

The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7.

THE BEST DEFENCES.

The campaign against Socialism and kindred lens goes steadily on in every country of Europe, but it seems as if those societies increased the more it is attempted to destroy them. Evidently the discontented and desperate classes of the world are rousing and combining to achieve objects of which they cannot have very clear ideas themselves. Anyway, the most the world outside hears from them is that their aims are to root up, to pull down and to destroy. It is not wonderful to notice, however, that these secret organizations are stronger, more active and terrible according as the systems of government against which they are arrayed are bad. There is no excuse for the monstrous and treacherous methods of the societies in question, but the worse a people is ruled the less regard will it have as to methods of procuring a change and the more reckless as to what shall follow the destruction of the sources of misgovernment. Thus it is that secret societies with sinister aims in countries whose progress toward freedom and equality is constant are powerless to do anything but occasional and isolated acts of outrage, because they have, instead of the sympathies, the abhorrence and antagonism of the great bulk of the nation. The government of a country is, therefore, strong and stable according as it is just, enlightened and righteous, and internal enemies are not likely to acquire sufficient power for anything beyond furtive annoyance to a nation guided upon right lines. Nihilism in Russia would wither and disappear under liberal, progressive and popular rule, whereas it flourishes rankly while the Czar continues stolid and stubborn against every appeal of his subjects for reform. The British Government by its endeavors to remove abuses under which Ireland has suffered cuts off the sympathies of all well-disposed Irishmen with unreasonable agitation and unlawful action. There is a lesson for people enjoying free institutions and equal rights to be drawn from the disquieted state of society in countries still groaning under the onerous burdens imposed by unjust systems and customs surviving less enlightened ages. That lesson is that the privileges of freedom should be appreciated and faithfully used. If popular government is left to the base and the selfish, or allowed to be usurped by such, through the indolence or disdain of those who should take the deepest interest in the welfare of the country, as grievous yokes as those laid on by Czars or autocrats will fall ultimately upon the necks of the people thus unfaithful to themselves. Such has been in a measure exemplified in different cities and countries upon this continent already, and will be more or less so in the future as the people are false or true to their heritages of liberty. Only let a people, through the blindness of partisanship, the indolence of comfort or the influence of corrupt reward, permit its laws to be framed in the interest of classes, corporations or selfish combinations of any kind, including the liquor trade, that worst enemy of prosperity and peace, rather than for the benefit of the whole people, and in the end abuses, wrongs and oppressions will require to be rolled off, if not by a revolution, at least by a hard struggle, before that people will regain its lost position.

THE IRISH TROUBLES.

One Dowse, a stowaway on the wrecked steamer "Glamorgan," rescued by the steamer "Republic," has brought an action to recover twenty five thousand dollars damages from the captain and chief officer of the latter vessel, for detaining him in the port of New York on board ship until he could be examined on suspicion of connection with the Phoenix Park murders. The defendants were arrested in New York and released on giving bail of five thousand dollars each. Two men named Flanagan and Deasy have been arrested in England—the former at Liverpool, with infernal machines and explosives, and the other at Sutton, in Surrey, with letters showing him to be an accomplice of the first. Various equipments, never provided for any legitimate purpose, were found at Flanagan's lodgings, including disguises, weapons and explosive material. When experts testified at the examination that the substance found was genuine dynamite, Flanagan said, "It is material similar to what shook the house of Commons, isn't it?" The capture of these fellows with their implements of destruction is believed to have prevented further outrages of the kind perpetrated at the London public buildings. Three desperate men have been arrested in Cork on a charge of being members of a secret society with murderous objects, and they have been committed for trial and refused bail. Letters are pouring into official quarters threatening dreadful things, and the utmost precautions are taken to prevent the carrying out of malicious designs. Mr. Parnell is represented as being in a serious dilemma with regard to his proposed visit to America, inasmuch as association with some of the likely members of the Philadelphia convention will bring him into utter disrepute with respectable people both in America and at home, while if he ignores the convention he will excite the resentment of the worst elements of the Irish in both countries and cut off a material portion of the sources of financial supply to the agitation. William Redmond, one of the leading Parnellites, reports that his Land League mission to Australia has succeeded beyond all expectation.

BUSINESS AND LABOR ITEMS.

Seven hundred strikers have accepted work at reduced wages at the New Jersey Steel and Iron Works.

Three thousand puddlers of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are said to be ready to leave the amalgamated labor association and organize anew the Order of Sons of Vulcan.

Seventy-five thousand cattle passed from the hands of one cattle company to those of another in Texas a few days ago, the price being two million dollars. It is believed to be the largest cattle transaction that has ever occurred in America.

There have been over three thousand failures in the United States during the first quarter of this year, or about a thousand more than during the same period last year or the year before. The failures in Canada for the quarter have been over four hundred, or an increase over the previous two years of one hundred and eighty-four and two hundred and thirty-five respectively.

Four to five thousand bricklayers are on strike in Chicago, wanting four dollars a day. The same trade in New Haven, Connecticut, has been granted three dollars and seventy-five cents a day. In Toronto, also, they want higher wages than they have been getting. Twelve hundred house painters

in Philadelphia are on strike for three dollars, an increase of fifty cents, and over two hundred puddlers are on strike in that city against a reduction from four twenty-five to three dollars and seventy-five cents a ton. Twelve hundred tobacco factory hands are striking at Lynchburg, Virginia, and five hundred laborers are on strike at Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

CRIME.

