

Weekly Messenger

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WORDS TO OUR FRIENDS.

We hope we may be able to give the results of the "December Competition" in our next.

This week we present a new inducement in the offer of a picture fully described on another page.

Prizes and pictures aside, we hope you may always consider this paper a worthy one to work for, in moral as well as material value.

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PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

The Dominion Parliament met on Thursday of last week. Very little business has as yet been despatched. The most important thing in the Governor-General's speech is an intimation that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is hard up for funds, and must have assistance from Parliament before proceeding much further with the building of the line. This fresh demand from a corporation that was granted enormous subsidies, both in money and land, in its contract with the Government is or should be a startling one to the people of Canada. It is not the building of the main line that has reduced the Company to this condition of mendicancy. Had it confined its operations to its contract it would have ample means, almost apart from the private wealth of its members, from the subsidies due as the work progressed, for the steady accomplishment of the task it took off the Government's shoulders. But the Company was too ambitious, and besides undue haste in prosecuting the line over the prairies, the easiest part of it, it expended the subsidies from that source with other resources in buying up railways to establish a system in competition with that powerful concern, the Grand Trunk Railway. As the wants of the millionaire members of the Canadian Pacific Company have been mentioned in the Governor-General's speech, it looks as if the people of Canada were going to be forced by their representatives into preserving that great corporation from all chance of losing any of the enormous wealth and power originally designed to drop into its lap.

A MARINE HORROR.

An appalling shipwreck has occurred on the New England coast. The steamship "City of Columbus," of the Nickerson Line, Captain Wright, left Boston for Savannah on the afternoon of Thursday, January 17th, and on the following morning, at a quarter to four o'clock, she struck on a reef at Gay-head, Mass. The vessel immediately filled and keeled over, the water breaking in and flooding the port-side saloon. All the passengers, excepting a few women and children, came on deck, nearly all wearing life-preservers.

Nothing could be done with the boats, as they were swamped immediately upon being launched. Passengers were swept off the deck by dozens, and all who could hold on were driven to the tops of the houses and then into the rigging as the vessel went deeper and deeper. A few were saved with great difficulty by the revenue cutter "Dexter" and life-boats. One of the survivors said not a woman or child was seen by him alive after the vessel went ashore. The steamer "City of Columbus" was one of the finest vessels on the coast. She was built in 1878, of iron, and was valued at \$300,000 and insured for \$250,000. A corrected list of those on board, made up on the 20th, showed eighty-one passengers and forty-five officers, seamen and waiters. Of these twelve passengers and seventeen of the crew were saved. The total death list was ninety-seven, but there was a possibility of additional survivors being found. That afternoon a life raft, upon which several had embarked, drifted ashore near Gayhead, the despatch conveying the fact leaving it to be guessed whether any living persons were on board the raft. Among those undoubtedly dead are many well-known residents of Boston and neighboring towns. One sad case among many is that of the Rev. C. A. Rand, of Haverhill, Massachusetts, who was just starting on a vacation, and perished together with his wife, daughter, father and mother.

A SAD PICTURE.

The Inspector of Child Labor, in the State of New Jersey, in his first annual report, says he found everywhere the child labor system had left indelible traces of mental and physical degeneracy in careworn children with dwarfed bodies. He saw countless young women who were physical wrecks from being employed at an early age for long hours amid machinery. He found shocking illiteracy among the children working in factories, which was only to be expected in children whose schooling was sacrificed for the sake of the pittance they could make at work. Child labor has increased in much greater ratio than adult labor, and the increase has been at the expense of the latter, as it has decreased the wages of parents and adults. In many cases wages have been so reduced that parents are forced to call upon their children to help maintain their homes. If this is what the policy of taxing Americans for the benefit of home manufactures is bringing in return, it is high time the people began to look deeper into the matter than the speeches of partisans and public men in the control of monopolists. In view of the above mournful exhibition of the working people's lot in America, the boast of independence can with but poor grace be made on their behalf, and there is an end of the pride with which they once could point to their children growing up in health, strength and knowledge without the necessity of toiling for their own existence until a fit age had been reached, through a course of proper training for enlightened and honorable citizenship.

