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the sick, and the blind. Women too feeble with age to walk were lifted out by attendants. Over 1,000 female lunatics, most of them decked out in either sky blue or bright-scarlet hoods and shawls, were allowed to roam around at will within an area bounded by uniformed policemen. Three hundred or more who were believed to have sufficient mental balance to stand the excitement were permitted to go in front of the asylum and look at the explosion. After it was over, while all the same people on the island were alive with excitement, and all the steamboat whistles were tooting congratulations to Gen. Newton, these idiots were as unmoved as so many wooden images. One woman among them stretched her hands toward the white foam on the water and exclaimed: "Here, one schooner! one schooner!"

MAKE OUT A LIST.

We suggested to our readers last week that it would be well to make a list of friends who they consider should take the *Weekly Messenger*. Next week we hope to be able to issue our "Grand Prize Competition," which will be largely far than our last one to the end of the year. We just throw out this hint so that those who wish to make a little holiday money may have a fair chance to begin work promptly. Of course there is work connected with the competition, but the trouble is out of all proportion to the recompense. We intend that no one shall be disappointed in the coming competition, and that everyone that gets so much as one new subscriber shall be liberally rewarded.

WRITE FOR YOUR FRIENDS.

If you have any friends who do not take the *Weekly Messenger* you should see that they get a few sample copies in order that they may judge of its merits for themselves. For this purpose we are prepared to send sample copies for three weeks free to anyone who may be proposed by our readers. All our subscribers to this paper have to do in order to have a copy sent to a friend is to write a postal card containing the names and addresses of those to whom they wish the paper sent. The post-card should be addressed to the "Editor of the *Weekly Messenger*, Montreal, P. Q.," and might be written like this to save trouble.

Sample copies to:

George McFarlane,
Luton, Ind. Terr.
James Whitaker,
Toronto, Ont.
Irene Kay,
12 Duke St., Glasgow, Scot.
and oblige, yours, &c.,

CHARLES LAMB,
Stratford, Ont.

If you have more than three names to send it would be better to send them in an envelope.

WE CANNOT announce the winners of prizes in our last competition till next week.

A SUBSCRIBER writes: "I received a copy of the book 'Reprinted Stories.' I like it very much."

THE NAMES of new subscribers up to the end of the year have continued to come in up to the last day, and quite a considerable number of new names have been added to our lists.

"Will you please send me twelve copies of the *Weekly Messenger* and I will remit again before the year closes. It is the best paper for the schoolroom I have ever used."

Carleton County, New York.

IT IS DIFFICULT when subscriptions are coming in as fast as they now are to send off all the premiums immediately. We have managed, however, through hard work, not to keep any one waiting very long.

IT IS A GREAT MISTAKE for anyone to imagine that experience is needed in canvassing for a paper. Hundreds of girls and boys have made money by getting subscribers for the *Weekly Messenger* who knew nothing about canvassing.

OUR NEXT NUMBER is to contain a picture of a group of twenty-two horses of different kinds. Every farmer that is not a regular subscriber should get one of our next week's edition, and we would be much obliged to any of our subscribers who will send us as soon as possible the names of persons whom they would like to see getting this paper.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER in regard to yearly subscribers is that to everyone who obtains five names we will either give a book of reprinted stories worth sixty cents or fifty cents out of the \$2.50 he collects. This offer expires at the end of this month.

DOES YOUR SUBSCRIPTION run out in a few weeks? Then you ought to renew now so as to be sure and not miss any copies. You will not lose anything by so doing and it will be easier for us to get your name on our lists in time. The date printed on the address of your paper indicates the time when your subscription expires.

WE HAVE RECEIVED from some good friend an alphabetical acrostic for publication. Unfortunately he does not state whether it is original or not. We have at different times been in receipt of communications of various sorts which for several reasons we have been unable to publish. One gentleman subscriber sent us a puzzle, for instance which had long before gone the rounds of all the papers and was well known. We suppose the gentleman was not aware of this and had we not known it ourselves it might have been published as original as there was nothing to say that it had been copied from another paper. Of course this omission was quite accidental on the gentleman's part, but it might have put us in an awkward position if we had published the puzzle, giving it as original.

THE WEEK.

SATURDAY, the 7th of November, has been set apart as a day of thanksgiving throughout the Dominion.

IT WAS AT FIRST thought that the division in the ranks of the Protestants in Newfoundland would put the island under the control of the Roman Catholics, who are in the minority. Lately, however, the Protestants have decided to sink their differences, and now they are almost certain to carry a decided majority of the constituencies and thus control the next Newfoundland Parliament.

A BRICKLAYER while drunk, chose the centre of the Grand Trunk Railway track, about two miles east from Toronto, as a fit place to lie down to sleep in. A freight train came along, and before it could be stopped the cowcatcher struck the man's head. He died almost at once.

THE DEATH of General Grant caused a vacancy in the trustees of the Peabody fund for encouraging education in the Southern States. President Cleveland has been invited to take the vacant place.

LAST WEEK a cold wave swept down on St. Paul, Minnesota, from the North-West, and reached as far as Northern Missouri.

