

## COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 12, 1883.

Chicago was this week higher by a couple of cents a bushel at 97c. Liverpool is unchanged with a dull market.—Canada Red Winter, \$1.22 to \$1.23; Canada White, \$1.10 to \$1.15; Canada Spring, \$1.18 to \$1.20; Corn, 63c; in bond; Peas, 90c; Oats, 35c; Barley, 55c to 65c; Rye 62c.

FLOUR.—The market is quiet and as dull as it can be. Prices are unchanged. We quote:—Superior Extra, \$5.55; to \$5.60; Extra Superfine, \$5.40 to \$5.50; Fancy, none; Spring Extra, \$5.25 to \$5.30; Superfine, \$4.75 to \$4.80. Strong Bakers', Canadian, \$5.50 to \$5.75; do., American, \$5.75 to \$6.25; Fine, \$3.85 to \$3.95; Middlings, \$3.75 to \$3.85; Pollards, \$3.50 to \$3.60; Ontario bags, (medium), bags included, \$2.55 to \$2.65; do., Spring Extra, \$2.50 to \$2.55; do., Superfine, \$3.25 to \$3.35; City Bags, delivered, \$3 to \$3.05.

MEALS.—Common, \$3.20 to \$3.40; Oatmeal, ordinary, \$5.00 to \$5.25; granulated, \$5.20 to \$5.50.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter—Is quiet and unchanged. We quote:—Butter—Creamery, 25c to 27c; Eastern Townships, 19c to 21c; Morrisburg and Brockville, 18c to 21c; Western, summer makes, 13c to 15c; do. autumn makes, 17c to 18c. Add to the above prices a couple of cents per lb. for selections for the jobbing trade. Cheese is as quiet as butter. We quote:—Early makes, 10c to 11c; September and October 11c to 12c.

HOG PRODUCE.—We quote:—Western Mess Pork, \$16.50 to \$17.25; Hams, city cured, 14c to 15c; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, Canadian, in pails, 10c to 11c; do. Western, in pails, 12c to 12c; Tallow, refined, 8c to 8c; Dressed Hogs, per 100 lbs., \$6.25 to \$6.50, in carlots and \$6.70, \$6.80 in small bunches.

POULTRY AND GAME. We quote:—Turkeys 10c to 11c; geese and chickens, 6c to 7c; ducks, 9c to 12c per lb.; partridges, 50c to 55c per brace; venison, 5c to 7c per lb. by the carcase and 9c to 11c by the saddle.

ASHES are dull at \$4.70 to \$4.80 for pots. Pearls are nominal.

## FARMERS' MARKET.

The bad roads and changeable weather of late have hindered farmers from coming any distance to market, and with reduced supplies prices are generally firm, although purchasers in general seem disposed to wait for better supplies which are sure to come when the sleighing again becomes good. An increased supply of Swedish turnips from Quebec has caused a considerable decline in prices. About 3500 cases of Valencia oranges are to arrive in the city this week, and this has led to a great reduction in prices, which are now \$6 per case. Fresh killed poultry are pretty dear, but a good deal of this, which is more or less discolored by the soft weather, is now being offered at moderate rates. Oats are 35c to \$1.05 per bag; potatoes 60c to 80c do.; tub butter 16c to 24c per lb.; print butter, 30c to 45c do.; old eggs, 24c to 30c per dozen; turkeys, 9c to 14c do.; geese, 7c to 9c do.; ducks, 12c to 14c do.; fowls, 8c to 12c do.; dressed hogs, 7c to 7c; apples, \$3.00 to \$4.00 per barrel; hay, \$5.00 to \$5.00 per 100 bundles of 15 lbs.; straw, \$4 to \$5.50 per 100 bundles of 12 lbs.

## LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The supply of beef cattle is not large and prices continue about the same as on last week, except that the leaner animals bring rather better prices. No really choice cattle are being offered at present, but a large supply of this sort of cattle is expected to arrive next week for the Christmas market. The best cattle sell at from 4c to 5c per lb., and pretty good fat cows and fair conditioned steers at 4c to 4c do. Ordinary dry cows in fair condition bring from \$26 to \$34 each, or 3c to 3c 3/4 per lb., and leaner animals from \$16 to \$25 each, or 2c to 3c per lb. Not many sheep and lambs are being brought to market and these are generally of indifferent quality, but the butchers have lately been receiving large flocks of sheep to slaughter for winter store. Prices of good mutton critters are pretty high, good lambs selling at from \$4 to \$5 each and good sheep at from \$5 to \$8. The leaner animals are rather difficult to sell at about half these figures. Fat hogs are in fair supply at from 5c to 5c per lb., and dressed hogs at from 6c to 7c do.

## THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

## DECEMBER PRIZE COMPETITION.

Final Chance this Year

## MAKE MONEY

## Help a Good Paper Along!

Our autumn competition resulted about doubly more favorable than our August one, and we are encouraged to hope that a similar opportunity given our friends in December, when people generally make provision for a supply of reading matter for the New Year, will yield manifold more satisfactory results than the last one. In this competition we earnestly invite

## EVERY SUBSCRIBER

to take part, believing that it is possible for every one to obtain at least one new subscriber, and hundreds can obtain five each and thus save the price of their own copies. No canvassers can be more efficient, if they only try, than those who know from a full trial how valuable a return for the price the paper is. It should be easy for our young friends, even in the last half of this competition, which will be the Christmas holidays, to earn a goodly sum of money in the liberal commissions we offer, apart from the chances of winning any of the prizes. The premium pictures are within the reach of everyone who exerts himself or herself to earn them. By the following list of prize-winners in the last competition it will be seen that there is no room for despair, on the part of anyone at all favorably situated, of winning the leading prizes:—1st, \$10, Wm. Gates, St. George, N.B., sent \$19.75. 2nd, \$5, Bertha Forbes, Wentworth Grant, N.S., sent \$7.50. 3rd, \$3, Mary McGee, St. George, N.B., sent \$4.05. 4th, \$2, Willie Brotsman, Jasper, Steuben Co., N.Y., sent \$4. 5th, \$1, Jennie McMillan, Spencerville, Ohio, sent \$3.35.

## DECEMBER OFFER.

The price of the *Messenger* is fifty cents a year, and it will be given free for the remainder of this year to new subscribers from the date of receiving their subscriptions. Anyone sending us **FIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS** for a year may send **TWO DOLLARS** and keep **FIFTY CENTS**. Anyone sending us **FIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS** for six months on trial, at twenty-five cents each, may send eighty-five and keep forty cents. Anyone sending us five subscriptions for three months on trial, at thirteen cents each, may send thirty-five cents and keep thirty cents.

## SEND AS MANY AS YOU CAN.

keeping fifty cents for every five yearly, forty cents for every five half-yearly and thirty cents for every five quarterly subscriptions.

In addition to these commissions we offer the following

## PRIZES:

To the person sending us the largest amount of money, not counting commission, **TEN DOLLARS**; to the second, **FIVE DOLLARS**; to the third, **THREE DOLLARS**; to the fourth, **TWO DOLLARS**, and to the fifth, **ONE DOLLAR**.

Still further, to every one who sends us **TWO DOLLARS** we shall send a present of the pair of those much-admired pictures, which have always given so much satisfaction to their recipients, "The Roll Call" and "Quatre Bras," or, if preferred, the celebrated picture by Doré, "Christ Leaving the Praetorium," the original of which was declared by the Rev. Theodore Cuyler to be the greatest painting of modern times.

## NOTICE THAT

Those sending the largest amounts secure the prizes even if what is sent in each case be less than the amount of the prize.

Everyone who secures five subscriptions earns a commission.

Everyone who sends two dollars is entitled to the pair of fine pictures mentioned above.

The competition will end on the 7th of January, 1884.

The present respectable circulation of seven or eight thousand, at the end of the second year's existence of the *Weekly Messenger*, is almost entirely due to its being taken by people on sight for its merits. In the same way there is no doubt it would in the course of a few years attain an enormous circulation. But in these days of steam and electricity people cannot afford to wait for such fruit as that of the Columbian aloe, that is said to take fifty years to blossom. The publishers of this paper, therefore, believing that a welcome awaits it in thousands of homes all over this continent, desire to place it within those homes as speedily as possible, and have for that purpose provided the present series of prize competitions. That the first two of these have been more profitable to the workers than to the publishers is undoubtedly due to the interest of our friends having not yet had time to be fully developed. Practical friendly interest in the *Weekly Messenger* will, however, we have little doubt, abound more and more according as our readers realize that it is not a merely pecuniary enterprise, but one of the most direct and potent agents extant for enlightening, informing and elevating the people.