A young man named Donald McKenzie has been sentenced to five years in the penitentiary in New Brunswick, Canada, for robbing a mail bag.

I. Joyce, clerk in the National Sailors' Home, Hampton, Virginia, wantonly shot dead in a bar-room an inoffensive citizen named Thomas Phillips.

Van Damme, a prominent stock broker in Brussels, Belgium, has been arrested for embezzling a million francs belonging to persons who deposited money with him.

Count Von Szekely, President of the Court of Cassation, Hungary, was found strangled at his residence at Ofen, his tongue cut out and his hands bound. An Italian named Sponga was the assassin, and he escaped. He was out of employment.

Incendiaries burned down on Sunday the French mission premises belonging to the Methodist Conference, at Sherbrooke, Quebec. The Rev. Mr. Myers, who has charge of the mission, was absent at the time and lost most of his furniture and library.

Chattanooga, Tennessee, is excited over the burning of the house of a wealthy farmer named Henry Porter near there, which was valued at forty thousand dollars, the outrage being committed by four masked men whom the owner refused to give five hundred dollars.

A quarter of a million dollars stolen by Obey Owen from the Third National Bank, St. Louis, Missouri, while he was teller, is said by the culprit to have gone chiefly to sustain the failing butter and egg business of his father, whom he blames as being largely responsible for his downfall.

The sentence of the Austrian Criminal Court upon Baron Alexander Von Powel Rammingen, for swindling, has been confirmed in the Court of Appeals. It is seven years' imprisonment and deprivation of his title of nobility. The distinguished convict is a cousin of the husband of Princess Frederick of Hanover, Germany.

CASUALTY.

A boiler explosion at St. Dizier, France, killed thirty-one and injured sixty-five persons, many fatally.

A crew who went into the Diamond Mine, Braidwood, Dakota, to search for the bodies of those killed by the recent explosion, were imprisoned by a fall of stone blocking the passage. They were rescued and some of the bodies they had placed in coffins were taken out, but no one would go into the mine again.

Another instance of the criminal folly of playing with firearms is reported from La crosse, Wisconsin. Louis May put what he thought was an empty cartridge shell in a rifle and pointed the weapon at Frank Mahar, who struck a tragic attitude with his hand on his heart. The next instant Mahar fell dead with a bullet through his head.

Many accidents occur from persons not accustomed to the use of gas blowing out gas-light instead of turning it off. Four French-Canadians, returning home from the lumber woods of Michigan, nearly lost their lives in this way in a hotel in Toronto a

few days ago. They were all unconscious when called to take their train in the morning, and vigorous efforts were necessary to revive them.

Mrs. Edward Andrews, of St. Joseph's Island, Lake Huron, while her husband was absent left her two little children, Willie and Emma, in the house amusing themselves while she went to the stable to milk the cows. In a few minutes she looked toward the house to see it wrapped in flames, with no possibility of saving the children who were burned to ashes with the building.

THE WEEK'S OBITUARY contains some notable names. General Thomas F. Wildes died at the age of fifty, from an over-dose of laudanum taken to relieve pain. His sufferings arose from wounds received at the battle of Cedar Creek in the civil war, on which occasion his bravery won him the rank of brevet major-general. General N. B. Buford, of Chicago, a graduate of West Point and brigadier-general of volunteers in the war, died aged sixty. The Rev. Edward Dunlop Smith, Presbyterian, a former chaplain in the National House, died in New York, in his seventy-sixth year. Lewis L. Delafiel, a leading barrister of New York, died aged forty-eight. Frank Miller, inventor of shoe-blackening, died in New York aged seventy-nine. John Brown, the famous Scotch servant of Queen Victoria, and before her of her late husband, Prince Albert, died at an advanced age. He was much esteemed by Her Majesty, and proved himself a worthy attendant on different occasions when lunatics attempted to take her life and always by guarding her walks and drives from annoying intrusion. The favor shown her faithful servant by the Queen as he grew old is said to have made some of the titled courtiers envious of him. His death was sudden, and is supposed to have been hastened by worry over not having prevented the shot being fired at the Queen by a lunatic two years ago, and also over the recent accident to her, although he was not in the slightest blameworthy in either case or held as such. The Rev. George Allen, Congregational minister, Worcester, Massachusetts, has died aged ninety-one. In middle life he was prominent as an opponent of slavery. Major David Power Conyngham, LL. D., editor of the New York Tablet, is dead.

A BALL LATELY GIVEN by Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt is described as the most brilliant and picturesque entertainment ever given in New York. Some of its characteristics, however, were neither elevating nor of a nature requiring minds above those of infants to appreciate. Such was a hobby-horse quadrille, in which the horses were of life-size, covered with hides and attached to the waists of the human beings personating the noble animal. They could not, it seems, counterfeit the hoofs, for it is said their feet were concealed with embroidered hangings. Madame Christine Nilsson, the renowned songstress, was present, and Gilmore's famous band furnished the music. It appears to require a good deal of ingenuity to enjoy great fortunes made rapidly in the New World, and whose possessors do not look upon wealth as a trust to be used for the benefit of their country and race.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OWNS the telegraph lines in the kingdom, and the House of Commons, the other day, in opposition to the Government's wishes passed a motion in favor of reducing the price of telegrams to sixpence. If the reduction brings an increase of business sufficient to make the lines pay at the new rate, a strong argument will be created for cheap telegraphy everywhere.