

# Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. IV. No. 51.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING, DECEMBER 19, 1885

FIFTY CENTS A YEAR  
25 Cents extra when delivered in Montreal.

## The Weekly Messenger.

### A RICH FAMILY.

Mr. Vanderbilt, whose picture we gave last week, has made his will. In it he bequeaths ten millions of dollars to each of his eight children, leaving his palace and the adjoining stables to his widow who is also to receive an annuity of \$200,000. The rest of his fortune—he could not specify the amount—he left to be equally divided between two of his sons War. K and Cornelius. "The rest" is probably the largest amount of the fortune as the whole amounts to about \$200,000,000. With an estate so vast as that which Mr. Vanderbilt leaves it is impossible to say exactly how all the money is invested. He himself could not tell without careful calculation how rich he was. His wealth varied day by day with the variation of stock. On Monday morning, say, he would be a million richer than on Tuesday, through the mere oscillation of stock values. Even Mr. Depew, his most intimate friend, could not give the exact figures. The interest on his money amounted to \$28,000 per day, \$1,200 an hour, or nearly \$20 a minute.

There are many ways in which a study of the character and habits of Mr. Vanderbilt will be of profit. A gentleman who was well acquainted with him told some interesting facts about the millionaire. He said:—"William H. Vanderbilt had a clear logical mind. After weighing a subject and giving it due consideration, he could express his ideas concerning it with singular force and effect. In a word, he said just what he wanted to say. Mr. Vanderbilt was an exact man and precise in all his statements. He not only knew what he wanted to say, but he always knew just what he wanted to do. He had good judgment and good taste. In the course of my duties, as editor and publisher, I have to read a great many manuscripts, which require touching to make them read smoothly. Long practice with these manuscripts enables us to tell instantly when we have a good piece of writing before us. As I have previously said, I was surprised to find how correctly William H. Vanderbilt expressed his thoughts on paper. His correspondence was a model for any man to follow. Any letters that he wrote were always ready for the printer. Of how few men—even educated men—can this be said. His first draft of a letter was as well written as the corrected copy of most letters.

"Another thing. He was not the ignorant, poorly read man of wealth that so many people have thought him to be. I was surprised to discover from time to time how much he knew of the affairs of the world. He was well posted on the events of the day. He was not only a great reader of periodicals and newspapers, but he read books on various subjects and was thoroughly versed in the leading topics of the day."

### THE FUNERAL.

was of course a very grand affair notwithstanding all that had been done to have it as simple as possible. After relations and friends had taken a last look at the face of

him who had been the richest man in the world, the casket was closed and, covered with the violets and feathery palms, was borne through the massive bronze doors to the hearse before the steps. When the boly was laid inside the driver started up his horses and slowly it was carried down the avenue. Twenty carriages drove up one after the other to the house for the

disquieteth himself in vain; he heapeth up riches and cannot tell who shall gather them."

Here the Rev. Dr. Cooke read the solemn and beautiful service of the Episcopal Church, and at the words "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes," the sexton scattered dust among the palms and the blossoms on the casket. The choir sang "Nearer, My God

The only diversion of this kind that he takes is at the annual dinner of the St. Nicholas Society, of which he is President. He is a generous entertainer in his own home, however. The handsome structure which he built four years ago at Fifth avenue and Fifty-seventh street, at a cost of a million dollars, cannot be excelled in the city for the magnificence of its wood carvings, the splendor of its frescoes, the beauty of its tapestries and the rarity of the books and manuscripts which he has gathered together.

One who has known him intimately for many years said, "Cornelius is the brightest of all the Vanderbilts. He is not so sharp as his grandfather or so shrewd as his father, but in mental equipoise he is their superior. He is more phlegmatic than either, never allows his passions to sway him, is always courteous, considerate and gentle; unlike either of his ancestors, was never heard to use a harsh or impure word, and is known for his blameless, upright life. He has distributed more charities than any man of his years in the city and has fully exemplified the influence of his mother's early teachings. He is one of the few men who like work for its own sake, and is one of the most careful and methodical of men. From early manhood he had entered into no project without exerting all the zeal and earnestness which he was possessed of. The high-water mark was reached at last, and he began to exhibit unmistakable symptoms of over-work. His physician ordered immediate suspension of all outside interests. Mr. Vanderbilt reluctantly obeyed the mandate, and now, under advice of his doctor, positively declines in embarking in new undertakings.

He is connected with a great number of religious and benevolent societies in all of which he takes an active interest giving large sums towards their maintenance. In common with the other prominent members of the family he possesses the power of thinking out the most difficult financial problems almost momentarily, and action never faltering but decided follows on the thought.

### MOUNT VESUVIUS.

The other day we had news that Mount Vesuvius was again in eruption and that the molten lava was pouring down the sides of the mountain, causing some fear among those who live near the volcano.

Many times have the dread fires broken out destroying cultivated lands, houses and people. The most noted eruption was in the year 79 A. D., when the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were overwhelmed. In the present century alone there have been something like a dozen notable eruptions, some of which lasted for months. Four thousand persons were destroyed in the year 1631, being claimed as victims of the mountain.

God NEVER gave man anything to do concerning which it were irreverent to ponder how the Son of God would have done it.—*Marquis of Lossie.*



THE CRATER OF MOUNT VESUVIUS.

mourners. Several other carriages joined the procession on the way to the church, swelling the number to nearly forty and many more were in waiting at St. Bartholomew's Church. As the casket was laid down in the church the choir sang an anthem, the third stanza of which sounded through the still scene with vast significance: "For man walketh as a vain shadow and

to Thee" and "I heard a Voice from Heaven Saying." As the casket was raised upon the shoulders of the bearers the choir sang "I Would Not Live Away."

### ONE OF THE HEIRS.

Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt inherits many of his father's qualities. He is a thoroughly domestic man. He is a member of no club, and does not believe in that sort of a life.