

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

VOL. IV.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING, JANUARY 10, 1885.

No. 2.

The Weekly Messenger

THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM.

Lord Wolsley at Korti has received a small piece of paper with the genuine seal of General Gordon on its back, and dated December 15. It contains the news that Khartoum was then all right. The note was rolled up small and sewed in the messenger's garment. Gordon estimates the Mahdi's force at from two thousand to eight thousand. The general is represented as spending his nights in ceaseless watching, visiting the Khartoum outposts in order to see that every sentry is on the alert. He has two palaces, and guns are mounted on each. He examines the guns at day-break each morning, in order to assure himself that they are properly primed and all ready for action should emergency require; he then lies down and sleeps a good portion of the day. He is described as being quite cheerful. He has successfully repulsed several minor attacks, and has food and ammunition sufficient to last for several months yet. Having learned that Bedouin Arabs visited the wells adjacent to Khartoum during the night, Gordon sent armed guards to the wells, and prevented access thereto by the enemy. Great suffering is said to have been caused among the rebels in consequence many of them dying from small-pox and dysentery. The Mahdi has since withdrawn his army. Several tribes have deserted him. The Mahdi told the chiefs that he intended to march against the Mudir of Dongola, and the chiefs professed their willingness to follow, provided only that the Mahdi would lead and charm off the enemies' bullets instead of following his men. He told the chiefs next morning that he had discovered through a dream that the Mudir was a saint, against whom it would be useless to fight. The messenger from General Gordon refused to return to Khartoum, saying that the journey was too dangerous.

The present programme of the British advance is said to be that General Earle will collect an infantry brigade over the fourth cataract, and afterwards push forward and open up the desert route beyond. When a strong garrison has been massed at Korti it will constitute the advanced base for operations.

General Stewart's expedition has left Korti for the front; before departure it was reviewed by Lord Wolsley. The force consisted of 1,100 men and 1,800 camels. Each man carried seven gallons of water. Native servants refused to accompany General Stewart's column; this shows that they think the route a difficult and dangerous one. Lord Wolsley's plans are, of course severely criticised, and the camel drivers have deserted in large numbers. At the War Office in London a great diversity of opinion exists in regard to Lord Wolsley's plans. At Cairo they are called foolhardy, but the British people are said to place great faith in Lord Wolsley and his wonderful "luck." Four hundred of the best shots in the Sussex regiment have been selected to march across the desert. General

Buller thinks that the boats of the relief expedition should reach Khartoum within two months.

In Europe, the Egyptian question continues the principle topic. The London (*Eng.*) *Times* in a "cheeky" article on the subject advises Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet to resign. A Vienna newspaper asserts that the Khedive—encouraged by the advice of the German and Russian governments—has refused to comply with the request of England to convene the Chamber of Notables in order to vote a reduction of the land tax and to pronounce in favor of English financial proposals. Russia has proposed a plan of her own for the acceptance of the powers, viz., that a new loan be guaranteed by them all, and that the British withdraw from Egypt at a fixed date. Prince Bismarck in a letter to Lord Granville has laid the whole responsibility of the war on England, and recommended her encouraging a friendly feeling with France, in order that England may secure the accord of other European powers. To this and other proposals Lord Granville declines to hold a formal conference of the question at Paris. He suggests an informal meeting of the various ambassadors at the British Embassy in Paris, such meeting to be presided over by Lord Lyons, the British ambassador. In Italy, a corps of 180 men has been organized at Spezzia, the purpose of which is unknown and a fresh naval division under command of Admiral Racchia is being organized for the Red Sea.

Latest advices state that General Sir Herbert Stewart's guards are entrenched in unaccessible position on the desert route between Korti and Shendy some seventy miles from the latter place. His troops are well supplied with provisions and he has captured several of the emissaries of the Mahdi. The march completely surprised the Arabs. General Stewart praises the conduct of his men highly.

THE FRANCO-CHINESE WAR.

China continues to pour troops into Tonquin and Formosa and advices from Tonquin report daily encounters between the French and Chinese troops. The French are about sending six thousand troops to reinforce General De Lisle. Advices from Tonquin on December the 30th, announce that the French forces advanced and defeated the Chinese, the latter sustaining severe losses. The French loss is said to be trifling. French men-of-war have had several encounters with Chinese pirates and 300 Chinese have been killed. The *Pall Mall Gazette* announces that Prime Minister Ferry will float a large Government loan in a few days and France will then declare war, unless the difficulties in Tonquin are previously settled. Beside 5,000 reinforcements that leave next week for Tonquin, the French Marine Department has been ordered to prepare four more transports to convey a new division of troops to the scene of war. France is evidently changing her programme of "dawdle," and intends prosecuting the war energetically. Gen. Lewal, an able officer, has been appointed Minister

of War, and France will now prepare, if necessary, to march to Peking.

