeting to compel the French government to enter into some arrangement with the foreign Powers by which the severity of these sanitary measures may be lessened. The scare still continues, and it is reported that refugees from this city have introduced the disease into Sisteron, a town of some five thousand inhabitants, in the Department of the Basses-Alpes, and into some of the neighboring villages.

The extreme mortality from the plague in Marseilles is chiefly owing to the great heat, the thermometer registering as much as 107° in the shade. The citizens are leaving for the other parts at the rate of 2,000 a day and it is therefore extremely difficult to keep the contagion from spreading. Ambulance corps have been established at every fire station and the streets of the city are cleaned every night. The Marseilles sanitary authorities however perform their duties very laxly. As an instance of this the case of a captain of an English vessel lying in this port may be mentioned. The Captain's daughter died of cholera on board the ship. He at once notified the authorities and requested a disinfection. Two days passed since the girl's death before any official action was taken.

The death rate in Spain is still kept up to about 1,500 a day, while new cases occur at the rate of about 5,000 a day. The worst of it is that the Spaniards are, as a rule, so superstitious and prejudiced against the doctors, that the latter are frequently assaulted by relatives of cholera patients, who

believe that the doctors poison their patients. It is no wonder under such circumstances that the doctors are unable to do all for the suppression of the plague that they could if not hindered. Granada is in a most desperate condition. The state of affairs there is fully worse than it was in Naples last year. There are no doctors now in Granada, and the dead bodies of the cholera victims lie unburied in the streets. Scores of victims drop and die in the streets and in many cases remain for hours before they are gathered up at night for a hurried and unceremonious burial in a common trench. In twenty-four hours 6,464 new cases of cholera, and 2,169 deaths have been reported from 576 towns in thirty-six provinces in Spain. This is the highest number of victims yet reported. The epidemic is visiting all the fashionable seaside resorts. At each place visited a panic ensues, and the place is deserted in forty-eight hours. Six new cases have been reported in one house in Madrid. The Government of Spain is considering the advisability of abolishing the power of local Governments to deal with the cholera, and meditates taking the responsibility upon itself.

The municipal authorities of Madrid have decided to demolish all slums. Quiet has been restored in Seville. In Saragossa the condition of affairs is improving. Granada suffers from lack of doctors, and medical students have been detailed to attend patients. The people there attribute the visitation to divine wrath, and wear amulets to preserve them from disease. The priests and sisters are assiduous in attending to the wants of the sufferers. The Archbishop has sold his equipages in order to obtain funds for relief measures, and has offered his palace as a hospital.

Gibraltar was several days ago shut off from the rest of Spain on account of a death which occurred there from a disease resembling cholera. Now the quarantine regulations against Gibraltar have been done away with as it was discovered that no deaths from cholera had occurred there, but the people of Gibraltar themselves are anxious to have the city protected against the plague in Spain. Thus it is that each community is anxious to protect itself against contagion from all others and at the same time is equally anxious not to be put in quarantine.

A commission has been appointed to examine the hospitals of Rome and to take other measures to meet a possible epidemic of cholera. Numerous sunstrokes are occurring in Rome.

It has been found that the girl who was reported to have died in Philadelphia of Asiatic cholera in reality died from cholera morbus, caused by eating too freely of green apples.

It is positively denied that there are any cases of cholera either in St. Petersburg or Odessa.

Constantinople is protecting itself against cholera by quarantining all vessels from cholera stricken districts.

The cholera is not abating in China and quite a number of deaths have occurred in H'ai Phong.

GRAND OFFER.

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.

"RACKAROCK"

One of the biggest works of explosives in a beneficial way is to take place about the end of September when a large reef of underwater rocks lying in one of the approaches of New York city is to be blown up. Flood Rock, as the reef is called which makes the passage through Hell Gate impracticable for large vessels, has long been a hindrance to navigation. Another great obstacle to shipping, Hallett's Point, had been blown up in 1875, and the work there showing that the undermining and moving of such ledges was practicable, steps were at once taken to remove Flood Rock. The work has now been going on for ten years and there have been cut in the rock 21,690 feet of galleries. While this mining has been in progress steam pumps have been constantly at work keeping the excavations free from water which comes in through the crevices of the work overhead. In the roof of the mines there have been drilled 13,700 holes, each three inches in diameter and nine feet long, in which are to be placed the explosive cartridges. During the progress of the work 80,160 cubic yards of rock were cut out and carried off through the shaft. The work remaining to be done is to clear up the galleries. A comparatively new explosive called "rackarock" will be chiefly used. Of this compound 225,000 pounds will be used, together with 75,000 pounds of No. 1 dynamite. When the mine is loaded the galleries will be filled with water and then the explosion will take place. It will be, of course, a much greater one than that of ten years ago, when 49,900 pounds of dynamite were used. It is estimated that the entire cost of the work, including that of removing the remains after the explosion, will be about \$1,000,000.

THERE was a grand historical procession in Brussels on Saturday, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of railways into Belgium. Every method of conveyance, from the Roman period to the present time was exhibited, and immense crowds gathered to witness the procession.