

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXII.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,  
VOLUME LI.

Vol. XVI.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1900.

No. 15.

**A Pan-American Congress.** Ten years ago a Pan-American Congress—so-called—met in the city of Washington. The Congress was composed of representatives from all the republics (or at least all that responded to the invitation) of North, Central and South America. On the initiation of the United States, it is now proposed to hold another such Congress, this time in the City of Mexico. The choice of Mexico as the place of meeting, it appears, is intended to disarm any suspicions which might be aroused that the great northern republic entertains any sinister designs upon her smaller sisters. It is not unnatural indeed, that the events of recent years should have had a somewhat disquieting influence upon these smaller states. They have seen the United States adopting a new policy of expansion, Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines acquired, the stars and stripes waving—and likely to continue to wave—over Cuba, to say nothing of the proposed acquisition of St. Thomas, and it is no wonder if they have asked themselves whereunto will this thing grow, and what is to be our own fate? It is natural enough too, in view of passing events, that among the republics of Central and South America there should be suggestions of a Latin-American alliance with a view to defending their independence. One of the objects of the projected Congress, on the part of the northern republics, will be to convince her southern sisters that she has no designs upon their independence and no desire to annex their territory. This is no doubt quite true of political policy and public opinion in the United States at present, whatever may come to be true in the future. United States statesmen are doubtless wise in seeking to disarm at once any such suspicions. For while there is probably not cohesion enough among the Latin-American republics to form an alliance of any formidable character, yet a settled feeling of jealousy on their part toward the United States would afford a condition of things which might be turned to the disadvantage of that country in case of unfriendly relations arising with some European power.

**The Queen's Visit to Ireland.** On Monday evening of last week at half past nine o'clock Queen Victoria left Windsor en route for Ireland. Her Majesty was accompanied by Princess Christian and Princess Henry of Battenburg, and was attended by the Countess of Antrim, Hon. Harriett Phipps, Sir Arthur Bigge, private secretary to the Queen, Sir Fleetwood Edward, keeper of Her Majesty's privy purse, and Captain Ponsonby. The utmost precautions had been taken to secure safety. The preparation for the trip had been in hand for weeks, and the train had already run over every foot of the route, and every particle of the apparatus of the train and of the track had been subject to the most careful inspection. The royal train was drawn by two locomotives, with expert engineers, and a complete staff of railway experts and electricians accompanied the train for immediate action in case anything should go wrong. The pilot engine, named "Prince of Wales," ran a quarter of a mile ahead of the royal train and after its passage all lines were kept absolutely clear. Holyhead was reached at 9.10 a. m. on Tuesday. Here the Queen received and replied to an address of welcome, and shortly afterward proceeded to the royal yacht "Victoria and Albert," which, piloted by the Irene and escorted by the royal yacht Osborne and the cruisers Galatea and Australia, set out for Kingston, near Dublin, which was reached at 2 p. m., and where, notwithstanding a downpour of rain and the fact that the arrival was made several hours before the scheduled time, the royal party

met with a hearty reception. The finery in which Dublin had clothed itself in honor of the great occasion was much bedraggled in the rain, but the illuminations in the evening, when the showers ceased, were such as Ireland had never seen, and the crowds which filled the streets made traffic impossible. The Queen and the royal party landed on Wednesday morning. The Duke of Connaught, who is the Queen's son and commander of the forces in Ireland, with the Lord Lieutenant, Earl Cadogan, and staff, greeted Her Majesty, and the nine mile ride from Kingston to Dublin was begun in splendid weather. The Queen wore a bunch of shamrocks on her breast. The reception in Dublin was accompanied with grand ceremony and pageantry and immense popular enthusiasm. Whatever disloyal passions fermented in the breasts of some, all that found expression was kindly and loyal. Deafening and continuous cheers marked every stage of the route, especially at the historic college green where the crowds were thicker than at any other point. Trinity College was almost hidden by stands which were black with people, and flaming with flags and festoons. Amid the thunderous welcome of the populace the bells of the Catholic cathedral rang out a greeting. The Duke of Abercorn is reported as saying: "It is the most wonderful, chivalrous and spontaneous exhibition I have ever seen and I am immensely proud of being an Irishman. The demonstrations show that, despite all political differences, Ireland is a loyal portion of the empire."

