

Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXV.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME LIV.

Vol. XIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1903.

No. 40

Crime and Lynch- ing Encouraged by Ineffect- ive Law.

The laxity and delay in respect to the enforcement of law in criminal cases in the United States without doubt operates powerfully as an encouragement to crime and is more or less responsible for the lynching which prevails in that country. A few days ago in Cynthia, Kentucky, a man named Jett, having been found guilty of murder, was brought into court and was sentenced by the presiding judge to be hanged between sunrise and sunset on December 18. Whereupon it is reported, Judge Blanton, attorney for the convicted murderer, addressed the court saying, "Well, judge, there will be many sunrises and sunsets before he has been hanged." It is said of George White, the colored man who was lynched a few weeks ago at Wilmington, Delaware, that his life had been virtually a school of crime. "As a boy he was a thief, but was never punished, when about fifteen years old he was reproved by a colored woman for some offence, and he way-laid her and broke her skull with a club, so that she died soon after. For this crime the State of Delaware inflicted no punishment. Next he robbed a house and was caught with the things in his pockets, and was sent to jail for a short time. Afterward he assaulted a colored girl who died of her injuries, and he was sentenced for only five years. As soon as he was free he attacked an Irishman and shot him, the wounds resulting in death later. For this offence a sentence of five years and a half was imposed. Then when free he committed the assault for which he was lynched.

Animal Surgery.

Animal Surgery, is the title of a very interesting article in a late issue of the *New York Outlook*, by Mr. Wm. J. Long, author of "Beasts of the Field," "Secrets of the Wood," etc. That the animals do practice at times a rude kind of medicine and surgery upon themselves, Mr. Long holds, is undeniable. The only question about it is, How do they know? He is not satisfied with the answer that it is a matter of instinct, for, often the knowledge of healing or of primitive surgery seems to be the discovery or possession of a few rare individual animals, instead of being spread wide-cast among the species, as instincts are. However, the author's purpose in the article mentioned is not to answer the questions of how, or whence, but rather to relate some of the facts which he has observed, indicating that, however it may be accounted for, there are animals which possess, and apply in time of need, a practical knowledge of surgery. Mr. Long's first instance of animal surgery is that of a musquash which had lost a leg, having probably amputated it himself to obtain release from a trap. The wound had not yet healed when he was again captured, and on examination it was found that he had covered it with some kind of sticky vegetable gum, probably from some pine tree which had been split or barked near to the ground where musquash could reach it easily. He had smeared it thickly all over the wound and well up the leg above it, so that all dirt, and even all air and water, were excluded perfectly. Mr. Long has been told, by an old Indian hunter on Vancouver Island, of beavers he had caught, and also of a bear, which had covered their wounds thickly with gum, just as the muskrat had done. And he also gives from his own experience an instance of a bear which he shot in northern New Brunswick many years ago. The bear bore marks of having been severely wounded previously. "He had plugged the wound carefully with clay, evidently to stop the bleeding, and then had covered the broken skin with sticky mud from the river's brink, to keep the flies away from the wound and give it a chance to heal undisturbed." These are given as a few instances out of a score or more that the writer had seen or heard from reliable hunters, and that indicate, in his view more than native instinct among animals. But the most remarkable cases of animal surgery Mr. Long found among birds. He relates that one day in early spring he saw two eider ducks swimming about the Hummock pond on the Island of Nantucket. His attention was attracted to them, not only because it was very remarkable for an eider duck to be found in fresh water, but because of the strange way in which the birds were acting, dipping their heads under water and keeping them there for a full minute or more, although the water under them was too deep to permit them to feed on the bottom. A few days later he saw in the

same pond another bird of the same species—a big drake—acting just as the others did. This bird Mr. Long shot and found that "the only peculiar thing about him was that a large mussel, such as grow on the rocks in salt water, had closed his shells firmly on the bird's tongue in such a way that he could neither be crushed by the bird's bill nor scratched off by the bird's foot." It was found on enquiry that this kind of mussel cannot live in fresh water, and the conclusion was reached that the ducks had sought the fresh water for the purpose of drowning the shell fish and thus obtaining relief from a very serious difficulty. "Whether all ducks have this wisdom or whether it is confined to a few rare birds there is no present means of knowing. . . . In either case two interesting questions suggest themselves. First, how did a bird, whose life from birth to death is spent on the sea, first learn that certain mussels will drown in fresh water? And, second, how do other birds know it now when the need arrives unexpectedly?" But, the most remarkable instance of bird surgery which Mr. Long gives is that of a woodcock which he saw applying a cast of clay to a broken leg; "he worked away with strange silent intemperance for fully fifteen minutes, while I watched and wondered, scarcely believing my eyes. Then he stood perfectly still for a full hour under an overhanging sod where the eye could, with difficulty find him, his only motion being an occasional rubbing and smoothing of the clay bandage with his bill, until it hardened enough to suit him, whereupon he fluttered away from the brook and disappeared in the woods." Mr. Long also adduces confirmatory evidence to show that his observation in this case was not at fault.

Sir Ian Hamilton in Canada.

