

Weekly Messenger

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The Weekly Messenger

TO OUR WORKERS.

In order to give every person a chance to become acquainted with this really interesting paper at an all but nominal price, we will send a copy to any address FROM NOW TILL THE END OF THE YEAR FOR FIFTEEN CENTS! When the *Messenger* once finds its way into any household, it almost invariably becomes, as we were, one of family, and, as many of our subscribers have told us, they "couldn't do without it." We think that there are very few persons indeed who would refuse to give a canvasser fifteen cents for four months' good reading, and we expect to be able to announce in an early number of this paper that its subscription list has very materially increased. In addition to this reduction in price we will give to the getter up of the Club half the money received by him or her, provided such subscriptions be sent in in no fewer numbers than ten at a time. In other words for each ten subscribers sent by any workers Seventy-five cents only need be remitted to us, the other SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS being kept by them for their trouble. This plan is meant to throw the advantages of these cheap trial rates as largely as possible into the hands of our present subscribers. Mark your letters "Autumn Trial Trip," and go to work at once and with a will. Address all communications:—

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
"Witness" Office,
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WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW.

After a week of tropical heat the weather has become quite cool, and in many parts of the New England States and Canada frost has done more or less damage to buckwheat, corn and beans, besides garden vegetables. The warm, dry weather has ripened the small grains, and harvest work is pretty well finished with these, while the corn has been making rapid progress and is much in advance of former seasons. The effects of the drought are being felt in many localities, and the pasturage is generally poor with a corresponding diminution of dairy produce. The blight is affecting late potatoes in many places, but, taking the country all over, the potato crop is unusually large and the quality very fine. Should there be no frosts in the corn-growing region for two weeks more, the crop will be unprecedentedly large. The cotton crop has suffered in some localities with drought, while in other places large crops are assured. It is generally conceded that the crop prospects

in Arkansas are the best in ten years. Little Rock expects to handle 40,000 bales of cotton more this fall than ever before since the organization of the Cotton Exchange. The cattle on the Western ranches continue to thrive well, having plenty of both feed and water, and though prices of common and inferior cattle have a downward tendency, yet all first-class animals find a ready sale at full prices.

ANOTHER WAR.

France and China having been crouching and growling and glaring at each other for so long, are now engaged in a deadly struggle. The quarrel began, it will be remembered, when some French troops were fired on by the Chinese after a treaty of peace had been signed. The French at once put in a claim for an enormous sum by way of compensation, threatening war if the money was not paid. After much haggling, the amount was reduced to a comparatively small figure, but the Chinese still refused to pay so much.

At last, a short time ago, the French war ships, which had long been cruising about in the neighborhood, bombarded and captured a fort on the Island of Formosa. They have now bombarded the arsenal at Foo-Choo, which cost \$8,000,000, and contained \$28,000,000 worth of arms and ammunition. There is now no saying how far the war will spread. The Chinese talk of invading Tonquin, which the French before obtained from them. Trade, of course, is in a very bad state in consequence of the prospect.

THE LORDS IN HOT WATER.

In spite of the terribly hot weather in England, which has made the farmers busy harvesting and has made everyone else lazy and perspiring, the agitation for the Reform Bill goes on with the greatest liveliness. Their Lordships, of course, have their defenders, and quite a large meeting assembled at Manchester to hear the great guns of the Tory party, Lord Salisbury and Lord Randolph Churchill. What these speakers took several hours to tell, we may put in a few words. They tried to make out that they were not opposed to the Reform Bill at all, but were only determined not to accept it till a Redistribution Bill was also in their hands.

However, the immense and numberless meetings already held—and got up with so little exertion—plainly show the feeling of the British nation. Indeed, a great meeting has just been held in St. James' Hall, London, to call for the abolition of the House of Lords altogether. Of course, it is only a question of time, when the people will refuse to be controlled by men whose only right to govern is that their fathers governed before them!

THE HON. J. A. CHAPLEAU, Canadian Secretary of State, has finished his investigation into the Chinese question in British Columbia, and is on his way back to Ottawa.

THE EGYPTIAN PLAGUE.

People were much disappointed to hear a few days ago, that the expedition up the Nile to help General Gordon had been given up, as the river was too low for navigation. It was announced that a flying column of troops would be taken to Suakim, on the Red Sea, landed there, and sent over the desert to Khartoum. Such a march would have had terrible results to the soldiers, and perhaps half of them would have died on the Nile route is to be taken after all.

