

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

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WHITE SLAVERY.

A Draper in England has just been fined fifteen dollars for overworking his employees. He had kept seven dressmakers, women, at work all night after a whole day's work, and all the following day as well. The magistrates very rightly called this a case of "white slavery."

This is a rather extreme specimen of a state of things which has caused great indignation now that people are awake to its existence. As long ago as 1842, the British Parliament prohibited women and children from working underground. But the shop-girls who serve behind counters from early morning till late at night have as yet no legal protection. To pass their waking hours in bad air, on their feet the whole time, is unhealthy enough for men. But for girls it is ruinous, and no thinking person can be surprised at the ravages of disease among them; at the destruction caused not only by sheer overwork but by the secret drinking to which overwork drives its victims.

There was a time when any proposal to place laws between the employer and his employees was denounced as "an infringement of the liberty of the subject." But the world has grown wiser as it has grown older, and most people can see that what is liberty in theory may quite possibly be slavery in practice. When one man makes a bargain with another to work for him, it may happen that the one wants work just as much as the other wants a worker,—no more and no less. But it very often happens that the two are not at all on equal terms. The workingman, or the working-woman, has no capital, but depends on daily or weekly wages for a living, and is thus at the employer's mercy, obliged to give whatever amount of labor he demands, and to take whatever pay he likes to give. It is right, then, that the lawmakers, being simply a committee of action, put where they are by all classes to protect all interests, should see that any advantage possessed by one class over another is set off by laws preventing the strong from using that advantage to injure the weak.

And here is another point to be remembered. If it were possible to put a man by himself, on some far-away island where he could be neither seen nor heard of by anyone else in the world, perhaps he might be allowed to do exactly as he pleased. But as it is, we live in the form of a society; and what one does, cannot help affecting the rest. Governments have admitted this and acted upon it. When one man wants to buy laudanum, or other poison, and another man is willing to sell it, the law does not say "it is a question between you two; do what you like." The buyer may possibly commit suicide, and so disarrange society, by removing one of the taxpayers, money-earners, bread-winners, of whom it is made up. Governments have seen the terrible results of alcohol, and have made countless laws to regulate its sale, and even to prohibit its

sale at certain times; and it is plain to all who will see, that even these half-way laws do not prevent the evil, and that alcohol must be placed on the same shelf as laudanum, strychnine, prussic acid and arsenic, in the chemist's store.

This question of women's work is of the greatest importance to the whole of society. If thousands of girls are allowed, as at present, to sacrifice their health in the bonds of "white slavery," the results will certainly be seen in the weakened bodies and minds of coming generations. And neither the individual nor the representative government should neglect to provide for the nation's future.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Fitz John Porter, who was dismissed from his position in the Army for disobedience to orders during a battle, and whose friends have so often tried to get his position and forfeited pay returned to him, has at last been successful, in the House of Representatives. The bill in his favor was passed by the House, the Democrats now having a majority. President Arthur put his veto on the bill; but the House passed it again by a vote of 168 to 78. But the bill failed in the Senate, 27 voting for it and 27 against. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House has almost unanimously agreed to a resolution in favor of bringing the United States into closer commercial relations with all countries of North and South America. The Senate has passed the bill against Chinese immigration. Congress adjourned on Monday, having sat till after midnight in order to get through with the work. Some legal authorities are of opinion that, by the constitution, all business done after midnight is null and void.

FARMERS' REVIEW.

The weather has been showery nearly all over the continent lately, with rather heavy rains in some quarters. In some cases cyclones have done more or less damage to growing crops and to the farmers' buildings and fences, but the damage from this cause is not nearly so extensive as was the case twelve months ago. Haying operations are pretty well advanced in all but the more northern sections, and more than an average crop has been gathered, but a considerable portion of it has been more or less discolored while being saved. The fall wheat is turning out much better than was generally expected some time ago, and the spring wheat, especially in the north-west, gives promise of an extraordinary yield. Corn was got into the ground under favorable circumstances, and, though the growth was slow for some time, the land was kept free of weeds and the recent hot weather has given the corn a start to grow: there is promise of more than an average yield. All kinds of fruits, with the exception of plums and peaches, are turning out more than an average, both in quantity and quality. Raspberries are especially very fine. From present appearances it is probable that at least one third more apples will be produced in the United States and Canada the present season, than were produced in 1883.

THE UPRISING IN EGYPT.

