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The Weekly Messenger

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Sir Leonard Tilley, in the Finance Minister's annual statement, announces a surplus of \$150,000. Without the \$500,000 obtained by sales of land in the North-West, and which should not be reckoned as ordinary revenue, there is a deficit of \$350,000. No important changes are to be made in the tariff this year. Canadian millers had been expecting an increase of the duty on flour from 50 cents to 75 cents a barrel. The customs and excise duties on tobacco and cigars have been doubled—and the tobacco men are very angry.

The municipalities of Ontario which gave bonuses to railway lines, since taken over by the government or the C. P. R., are petitioning to have the money returned. Sir John, however, is scarcely expected to comply with this request.

In answer to a question by Mr. Blake, Sir John Macdonald says that the Canadian Pacific has not made application to be relieved from embarrassments.

Sir Richard Cartwright made a severe attack on the government for making those celebrated advances of \$300,000 to the Exchange Bank, at a time when that institution was known to be in a rather shaky condition. The most that could be said in defence was that Sir Richard Cartwright had once done much the same thing himself, though the banks helped by him were of greater importance.

Sir Alex. Campbell, Minister of Justice, has introduced a bill providing imprisonment for life as the punishment for anyone causing an explosion endangering life or property, and seven years for any one planning to do such a thing.

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS.

The Sudan, serious as the position of affairs is there, is just now of small importance beside Afghanistan. It is a plain and awful fact that Europe is on the brink of a tremendous war between Britain and Russia, and that a little indiscretion on either side will be enough to set flame to the powder. The British Government has shown that it will stand no trifling, and it only remains for Russia to choose between withdrawing her troops from Afghan territory and fighting the whole British Empire. It is feared that the Czar's advisers belong to the warlike party, and that the troops will not be withdrawn. British and Russian troops are both being sent forward. There is now little doubt that the offers of the colonies to furnish troops will be accepted. The Turkish government, which has for the last few years been protesting and even using threats against Britain, is now believed to be anxious to conclude an alliance, so that the Turks may once more fight against their mortal foes the Russians.

A dispute between Prince Bismarck and Lord Granville was getting unpleasantly warm, but it is hoped and expected that Count Herbert Bismarck, who recently

vent to London, has succeeded in once more bringing the two Governments into harmonious relations. And the German Emperor is likely to enforce on Russia the necessity of keeping peace with Britain. At the same time, the British and Germans in various parts of the world are doing their best to cause a quarrel. Germans have pulled down the British flag at a mission village in the Cameroons country of West Africa, and explanations are now being waited for.

THERE is a deficit of about \$50,000,000 in the British exchequer this year. An increase in the income and succession taxes is expected.

A NEW "AGE OF MIRACLES."

The power of the mind over the body is well-known to be very great. Some persons, imagining themselves to be afflicted with a certain disease, will really suffer all the pain that the real disease would have caused. And it is probably also true that some having great faith in the system of healing which they employ, really enjoy all the benefits of being healed—though the same system would not have the least effect on other people. Visitors to the shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, near Quebec, notice the crutches left there as evidence that the owners have been cured by the miracle-working saint. Most of the cases in which such cures are stated to have been wrought are cases of disordered nerves, which are particularly subject to the mind's influence. There is little doubt that many sick people have been "healed by faith." They themselves might attach a different and stronger meaning to the words; but we shall not enter into such a deep and mysterious question as that of how far the believing mind is itself the cause of the body's recovery. We shall only chronicle reported facts; and we give to-day the following very interesting account from the London, (England) Times:

The Press Association states that some faith-healing miracles in connection with the Salvation Army are reported from Hanley. Major Pearson, who professes a power of restoring the blind, the deaf, and the lame, held services on Sunday in the Tontine-street Circus, Hanley. Many thousands of persons attended, including over 100 invalids of all ages, some of whom were brought to the circus in Bath chairs, being unable to use their lower limbs. After the ordinary service the faith-healing ceremonial commenced. The major and his subalterns threw off their outer garments and descended into the arena. A lad who had been a cripple from an early age was first operated upon, and while the major vigorously rubbed the disabled limb his followers and the congregation, at the request of the major, engaged in prayer. They prayed earnestly and long, and finally the lad was induced to rise and walk about a little. The major, amid the greatest excitement, proclaimed that the Almighty had answered their prayers.

