

# Northern Messenger

VOLUME XXXVII. No. 45.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 7, 1902.

30 Cts. Per An. Post-Paid

## Who Will Be the First?

What name will head the Honor Roll? Who will be the first to get the blank pledge form filled out with twenty signatures? The sender of the first Pledge Roll of twenty signatures will head the Honor Roll next week. Be careful not to lose last week's issue.

## Pledge Crusade.

The temperance pledge blanks issued with the 'Messenger' of Oct. 31st, if all filled up, would aggregate 1,200,000 pledges. Are you doing your part in this great crusade? Who will head the honor roll next week? The name of the sender of the list first received each week will appear in heavy type at the top of the honor roll. We hope many of the young people will get their first love for temperance work in connection with this November Pledge Signing Crusade.

## Pledge Blanks Free.

'Northern Messenger' Pledge Blanks will be sent in quantities sufficient for distribution throughout the senior class of Sunday Schools free of charge, unless the schools wish to pay for them at the rate of 1c each. When applying state number required. Address John Dougall & Son, publishers, Montreal.

## The Land of the Shah.

(George Donaldson, Ph.D., in 'Godey's Magazine'.)

We entered Persia from the north, having to come from Tiflis, five days by post to Djulfa on the Persian frontier. Here we were immediately made to realize that Persia is not a land of railways, nor even roads at all, but a wild, uncultivated, unsubdued land where robbers abound, and the only means of conveyance are donkeys, horses, and camels, which must pick their way along rocky riverbeds, and across dry and stony plains, with no more of a road than the path the hoofs of their predecessors have made.

After several hours of bartering, we succeeded in engaging a man and two horses to take us to Tabriz. Side-saddles are not known in this land, and so we had to do the best we could to fix a seat for my wife on the rude native pallon on one horse, and when our luggage had been made fast to the other, I mounted, and found that I had a very comfortable seat, so much so, that I soon made a change with my wife, whose arrangements did not prove so satisfactory.

The man walked, and we set out across a partially cultivated plain, and soon reached the mountains. These we entered, following the course of a small stream which was used for irrigation in the plain below. The path was such as may be seen in any steep cow pasture, and often led along the very edge of the bank, which looked as though it might, at any time, form a small landslide, and it seemed only reasonable that it should do so while we

were upon it. Just before nightfall we came to a village, i.e., a cluster of mud houses. Each house consisted of one room



A PERSIAN DOLOL, OR MERCHANT WHO CARRIES HIS GOODS TO HOMES.

inclosed by four mud walls, a bare mud floor, and a mud roof spread upon brush supported by poles—a veritable mud box, with a low door for entrance, and a little



ARMENIAN WOMAN.

round hole in the roof for light. We found a house that was comparatively new and clean, but the thought of sleeping in such a cavern as that seemed to be too much for us, so we climbed upon the roof and spread

our bed beside the straw-stack which is often on the housetop in this country, and slept under the open sky. In the villages the people usually sleep on the ground outside of the door, in the summer season, but in the cities they often sleep on the roofs.

Four days of travel through mountains and plains, all dry, parched and treeless, brought us to Tabriz. There is no rain in Persia during the summer months, and the land is barren except where there are streams of water for irrigation. The mountain streams are conducted in underground channels formed by digging pits, about thirty feet apart, and tunnelling from one to the other. This prevents the evaporation of the water by the sun, and at the same time usually finds a clay bottom, so that there is not so much lost by absorption and leakage. Little channels branch off, from time to time, and bring some of the water to the surface, where it is carried about in little ditches, to water the crops. In the fall of the year, after the grain is harvested, the country presents a most desolate appearance, for there is not a green thing to be seen.

Tabriz is the most flourishing city in Persia. Its population has increased very rapidly of late, and it now claims about two hundred thousand inhabitants, and covers an immense area, extending for many miles in every direction over the plain. It is a thoroughly Eastern city, and everything reminds one of Bible times and Bible lands. Just outside of the city walls we were met by a band of lepers who approached with outstretched hands to receive gifts, and everywhere along the road were blind beggars, paralytics and cripples, 'sitting by the wayside to receive alms.' As we enter the city, ragged and half-naked children, with all sorts of eye diseases, are everywhere seen along the path.

Here also may be seen women covered with a cloth thrown over the head and coming down to the knees, or lower, a fold of which they always draw up over the face when a man appears. Their legs and feet are bare, and large earthen water-jars are on their backs. There are others of a better class, who have their heads completely covered with a piece of cloth which has a small aperture of fine needle-work over the eyes, so that they can see out, just enough to enable them to get along in the street. They wear a dark-blue outer garment, which is thrown over the head and reaches nearly to the ground, bright green baggy trousers, which are gathered at the ankle and fit snugly to the foot like a sock, and bright red or yellow slippers just large enough to slip the toes into; the heel of the slipper comes under the instep of the foot, so that they are compelled to shuffle along walking on their toes only.

The men wear coats with heavy gathered skirts, loose, short trousers, low leather shoes, a leather strap around the waist, and a close-fitting skull-cap; or, as is usually the case with the better class of citizens, a loose flowing robe, much like the