

## December Competition.

Our readers are taking advantage of our liberal offer of books at less than half price. The books offered are handsome and well bound. The present time is the time to send in renewals, and as far as possible we would like to have them accompanied with new subscriptions even if they are only for three months.

In getting up our present competition we took into account that many young people will be looking about them to find how they can earn some pocket money during the holiday season. We believe we have a very good plan. By canvassing for the "Weekly Messenger" many a boy and girl has made sufficient money to buy a pair of skates, a much coveted book, or other useful article. There is no better business training for a boy than a few days spent in canvassing.

### LIBERAL COMMISSION.

To every subscriber who sends us *at one time* a list of five or more new subscriptions we will allow a commission of twenty percent, that is equal to ten cents on each new fifty cent subscription. Hundreds can obtain a list of five new subscriptions each and thus save the price of their own paper for which they must invariably pay fifty cents. It must be perfectly understood that we do not give anyone the "Weekly Messenger" at less than fifty cents a year although we give our subscribers the benefit of a commission on all lists of over five new subscriptions which they send us.

The "Weekly Messenger" will be sent for three months to any address for fifteen cents. Those who canvass can take five cents commission of each new three months' subscription which they send us.

### PRIZES!

In our competition the highest prize, so far as at present appears, was won by a little girl who sent us under \$6, so that the prize is far larger than the amount sent in. We are offering a larger list of prizes in this December competition than we have hitherto done, and expect that our readers will take extensive advantage of the liberality of the offer.

### THE FIFTEEN PRIZES

In the list below will be awarded in order of merit to the fifteen persons who send in the largest amounts of money in either new yearly or quarterly subscriptions to the "Weekly Messenger" between now and the 31st of January inclusive, but none of these prizes will be given to anyone sending in less than \$4.

1st prize	.....	\$10
2nd prize	.....	6
3rd prize	.....	4
4th prize	.....	2
5th prize	.....	1
6th prize	.....	1
7th prize	.....	1

8th to 15th prizes (both inclusive) our book "Reprinted Stories" which so many obtained in one of our competitions and which has been highly praised by all. The price of the book is sixty cents a copy. It contains 237 pages as large as those of the *Messenger*, and is profusely illustrated.

Here are fifteen prizes to the value of \$29.80. If some of our readers choose to spend a little time in canvassing during the Christmas holidays they can not only make the liberal commission of fifty cents on each five new fifty cent subscriptions, but as every one can see from the low amounts for which prizes were given in our present competition there is a good chance for anyone who puts

himself to a little trouble to obtain one of our money prizes. As we said in our last competition, everyone should begin working at once.

N.B. No commission must be taken off those subscriptions sent in with orders for books at sixty cents apiece.

Anyone who obtains six new subscriptions may either deduct the sixty cents which we allow as commission on six new fifty cents subscriptions, or may send us the whole \$3 and claim

### ONE OF OUR \$1.25 BOOKS FREE.

Any one of these books will furnish abundant reading matter of the most interesting kind for many a long winter evening and there is not one of our subscribers who cannot obtain six new subscriptions.

All persons who subscribe now for a year to the "Weekly Messenger" will get the remainder of this year free.

### RENEW

before the end of the year if you would not run the chance of losing numbers of this paper. Our hands will be full at Christmas time and consequently we will not be able to send numbers that are missed unless they are paid for at the rate of five cents a copy. When our clerks have succeeded in putting on all the new names on the subscription lists they will set to work to cut off any of those who may not have renewed.

### THE "RIEL REBELLION."

As the "History of the Riel Rebellion" was in so great demand in our last competition we again offer it as a prize. To all who send us their own renewal and one new fifty-cent subscription we will send this lively history of the late events in the North-west. As we have only a few hundred copies left we will probably not be able to continue this offer after the end of the year. Everyone who wishes to take advantage of it should do so at once.

### A PRIZE STORY.

In order to encourage literary talent among our readers we offer prizes of \$6, \$4, \$3 and \$2 to the persons who send us respectively the first, second, third and fourth best original stories with the picture we published two weeks ago as the subject. A little girl pouring out a dose of medicine for her doll, who she pretends is taken very ill, ought to be an easy subject for everyone to write about. The story must not exceed two thousand words in length but may be as much shorter as the writer desires. The prize story will not necessarily be one of the longest. The length, provided the story is good all through, will count for something, but it is quite possible that one of the shorter stories may carry off the prize. All stories must be sent to us previous to the 15th of January on which day the prize-story competition ends.

WE NOW PUBLISH the list of winners of money prizes in our last competition and will leave it open to correction for one more week. As we state, we have entered hundreds of new names on our subscription books every week, but the lists sent in by our friends, though numerous, were all small. There are some of our readers who will profit by the example of those who have won prizes for sending in ten subscriptions to the "Weekly Messenger." Besides receiving the prizes awarded for ten subscriptions the following have also won money prizes: The first prize of \$10 goes to Susie Gillespie, Shulie, N. S., who sent in \$6.50. Then there is a tie of six persons

who sent in \$5.00 each. The six persons are Alfred Finley, Annie Montgomery, Maud Schugg, Almira Tamman, Fred Wright and John A. McDonald. As is the rule in such cases, we add the second, third, fourth and fifth prizes together making \$9.50 and give each of the persons named one-sixth, or \$1.60.

