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PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

Through a press of business in the counting-room, we are sorry the prize list for the "December Competition" is not ready yet.

Notwithstanding a very large number of subscriptions expired at the end of the year, we are most happy in saying that the circulation is larger than ever. Although this paper is only two years and a month old, it has a circulation of little less than eight thousand. Remember our offer of a picture to every one getting a new subscriber as well as one to the recruit, made last week, and give us a list of ten thousand by the end of the month. You will not have as long a February to work for us again for four years.

The *Weekly Messenger* is only fifty cents a year, or five copies for two dollars. Who would be without so pleasant-faced a weekly visitor for the sake of less than a cent a week?

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EVIL COMMUNICATIONS.

Two boys aged thirteen lately ran away from Kingston, Ontario, and were arrested at Oswego, New York, for vagrancy. It is said that the reading of a book called "Peck's Bad Boy" was what led to their making fools of themselves by setting out on a tramp after fortune. This book is of a nature tending to destroy in its young readers respect for their elders and superiors, which is the beginning of ruin to many youth. Parents and guardians are undoubtedly greatly to blame for the bad choice young people make of the disposal of their time. Left to their own devices, without the means and material for useful pastime, no wonder boys satiate their hunger for information with reading more spicy than nourishing to their young minds. With nothing useful at which they can apply their strength and skill, it is inevitable that they will drift into the mischief always available to idle hands. Most boys, if not too long neglected, would naturally prefer useful work and wholesome reading to mischief and literary rubbish. Give them carpenter's tools, drawing or engraving outfits, naturalists' implements, or the means of training themselves in any useful direction for which they have a bent. Much attention is being given at present to the question of how to provide for the systematic training of the hand as well as the head in the public schools. Give the boys a chance to prove what they can do outside of schools, and perhaps experience will show that all the school teachers need do is to instruct in the theory of useful art and handicraft, and keep up the interest of the youth by intelligent conversation upon the results and the projects of his outside practice. As to reading, also, it has been proved upon trial in some prominent cases that young people are led to like good literature only a little less easily than they are allowed to acquire a fondness for pernicious trash. There is abundance of excellent and instruc-

tive reading to be got which gives a great deal more enjoyment than the sensational stuff that turns the heads of boys and makes them triflers for life. Perhaps the greatest cause of the evil is indifference on the part of parents and guardians as to what boys read.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

Nationalist meetings are being numerously held in Ireland, but wherever there is reason to anticipate disturbances at them they are proclaimed by the Government. This extreme course is only as a rule considered necessary when the Orangemen announce the intention to hold meetings, and then both are outlawed. Mr. Justin McCarthy, member of Parliament and the historian of "Our Own Times," said, at a meeting at Edgeworthstown, Irishmen were determined to have their own parliament. Some disorder occurred at this meeting and several obnoxious persons were bundled off the platform. In a speech at Kill-of-the-Grange Mr. Sexton, member of Parliament, said he recognized the Queen as the constitutional sovereign and that the Nationalists never reviled the Queen. Great efforts are being made, so far without success, to trace the destination of money believed to have been sent to England from the *Irish World* office's fund for executing vengeance for the hanging of O'Donnell, the murderer of the informer Carey.

AT THE CORONATION of the new Queen of Madagascar, the Premier vowed that he would never permit one inch of her territory to be yielded up to France. Mr. Robinson has been appointed United States consul at Atananarivo, and the United States man-of-war "Brooklyn" saluted the French flag on shore at Tamatave. The French bombarded the town of Mahanoro on the east coast, occupied largely by English residents. Two hundred shells were thrown, but only a pig was killed and another wounded. Another report says the captain of the "Brooklyn" intended to visit Tamatave, but was prevented from landing in his own boat and declined a French boat that was tendered. It is also denied in France that the town of Mahanoro was bombarded, as it was surrounded by houses flying the British and American flags.

ENGLISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES are reported as saying that the French forces cannot do any effective work in Tonquin until the end of February, and then, owing to the climate, operations will be limited to three weeks. They are finding that the defences of Bacinh, their chief objective point, are being greatly strengthened during their enforced delay in striking. Reports from China alternate between statements that the country is for war and that it is inclined toward peace.

ACCIDENTS IN THE ANTHRACITE MINES of Pennsylvania last year numbered 1,676, and produced 320 deaths, making 153 widows and leaving fatherless 512 children. How little we think of the perils of the miner as we sit by our glowing coal fires!

