

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Weekly Messenger

### MONTREAL'S WINTER CARNIVAL.

On Monday next, January 26th, the grand winter carnival begins at Montreal and lasts throughout an entire week. Judging by present progress, the magnificent Ice Castle, the beautiful Condora, and the mammoth Ice Lion will be completed in time, provided only that the weather—which is now all that could be desired—continues propitious. To read the official programme containing a *resumé* of the various sports and pastimes arranged for those six days almost take away one's breath. Tobogganing, skating, curling, snowshoeing and other carnivals follow in rapid succession, together with driving, torchlight processions, fireworks displays, bombarding the ice castle and other fun *ad libitum*. A very large influx of visitors is expected, and one of the most successful week's amusement ever inaugurated in Canada is confidently expected.

### THE FRANCO-CHINESE WAR.

From Peking it is learned that China is divided in opinion on the Franco-Chinese embroglio. The masses of the people are said to favor war; but the wealthy members of the community desire peace. Then there are vast hordes of officials greatly interested in maintaining the present condition of things. The amount of speculation is said to be something astounding. It is also claimed that had the Chinese but twenty efficient men and trained officers aboard each of their men-of-war their fleet could sink Admiral Corbett's fleet with ease. The Empress is said to favor war. M. Ferry in the Paris Chamber of Deputies recently made an official declaration of the intention of the Government respecting Tonquin. General Camponen contended that the invasion was unprofitable and unworthy of the Republic, in view of the situation in Europe and the necessity of mobilizing the French army. M. Ferry said that the Government intended to immediately increase its energies in Tonquin nor would it stop until the whole country was occupied up to the frontier of the Chinese empire. The declaration produced a sensation, and was received with cheers and groans. M. Ferry also declared that the operations necessary to the proposed conquest of Tonquin need in no way compromise the military strength of France at home. The Republic had three millions of men, the best soldiers in the world, ready at a moment's notice to march in the cause of France. The army in Tonquin must be occupied, the time had passed for it to remain idle. The order was adopted by a vote of 294 to 234. The speech of the Premier made a profound sensation in Paris, the general impression being bad. Admiral Peyron has chartered six more steamers as transports, and General Lewal has been told to do as he pleases without being hampered by instructions and interference from the Council of Ministers.

Many retired German army officers have gone to China to instruct the Chinese army. The German Government cannot prevent this, but it prohibits officers actually in the army or in the army reserve from going.

### THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM.

From Egypt it is learned that the difficulties of the desert march are immense. Small parties wearing the Mahdi's uniform are met roaming in the desert. The heat is very trying and what water there is in the condition of pea soup, and the soldiers freely offer a dollar for a tumblerful. The force of General Stewart reached the well at Howeyait on the tenth, and resumed their march at once. A fort and hospital has been erected there and a detachment left in charge. The natives in the vicinity are said to be friendly. General Wood is to remain at Korti in command of operations whilst Lord Wolseley passes to the front. The Egyptian soldiers whilst on the march to Gakdul behaved infamously. They drank the water belonging to others and refused to obey the Colonel when ordered to advance. The march was in fact, a terrible ordeal to the British. Thirty camels died, most of the water was lost. Provisions ran short owing to the want of animals to transport them. The soldiers suffered so from thirst that their tongues became too swollen to eat food, and for lack of water it was impossible to make soup. The glare of the sun has brought on bowel complaint, but the brave fellows bear their trials bravely and are anxious to meet the foe. General Lord Wolseley telegraphs on January 12th from Korti, that a large convoy has returned from Gakdul. They report the whole route quiet. The natives think the English soldiers Turks and are afraid to approach them, fearing ill-treatment. The Mahdi has written to the Bayuda Sheikhs saying that they are assisting the English and warning them that apostates, if caught, will be stoned, and if they escape, their relations and friends will suffer. The letter ends by saying: "Better slaughter your camels and throw them into the Nile than gain infidel money." General Gordon is reported to have had a brush with the rebels, whilst he was proceeding along the river with some armed steamers. One of his steamers was sunk, and the others dispersed the enemy. The Sultan is said to have sent 6,000 men to occupy Suakin on the east coast of Egypt, to chastise Osman Digna. The services of the five hundred Canadian voyageurs, who enlisted for six months to aid Lord Wolseley in getting up the Nile are now no more needed, and they are to be mustered out of service and will embark for home on February the 4th.