WE HOPE that anyone who intends to take part in our prize story competitions will not forget that all manuscripts must be sent to us, at the latest, on the 15th of January next.

## THE WEEK.

KING THEBAW has been sent to Madras.

THE EMPEROR of Brazil will spend the coming winter in Rome.

THE MARQUIS and Marchioness of Lorne will revisit Canada in the spring.

QUEEN VICTORIA has donated \$2,500 for the relief of the wounded Bulgarians.

MRS. CATHERINE LOGAN, aged 103, died in London, Ont., on Saturday morning last. She was a slave for 60 years.

A NEW PLAN to do away with Mormonism has been devised by Senator Edmunds. He proposes to strike at Mormonism through that which keeps the sect so closely together—their wealth. The bill proposes to forfeit all property owned by Mormons, devoting the proceeds to the benefiting of public schools. The bill, if passed, will do more to suppress Mormonism, it is claimed, than any other means that can be adopted, as the church is known to be a very wealthy corporation, and money causes a very close adhesion among the saints.

GENERAL GEORGE H. SHERIDAN, now of New York, was once Adjutant General of Louisiana. As such officer he was called on to report the strength of the State militia, which he did as follows: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of recent date requesting me to give you a statement of the number of militia in this State available for immediate service. I have the honor to report that the available militia of the State of Louisiana consist of one Adjutant General, fully armed, equipped, and ready for instant service. I have the honor to subscribe myself, very respectfully, your obedient servant, George H. Sheridan, Adjutant General of Louisiana.

A FAMINE FUND for Ireland was started some time ago in New York by the *Herald*, Mr. James G. Bennett giving \$100,000 as his share. To this the late Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt was willing to have added to Mr. Bennett's \$100,000 an equal sum of money, upon condition that the famine fund should all be expended in the great west of the United States, where provisions and cereals were cheap, for food which should be sent to Ireland in a fleet of ships which Mr. Vanderbilt offered to fit out, he also to land this vast store of sustenance material in New York from the west, free of all charges, for transportation. Mr. Bennett, however, preferred to send the cash to the other side, which Mr. Vanderbilt declined to do. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Vanderbilt gave to the famine fund a check for \$5,000.

THE REBEL FORCES are accumulating again in the Soudan and the state of affairs is again becoming very serious in Egypt. The English Government has decided to send a new expedition into the Soudan and preparations are being made accordingly. It is expected that orders will be issued for the re-occupation of Dongola.

AN ALMANAC three thousand years old, found in Egypt, is in the British Museum. It is supposed to be the oldest in the world. It was found on the body of an Egyptian. The days are written in red ink, and under each is a figure followed by three characters, signifying the probable state of the weather for that day. Like the other Egyptian manuscripts, it is written on papyrus. It is written in columns, but is not in its integrity, having been evidently torn before its owner died.

A TRAVELLER recently found himself in an Armenian Church at Constantinople when the audience were singing a hymn, with closed eyes and profound feeling, to a simple melody. Many of them were so deeply affected as to shed tears while they sang. The stranger asked his guide what the words were, and found them to be an Armenian translation of Toplady's famous hymn, "Rock of ages, cleft for Me."

ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO a hotel-keeper named Zimmermann, was convicted in Burlington, Ont., of violating the Scott Act, and as it was his fourth offence was sentenced to two months in gaol. He evaded arrest and went to the States, only coming back a few days ago. He was arrested, to-day, by County Constable Page, who started with him for Milton, but was met by Zimmermann's son, who attacked the officer, vigorously beat him and rescued his father, both father and son making off, and it is believed, going to the States.

TWENTY-FIVE CHINAMEN were found some months ago on a rock in the Straits of Fuca, where they had been abandoned by the master of a schooner, who had been attempting to smuggle them into the United States. They were brought before the United States Commissioner, and the marshal was ordered to escort them back to British Columbia, but the authorities of that Province refused to receive them without the payment of a tax of \$5 per head. They have since been confined at Seattle, W. T. By order of Judge Green, of the United States Court, they were escorted back across the boundary and turned loose on Canadian territory, with a few days' supply of provisions.

THERE HAS BEEN another revolution in Mexico for which there is no very definite reason assigned. The rebels have been put down, however, and business is recovering from the temporary shock it received.

THERE HAS BEEN much uneasiness at the Vatican consequent upon the Pope suffering from a fresh attack of his chronic disorder which affects the stomach and bowels. He was relieved by doctors, but is weak.

THE SERVIANS have not learned yet that they can do nothing against the Bulgarians. On Thursday last week the Servian King without deigning to send reply to the Bulgarian terms, broke the truce and renewed hostilities. Three bodies of Servian troops made simultaneous attacks upon the Bulgarian outposts at Izvor, St. Nicholas and Krivofof. In each case the attacking party was repulsed.

TORONTO is thinking of giving up the Scott Act campaign, for the present at least, and the temperance reformers will endeavor to reduce the number of saloons and to increase the license fee.

NEW YORK CAPITALISTS propose building a new railway line to Ottawa which will make travelling from New York or Saratoga to the capital of the Dominion possible in a day, whereas it has heretofore taken two days.