

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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TO OUR READERS.

We are happy to tell you that the *Weekly Messenger* begins the year with great promise, judging by returns so far. Please help the "boom" by telling everybody that this is one of the very best as well as cheapest weekly papers going. Only fifty cents a year, or forty cents to clubs of five. Address all communications to JOHN DUGGALL & SON, Montreal, Canada.

MAKING WINTER MERRY.

All America and most of the rest of the world have heard of Montreal's new institution—the Winter Carnival. Montreal undisputedly claims to be the metropolis of winter sports upon this hemisphere if not the globe. There the rough plays of the Indians when lords of the continent, and the equipments and implements necessary to enable both them and the pioneers of civilization to move about in the pursuit of the necessities of life, are refined down somewhat and applied to the wholesome recreation of the busy and industrious people of a modern city. Besides the snow-shoe and the toboggan—those early methods for travelling and freighting through the trackless wilds—all the outdoor sports of countries of an older civilization—skating, curling, etc.—find a natural home and headquarters in Montreal. Probably the snow-shoers are the merriest and most enthusiastic sportsmen of the city. At all events, we believe it was at one of their social assemblies that the idea started to have a grand snow-shoers' meet, and as the project was discussed it rapidly developed into a scheme for a grand carnival of winter sports to be advertised far and wide and people everywhere invited to visit the goodly city under the shade of Mount Royal and share in the festivities. No sooner was this proposed than it was put into speedy effect, and last year found Montreal thronged with visitors from many parts of Canada and the neighboring States, who for a week shared with the residents the crisp, pure, exhilarating air of this region, and in their outdoor merry-making and indoor hospitality. Although a first attempt, the winter carnival of 1883 was unanimously voted a success and the determination was formed of making the event an annual one. Readers of the *Messenger* last year were given a picture of the centre piece of all the seasonable gaieties—the ice palace. This, like the carnival itself, is this year repeated upon a grander scale, and our readers are again presented with a view on paper of this beautiful piece of architecture—this mammoth bauble that delights and fascinates old perhaps more deeply even than young people. Our readers who are not privileged to see the reality must, to thoroughly enjoy the picture given elsewhere, imagine it glowing with a dozen electric lights in its chambers and towers, each with an effulgence like that of the sun in a cloudless sky, now and then flashing up with colored glares from chemical lights,

and without an army of snow-shoers in their brilliant attire marching about the too short-lived thing of beauty, every one bearing a flaming torch. A very important aid to the imagination will be found in the leading details of the structure. It consists of 10,000 blocks of ice, each about 40 inches long by 20 inches wide, and varying from a foot upward in thickness. The end in view from view is semi-circular in form. The central tower is 80 feet high and the walls of its lower story are six feet nine inches thick. The front is 160 feet long, and the building contains four doors or rather openings. Messrs. Hutchison & Steele, one of the leading architectural firms in the city, designed the castle and the most skilled masons were employed in building it. Its cost was about \$3,200. Another striking feature of the carnival was the "living arch," but we have not space to describe it this week. Many thousands of people have been attracted to the city by the carnival.

BAD NEWS FROM THE SOUDAN.

Again have the rebels against Egyptian authority in the Soudan been victorious, driving the Egyptian soldiers before them and cutting them down by thousands. Baker Pasha, a former British officer, with a staff largely composed of European officers, led the Egyptian troops. The latter consisted of 3,500 men, a large proportion being raw recruits, undrilled and undisciplined and without proper arms or even any arms at all in some cases when they went to the front. He was endeavoring to advance from Trinkitat to Tokar by degrees, throwing up entrenchments as he proceeded, but when only a few miles out his forces were completely surrounded by the rebels. Spies had falsely reported that the proposed route was clear of the enemy. Baker Pasha tried to form a solid square to resist the imminent onslaught, but a regiment of his command was too demoralized by fear to take its allotted place. The result was a charge upon the uncompleted side of the square quickly followed by a complete rout. Baker and the European officers did their utmost to rally the cowardly troops, but in vain and then they accomplished the remarkable feat of fighting their way out of the trap with 1,500 men, leaving 2,000 behind them killed and wounded. With the remnant of his troops Baker escaped to Trinkitat, and he embarked there at once on the gunboat "Ranger" for Suakim. Of course the British Government comes in for a large share of criticism for the defeat, that is attributed by its opponents to slackness of its administration of Egyptian affairs.

A TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

The Dominion Alliance, at its annual meeting in Ottawa a few days ago, decided to start a prohibition campaign from end to end of Canada. Advantage is to be taken, for the first grand movement, of the legislation already existing in the Canada Temperance Act, whereby local prohibition in counties or cities can be obtained by the vote of a majority of the people. When that

measure shall have been generally adopted by the country, legislators can no longer say that the people are not ready for prohibition. Agitation in this campaign will do a great deal in itself in the way of educating the people in the principles that should govern the whole question. There can be no doubt that after the first struggle is over there will be a great many less believers in the possibility of regulating the liquor traffic by means of license laws than there are now. It has also been decided by the Alliance to make a stroke for general prohibition at once by having Parliament divided upon the question at the present session. That is a thing that should be done at every session of every legislative body in America until victory is achieved over the whole continent. "Divide the house" is the word, and let the people see just where their representatives stand upon this all-important question.

AN ENGLISH NOBLEMAN visiting New York had a cock-fight got up for his own amusement at Hunter's Point, Long Island, he paying all expenses. About fifty persons were present, and eight battles were fought. If he is an average sample of British nobility, it is no wonder democratic ideas are gaining ground in Great Britain.

M. DE BRAZZA, the French explorer in Africa, is believed to be dead, having been surrounded by hostile natives at last accounts. He will be remembered as the crafty rival of Mr. Stanley, the American, in the conquest of the Congo territory.

A LEAGUE OF MOUNTAIN TRIBES in Albania lately revolted and secured the government. It then attacked Montenegro to prevent a cession of Albanian territory to that principality. The Albanians were repulsed, and the Montenegro frontier is being reinforced. Rebellion is being fomented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and large quantities of arms are being sent into these countries. That part of the world seems to have little, if any, more peace than when it was under Turkish dominion, but surely something better must be in store for the brave and hardy races inhabiting its mountains and vales.

FRANCE IS PILING UP DEBT at a rapid rate. A new loan is being negotiated for 350,000,000 francs and the budget for next year will exceed this year's by 30,000,000 francs. Mr. Clemenceau attacked the Government in the Legislature the other day, saying crushing taxes and high rent caused the suffering of the workmen.

AN IMPORTANT TRANSACTION in telegraph business has taken place in the United States. The Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph Company, which is the principal owner in a new Atlantic cable about being laid, has bought railway telegraph lines extending from New York to Chicago, taking in all the leading points between. This adds largely to a system that was already pretty extensive, and now the Baltimore & Ohio stands a not despicable competitor with the Western Union Company.

MARY GILCHRIST, from Bruce, Ontario, has lost her reason through excitement produced by attendance upon the services of the Salvation Army in Toronto.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT happened an accommodation train on the Indianapolis & Chicago Air Line on January 31st, about seven miles from Indianapolis. A bridge of two spans crossing the White River gave way beneath the train, and five of the hands and one passenger were either killed outright or burned to death in the flames that immediately enveloped the cars. Several others were injured, one or two fatally. When the train had entered upon the bridge the engineer was in the baggage car after a drink of water. The fireman felt the bridge giving way and put on all steam, which jerked the couplings asunder, and the engine dashed forward out of danger while the train went crashing through the bridge. The cause of the accident is said to have been defective threads on the ends of supporting rods in the bridge.

OWING TO THE DEPRECIATION of landed property in Ireland, a movement is on foot to establish a land bank to lend money to landlords to pay off encumbrances created before the Land Act of 1881, and also to lend money to tenants for the purpose of purchasing holdings.

MR. GREEN, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, has been arguing against Government telegraphs, before the United States Senate committee on post-offices. He endeavored to show that press telegrams were very cheap now and that under Government competition the private companies would be ruined. There are about 30,000 operators and five or six thousand other telegraph employees in America. Mr. Green believed that within four years under Government these numbers would be doubled and every member of Congress would want a telegraph office in every post-office in his district.

A MAN WAS FILLING A BLAST at Sybesville, Pennsylvania, and carelessly threw a grain of powder into the flame of a lamp. The result was the explosion of a can of giant powder, which tore his hands off and badly injured several other workmen, crippling one for life.

ONE WAY OF SLAUGHTERING INNOCENTS is to wrap them up so closely that they cannot draw breath. A case of this kind is reported from Charlotte county, New Brunswick, and a like fate has often happened infants in the Province of Quebec when taken out at this season for christening.

LATELY AT LONDON, ONTARIO, the sad spectacle was seen of a father bringing his son to justice. Thomas Fitzsimmons was suspected of having committed a certain highway robbery, and when he could not be found his father procured a warrant for him, saying he would see the law of the country enforced even if he had to bring his own son to the bar. He found the young man and took him before the magistrate, who committed him for trial upon the evidence presented, and then the father led his son to gaol.