A COLLIERY EXPLOSION at Crested Butte mines, Colorado, on the 24th January, caused a loss of over fifty lives. It is believed the calamity was produced by one of the miners disobeying orders by carrying a naked light into the mine. Most of the bodies have been recovered. It was feared an outbreak of the "Molly Maguires" would occur over the event. The manager was threatened with lynching by them if the verdict of the coroner's jury went against him. All the evidence at the inquest, however, went to show that the management of the mine was perfect, and that if the miners had been careful the calamity would not have happened.

THE REMAINS OF LIEUTENANT DELONG and his ill-fated companions, of the Jeanette Arctic Expedition, have passed through St. Petersburg, Russia, on their way to the United States. All honor was paid by the Russian authorities to the gallant dead.

MR. APFLEJOHN, who acted as returning officer at Rat Portage during the Algoma election, has been fined in Toronto \$200 each for five votes improperly refused.

POVERTY HAS INDUCED the late king of Naples to sell his villa near Paris, noted in literature, and he now lives with the queen on the third floor of a house in Paris with a retinue of three servants. Naples was added to the Italian dominions in 1860 by Victor Emanuel.

IT TURNS OUT that a variety actress arrested in Nashville, Tennessee, and sent home to Detroit, Michigan, is a nun escaped from an Ontario convent.

AN EXPLOSION IN A COLLIERY in the Rhonda Valley, Wales, killed sixty-eight persons, including three men, one of them the manager of the mine, who went down to look for those first caught by the terrible fire blast. A thousand men are thrown out of work by the disaster.

MRS. STAPLETON BRETHERTON is the name of the Lancashire, England, lady, who has bequeathed two and a half million dollars to the Pope. His Holiness' favorite hymn will now perhaps be the popular old ballad, "A Lancashire lass whom none can surpass," etc.

COUNT LUBIENSKI, a Polish land owner, has been ordered to sell his property and leave Russia. He is accused of promoting Roman Catholicism and exciting the people against the Government.

MANY NIBBLISTS having been recruited from the female medical class in St. Petersburg, Russia, the students have been compelled to live in a house provided by the authorities and to be home before nine o'clock in the evening.

MONSIGNOR CESARE, the priest murdered in his bed in Rome lately, was slain by his servant, who in his confession has declared that he had no accomplices.

IN AN OFFICIAL DESPATCH the German Ambassador to Italy says the recruit pilgrimage to the tomb of Victor Emanuel has done as much to confirm the Italian monarchy as could otherwise be accomplished in fifty years.

ABOUT \$8,000 WORTH OF LIQUOR, masked in pork barrels, was lately seized near Bow River under the prohibitory liquor law of the North-West territories of Canada. Hunting equipments and supplies belonging to the unknown smugglers of the liquor also fell into the hands of the officers.

PROSPECTORS ARE SCOURING the Rocky Mountains in Canada, where gold has been found in fair quantities, and extensive deposits of silver, copper, iron and coal.

SETH WHITTEN, an Indiana lawyer, drew up a marriage contract that he and Maud McArthur signed and then lived together as man and wife. He was arrested at the instance of citizens for unlawful conduct. At his trial he ably defended himself, and the court charged the jury, if they found the contract was entered into in good faith on the part of either or both the parties, to find a verdict for the defendant. After being out all night the jury disagreed.

A HUNDRED ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS in New Orleans have libelled the steamship "Prinz George" for \$30,000, for violation of the agreement to carry and properly provide for them.

THE MARQUIS OF HERTFORD, England, has died from the effects of a kick received from his horse while hunting. He was seventy-two years of age and a general in the British Army.

MANY OF OUR READERS are aware of the commotion raised in India lately over the Ilbert bill, that gave native magistrates jurisdiction over European prisoners. The bill has been amended by the Legislative Council in Calcutta, so that every European prisoner will have the option of choosing a native of European judge.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT of the American Iron and Steel Association, Philadelphia, last year was not a bad one for the American iron trade, although it had been sometimes so represented. It was one of low prices, but the production was little short of that of 1882. Over five million tons of pig iron was produced, and over one million six hundred thousand tons of Bessemer steel, a small decrease in both articles. It was the first year, however, in which a decrease occurred in the Bessemer steel industry. The prospects for the trade this year are becoming bright. Several mills are starting up again, some of them with orders to keep them busy for a year.

A GERMAN SCULPTOR has been given an order for a statue of General Garfield, over ten feet high, for San Francisco.

IN THE CITY OF ASTORGA, Spain, an Englishman and a native were selling Bibles on Sunday, when they were mobbed by a party of students led by priests, the police disregarding appeals for protection.

THE RE-OPENING OF THE LICENSE QUESTION in Ontario by the recent Privy Council decision affirming the Provincial authority in the matter will, it is believed, be made the occasion of a grand effort on the part of the temperance party, daily growing stronger, to secure more stringent laws against the traffic.