GENERAL "CHINESE" GORDON has been allowed to retain his commission in the British army notwithstanding his engagement for service in the Congo country. Not only has the Government declined to accept General Gordon's resignation, but it has caused him to postpone his Congo mission and undertake a very important expedition to the Egyptian Soudan. He is to endeavor to restore order in that region, and has full powers of acting without being subject to the orders of the commander of the Egyptian army there—General Baker—but is to take his instructions solely from Sir Evelyn Baring, British Commissioner in Egypt. His mission is chiefly one of conciliation to the tribes, both those in revolt and those wavering between attachment to the False Prophet, El Mahdi, and Turkey.

AT A MASS MEETING of Irishmen called by the Parnell Branch of the National League in Cleveland, Ohio, which was not largely attended, a call was issued for a one dollar subscription for a destruction fund to burn and blow up English institutions and Englishmen. Mr. Parnell was rebuked as being too mild and an announcement that Professor Mezeroff, of New York, a Russian Nihilist and Fenian, would teach the use of explosives for thirty dollars seemed to be just the information some of those present desired and awaited. A call was to be issued for a larger meeting to be held in a fortnight.

THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT in the proceedings of Congress during the week has been the rejection of the treaty of commerce with Mexico. It lacked just one vote of the requisite two-thirds in the Senate. Threats of retaliation against countries prohibiting American hog products are freely made, but nothing decisive has so far been done in that regard. The Senate has taken a very necessary step in passing a resolution to abolish the sale of intoxicating drink in the Capitol building. During the discussion upon this subject revelations were made of most demoralizing practices common in connection with the restaurant of one of the Houses.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S NEW BOOK, "Life in the Highlands," is expected to be published by the middle of February. It is in one volume and will contain eight portraits, besides many woodcuts from drawings made by the Queen and Princess Beatrice. The book explains Her Majesty's great confidence in John Brown, her Scotch body servant, by stating that he was especially recommended by the Prince Consort, while the latter was dying, as a man who, with unstinted devotion, would lay down his life in standing between his sovereign and all harm.

PRINCE BISMARCK has written to the President of the German Reichstag, approving of the honors to be paid to the late Herr Laske at the funeral in Berlin. This is almost unexpected generosity in the stern old Chancellor toward a strong political opponent's memory.

GENERAL MARTOS, Spanish Minister of the Interior, in a speech in the Legislature advocated universal suffrage, reform of the constitution, obligatory military service, national sovereignty and an alliance between monarchists and democrats. The Cabinet, however, was unable to carry out this programme on account of the impossibility of agreeing with the Liberals. It therefore resigned, and a new Ministry has been formed, composed of Conservatives with Senor Canovas del Castillo at its head.

A BOILER EXPLOSION in a tannery and shoe factory at Rochester, New Hampshire, exploded a few days ago, killing five men and injuring several others. Accounts show that the boilers were working very badly previous to the explosion, and orders were given to close down only fifteen minutes before the explosion occurred. It is said, also, that the boilers had been condemned, and if that is the case the proprietors of the establishment deserve the severest punishment that can be obtained for them.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, Governor-General of Canada, has reduced the rents of thirty leaseholders in the county Kerry, Ireland, bringing down their aggregate amount from £994 per year to £810. He had spent large sums in draining this section, but poor workmanship and heavy rains prevented the drains from doing the good intended.

A BROTHER OF PATRICK O'DONNELL denies the statement published that the latter confessed to him the wilful murder of Carey. The evicted man, he says, never varied from his assertion that the murder was not one of deliberation, but that it was done in self-defence.

HUNDREDS OF COLORED LABORERS are leaving South Carolina for Georgia, Florida and the Western States. Their reason for leaving is that they have been promised better wages and their crops last year were destroyed by drought.

THE UNITED STATES CONSUL at Hong Kong, China, Mr. Mosby, has complained to the Treasury Department that a quantity of preserves sent by him to his family were stolen and eaten by Customs officials at New York.

TWO MEN named Medbury and Pyfer, Camden, New Jersey, are charged with swindling the Pension Department of several thousand dollars. They personated pensioners and drew their money. The rascals have fled.

SPECIMENS OF SAUSAGE from Fulton county, Illinois, analyzed at Peoria were found full of trichinae, and three persons who ate of the article became dangerously ill.

A LONDON DESPATCH says several Chinese bankers have recently committed suicide, owing to the unsettled political situation and deplorable state of the money market.

IN MANCHESTER, England, the signs are regarded as favorable for a triumph of the workmen in the great cotton strike.