Before this result was brought about the major's followers had dispersed themselves

over the hall, the detachments surrounding one of the many who had come to be healed. They prayed vigorously, and the scene, which lasted until midnight, was of a most exciting character. An old woman, who represented that she had been deaf for 40 years, stated that she had regained her hearing, and a young woman who went to the building stone deaf testified to her cure. Another young woman, a confirmed invalid who was taken to the circus in a Bath chair, was prayed for and finally staggered to her feet and walked a yard or two, and a few minutes afterwards another woman walked feebly across the building, her Bath chair being hoisted over the heads of the people, the throng shouting "The Lord be praised," and making use of the ejaculations expressive of their astonishment. Several persons ascended the platform and publicly testified to their cure, and the congregation joined in thanksgiving for these miraculous recoveries.

A FEMALE MISER.

If Vanderbilt is the richest man in America, Mrs. E. H. Green is the richest woman. All her securities were in the hands of Cisco & Son when they failed, and when she heard the rumors affecting the credit of the firm, she wrote to have her account closed and her balance of \$450,000 transferred to other banks. The firm asked her to leave her deposit as cover for \$800,000 due from her husband, which she declined, as she keeps all her financial affairs separate from his. At that time Mrs. Green had in a box in their charge \$26,000,000 in stocks and government and railway bonds locked up as a special trust. Mrs. Green was the daughter of a New Bedford whaler, who left her \$5,000,000 and being a "keen blade" she has multiplied her heritage on the Stock Exchange. She is even said more than once to have had a "corner" in Reading railway stocks, and her interest in Louisville and Nashville is immense. She does business regardless of sentiment and relationship, is close fist, never indulging in luxuries. She has walked to a social reception in a heavy snow-storm rather than pay for a coach. Once she got out of a Broadway stage in front of the Cisco banking office in Wall street with a bulky parcel under her arm. Mr. Cisco was looking out of his office window at the time, and a few minutes later when he found that the bulky parcel contained over \$200,000 in negotiable securities, which Mrs. Green had brought down to place in the vault, he said: "Don't you think it was rather risky for you to have brought these bonds down town in a public stage? You should have taken a carriage." "A carriage, indeed!" said she—"Perhaps you can afford to ride in a carriage. I cannot."—Anglo-American Times.

THE THIRD OF MARCH was kept as a public holiday in Sydney, New South Wales, and immense crowds assembled and cheered the Australian volunteers who were leaving for the Sudan.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN republics of Guatemala and Nicaragua are at war, for some reason or another.

HOW A SOLDIER DIES.

Mr. Burleigh, the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, who was wounded at the battle of Abu Klea, has written a vivid description of the fight. After relating how the ferocious Arabs charged, spears flashing and teeth glistening, down upon the little British square, the correspondent tells how the dauntless Colonel Burnaby rode out to defend a skirmisher who, in trying to get back to the ranks, was hotly pressed by an Arab Sheik on horseback:

"Ere the Arab closed with him a bullet from some one in our ranks brought the sheik headlong to the ground. The enemy's spearmen were close behind, and one of them suddenly dashed at Col. Burnaby, pointing the long blade of his spear at his throat. Checking his horse and pulling it backward, Col. Burnaby leapt forward in his saddle and parried the Moslem's rapid and ferocious thrust. But the length of the man's weapon—eight feet—put it out of his power to return with interest the Arab's murderous intent. Once or twice Col. Burnaby just touched his man, only to make him more wary and eager. The affray was the work of seconds only, for the savage horde of swarthy negroes from Kordofan and straight-haired tawny complexioned Arabs of the Bayuda steppe were fast closing in upon our square.

"Colonel Burnaby fenced the swarthy Arab as if he were playing in an assault at arms, and there was a smile on his features as he drove off the man's awkward points. The scene was taken in at a glance. With that lightning instinct which I have seen desert warriors before now display in battle while coming to one another's aid, an Arab, who was pursuing a soldier and had passed five paces to Burnaby's right and rear, turned with a sudden spring, and this second Arab ran his spear point into the Colonel's right shoulder. It was but a slight wound. Enough, though, to cause Burnaby to twist around in his saddle and defend himself from this unexpected attack.

"Before the savage could repeat this unlooked for blow, so near the ranks of the square was the scene now being enacted, a soldier ran out and drove his sword bayonet through the second assailant. Brief as was Burnaby's glance backward at this fatal episode it was long enough to enable the first Arab to deliver his spear point full in the brave officer's throat. The blow drove Burnaby out of his saddle, but it required a second one before he let go his grip of the reins and tumbled upon the ground.

"Half a dozen Arabs were now about him. With blood gushing in streams from his gashed throat, the dauntless Guardsman leapt to his feet, sword in hand, and slashed at the ferocious group. They were the wild strokes of a proud, brave man dying hard, and he was quickly overborne and left helpless and dying."

THE FARMERS' UNION of Manitoba has held a meeting at which great dissatisfaction was expressed at the treatment of the Province by the Dominion government; some members even advocated secession from the confederation.