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The Weekly Messenger.

THE FRUITS OF UNCLEANLINESS.

Marseilles, in France, is suffering terribly from neglect on the part of the municipal authorities to clean up the city and from neglect on the part of its citizens to keep it clean. The warning last year apparently was not sufficient for them and so another lesson is being given to the people of Marseilles, where it is estimated that fifty persons have died of cholera in one day. The cholera is of a peculiarly severe type, as death follows soon after the victim is attacked. Many sailors fall victims to the plague which is raging in China. Indeed, it is said that Admiral Courbet died of cholera. The French Government are going to give \$30,000 for the cleansing of Marseilles, which could, a few months ago, have been accomplished at a comparatively small cost. Spanish refugees crossing the Pyrenees are sent back to Spain. Travellers on the borders are generally maltreated. Two cases of cholera are reported at Lyons. The epidemic began this year in the houses which were infected last, and is due to uncleanness. Many towns in France refuse to allow Dr. Ferran to experiment upon their inhabitants with his anti-cholera vaccination system. The Paris Academy of Medicine has refused to allow a letter from Dr. Ferran to be read before the Academy, thus virtually stamping him as an impostor.

In Spain the deaths average about 1,500 a day, and the panic caused by the rapid spread of the disease is daily increasing. Entire villages have been deserted by their inhabitants, who have fled for safety. In many cases doctors and municipal authorities have been attacked by the scourge, and the sick have been abandoned, and the dead left unburied. Reports from other places state that it is impossible to obtain provisions or medicines. The misery throughout the country is great. The mortality is especially great among young girls, and the largest number of deaths occur among those who are either intemperate or very poor. Lately the populace in Granada brutally assaulted several doctors who had declined to give more attention to patients. The hostility to the doctors has resulted in an alarming spread of the disease. Among the lower classes doctors are always compelled to taste the medicines they administer. The commander of the province and many officers, priests, and nuns have succumbed to the disease, attacks of which are most fatal at nightfall and during storms. During a thunderstorm at Gerona, the church was struck by lightning; two worshippers were killed and fifteen badly wounded.

A seaman arrived in Bristol from Marseilles. He was suddenly taken ill, and after vomiting for some time died. The medical officer of the Board of Health declared the man was suffering from cholera. An inquest was held. The jury rendered a verdict to the effect that the symptoms were very much like those of Asiatic cholera. Precautionary measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The English Government has prohibited the im-

portation of rags from Spain, and is contemplating a similar measure in regard to France.

The Italian Government has ordered that all frontier trains be provided with hospital carriages. Reports have been received from every point in Italy regarding cholera. Many of the Italians live on very little besides fish, rotten fruit and water, and are consequently easily attacked by cholera.

TRYING REBELS.

Despite the rebellion the crop reports from all parts of Manitoba are very favorable and farmers along the Manitoba North-Western railway line are well pleased that the construction of that road is being pushed forward rapidly. Last week twenty six prisoners, including some of Riel's council, were arraigned before Judge Richardson and Col. McLeod on a charge of treason-felony. The gray-haired stood side by side with those who in point of age might have been their sons. There were in the motley group whites, half-breeds and one or two Indians. They all appeared indifferent to the fate that might be in store for them and two or three looked upon the entire proceeding as a joke, or were ignorant of the gravity of the result involved in their trial and tittered when called upon to plead. The charge, which was first read in English, was afterwards translated into French and then into Cree. The indictment goes on to say that not regarding the duty of allegiance, but wholly withdrawing the love, obedience, fidelity and allegiance which every true and faithful subject of Our Lady the Queen, does and of right ought to bear toward Our Lady the Queen, on the twenty-sixth day of March and on divers times did feloniously and wickedly compass, imagine, invent, devise and intend to levy war against our said Lady the Queen within Canada with the object to compel her to change her measures and counsels, also with inciting rebellion at Batoche and other places. All but four of the prisoners were remanded for sentence after pleading guilty. The prisoners remaining to be tried are:—Quillet, who was one of Riel's council; Poundmaker, Big Bear, and two of his band; one Arrow, half-breed of Battleford, and the Indian murderers.

Father Andre waited on Riel in his cell and asked him to renounce his profession of "Protestantism," but he stolidly refused. He has written to Consul Taylor stating his plan for the people of the North-West and urges that an international commission be appointed to determine whether he is insane or not. He refuses to be interviewed, as he purposes publishing the story of his life and the troubles, for the benefit of his family. He still remains calm and composed, and either does not believe that the sentence passed upon him will be carried out, or else he exhibits a wonderful control over his feelings.

All the priests in the late rebel district have signed an appeal to the country for aid to the half-breeds. They declare Riel an impostor and unworthy of the sympathy of the Roman Catholic Church or its people, as he usurped their places as priests. They

also say General Middleton did all that he could to make the losses and sufferings of the flocks as light as possible.

