

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger

### THE TROUBLE IN EGYPT.

The conference has been barren of results. France objected to English proposal for Egyptian prosperity and Great Britain appears to have decided upon freedom of action while France, through portion of her press snarls, but does not dare to bite. Germany is curious to know what England is going to do about it, and Italy has shown marked friendship and support for England's Egyptian policy.

There is just a gleam of common sense in the French press born of self interest. The *Republique Francaise* shows it in pointing out Bismarck's hand in urging a conflict between France and England. But there evidently is some likelihood of action at last for the relief of General Gordon. The House of Commons has supported Mr. Gladstone's request for £300,000, not to crush the Mahdi, but to relieve General Gordon. A few Radicals and Parnellites opposed the vote, which was 174 to 14. Meantime, General Gordon has telegraphed to ascertain the route to be taken by the relieving forces, thus showing that he expects them to come to him soon. The Mahdi appears to be active. He is said to have ordered fifty thousand men to relieve Osman Digna. When this is done that commander may be able to push his intentions, to the last degree hostile to British supremacy. The British Government is about renewing the declaration made in Parliament that their troops shall withdraw from Egypt when the prosperity of that country is assured. This is to take the form of a note to the Powers. Sir Samuel Baker scouts the idea of considering France in the matter of the Soudan and in his letter to the *Times* advises that the Emir of Dongola be entrusted with the rescue of Gordon.

### FRANCE IN THE EAST.

France carries matters with a high hand. At Hue, the French resident was ordered to recognize the new King only on condition that he accepted the treaty between France and China. Affairs with China are not so easy to define. Telegrams teem with paragraphs announcing French bombardments and captures, but no actual war seems to have broken out between the countries. From the attitude of Canton people, there seems every chance for resistance by the Chinese to French demands. The United States is put down as a likely mediator between the two powers, but France insists upon immediate settlement of the demands made for indemnity. Kelung, a Formosan port, appears to have been occupied, the Chinese having made no resistance. Their army retired upon the landing of the French soldiers. The Chinese Foreign Board is asked to pay 80,000,000 francs in yearly instalments as the price of French evacuation. The British Consul went on board the British gunboats after protesting to the French admiral that Kelung was a port protected under treaty with England.

### "DOWN WITH THE LORDS."

The agitation that has sprung up in England on the franchise question appears to divide public attention with the Egyptian troubles. The English press calls attention to the demonstration made by the working people in favor of extending the franchise, and almost in every instance speaks of the display with British pride. The agitation has spread over the whole of England, and in Manchester preparations for the demonstration of the 10th were imposing. The *Times* shows that the moral effect of the London pageant was "unmistakable and immense." The *Telegraph* (Liberal Conservative) says:—"The people had the air of free men about them—the manner of those who are assured that none but themselves can be their real enemies. The *Advertiser*, a Liberal newspaper, calls the demonstration "earnest and emphatic," while the *Post* (Tory) doubts if one half of them were "animated by an earnest desire to direct the attention of the Government and the Legislature to what they consider to be a legitimate grievance. The *Standard* (Tory) gives a new phase to the respectability of the meeting by pointing out,—if we read between the lines and condense as we go,—that the people were not riotous enough to carry moral weight. *Pull Mall Gazette* (Radical Jingo) after protesting against the demonstration as a "wish of the Executive Government," dismisses it thus—"Surely the last resource of political impotence." A lesson is drawn from the demonstration by *The Irish Times*, which if taken to heart by those who should study it most will be worth all the trouble taken to get it up, even though it should not result in successfully downing the Lords. That newspaper "hopes the constitutional party will profit by the teachings of the demonstration. Even the railings were not pulled down."

There is much to be proud of in a review of this demonstration. In few countries, advanced as the European and American continents are, could a body of men urged by political feeling, have collected and conducted themselves so orderly. These are the kind of men who make up the backbone of England, who stand behind her army with the sinews of war, ready, too, to supply the brawny arms when the country calls for them. It would be interesting to know how many of the British militia, were enrolled in these regiments of political reform. That can not be ascertained, of course. One thing is certain, however, any man who has the intelligence and patriotism to defend his country's flag uncompelled should have the power to say what the policy of his Government should be that forces him to that war. Besides he who has wealth of brain and energy to contribute taxes to the state should surely have some say in the distribution of them. The solid sense of the British nation must certainly awake to the necessity for extending the franchise. The Lords cannot but see that this was a mistake in rejecting the bill. But they are slow to move for reforms in any direction, and what they will do about it is a question eagerly asked.

