

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger.

### THE LORDS AGAINST THE PEOPLE.

Egypt is no longer the most interesting of the many great questions occupying the busy British brain. Mr. Gladstone's great Reform Bill, to give householders in the country the same right to vote as is now possessed by their brothers in towns, passed its last reading in the House of Commons by a unanimous vote; the Tories, probably not wanting another of the crushing defeats inflicted on them on this question. Nevertheless, the House of Lords has thrown out the bill, because it was not accompanied by a scheme for the redistribution of parliamentary seats. The people are thoroughly roused, and public meetings will be held all over the country to tell the Lords at least to mind their own business and let the Commons mind theirs. In fact, the House of Lords is really in danger, having gone against not only the Radicals but all the Liberals and the moderate Conservatives. A few Conservative lords, to prevent an agitation which might endanger the very existence of their law-making powers, proposed a compromise; they suggested that the Reform Bill might be now passed, and the Queen be petitioned to call another session in the Autumn, when a Redistribution scheme might be dealt with, Lord Salisbury and most of his party, however, refused to give way. The Government has promised to pass the Redistribution Bill at a special session in October if the Lords pass the Reform Bill now; but still the Lords hold out.

### WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW.

Cool showery weather has prevailed for some time past throughout the greater part of the United States and Canada, and growing crops are doing remarkably well, but the broken weather has proved rather unpleasant for haying, and harvest. Haying operations are completed in all but the more northern districts, and a large percentage of it has been more or less damaged by the rains. The harvesting of fall wheat has been progressing rather slowly owing to the frequent showers, but in most cases scarcely any damage has been done to the grain, which is yielding a better quality of flour than last season's crop. The pasturage is very good and the dairy products correspondingly large, but prices have reached a lower point than for several years past. Fattening cattle are doing well in nearly every quarter, except some portions of Texas, which are suffering from severe drought. Although very large numbers of butchers' cattle are being fed for the market, yet prices are pretty well maintained as considerable numbers are being shipped to Britain, both alive and dead. These shipments are likely to increase considerably as the season advances, owing to the short supply in Britain; in that country there has been a very cold spring, followed by an unusually long period of drought,

causing bare pastures, light crops of hay and straw, and a great failure in the turnip crop, so that during the next twelve months Britain will require a greatly increased supply of American cattle.

### THE TWELFTH OF JULY.

The twelfth of July, the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, was celebrated by the Orangemen with great demonstrations in many parts of the world. In various cities of this continent there were grand processions, picnics and excursions, and no serious trouble is reported from any place. In the Old Country there was a great deal of anxiety as to the result of the day's proceedings. The Orangemen in Ireland were so indignant at not being allowed recently to meet at Newry at the same time as the Nationalists, that they fixed on Newry as the scene of a particularly large demonstration last Saturday. A large number came from England, some even travelling all the way from London, to take part. The meeting was attended by thirty thousand persons, and among those who walked in the procession wearing their Orange decorations were Lord Arthur Hill, Lord Castlereagh, Col. King-Harman, M. P. and Sir T. Bateson, M. P. Several Orangemen carried arms openly. In the afternoon some of the Nationalists began to stone a party of Orangemen, who replied by firing at their assailants. There might have been a serious fight, but the police stopped the affray at once while only a few had been wounded. There had been some disturbances in the streets the night before, but they also were promptly stopped. Several hundred police were kept constantly marching up and down the streets, and twelve hundred extra militia had been brought into the town. At Belfast, a Catholic was shot by an Orangeman, who was arrested by the police but rescued by his friends. Fighting then broke out. At Whitehaven an Orange procession was attacked by Nationalists, and serious fighting took place, during which a telegraph boy was killed and several persons injured. Revolvers, swords and stones were used and windows were smashed. The police dispersed the rioters. The Belfast Orangemen who had been helping in the celebration at Newry, on returning to their own city found a party of Catholics destroying the triumphal arches and other decorations in honor of the day. They attacked the Catholics and a terrible fight began. Pistols and clubs, as well as stones and other missiles, caused great damage; more than thirty wounded persons were removed to hospital, and many others were taken to their own homes. The police did their best to stop the rioting, and charged into the crowd again and again, but were driven back and many of them injured. Many buildings were wrecked. On Sunday evening the riot began again; after a hot struggle against volleys of stones from the rioters, the police got the upper hand, and then handled the mob pretty roughly. A large number of Nationalists and Orangemen were arrested, and on Monday ninety of them were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

### THE FRENCH WAR MANIA.

The trouble between France and China, caused by Chinese soldiers firing on the French after a treaty had been signed, is still unsettled. Towards the end of last week, the word came both from France and China that war would certainly break out. According to one correspondent, writing from Shanghai, the British officers in the Chinese fleet have left the ships, and the coast is really undefended. A French fleet could therefore do much as it liked, so far as the Chinese coast is concerned. Still, the officials are said to be concealing these facts from their government. Admiral Courbet has already taken possession of a Chinese town, but latest telegrams give hope that war will even yet be prevented. It is said that the French Premier and the Chinese ambassador are discussing the question—Who fired the first shot? The settlement depends on what is the true answer to that question. The French Ministry are willing to take less compensation than was at first claimed from China.