This has been an exciting week for all who are interested in Egyptian affairs; and everyone is interested in Egypt so long as "Chinese Gordon," the most extraordinary hero of the nineteenth century, is there. At the end of last week letters were received in Cairo stating that Khartoum had been captured in May without difficulty, and that the Europeans were well treated; General Gordon being given the liberty of the Mahdi's camp. This report was confirmed by advices from Catholic missionaries. On Monday, a report was received at Suakim, on the Red Sea coast, that Gordon had been murdered by his own soldiers, the Egyptians, and that the Mahdi and his rebels had occupied the city. There has not been any confirmation of this report, and all hope that it may prove false. Many think, however, that it is more likely than the first report, that Khartoum had been captured by fighting. The last news from General Gordon stated that Khartoum was safe, and could be well defended. As he was only in the Soudan with the object of bringing the Egyptian garrisons out of it, and as he was distinctly instructed to leave Khartoum as soon as he could provide for the safety of the faithful garrison,—if his soldiers were no longer faithful to him it is difficult to imagine why he should have remained there himself. He had gunboats with him, and could have escaped by way of the Nile. Definite news is anxiously looked for.

It is stated that Debbeh has been taken by the rebels and the garrison massacred, but the British Government has not received any confirmation of this, or even of the fall of Berber. As to Dongola, one report says that the Governor has treacherously given it up to the Mahdi; another, that he has defeated the Mahdi and killed two thousand of the rebels; and a third report is that all the troops and population are leaving the town.

According to the latest telegrams from Cairo, it is said that the Mahdi has offered to make Gordon himself the ruler of Khartoum, otherwise, that the city will be assaulted.

THE PLAGUE OF CHOLERA.

The news from the cholera-stricken district in the South of France is decidedly bad. Up till Tuesday, there had been 154 deaths at Toulon alone. Business is almost entirely stopped there, and people are leaving the infected towns by thousands. Washerwomen refuse to wash the linen of cholera patients, and the work is done by prisoners, with the promise of a free pardon as their reward. The Government will propose a grant of \$60,000 for the relief of cholera sufferers.

The French government sent to Germany for Dr. Koch, one great authority on such matters, and everyone in the civilized world waited impatiently to hear his opinion. After arriving at Toulon and investigating the matter thoroughly, he declares that the disease is the same Asiatic Cholera that has existed in Egypt and the far East. Moreover, he says there is no hope of keeping

the disease within the district now infected. The fumigation of passengers and their baggage, and other ordinary precautions now being taken with people who arrive in Paris and elsewhere from the infected places, will not prevent the cholera from spreading over Europe, and perhaps at last reaching America; for the germ of the disease is carried in the intestines, and may remain quietly there for some time before it develops enough to prostrate the person carrying it. He does not think the disease is taken in with the breath, but in water and fruits and vegetables. The germs of the disease may be destroyed by boiling water before drinking, and by thoroughly cooking the food.

The prophecy of Dr. Koch, that the cholera will spread, is already being fulfilled. A number of cases are reported from Valencia and Barcelona, in Spain, and Leghorn, in Italy. It is also announced that one death has taken place at Constance, in Baden, and great alarm is felt all over Germany.

It is now proved that the ship "Sarthé" brought the cholera into France from China; she had ten cases on board when in the Red Sea. Placards have been posted up in the streets of Marseilles calling on the people to hang Prime Minister Ferry, because it was owing to his sending troops into Tonquin that the cholera found its way to France.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

Mr. J. G. Blaine still waits anxiously to know who is to be his opponent. The Democratic National Convention met at Chicago on Monday, but as we write, on Wednesday afternoon, no decision has been reached. The present prospect is that Governor Cleveland will be nominated, and Mr. McDonald is mentioned as a likely candidate for Vice President. One sign of this was seen on Monday. The State Convention of New York had decided the votes of the whole delegation must be given, in the National Convention, for the favorite of the majority: New York's majority being for Cleveland. Mr. Kelly (Boss Kelly of Tammany Hall) proposed to overrule this order, so that each delegate could vote as he liked. This was meant to strike at Cleveland, and it was defeated, the National Convention voting Kelly down by 463 to 332.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, according to one of its prominent officials, will be completed eastward to Montreal by next summer. The company, he said, offered every inducement for the building of good elevators, if they were of not less than 10,000 bushels capacity, with steam appliances for thorough cleaning. Referring to the demands of Manitoba for branch railways, he said that the President had tried to raise money to build the Canada and South Western, but failed.

THE BRITISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL says that lawyers from the colonies have the same right to practise in the English Courts as English lawyers themselves have.