THE GOVERNMENT of Chili is engaging teachers in Germany to help on the system of education used in England. Chili is the most go-ahead country in South America and it is pleasing to find that it is paying attention to education as well as to war.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS are speaking against England, saying that she has been trying to make France and Germany hate each other, and that England need not look to Germany for help against France after this.

THE POPE and the Government of Spain, one of the most Catholic countries in the world, have had a dispute, but Spain is anxious to settle it peacefully.

A GREAT MEETING of medical men from all nations is being held in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark.

HUNDREDS of Russians have been expelled from Germany, and have returned to Russia. The Germans in Russia are afraid that they will be treated in the same way, and sent out of Russia.

A GERMAN WAR-CLOUD has arisen, condensed out of outrages by some English fishermen in the North German Seas upon German fishing sloops. Bismarck has asked through the German Ambassadors that the bad fishermen be punished. The German press also attacks the British policy in the Egyptian conference.

THE SULTAN of Morocco has had a whole tribe of his subjects killed simply because they asked the French for protection. There is now danger of a war between France and Morocco.

MR. JOHN BRIGHT, the famous English politician, has written a letter in which he says that America, France, Germany, and Russia are suffering more from dull trade than England is.

THE EMPEROR WILLIAM, of Germany, and the Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria, have had a very friendly meeting, and the poor people expect to receive all sorts of good things.

FOUR MEN living in Texas settled an old family quarrel by having a regular battle, in which three of them were shot and the other stabbed with a bowie knife; it is not likely that more than one of the four will recover.

A DISURBANCE arose between the Salvation Army and a rough crowd at Schenectady, New York, and four young men were arrested. The furious crowd threatened to throw the army officers into the canal and to burn their barracks.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT has decided to allow a vote for the repeal of the Scott Act to be taken in Halton county. The temperance people there have some disadvantages, but they expect to gain a victory all the same.

THE BREWERS in the State of Illinois had made arrangements to elect their friends to the Legislature and make Carter Harrison governor, so that the high license laws would be changed to suit them, but their scheme has been discovered and made public.

A GREAT MANY of the Italian laborers who are hired to do work in the United States are nothing better than white slaves. They are sent out by men called "padrones" who receive their wages and look after them generally.

ANOTHER PARTY has been formed in the United States, with General Butler as its candidate for President. That makes four candidates for the Presidency, namely, J. G. Blaine, Governor Cleveland, ex-Governor St. John, and General Butler.

A LARGE SHIPYARD at Chester, Penn., was burnt on Friday night, and about \$60,000 damage done.

IT IS HOPED that the debt of Mexico will soon be settled and that that troubled country will commence to improve.

THE IRISH PEOPLE are much excited about a difficulty between Messrs. Biggar and Davitt, two of their leaders. Biggar would not go to a meeting at which Davitt was present, because he did not agree with him on different subjects.

SIR ERASMUS WILSON, the noted English surgeon and scientist, has died at the age of 75 years. He is remembered especially by having presented "Cleopatra's Needle," which was brought from Egypt, to the British nation.

THE KIMBLE Coal and Iron Company at Riddlesbury, Penn., has failed. The liabilities are \$700,000. Some cotton factories in Virginia have had to stop business, because trade is so dull, and a good many hundreds of people are thrown out of work.

GENERAL CODRINGTON, whom was one of England's most famous generals in the Crimean war against Russia, has died in his eightieth year.

HORSE THIEVES have been very busy near Muscle Shell, Montana, and the citizens are trying to stop the thieving by hanging or shooting any of the thieves they can catch. They have punished about fifty in this way, but there seem to be some left still.

THE FIRST passenger trains between Montreal and Toronto on the Canadian Pacific Railway started on Monday.

IN BELGIUM there has been great political excitement and many meetings and processions have been held against the party in power.

MR. PARNELL charges that the interests of education are sacrificed and the money squandered to fill the Queen's colleges with ill-trained students. This was in opposing the grant to Queen's College, Ireland. But the grant was voted by 100 to 35.

AN IRISHMAN named Thomas Conroy, has confessed that in a murder case he was compelled by a lawyer to swear that the prisoners were guilty of murder, although they were really innocent! Another witness, named "Ibhrin," has said that he gave false evidence in the same case, being well paid for doing so.