

The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6.

A PARENT OF VICE.

Many very wise maxims have been riveted upon the minds of young people through the medium of head lines in their copy books at school. But though these bits of boiled-down wisdom, often concentrating the result of ages of observation and experience, are written scores of times in the laborious effort to acquire skill with the pen, it is to be feared that not until the pupil grows up does he take the lesson well to heart, and then too often when it is forced upon him by his own sad experience or by painful observation of the careers of the companions of his school-days. This is not due to perversity in youth, but rather to the fact that the function of the young mind is chiefly to acquire knowledge from observation instead of reflection. To teach a child moral principles by rote as a parrot makes small impression upon its mind, and the instruction must be made practical to it by the recitation of examples known and supposed, as well as by patient and regular explanation of whatever useful maxims or information may be incidentally conveyed in the ordinary lessons. One of the truest and, if its warning be heeded, most useful maxims ever uttered is the familiar copy-book head-line, "Idleness is the parent of many vices." The lives of multitudes who have failed of their early promise together with the records of crime furnish perpetual and lamentable proof of the terse old saying. How seldom is to be seen a steady, industrious workman, who has been used to toil from his youth, looking forth from a criminal dock or the gloomy recesses of a prison cell. Then, even when you do find a person who has generally been busy fallen into evil courses, there seems always to be more hope of his reformation than that of a lazy and useless member of society. It even seems to be the fact that the worker does not so readily succumb to the effects of dissipation and irregular habits of his leisure as the idler. Certainly the former makes a greater effort to maintain self-respect and to resist progress downward than the latter. Young people allowed to run wild and freed entirely from all obligations to make a useful disposition of their time are simply being let go to ruin by the quickest means and the shortest way, more particularly when they have any money to spend. These things have been strongly forced upon our attention within the past few days, as we listened to a father bewailing the fate of his boy, shut up in goal to await trial for a serious act of robbery, his guilt being undoubted. In lamenting the evil propensities of the lad, his father said he had always been treated with indulgence and given a liberal allowance of spending money. That was just it; he was allowed to spend money freely before he had learned to prize it through the necessity of earning it, and as a matter of course he acquired expensive tastes and habits of idleness that brought him to the commission of crime. Not that growing children should be subjected to severe toil, but they can be trained from a very early age to industrious habits. Innocent play is not idleness, but on the contrary the best play is apt to make the best worker with either hand or head. It is not amusements that demand activity and cleverness and afford healthful exercise to the juvenile frame which children should be debarred from, but rather habits

of lounging and prowling, which lead to every vice and prepare for an idle and dissolute and altogether worse than useless life. Still, the discipline of real work—whether in the office, store, shop or farm—must divide the time with mere amusement in the child's early years to make it grow up in usefulness to the best advantage. European royal families show wisdom in this respect that it would be well if American people would as readily learn as they take after royalty in matters of fashion. Most princes, and princesses too, are brought up in strict discipline and useful occupation of their time, and made to acquire some useful profession or business, as well as subjected to severe training in the ornamental arts. Every male member of the Imperial family of Germany has to learn a useful trade, and just look at that noble group of the Emperor and three heirs to his throne in lineal descent—four generations living at once! What a contrast does it present to the very common spectacle in the New World of a rich sire leaving his name and wealth to sons bred in idleness and luxury only to have the one dishonored and the other squandered.

AN UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR.

France seems to have fallen into the fatuity of getting into hot water with the whole world, one day through the foolish ambition of her rulers and the next by the mad freaks of a portion of her people. Her latest misfortune in this respect has arisen out of gross insults given by a Paris mob to King Alfonso of Spain. The king had been on a brief tour through the continent, and he was so well liked by the Emperor of Germany as to have conferred upon him by that monarch the honorary distinction of a colonelcy of the Uhlan regiment at the close of the German military manoeuvres. When King Alfonso arrived in Paris on September 29th the President and Cabinet were at the station to receive him. There was also a mob on hand, which hooted and hissed the king on his appearance, and cried, "Down with the Uhlan King!" The disturbance continued through all the streets leading to the Spanish Embassy, where the king alighted. President Grevy afterward apologized for the action of the mob, but notwithstanding this the king absented himself from the dinner prepared in his honor and cut his stay in Paris short. Great indignation exists in Spain over the insults to her king, and even those who a few years ago connived at giving him similar treatment at home have taken the foreign affront deeply to heart. It is expected that the Government will demand of France a public, official apology, and ask for diplomatic remonstrances against the indignities from the German Embassy in Paris. Dissensions are reported between the President and the Cabinet of France, and also among the Ministers, over the affair. M. Wilson, a son-in-law of President Grevy and who lives with him, is charged with having been one of the instigators of the disturbance, his motive being spite at the Cabinet. Memoranda had, it is said, been presented to the President by Ministers, accusing Wilson of conduct unbecoming his position, and also of having furnished official news to his own paper before the matter appeared in the *Official Journal*. King Alfonso personally has profited by the affair, for his popularity has been much increased by it. From the border line to the capital his progress was a continuous ovation, the peasantry thronging every station and making enthusiastic demonstrations of welcome. On his arrival

in Madrid the whole city turned out to welcome and honor him, and a reception he gave in the evening—to which he desired none should be refused admission—was attended so largely by all classes as to crowd all the saloons of the palace. Respectable French papers are strong in denunciation of the action of the mob, and among the excuses offered are that leading Frenchmen have been similarly insulted by the same class, and that in this case the demonstration was intended as an expression of disapproval of the Cabinet rather than of ill-feeling against their royal guest.