In Europe, M. Ferry proposes, in response to Lord Granville's note concerning Egypt, to extend taxation to European residents and traders in Egypt. He reserves for mutual discussion Lord Granville's proposals to deduct ten percent each from the Alexandria indemnity, the expenses of administration and the allowance of the army of occupation. Germany is said to have rejected the proposals regarding Egyptian finances recently submitted to the Powers by Eng-

land, and accepted the proposals of France. The English proposals ask for an indemnity of £4,500,000 for the occupation of Alexandria to be paid in five percent preference bonds. France stipulates that England cover the expenditure herself and guarantee an Egyptian loan. The Powers also ask England to convene a European Conference as soon as possible for the friendly discussion of the measures proposed to insure freedom on the Suez Canal, during peace or war, for European nations.

A Council of War was held at London on Sunday last, and the report quickly spread that England had decided to resist any attempt on the part of Turkey to land troops in Egypt. Orders for stores and ammunition were at once sent to all the arsenals and dockyards, and another battalion was ordered to embark for Malta for Egypt. The ministry is determined not to allow Turkey to interfere in Egyptian affairs.

### THE CONGO.

Negotiations between the government of France and the African International Association are described as progressing favorably. The Association are to retain Stanley pool. The minor question of frontier remains undecided. The announcement in England that the British representative at the conference had been instructed to accept the French proposal for freedom of trade in the Congo country has caused considerable excitement especially in mercantile circles. It is said to be a trap to hand the country over to the African Association as soon as trade has been developed. An the withdrawal of agitation in favor of England's consent is in progress in several of the large cities. A large number of memorials on the subject are continually being received at the Foreign Office in London from all parts of the United Kingdom. From Berlin it is announced that a squadron of one ironclad and four gunboats will be sent out by Germany to reinforce the fleet on the west coast of Africa. The proposed railway to the interior is again receiving consideration, since the opinion has gained ground that unless a means of transportation to the interior is provided, the work of the Conference will be but limited in its practical results. Stanley has proved that the railway is needed, not only to ensure commercial advantages, but as a means of ensuring the safe arrival of colonists in the interior. As it is now half of the persons going into the central part of the country become invalids during the journey thither. Three reasons have been given by the American delegates for the participation of the United States in the Conference. Firstly, because America first officially recognized the African International Association; secondly, because the population of America comprises six million negroes, whose parent country is Africa, and thirdly, because Americans hitherto have been the main explorers of the country.

THE GERMAN Budget Committee has voted in favor of a credit of 150,000 marks for the explorations in Central Africa.

### A SWORD DUEL NEAR VIENNA.

A sword duel between Austrian and Russian naval officers, in which both were seriously wounded, has just taken place in the neighborhood of Vienna under the following circumstances: An Austrian officer had been present, incognito, at the recent manoeuvres of the Russian navy at Cronstadt. On his return he published in the *Army and Navy Gazette*, a severe criticism of what he had seen, passing an unfavorable judgment on both men and material of the manoeuvring squadron. This article was discussed the other day in a company of officers where a Russian belonging to the imperial navy happened to be present. He took offence at something that was said by an Austrian comrade and sent him his second the next day, the result being as already stated.—*Vienna Dispatch to the London Daily Telegraph*.

AN INTERESTING little book, containing a large collection of anecdotes relating to Mr. Gladstone, has just been published by Mr. J. Rees, of Mold. The following is a characteristic specimen:—About forty years ago several haulers were employed in carrying pig iron from Brynabo to Queensferry. Among the number was one William Griffiths, who is still alive. This man, when going down to Tinkersdale one day, with his load of iron, was accosted by a stranger who chatted very freely with him. Among other questions, the stranger asked how much he got per ton for carrying the iron. "Six and sixpence," said the carter. "What weight have you on the cart?" "About a ton and a half." "And what do you pay for gates?" "Eighteen pence." "How much does it cost to keep the mare?" "Thirteen shillings a week." Presently they reached the foot of the Mill Hill. "How are you going to get up this hill?" asked the stranger. "Oh, I can get me shuder, and push up here." "I'll help you a bit," said he, and at once put his shoulder to the cart, and pushed up the hill well. When they reached the top the hauler said, "You an' Mr. Gladstone, was good as a chain horse." "Well, well," said the stranger, "I don't know how the horse's legs are, but mine ache very much indeed. I suppose you can manage now?" "Yes thank you," said the hauler, and, wishing him good-day, they separated. As soon as the stranger was gone, a tradesman asked Griffiths if he knew who had been helping him. "No," said he, "he's a perfect stranger to me." "That was Mr. Gladstone," said the tradesman. Mr. Gladstone," responded the hauler, "I dun know what he'll think o' me then, for I never sir'd him nor nothin'. I thought he was some farmer."

A REVOLUTION is progressing in five States of Columbia. Barranquilla has been captured and is held by the rebels. Cartagena was captured on the 13th and retaken by the National forces on Thursday. Troops have been sent from Panama to assist in the attack on Barranquilla. Another detachment has been sent to Buenaventura to assist in the restoration of order there.