General Sir Ian Hamilton is making a visit to Canada. A Montreal paper describes Sir Ian as "young, handsome, eager—indeed almost boyishly so." This description does not agree very well with the picture of the General, which it accompanies. From the picture one would gather that Sir Ian is indeed a handsome man, but not less than forty years of age, and certainly the picture affords no hint of boyishness. But of course it would be rash to form an opinion as to a man's looks from a picture of him in a newspaper. The Canadians who were under General Hamilton's command in South Africa cherish a very friendly feeling toward him, and this feeling appears to be very cordially reciprocated by the General. About one hundred men in Montreal who had served in South Africa under Sir Ian and who belong to the Veteran's Association gathered in front of the Windsor hotel to present him with a silver-headed cane as a token of their respect and affection. The occasion seemed to be one of equal and mutual enjoyment for the General and the men. Sir Ian spoke to each of the men as they stood at attention, making kindly inquiries as to service and as to present condition. Many of their faces he remembered. After the presentation of the cane by Lieut. Col. Gordon, the general made a speech in which he expressed his gratification at meeting the men who had fought under him, and he recalled what they had done with pride. He well remembered that at Israelport when the enemy was to be held fast down and when it needed nerve and intelligence, Sir Smith Dorian said he would send the Canadians to do the work. Sir Ian had said that while he had every confidence in the Canadians, still this work needed great judgment and you could not put old heads upon young shoulders. Sir Smith Dorian had replied that in every instance in which he had given the Canadians a bit of stiff work to do they had succeeded beyond his expectations. And on this occasion also they splendidly justified the selection. This is Sir Ian's first visit to Canada and he is quoted as expressing a very favorable opinion of the country. He pronounced it one of the most marvelously beautiful countries he had ever seen—a country with a vast future before it, and he would like with all his heart to live in it.

Death of Sir Michael Herbert

The death of Sir Michael Herbert, British Ambassador to the United States, occurred unexpectedly at Davos-Platz, Switzerland, September 30. Sir Michael was suffering from pulmonary disease and had gone to Switzerland for his health. It seems that he had had a hemorrhage of the lungs, and was supposed to be recovering from its effects,

but suffered a sudden collapse from weakness, from which he could not rally. The proceedings in the Alaskan Boundary Commission were interrupted by the President in order to announce the sad news of the Ambassador's death. Lord Alverstone evinced deep feeling as he did so. "I cannot trust myself," said his lordship, "to express the feeling of grief which this announcement has caused in every member of this tribunal and to many others who had the great privilege of Sir Michael Herbert's friendship. A worthy successor to the great men who have filled the high office he held, he brought to his duties not only great abilities but the most charming personal gifts. It is no language, exaggeration to say that no man ever brought to the discharge of his duties higher ideals, and few if any, greater qualifications. His majesty and the British nation have lost a devoted public servant, and many of us have lost a cherished personal friend." After Mr. Dickinson, United States Counsel in connection with the Commission, had expressed on behalf of the bar and the people of the United States profound regret at the announcement of Ambassador Herbert's death the Commission adjourned in token of respect for the deceased.

Mr. Balfour's Sheffield Speech.

Hon. Mr. Balfour's eagerly anticipated speech on the fiscal question was delivered before an immense audience in Sheffield on the evening of Oct. 1. From the cabled reports the speech does not appear to have contained anything of essential importance not set forth in the Prime Minister's recently published pamphlet on the same subject. The speech is indeed described by the *Daily Graphic* as a popular edition of the pamphlet. Mr. Balfour has made it evident that he and his Government no longer stand on a free-trade platform. He finds that Great Britain is placed at a disadvantage in dealing with countries which impose duties upon her exports because by her free-trade system she has no means of retaliating upon such countries or of negotiating with them for better terms. He therefore asks for the endorsement of a policy which will give the Government the means of negotiation—that is that the Government shall have power to impose retaliatory duties upon the products of those countries which tax British goods. Mr. Balfour complains that not only are British goods practically excluded from foreign markets by high protective tariffs, but even in the British Colonies protective systems are being established and as a consequence vested interests built up, which will make it as hard for Britain to export to those colonies as to the United States or other protective countries. Mr. Balfour does not pretend that he has any scheme of fiscal reform by which the disadvantages which he points out can be entirely overcome, but he believes that the application of a retaliatory tariff policy would at least afford a palliation. In pointing out the difficulties which beset Great Britain's trade by reason of the hostile tariffs of other countries, Mr. Balfour has a comparatively easy task. It is another matter to show clearly that a departure from the practice of free trade will afford the remedy of which he and Mr. Chamberlain are in search, and Mr. Balfour's discussion of this phase of the question, if indeed he can be said to have discussed it at all, seems to have been much less satisfactory. As a manufacturing and trading nation Great Britain has enjoyed a period of unexampled prosperity. But the rise of other great manufacturing and commercial nations—as the United States and Germany—was inevitable in the world's development, and it seems impossible but that under any system these growing nations must divide with Great Britain the trade of the world. If Germany and the United States should now adopt a free trade policy, the immediate effect upon British trade would doubtless be beneficial, but it is by no means certain that the ultimate effect would be so, for while such a policy would open the markets of those countries freely to British exports, it would work to cheapen the cost of their own manufacturers and so make them more formidable competitors of Great Britain in every foreign market. If Mr. Balfour could persuade the colonies to accept a policy of free trade within this empire, then indeed he would secure a real advantage for British trade, and then, too, he would be in a better position to negotiate with other nations, but Mr. Balfour confesses that he sees little hope of bringing the colonies into such fiscal relations with the mother country.