There is no definite news of importance from Madagascar; but a French paper says that five hundred more troops will start for that country in the end of July. The news from Madagascar itself is that the Hovas are actively preparing to resist a French invasion, and that serious fighting is likely to happen soon. However, the French are not likely to venture into the interior. They will probably take possession of some of the principal seaports only.

### FOUR STEAMSHIPS WRECKED.

Shipping accidents this week have not been few. The three-masted steamship "Warwick," of 1,648 tons, with a cargo of iron, went ashore on the coast of Gaspe during a fog on Sunday evening. She is not badly damaged, and at last accounts she was likely to be got off when the weather grows calmer and the cargo is put overboard. The "Warwick" was bound for Quebec, and had fourteen steerage passengers on board. She lies on the rocks, and has two small holes in her bow, but she is built in water-tight compartments. She is only two years old. Some of the passengers and crew landed, but the rest waited for calmer weather.

The "River Ettrick," a new steamer, bringing coals from Cape Breton to Montreal, also went ashore on Sunday. In the fog she struck the eastern end of Green Island, about a hundred miles below Quebec. She got off safely, but at once backed on to a rock, which ripped off the propeller and sank the ship. It is likely that she will be a total loss.

The "State of Maine," belonging to the International Steamship Company of Portland, has come to grief by running on the rocks at Point Lepreaux, twenty miles from St. John, New Brunswick, in a fog. There were about three hundred passengers on board, and they were safely and speedily landed. She seems to have been going at full speed, in spite of the fog. The "State of Maine" was a fine wooden steamer, of 1410 tons, valued at \$250,000; she is not

yet two years old. The passengers' baggage and the ship's furniture have been brought off, and perhaps the machinery will be saved, but there is no hope of the vessel herself.

The fourth disaster, and the only one in which life was lost, took place farther from home. A Spanish ironclad warship, the "Gravina," was wrecked during a terrific hurricane in the Philippine Islands; two officers and seven sailors were drowned.

### THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE.

At the third ballot taken by the National Democratic Convention at Chicago, Governor Cleveland, of New York, was chosen as the party's candidate for the Presidency. Mr. Hendricks was unanimously selected for Vice-President. Most of the Independent Republicans, including such influential journals as the *New York Herald* and *Times*, support the Democratic Candidates. The "platform" chosen by the Democrats, however, is unworthy of the men nominated. The platforms of both parties are well described by the *London Times* as "distinguished by the absence of clear convictions, by evasions and trimmings, by servile rivalry in flattering the masses and in pandering to popular prejudices, modern demagogues and social quacks."

Stephen Grover Cleveland, the son of a New Jersey minter, was born on March 18th, 1837. After serving as a clerk in several stores, he became a lawyer, and occupied several public positions in Erie County, New York. In 1881 he was made Mayor of Buffalo, and in 1882 was elected Governor of the State by an enormous majority. He is unmarried.

MONDAY, JULY FOURTEENTH, was the anniversary of the day on which the French revolutionists destroyed the Bastille, the prison where royal tyrants imprisoned the victims of their whims and dislikes. The day is now kept every year as the French national holiday. This year, it was proposed to do without the celebration in Paris, for fear that the cholera should be brought in from the infected districts by some of the thousands of visitors to the capital. The doctors gave warning that the risk was very great, but the City Council determined to go on with the celebration, no matter what should happen. Accordingly, vast crowds poured into Paris, and there was no attempt at disinfecting or fumigating any arrivals except those who came in by the railways leading directly from the south-west. The day was marked by one event which has dangerously increased the bad feeling between France and Germany. A German named Aherloe—who says that he was drunk at the time—shouted "Down with France," and at the same time tore down and spat upon a French flag. He was set upon, but managed to escape, and the mob took vengeance by tearing down the German flags on the Continental Hotel. The French Prime Minister has had to apologize to the German ambassador for the insult. Aherloe has been arrested.