

**A RIDE ACROSS THE PRAIRIE.**

One of our subscribers in the North-West writes telling how he took on his pony and travelled over the prairie for miles getting new subscribers to the "Weekly Messenger." He had very good returns seeing that the houses were so few and far between. Those of our subscribers who live in villages could get up clubs of five with very little trouble, for, as has been frequently told us, "the 'Weekly Messenger' would be cheap at the price if it were only a monthly instead of a weekly paper."

**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. Every one who wishes to take advantage of it should do so at once.

**PRIZES SENT.**

Some of the letters for our last competition being sent from distant parts did not reach us until Thursday last week. We could not begin sending prizes until the last letter had come in and our readers will understand how it is that we have not been able to send the prizes sooner than we did, especially as we had such large numbers of prizes to send. By keeping a large number of hands busily employed we are now able to say that nearly all the prizes earned have been sent.

**December Competition.**

New subscribers have been fairly pouring in upon us. They are counted by hundreds every week. We rejoice at this as it enables us, if it be possible, to make the "Weekly Messenger" even more lively, interesting and instructive in the coming year than it has been in the past. Our friends should remember that it is just as easy for us to talk to one hundred thousand people as to twenty or thirty thousand. Many of their acquaintances will be thankful to have the paper brought to their notice. We should judge that larger numbers of people take the "Weekly Messenger" by merely having it shown them, for so many write to us—"Having come across a copy of the 'Weekly Messenger' I wish to subscribe for it," or words to a similar effect. Space fails us to tell of the praises bestowed on this paper by those who renew, of the thanks we have received for sending "such a nice book" as "Reprinted Stories" for prizes, and of the general manner in which the "Weekly Messenger" is conducted. If we had space to reproduce a hundredth part of the kind words spoken for us we would not need any comment of our own. We must not en-

croach on our news columns however, and so we leave everyone to be his own judge of the paper without having the opinions of others. 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 per cent, 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 one 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.

WE NOW PUBLISH the list of winners of money prizes in our last competition and will leave it open to correction for a couple of weeks. 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 double 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 \$5.50. 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.

SUBSCRIBERS whose term of subscription will expire at the end of this year will find our notice and remitting envelope enclosed in this issue of the "Weekly Messenger" and are further reminded to send in the renewal as early as possible.

**THE WEEK.**

LAST THURSDAY left the results of the British elections still uncertain. It is thought likely that the Tories with the support of the Parnellites may make a majority of two or three over the Liberals. But there is this to be considered that many of the Irish Conservatives are so vexed at the alliance between Tories and Parnellites that they may very possibly vote against their own party.

THERE ARE STILL fears that Russia may rise in arms against Austria for her share in the Balkan dispute. Servia has lost by her campaign and Bulgaria, as far as at present appears, has not gained very much.

GENERAL GRANT'S first volume of the "Personal Memoirs of Gen. Grant" is now for sale in the United States and in Europe. The sale promises to be enormous. Three volumes have been gotten up expressly for General Sherman, General Sheridan and President Cleveland.

SENATOR SHERMAN is now Vice-President of the United States and has been nominated President of the Senate *pro tempore*. The Democratic members of the House of Representatives nominated Mr. Carlisle, of Kentucky, for Speaker.

THE MORE CREDULOUS of the half-breed population of the North-West firmly believe the spirit of Louis Riel nightly walks on the banks of the Red River, and will continue to do so until his remains are brought down from Regina, and interred in the graveyard at St. Boniface, in accordance with his last wish.

TERRIBLY DESTRUCTIVE prairie fires prevail in KANSAS, causing immense loss of property and some loss of life.

A SCHOONER bound from New York to Havana struck on North Coast reef, off Turk's Island, at two o'clock on Sunday morning, November 29. She had a cargo of crude petroleum and a deck load of oil of vitriol. As the vessel struck a binnacle lamp was jerked out of its fastenings, exploded, and immediately set the vessel on fire. The schooner was a mass of flames within a few minutes, and when the fire reached the oil of vitriol on deck the ship burned with terrible fury. When the fire reached the crude petroleum in the ship's hull there was a simultaneous explosion, fore and aft, and a moment later the adjacent sea was strewn with burning wreckage. By almost miraculous efforts Captain Strout, the mate and four sailors managed to get a boat away from the vessel and were at a safe distance before the cargo exploded. Two poor fellows, second mate Johnson and a German seaman, were left to their fate and, doubtless, burned up with the vessel.

THE HIGH COURT OF APPEAL in England has been called upon to decide whether a person who sold newspapers containing a libel were guilty of disseminating libel and therefore subject to fine. It was held by the court that no action could be successful which was taken against a person who unknowingly sold papers containing a libel. If the law was otherwise every vendor of newspapers in the kingdom would be liable. Such a law would be unreasonable and unjust. Whenever the ruling of the law is such the people may be sure it forms no part of the actual law of England.

THE REPORT of the Ontario Bureau of Industries for November, just issued, states that fall wheat is a fine sample and the yield large, but owing to the effects of rain and rust, spring wheat is a serious failure, both in quantity and quality. The bulk of barley was discolored by the widely extended rain storm at the harvesting season. Oats are below the average quality, having rusted in the ripening stage. Rye if a fair average in yield and quality, but the area in crop is steadily decreasing. The growing and ripening season for corn was short, cool and raining, and much of it is soft in consequence. The potato crop has suffered severely from rot. In all the southern parts of the province from the Detroit River to Ottawa, fully one-half is destroyed and the disease continues its ravages in pits and cellars. In the northern parts of the province but little harm has been done. The new crop of fall wheat has been sown in good condition and it has a promising appearance. Good accounts are received of the fruit crop. Live stock are in good condition.

**A CITY WITHOUT HEATING STOVES.**

There is at least one great disadvantage in the employment of natural gas for heating and lighting purposes. Pittsburgh has found this out. Last Monday morning there was intense excitement in that city caused by the sudden stoppage of the supply of natural gas. From one o'clock on Sunday afternoon until ten Sunday night the towns of Beaver Falls and New Brighton were cut off entirely from their supply of natural gas in order that connections might be made with the Rochester mains. The weather was intensely cold, and much suffering and inconvenience was the result. Many families went to bed to keep warm or visited the houses of their neighbors who still use the old-fashioned fuel-coal. No