## DIRECTIONS.

Date your letters carefully, plainly writing names of post-office, county and State, or Province.

Head each letter you write, "For Autumn Competition." Do not detain subscriptions, but send in all you have obtained, with the money, less your commission, at the end of each week's canvassing, and in every letter after the first one mention how many names and how much money you sent before.

The last letters sent in the competition must be mailed not later than the 7th of January, 1884.

Send money only by post-office order or registered letter, the former preferred, and address—

## JOHN DOUGALL &amp; SON

"WITNESS" OFFICE,

MONTREAL, P. Q.

Montreal, Nov. 17th, 1883.

## TO OUR WORKERS.

The premiums of pictures which we gave last year to the workers for the *Northern Messenger* having afforded universal satisfaction to their recipients, we shall repeat such premiums this season.

## SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

## LESSON XII.

Dec. 23, 1883. [1 Sam. 31:1-13.]

## DEATH OF SAUL AND JONATHAN.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 11-13.

1. Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.
2. And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchishun, Saul's sons.
3. And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.
4. Then said Saul unto his armorbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; for these uncircumcised come and thrust me through and abuse me. But his armorbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell upon it.
5. And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.
6. So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armorbearer, and all his men, that same day together.
7. And when the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were on the other side Jordan saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.
8. And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.
9. And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armor, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people.
10. And they put his armor in the house of Asherah; and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.
11. And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul:

12. All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

13. And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death."—PROV. 11:32.

## TOPIC.—The Death of the Disobedient.

LESSON PLAN.—1. THE DISASTER TO ISRAEL, VS. 1-8. 2. THE REJOICING OF THE PHILISTINES, VS. 7-10. 3. THE KINDNESS OF JABESH-GILEAD, VS. 11-13.

Time.—B.C. 1056. Place.—Mountains of Gilboa.

## LESSON NOTES.

V. 1. GILBOA—a mountain ridge extending from the east into the plain of Esdræon. V. 2. FOLLOWED HARD—pursued him closely. SAUL JONATHAN—his first and the noblest and best of his sons. His death was a great grief to David. V. 3. THE BATTLE WENT SORE AGAINST SAUL—his time of retribution had come. He had forsaken God, and now he felt his enemies. ARCHERS—soldiers armed with the bow and arrow. SORE WOUNDED—father, "sore afraid." V. 4. HIS ARMORBEARER—Jewish traditions say it was Doeg. ABUSUS ME—Saul feared either slow torture before death or the mutilation of his body after it. TOOK A SWORD—killed himself. He might more manfully and courageously have died fighting! V. 6. ALL HIS MEN—his body-guard and servants. The end of the king was like his life. He died by his own act without repentance. For David's lament, see 2 Sam. 1:17-27. V. 7. THE VALLEY—of Jezreel. OTHER SIDE JORDAN—east side. THE CITIES—places most likely to be first attacked. DWELT IN THEM—making good their conquest. V. 8. FOUND SAUL—a great prize, as it assured them that Israel had lost their king. V. 9. CUT OFF HIS HEAD—the very thing he had dreaded. TO PUBLISH IT—with public rejoicings. V. 10. HOUSE OF ASHERAH—temple of their idol-gods. BETHSHAN—at the eastern end of the plain of Esdræon. V. 11. INHABITANTS OF JABESH-GILEAD—they remembered Saul's kindness to them at the beginning of his reign, and under cover of night crossed the river, took down his body and those of his sons, and reverently buried them. V. 12. BURIED THEM—probably, to prevent their falling again into the hands of the Philistines. V. 13. TOOK THEIR BONES—after the burning. David afterwards interred them in Saul's family burial-place at Zelah. 2 Sam. 31:11-14.

## TEACHINGS:

1. God's threatened judgments are as sure as his promises of mercy.
2. The strong become weak when God forsakes them.
3. God often uses the wicked to accomplish his will.
4. Bad men do not escape from God by self-murder.
5. Wicked men often care more for the shame of the world than for the danger of their souls.

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