DR. J. H. WILSON, of London, Ontario, has in his capacity of Government Inspector, been round the hog cholera infected districts in Western Ontario. It is said that the cholera has spread into Kent and Lambton counties. The doctor reports that the disease is gradually spreading and that he has had to quarantine over one hundred farms. Upwards of 1,500 hogs have died or been shot since the outbreak of the disease, and large numbers are succumbing every day. The first herds which took the contagion are now completely cleaned out, and farmers have no animals left.

LAST SATURDAY while Robt. White, aged 55, an employee of Forepaugh's circus, was in the winter quarters of the menagerie at Philadelphia with some friends, the large elephant Empress struck him a fearful blow with her trunk and threw him against one of the cages with such force as to inflict a terrible wound in his bowels. He died shortly after being admitted to the hospital. The same animal killed a young man a few weeks ago.

THERE is a crematory on Long Island, New York, where \$25 is the charge for burning each body to ashes. At Washington, Pennsylvania, where cremation is also practised, the charge is \$50.

STARVATION is staring many of the Labrador fishermen in the face. The fisheries on the Labrador coast have proved a failure and the cod and mackerel seem to have vanished from the waters. The inhospitable shores of Labrador are rendered simply terrifying when the fisheries—the sole means of support of its inhabitants—fail. This fall articles of food have reached such high prices that they are entirely out of reach of the poor. The flour supply has long since been exhausted and many have died of the scurvy which inevitably appears in such a climate when there is a lack of healthy food. The women and children are the chief sufferers, and the little ones die in their mothers' arms because there is no food to give them. The Government has hurried fuel and provisions to the relief of the sufferers. It is to be lamented that the inhabitants of Labrador are in such an out-of-the-way place that their misfortunes are not known or realized till long after the time when help should be sent them.

SEVERAL COUNTIES in Pennsylvania are experiencing the terrible ravages of diphtheria. The schools have been closed and the churches and Sunday-schools will not be open until danger subsides.

IN PORTLAND, Oregon, the trial of a Chinaman, Mah Yin, for the assassination of See Choy is in progress. The assassin and his victim were high members of the Chinese Masonic Order, and the murder was perpetrated in their Masonic Lodge during its session. Mah Yin's counsel asserts that the defendant is innocent, and that the murder was committed by another prominent Chinese Mason, who was permitted to make his escape, while all the members of the Order are endeavoring to have the innocent man convicted. It was charged that See Choy was murdered for divulging some Masonic secret.

TWO CATTLE DROVERS of Toronto got into a quarrel over Riel and his chances of hanging, and one of them Edward Emmet, struck the other James Coffee, knocking him down. Afterwards he administered several severe kicks about the face and walked away. Coffee went home and became gradually worse, dying on the 8th inst., about three weeks after the quarrel. Emmet was arrested for murder.

VERY SOON after the President took up his residence in the White House, the attendants in the vestibule and in the Secretary's Office began to have trouble with a man who persistently applied for office, and when some of his demands were not complied with he became boisterous and began to talk in a threatening manner about what would happen if Mr. Hendricks should become President. He represented himself as a clerk in the Pension Office, and claimed to be a Democrat, and was entitled to a better position than that he held. He intended to have it or know the reason why. On one or more occasions he was ejected from the White House, and word was sent to the Pension Office that he must be looked after. The same man has now been discharged because of his talking in a similar manner in a horse car. He does not appear to be insane, but his conduct is very strange, and people do not know what to make of it. He certainly seems to be a man that needs watching.

A REPORT from Fitzroy Harbor, which is situated on the Mississippi River, in Ontario, states that about a week ago three men, driving a muffled wagon, dropped a box heavily weighted with stones, over the bridge into the river, which is very deep there. The box is supposed to contain a corpse, and the whole affair was seen at four o'clock in the morning by two young men working in Halfpenny's brick kilns. At daylight, when the bridge was examined, traces of where the rope had been run over could be plainly seen. Grappling irons were then used, while a diving bell was sent for. The story told by the young men was confirmed by the finding of the box. It was too heavy to be lifted by the appliances at hand. The whole neighborhood was enlivened by the various conjectures concerning the mysterious box.

THE OLD LADY of Syracuse, New York who has been fasting since August 10th, died on the 8th inst., having fasted nearly two months. Mrs. V. Bulla, that is the name of the person, was taken ill two months ago, and was unable to retain food. For nearly ten years she has been afflicted with insanity of a harmless character. After several vain attempts to eat she refused, with the obstinacy of an insane person, to make further trials of nourishing food and accepted nothing but water and medicine furnished by her physician. The case was very peculiar in many respects. She suffered much pain until the night of her death when the end came peacefully.

IN THE CONNECTICUT ELECTIONS only 80 towns voted on the question of selling liquor within their own limits, and of these 51 voted in favor of granting licenses, and 29 against it. The other 85 towns did not vote on the question, and, under the law, the last vote taken in any previous year governs the town. In nearly every case this was a prohibition vote, and a close estimate shows nearly 100 of the 167 towns in the State prohibiting liquor selling within their border.

ELEVEN YEARS AGO a farmer of Iowa had four of his calves stolen; and the Jones County Anti-Horse-Thief Association prosecuted a neighbor for the offence. The defendant, whose name is Johnson, was tried twice and acquitted, and has five times sued members of the Association for malicious prosecution. Each time he got a verdict, but each verdict was afterwards set aside. He has just been awarded \$7,000 damages. The costs, to all concerned, amounts to at least \$20,000; the calves were worth about \$50.