

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXIV.

Vol. XVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1902.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LIII.

No. 29.

They Will Find Welcome. It is reported that the three Boer Generals who have been most eminent in leadership during the later stages of the war—Botha, DeWet and Delarey—are about to visit Europe, Great Britain and America for the purpose of raising a fund for the widows and orphans of those who have fallen in the war, and for those who, as a result of their wounds, have been incapacitated for self-support. These generals who have won world-wide renown for their great ability and soldierly qualities, are likely to find a cordial and enthusiastic welcome in the countries they may visit, and their welcome will be no less friendly, we take it, in Great Britain and Canada—if they shall honor our country with a visit—than it will be elsewhere. Indeed when it comes to an expression of interest which touches the pocket, we shall be surprised if the Boers do not find the Britisher somewhat more generous than many of those who have so earnestly espoused the Boer cause by voice and pen and so loudly denounced Great Britain as the merciless oppressor.

Ontario's Crops. In Ontario, as in the Maritime Provinces, rains have been frequent and abundant, and some crops have suffered in consequence, but the rains have kept the pastures in excellent condition to the advantage of the dairying and stock-raising industries. The *Toronto Globe* says: "If Ontario was dependent on a single crop to the same extent as Manitoba and the Territories, the protracted rains and the report of lodged wheat fields would cause general uneasiness and a serious shrinkage of business in anticipation of a poor harvest. But mixed farming gives an assurance against the threat of a bad year. The rain that has caused excessive growth in the wheat fields has also produced abundance of pasture, and as a consequence live stock of all kinds is in an exceptionally good condition. The season has not only been favorable for the preparation of cattle and sheep for the market, but has been of marked advantage to the dairy interest. The outlook is unusually hopeful, and the abundance of pasturage will make amends for any injury that may be felt by the grain crops. From some sections there are reports to the effect that the hay crop will be disappointing, as there has been no chance to cure it, the continuous rain keeping it wet on the ground. But the abundance of the crop will more than make amends for any local injury that will occur."

The Costly "Fourth." The celebration of Independence Day in the United States means every year the loss of many lives, and the maiming of many persons. Apparently it has been attended this year by at least the average number of accidents and fatalities. New York City reports 125 accidents, and three persons were injured by stray bullets so seriously that all may die. Four young men were terribly injured—three of them perhaps fatally by the explosion in Brooklyn of a big bomb. In St. Louis the premature explosion of a jar of sulphuric potash, carried in the pocket of a young man, resulted in his death and the serious injury of two of his companions. The lads were using the potash instead of fire crackers. In Chicago three persons were killed and more than a hundred injured in the celebration of the day. When the results are gathered from all over the Union, it will doubtless be found that more life has been sacrificed in celebrating "the glorious fourth" than quite a serious battle would have cost.

The King's Dinner. On Saturday, July 5th, about half a million persons were dined in London on the King's bounty. There were eight hundred feasts in twenty-nine boroughs and at least 80,000 attendants waited upon those who partook of the King's hospitality. The banquet was no doubt a quite unique event for many of those who partook of it, not only because it represented a King's bounty, but also for the opportunity it afforded for a good dinner. Hospitality dispensed on so grand a scale must have made serious de-

mands upon the royal purse, and one might question whether it was the most judicious expenditure of the money possible in the interests of the poor of London. One sumptuous repast breaking in upon a life of squalor and hunger, however keenly it may be enjoyed, would seem to mean little in the way of substantial benefit. And yet it has been well said that the spirit of the deed was better than the deed itself. Those who shared the King's hospitality would doubtless understand it as an act of goodwill and sympathy on the part of their Sovereign, and though they shall go hungry again, the assurance that their King and their Queen are not indifferent to their hard lot will not be without value to them. The organization of the scheme of entertainment had been worked out very satisfactorily, and every on-looker at these dinners, it is said, was impressed with the heartiness with which the King's health was drunk and his special message received, and with which the national anthem was sung. The King's illness has of course caused the sympathy of the people to go out strongly for him. The largest company of diners at any one place was at Fulham, where the Bishop of London said grace and the Prince and Princess of Wales were spectators. The greatest number under a single roof was 10,500 at the factory of the London General Omnibus Company, where Princess Christian was warmly received. Thirteen members of the royal family were indefatigable in visiting as many dining places as possible.