HELP FOR RIEL.

A large meeting of Riel's sympathizers was held in Montreal last Monday when speeches were made by several of the leading lawyers of the city. About six thousand persons were present on the Champ de Mars, some of whom interested themselves in Riel and others who were merely curious. A resolution was passed "that a subscription list be opened immediately to afford Louis Riel the means to carry his case before a higher court and one more worthy of confidence, and that in the meantime all constitutional means be employed to prevent the execution of his sentence." The reasons given for this resolution were that the English and French half-breeds of the North-West had been trying for years to get their wrongs, which the Government had acknowledged, redressed, and that for this purpose they had called Riel to be their instrument rather than their leader. Other reasons given were that the trial had not been properly conducted, that Riel was not sane and that the crime with which he was accused being of a political nature the execution of the death sentence would be considered as the result of prejudice and fanaticism and would be fatal to the harmony of our "mixed community." Committees were appointed to carry out the arrangements.

A DARING EXCOMMUNICATION.

A curious circumstance has come to light in Norfolk county, England, which has raised afresh the cry "Divorce the Church and State." The newspapers continue to bring charges against members of the clergy for drunkenness, and in some cases loose morals on the one hand and bigotry and clerical oppression on the other. A case of oppression has occurred just lately which has created great excitement in Norwich. The rector of a parish in Norfolk county has ruled his congregation with the intolerant spirit of the Stuarts. Among his parishioners was an old farmer, well-to-do, named Payne, now eighty-two years old, of patriarchal appearance and beloved by his neighbors, who suffered somewhat from the infirmities of age. Lately he did not go to church, though for half a century he was a regular communicant, nor would he see the rector, to whom, it is said, he had taken a valentianian dislike. The rector, last week, wrote to Patriarch Payne a letter, telling him: "I feel it my painful duty to pronounce you cut off from church communion," and concluding, much after the fashion of an assize judge, who has donned the black cap and is sentencing a murderer, "and I pray God to save your soul."

The Patriarch, being a practical man, conceived the idea that this was done because some part of his tithes remained unpaid, and he asked with some *maivoie* if this was not the reason of the Rector's conduct. The Rev. Coker Adams then wrote another letter, repeating his black-cap prayer, and then on Sunday, to the surprise and indignation of the congregation, used the

same words of the excommunication in the prayer-book, which is quite obsolete in the Church of England. The farmer thus treated meditates obtaining legal redress, believing the attack to be one made upon his personal character. Meanwhile the people of the whole diocese of Norwich appear to be intensely excited, and undoubtedly the whole Radical press of the realm will adopt the aggressive incident as a pivot for renewed attacks upon a union of Church and State that invites bigotry and ecclesiastical autocracy. Parliament will also be asked to inquire into the affair.

WAR FEELING IN RUSSIA.

A despatch from the Afghan frontier says a collision between bodies of Afghan and Russian troops would not be surprising. The majority of the Russian newspapers profess to have no confidence in the apparently pacific declarations of Lord Salisbury. They base their distrust on the perceptible and constant increase of England's military preparations. The Imperial Council of War has ordered the formation of a separate artillery department of the army for the trans-Caspian provinces. British officers in Herat are well treated by the inhabitants and their health is excellent, despite torrid weather. The work of fortifying Herat against a possible Russian advance is making rapid progress. The Ameer is preparing another large force of Afghan troops for the protection of Herat, of which his son will be placed in nominal command. The Turcomans of Merv are greatly excited against the Russian soldiery because of their alleged brutal conduct toward native women.

In France it is stated that an alliance has been concluded between Great Britain and China for mutual action in the event of war between England and Russia. A letter received at Teheran, Persia, from Herat, dated July 30th, states that the Heratese are buying and storing large quantities of grain. It also says that 2,000 men are engaged constantly in the work of repairing the forts and erecting great bastions. The writer asserts that there is great enthusiasm among the citizens and a determined resolution to defend the city from Russian attack. The Afghan Boundary Commission are nine miles west of Herat buying mules and camels. A letter from Askalsad has the following: "The Russian railway to this place will be completed by October 1st. The officials are busily engaged in buying grain." A despatch from London states that the Porte is to be offered facilities for occupying and governing the Soudan, and, temporarily, some points in Egypt, but no share in governing Egypt, in return for an alliance against Russia.

ASSAB, a very small town on a bay at the southern extremity of the Red Sea, is said to be the hottest place in the world. Aden, a hundred miles further east, has a terrible reputation for heat, but Assab is said to be hotter by some three degrees. For four consecutive months thermometer readings at 9 a.m. have averaged over 90 degrees and during the whole time rarely fell below 88 degrees.