The Chinese government have engaged fifty-five German drill sergeants. Active preparations for war are being carried on there, recruits and munitions of war being forwarded to Formosa and elsewhere. Enlistment continues everywhere, and the Chinese government has offered 1,000 francs per month to foreign officers willing to serve in their fleet.

The French generals in Tonquin already complain of the influx of German officers into the Chinese Army.

An official despatch from Hanoi states that General Negrier has defeated some six thousand Chinese.

According to a Hanoi despatch, after the defeat of six thousand Chinese near Chu, by General Negrier, some twelve thousand Chinese returned and hostilities were resumed. General Negrier attacked them penetrating their position, and repulsed the Chinese. The latter lost six hundred killed, and a large number wounded. The French captured two batteries of Krupp guns, a large amount of ammunition, provisions, etc. The French lost three officers wounded, nineteen men killed and sixty-five wounded.

THE LONDON TIMES MAKES AMENDS.

Those who have felt impressed, says the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle*, by the diatribe in the *Times* on "Alcoholic Drinks," should read the following comment made by the *Lancet*:

"Our contemporary the *Times* has done its best to make amends for the recent publication of an article in which the evils of drinking were extenuated and the uses of alcohol were drawn very large. It has allowed Dr. Alfred Carpenter to contradict it point by point by reporting his paper, delivered at a meeting for the Study and Cure of Inebriety. Cardinal Manning has been speaking on intemperance at Sheffield with the force which characterises all his public speeches. His address was interesting from a medical point of view, as containing quotations from the sayings of Sir Andrew Clark and Sir Henry Thompson on the immense harm done by drink. Sir Andrew has told the Cardinal that in seven out of ten of his hospital patients disease was caused by drink, and in the three others was often aggravated by it. 'At last,' added Sir Andrew, 'I have sometimes said to myself, Shall I not do more for the health of man if I give up the practice of medicine and go about the country in a crusade to prevent the use of intoxicating drinks? We trust Sir Andrew will stick to Cavendish square, and from that pleasant vantage ground continue to 'reason of Temperance,' like a favorite author of his, until a luxurious age begins to be convinced of its errors and to abandon its vices.'"

TAMATAVE ADVICES state that the French troops landed at Volmar on December the 20th and succeeded in carrying the Hovas' position and putting the garrison to flight. Two hundred Hovas were killed.

FOLLOWING closely the action of the Lackawanna road in suspending operations in five of its largest collieries, throwing 2,000 men and boys out of employment, the Delaware & Hudson Company yesterday suspended work in eight of its mines between Plymouth and Carbondale throwing 2,500 men out. The Pennsylvania Coal Company has suspended 1,200 men, and John Jermyn, one of the largest employers in the valley, has ordered 400 or 500 to stop work. It is probable that 8,000 or 10,000 men and boys will be idle in the Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys on Monday. The miners are greatly discouraged, but hope work will be resumed before March. It is stated that it is the intention of the Lackawanna Company to mine as much coal in 1885 as it did in 1884, but owing to the demoralized condition of the trade the managers decided to mine with extreme caution until spring.

OFFICIAL REPORTS show that 526 persons were killed by the earthquake in the Province of Granada and 100 in Malaga. At Alhama over 350 bodies were recovered. At Persona in Andalusia great damage was done and many lives lost. Sixty bodies have been recovered. A landslip occurred in a mountain near Persona, destroying many houses and burying forty-eight persons, of whom eighteen were rescued alive. It is stated that 900 persons were buried beneath the ruins of buildings in Albuñol. Many persons died of fright. The convicts in Seville prison took advantage of the excitement to create mutiny with the hope of escaping. The disturbance was quelled. A slight earthquake also has been felt in Wales, England, and many houses have been injured, but no lives lost.

AT GRANADA, SPAIN, on Tuesday, last a *Te Deum* was sung and prayers offered for a cessation of the earthquake. At Priego in the province of Cordova, the shocks came while the theatre was crowded with people. A terrible panic ensued, many persons jumped from the galleries and windows upon the crowds below. Two were killed outright, and forty seriously injured. At Malaga patients were so terrified that they forgot their maladies and fled to the open air. Alhama and Santa Cruz were completely destroyed. The number killed is now placed at 1,000. Frigilliana, a town of 3,000 inhabitants, was partially destroyed. Hundreds perished.

AN ATTEMPT has been made to blow up a train on the underground railway in Euston road, London, England. Although the actual damage was slight, many lives might have been sacrificed. The train was crowded with passengers, most of whom were terribly frightened. The explosion is regarded as a counter threat to the story published a day or two since that the government had decided to introduce the coercion act which will shortly expire by limitation. The outrage is ascribed to Fenianism.

IT IS REPORTED that Princess Beatrice, daughter of Don Carlos, entered a nunnery and took the black veil just before her father's departure for India. The child is only thirteen years old.