Roger Williams. The meeting of the B. Y. P. U. Convention in the city of Roger Williams, naturally calls into prominence the name and the work of the man to whom the Baptist cause in America and the cause of religious liberty in general are so largely indebted. In the course of an editorial article published in a recent issue, the *Watchman* of Boston says: "The distinguished service of Roger Williams to the world is that he was the expositor and exponent of the doctrine of religious liberty. He believed in the right of men to worship God according to their own consciences. He did not believe that worship was a privilege to be enjoyed on the sufferance of any man, or set of men, or government. It was a right to be asserted against one and all. He deserved no praise who recognized this right, any more than he deserved praise for recognizing his neighbor's right to the wages he had won by hard labor; but he committed an outbreaching sin who strove to abridge the religious liberties of his fellowmen, a far graver offence than to seek to rob them of their property. From first to last he was consistent in denying that the State had a right to dictate the religious belief or observances of its subjects, or to extend privileges to the adherents of special faiths. 'Hands off' was the declaration of Roger Williams, and to put 'hands on' he believed was for the individual or the State to do not only what was unwise but what was wicked." It is admitted that Williams had been anticipated in this doctrine by the German Hubmeyer and others, just as there were men who experimented with the expansive power of steam before Watt. But as the latter harnessed steam and made it a power in human affairs, so Roger Williams introduced religious liberty as a definite and practical principle to be advocated, claimed and contended for with an all-conquering faith in its truth and its value. "He preached it; he contended for it, he suffered for it; he lifted it up to a high place so that all men might see it; he made it operative in the realm of human affairs by making it the operative principle of the commonwealth he founded." The service of Roger Williams, not merely to the Baptist cause but to the cause of religion and morality generally and therefore to the cause of civil

liberty, is recognized in the following words by the American historian, Bancroft: "High honors are justly awarded to those who advance the bounds of human knowledge, but a moral principle has a much wider and nearer influence upon human happiness, nor can any discovery be of more direct benefit to society than that which is to establish in the world the most free activity of reason and a perpetual religious peace. Let then the name of Roger Williams be preserved in history as one who advanced moral and political science and made himself a benefactor of the race."

Crop Prospects in the Northwest. The grain crop of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories now bulks very largely in the aggregate of the Dominion's products, and the difference between a good crop in the Northwest and a comparative failure is a matter of great consequence, not only to that part of the Dominion, but to the country as a whole. It is therefore gratifying to be assured that the crop prospect in Manitoba and the territories is generally very favorable. In the early part of the season the crops were injured in most sections by too much rain, but of late the drier and warm weather has caused a rapid development, and reports from all over the country are said to indicate a very satisfactory condition of things and the prospect of an excellent harvest. It is of course rather too early yet to pronounce definitely upon the results. For though there would seem to be little fear of serious injury to the crops from drought, there is the possibilities of untimely frosts and a wet harvest to be reckoned with. Chickens can only be counted with certainty as to results after they are fairly out of the shell. The cautious farmer will admit that there is a somewhat formidable array of contingencies for the crop between the present situation and the elevator. Still it is gratifying to know that present prospects are so good.

No Suspension in Cape Colony. In view of the strength of the disloyal element in Cape Colony, and the generally unsettled condition of affairs in South Africa, Lord Milner, High Commissioner to South Africa, had advised the Imperial Government in favor of the suspension of the constitution of Cape Colony. The reply of the Colonial Secretary to that proposal has now been published in a Parliamentary paper from which it appears that the Government has decided against suspension, on the ground that there is no precedent for the suspension of the constitution of a responsibly governed colony. The suspension could be effected only by an act of the Imperial Parliament, and the Government believes such a step is not called for unless it is proved that the constitution is a positive danger to the colony's peace, or that a great majority of the whites desire that the authority be completely transferred to the Imperial Government. Such a desire could only be constitutionally expressed by a resolution of the Cape Parliament. It will be necessary to pass an act of indemnity, on account of violations of the constitution, and it may also, perhaps, be needful to confer special powers on the Cape Government for carrying out the pacification of the colony and the maintenance of British interests. The Government was satisfied that the Cape Parliament would take the necessary steps to provide for the security of the colony, and to discourage the racial and political controversy which was interfering with its prosperity, and which can serve no good purpose among members of a community having the common interests in the peace and prosperity of South Africa. There have doubtless been changes in the general situation since the request for a suspension of the constitution was made, and the Government evidently is of the opinion that there is good ground to believe that the affairs of the Colony can now be administered without resort to drastic measures. The Premier of Cape Colony, Sir Gordon Sprigg, strongly approves the course of the Government in the matter, and is quoted as saying that if the petition had been granted it would have caused apprehension regarding the position of every self-governing colony, since it involved the whole question of free constitutional government. It is inferred that the decision of the Government not to interfere in the matter tends to render more difficult the already strained relations between Lord Milner and Sir Gordon Sprigg.