IT IS USUAL to elect the senior alderman of the city of London to the position of Lord Mayor. As he is expected to extend hospitalities to distinguished visitors to the city, preside over the important assemblies of citizens, and give a banquet during his term to the Cabinet, his position is one of great importance socially and demands a man of means as well as of cultivation and character to fill it. This year Alderman Hadley's turn came, but his appointment, which was announced a few days ago as having been made, met with much opposition. It was said against him that he was a bachelor and therefore the Mansion House would be without a lady to grace its hospitalities, and that having engaged lately in doubtful speculations he was not in financial standing becoming the position. The result of the opposition was that Alderman Fowler was elected the other day in the place of Alderman Hadley, the proceedings in connection with the act being very stormy. In addition to the above faults charged to Alderman Hadley, the other aldermen say that he neglected his aldermanic duties.

MRS. ANANDIBAI JOSHEE, of Serampore, Hindostan, a Hindu lady of the highest caste, is in Philadelphia to enter the Woman's Medical College as a student. She says she is the first Brahmin lady who has ever left India and that her departure created a commotion. Her action will not, however, she thinks, cause her any caste humiliation when she returns. The principal Brahmins will meet and absolve her of the transgression involved. It is her intention to take the full course of four years and then return to Serampore to practise. She thinks a few other Brahmin ladies may follow her example, but hopes that before many years they shall have colleges at home to obviate the necessity of women going abroad to acquire a medical education. Her cousin has gone to London for a similar purpose to hers. Mrs. Joshee's husband is postmaster at Serampore, a town of fifteen thousand inhabitants on the Hooghly River, in the Presidency of Bengal.

THREE THOUSAND ORANGEMEN paraded in Omagh, Ireland, on Saturday, and passed resolutions denouncing the Irish National League as a body of treasonable conspirators, condemning the Government for inaction and expressing their own determination to oppose the designs of the Irish agitators, whom they charged with trying to excite discontent and outrage for selfish purposes.

A PANIC was started in the Academy of Music, Fall River, Massachusetts, Saturday night, from the bursting of a calcium light. Only the coolness and efforts of actors and employees prevented a mad rush of the two thousand people present for the doors.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, shows an increase in taxable property, this year over last, of over three and a half million dollars, the assessed valuation of the city being something less than sixty-six million dollars.

THE WEEK.

FORTUNE-TELLING has become so rife in Ottawa as to be accounted a nuisance, and the police have undertaken its suppression.

INFECTIOUS JAUNDICE of a typhoid character is an epidemic that the doctors of Naples, Italy, have had to take vigorous measures to stamp out.

THE RECEIPTS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA for the year ending June 30th last exceeded the expenditure by seven million dollars, which represents the amount the people are taxed beyond the country's requirements.

A LEGAL DECISION just delivered places the Western Union Telegraph Company in the position of a debtor to New York State in the sum of six hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars for taxes.

IN ROUND NUMBERS the imports of Canada for August were worth ten and a half million dollars, and duties collected amounted to two millions. The exports were not much short of ten millions in value, of which over eight millions represented home productions.

THE TROUBLE BETWEEN FRANCE AND CHINA still hangs fire, owing, it is believed, to the French Cabinet trying to postpone decision until it has an opportunity of consulting the Legislature.

AN EXPLOSION in the rocket factory of the British Arsenal at Woolwich, on September 24th, caused widespread consternation and scattered missiles far and wide, but only two lives were lost. About ten thousand dollars' damage was caused. The rapid explosion of thousands of rockets on the ground and in the air reminded veterans of hot besieging operations.

A SUIT FOR THE BALANCE ON A NOTE given the Star Kidney Pad Company in payment of its goods was lately lost in Toronto, the jury giving as the grounds of its verdict that the sale was made under false representations and that the pads were worthless.

MISS LULU GREEN, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, educated in a St. Louis convent, having become a nun, her mother is angry, claiming the girl was enticed away, and threatens to give public lectures upon the subject.

CASSAMICCOLA, so recently ruined by earthquakes, had a subsequent quaking a few days ago, in which no lives were lost. The official report of the great earthquakes referred to, for the whole Island of Ischia, shows that 1,990—ten less than two thousand—were killed and 374 injured.

FIVE TOWNSHIPS in Tipperary county, Ireland, have been proclaimed under the Crimes Act on account of the prevalence of outrages therein.

WAGES OF LUMBERMEN in the Ottawa district for the ensuing season will be very much lowered, as operations are to be greatly reduced. \$30 a month and board have induced many lumbermen to go to the Michigan woods.

THE DEATH is announced of the Rev. E. F. Hartfield, late moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS in New York and other great cities are lowering their selling price.

UNITED STATES EXHIBITORS received 27 of 5,223 awards at the Colonial Exhibition at the Hague, capital of the Netherlands.