**The Attempted Assassination.** The attempt to assassinate the Prince of Wales at the railway station in Brussels on Tuesday of last week has naturally caused a profound sensation. The murderous attempt was made at 2.35 o'clock in the afternoon, as the train upon which the Prince and Princess of Wales were passengers was moving from the station. The would-be assassin—a youth of sixteen, son of a tinsmith named Sipido—jumped upon the foot-board of the Prince's saloon car as the train was starting and fired two shots into the car, aiming at the Prince. He was about to fire again when his arm was struck down by the station-master and he was quickly overpowered. Fortunately the murderer's aim was bad, and both the Prince and Princess escaped injury. Young Sipido is evidently a hare-brained boy, the tool of other parties in this matter. He is said to be the son of poor but honest, hard-working people, who are greatly shocked and scandalized at their son's conduct. Whether the act was the outcome of an anarchist plot or of anti-British feeling on account of the South African war has not been made clear. The outrage is deeply regretted and emphatically condemned by the Government and by the press of Brussels, and no doubt the people of Belgium sympathize largely with these expressions. On the other hand certain utterances reported from the Socialist leaders of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, when the attempted assassination was denounced by the President of that body, indicate a temper of mind which, in the case of a half-witted and conceited youth, might very naturally find expression in a murderous deed. When political leaders use their influence so persistently to inflame public feeling and promote an unreasoning hatred against a friendly nation as some of the Socialist in the Belgian Chamber have evidently done in reference to Great Britain, such occurrences as that of Tuesday last in Brussels are to be expected.

**The Delagoa Bay Award.** The course and the results of international arbitration, as illustrated in the Delagoa Bay case, are hardly such as to encourage powerful nations to submit their disputes with weaker ones to such a method of settlement. Eleven years ago the Portuguese Government confiscated the Delagoa Bay railway upon which British and American capitalists and contractors had large claims. These claims, under the authority of the respective Govern-

ments, were, a year or so later, submitted to an international tribunal, consisting of three Swiss judges. For ten years the tribunal so constituted has occupied itself with the case, while the expenses, including large salaries to the judges, have been extremely heavy. Now that a decision has been announced, the award is regarded by the claimants as ridiculously inadequate. There are strong suspicions, whether well grounded or not, that the investigation has been unduly prolonged in the interest of Portugal and the Transvaal, and that the award has been determined less by what would be a just claim for damages under the circumstances than by a regard for the slenderness of the Portuguese purse. It should be evident, however, that an international tribunal would best serve the general interests of the weaker states by settling international disputes on grounds of strict justice and impartiality. If the magnanimity of a strong state in consenting to arbitrate its quarrel with a weak state is to be rewarded by an award dictated by sympathy for the latter, then there will soon be an end of such arbitrations.

**The War.** The news from South Africa during the past week is not of a kind to encourage the hope of a speedy termination of the war. Just what Lord Roberts' plans are and when he will order an important forward movement cannot of course be known. It may be that the silence imposed by the censorship on the war correspondents cover important movements about to be undertaken, but such does not appear to be the opinion of military experts in London. So far as the facts of the situation can be gathered from the despatches which are permitted to come through, it appears that Lord Roberts' plans for an advance upon Pretoria are hampered by a lack of horses, and also by the need of warmer clothing for his soldiers, which, now that the colder—which is also the sickly—season in South Africa is coming on, is highly important. Meantime the Boers are showing great activity in guerrilla warfare. Their wonderful mobility arising from their minute knowledge of the country, the superiority of their horses and their skill in handling them in a rough country, gives them great advantage in this kind of warfare, and it would appear also that the inexcusable carelessness and over-confidence of the British have in some cases at least made them an easy prey to the enemy. Within a week the Boers succeeded in capturing about a thousand British soldiers—including a part of General Broadwood's force noted last week—and five companies which, after a brave resistance, were forced to surrender to a superior force of the enemy on Wednesday. This was at Reddersburg, near Bethanie, about 37 miles south of Bloemfontein and near the railway. The captured force had been marching through the eastern part of the country, collecting arms from the Free Staters who had submitted to British authority. The material advantage to the Boers in these guerrilla operations is of much less consequence than the moral advantage. The effect is of course to put new heart into all the Boers and to encourage the people of the Free State to continue their resistance to the British, since they are not yet able to protect them from the vengeance of Kruger and Steyn. The only actual success reported on the British side is the capture near Boshof—30 miles northeast of Kimberley—of a Boer force of some fifty men under M. Villebois-Mareuil, a French officer, who was killed in the fight. Villebois-Mareuil is said to have been an able commander. There have been reports again that the relief of Mafeking was at hand. Colonel Plumer was said to have advanced again to within a few miles of the town, but there is nothing to show that it has really been relieved. From Natal there is no news, except that some fresh troops have been sent to Durban for the purpose presumably of reinforcing General Buller. It is reported that, in accordance with the terms of a treaty between Great Britain and Portugal, a British force which will be under the command of General Carrington, an officer of much experience in South Africa, will enter Rhodesia by way of Beira, a sea port in Portuguese territory, about 500 miles north of Delagoa Bay.