Lord Northbrook, formerly Viceroy of India, and now a member of the Imperial Cabinet, has been sent on a special mission to Egypt, to help forward a settlement of her finances. One very good intention is to lighten the heavy taxes now paid by the peasants.

A. S. WARNER, President of the National Bank of Albany, N. Y., has absconded, taking with him the key of the safe. Two days before, the court gave judgment depositing him from his position as executor for the late R. S. Burrows, whose estate was worth from five to ten million dollars. It is feared that robbery is not the only crime. William R. Burrows, heir to his father's wealth, it dying, having been in some way poisoned by arsenic. It is suggested that Warner, who had been speculating, was not able to give an account of the money in his care, and plotted to kill the man who made inconvenient demands upon him.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE of the Privy Council in England has now formally made known its decision in the boundary dispute between Ontario and Manitoba. The southwestern boundary of Ontario is at the North-west corner of the Lake of the Woods, and thence due north as far as English River. The northern boundary, so far as settled, is along English River, including Lac Seul, and Lake Joseph. Their lordships strongly recommended the Imperial Parliament to pass an Act ratifying this decision.

CAPTAIN TRAYNOR, the foolhardy adventurer who set out to cross the Atlantic in a small dory, was met with after he had been 23 days out, and spent half an hour on board the schooner "D. A. Mader." He was in good health and spirits; he had met with one or two storms, but did not mind them.

MR. CORNWALL, the official of the Irish Government who was defeated in his libel action against *United Ireland*, was at once arrested for the disgusting crimes with which he was charged by that newspaper. He has, succeeded however, like his opponent, in getting a verdict of "not guilty."

AN AMERICAN SCHOONER'S anchor caught on a transatlantic telegraph cable on August 20th, and began to haul it up. To avoid the calamity of breaking the cable, the captain cut the hawser and left his anchor behind.

SEVEN MEN and eleven mules has been suffocated in a mine at Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

A CRIPPLE was the other day choked to death by a blind man at Teesvale, Pennsylvania. The murderer was afterwards run over and killed by a train.

MR. DAVITT'S friends in Ireland are going to get up a testimonial for him; he is also going to be assisted by "several prominent persons" when he goes on a lecturing tour. The object of all this is to show the sympathy which Davitt has gained in his opposition to Mr. Parnell's half of the Nationalist Party.

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH passed by a Spanish court-martial on Zorilla and a cavalry officer for taking part in the recent rebellion, has been confirmed by the Supreme Council of War. Zorilla, however, has taken refuge in England, and is now in London.

SEVERAL MEN AND WOMEN have been arrested in Chicago, charged with cruelty to children. They claim to belong to a sort of religious sect, and to make a practice of caring for "God's Orphans." The oldest of the twelve children in their possession say they were cruelly treated and starved.

TWO FRENCH OFFICERS, arrested for making sketches of the fortifications at the German town of Coblenz, were released; the authorities were convinced that the sketches were not made for any hostile purpose.

OPIMUM SMOKING, it is said, is increasing among the Chinese in Toronto.

THE "ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE," one of the wildest Tory newspapers in England, comes out with a story that the present agitation against the House of Lords was started in America, and is an attempt to bring Republican ideas into England. It charges Mr. Carnegie, an American iron-master, with being at the head of a "terrible conspiracy" to destroy not only the House of Lords but the monarchical form of government.

A DESPATCH FROM MEXICO says that the drouth is terrible, and that cattle are dying by thousands from thirst and starvation.

MR. PARNELL, it is declared, is going to advise all the Irish in the United States to vote for any party which will promise to admit Irish manufactures free of duty. It is understood that this offer was made by the agitator's mother at a conference with Irish bishops and leaders of the Irish league.

AT AN ELECTION in Ross-shire, Scotland, the Liberal candidate has just been successful. It is a significant fact that even the Conservative candidate promised to support a reform of the land laws.

ANOTHER ATTACK on the Jews in St. Petersburg is reported. Fourteen of their houses and stores were pillaged and destroyed, and two of the Jews—who fought in self-defence—were killed. One "Christian" also lost his life.

THE FRENCH VICE-CONSUL at Jeddah has been killed by Bedouin Arabs.

THE SHORTHAND WRITERS are having an international congress at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.