

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXI.

Vol. XV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1899.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME L.

No. 36

**Inglorious War.** It is well for Britons and Americans to rejoice in the blessings of civilization of which they are the heirs and the stewards, and it is well for them to recognize the obligations which their possessions involve for them toward the more rude and barbarous peoples of the earth. But surely Christian sentiment must protest against the conclusion that it is any true and legitimate part of "the white man's burden" to prosecute a war of conquest in the Philippines in order to impose upon that country and its people American ideas of civilization, or to array the military forces of the British Empire against the stubborn Boers of the Transvaal in order that ambitious Britons may promote large schemes of Empire in Africa. The Americans may be able and willing to do for the Filipinos much more and better than they could do for themselves in the development of the country's resources and the administration of government. But, if so, that fact does not justify a bloody war, lasting for years perhaps, in order to compel an unwilling people to accept benefits of which they have no appreciation. And respecting the Boers in South Africa, it is no doubt true that their ideals are narrow and impracticable. They are likely taking an impossible position in resisting the march of modern civilization. Without doubt they are stubbornly unreasonable in their attitude toward that large part of the population known as the Uitlanders. If their leaders were wiser they would be more ready to make concessions to the time spirit and the march of empire. But it is not to be forgotten that the Boers have rights before heaven, and that there is not a little reason on their side. Their ideals, if not broad and liberal, are doubtless held honestly and certainly with great tenacity. As the descendants of the old Dutch colonists who settled Cape Colony in the 17th century, they have indubitable natural rights in South Africa. They are not a perfect people by any means, but they are probably much less black than they are now being painted by unfriendly hands, and it should be considered that the experiences to which they have been subjected by the operation of British rule in South Africa have not been of a kind to develop a sweet reasonableness of character. Their demand for opportunity to work out their own ideas of life and government in some part of that wide land of which their ancestors were the first European colonizers is one that appeals strongly to the British sense of right and justice. For this the Boers have suffered and sacrificed much, migrating from one part of the country to another, and fighting bravely for the privileges of a home and a government of their own, now against savage native tribes, and now against the disciplined forces of the British army. Without calling in question the fact that the Uitlanders of the Transvaal have grievances which ought to be redressed and that the Government of Great Britain has a duty to perform in that connection, we cannot but think that a war such as now appears to be impending between Great Britain and the Transvaal republic is one that, whatever the outcome shall be, will bring little glory to our nation. Are we to believe that all the resources of wisdom and diplomacy in the British Empire are unequal to the task of righting the grievances of the Uitlanders and that it is demanded in the interests of righteousness that the war which now seems imminent shall be prosecuted at tremendous expense of blood and treasure in order to bring President Kruger and his Government to reason? Does not the situation indicate rather that British statesmen whose influence is at present most potent in South African affairs, believing that certain forces which centre in the Boer Government of the Transvaal stand in the way of the realization of British ideals

and the extension of British interests in Africa, have determined that, at any cost, Boer obstinacy must be broken in order that the course of British ambition may be unimpeded.

**Dawson.** The 'Toronto Globe' has a letter from its correspondent at Dawson City, which is interesting for the information which it gives in reference to the summer climate of the Yukon country. During June and July, it appears, the mercury is kept dancing up and down between the nineties and the neighborhood of the freezing point. The highest temperature through June was 91 degrees, the lowest 31°. July was warmer and the temperature more fluctuating. Dawson's maximum heat record up to August 5 was 94°, which the thermometer indicated for an hour on July 9, but it dropped by midnight of the same day to 42°, a variation of 52 degrees in twenty-four hours. Four days in July a temperature above 90° was reached, fifteen days between 85° and 90°, eight above 70°, and the remainder between 60° and 70°. The temperature of the nights during these months was from 20° to 40° less, and in two or three instances the difference was over 50°. "A curious feature of the variation is that the higher the day's record, the lower that of the night. Ninety degrees at mid-day drops to below 50° at night, while a mid-day recording between 70° and 80° drops only down to between 50° and 60°. June was almost rainless and tremendously dusty; July gave us occasional gusty showers, with even far-off faint thunder rumbles. The Yukon knows nothing of the electric storms of eastern Canada any more than it does of the devastating wind storms of the middle States. We had one day in July, a red-letter day, of soft, steady, continuous rain, that lasted full 24 hours, laid the thick dust of trail and streets and made us all home-sick with thoughts of similar days in the east." A mail for Dawson some weeks ago suffered serious damage by water *en passage*, and the 'Globe' correspondent tells how industriously and under difficulties the receivers of letters labored to decipher their contents. There were a number of parcels containing photographs, and as the addresses on these parcels had for the most part become illegible the post-master had the photographs hung up upon the interior walls of the office, where they might be recognized and claimed by the friends of the originals. "Thus, for the past few weeks the bare walls have been quite artistic with photos, chiefly those of women and children: mothers and babies, wives and sweethearts, with tenderness and patience in their pure faces looking down into the centre of this far-away mining camp, and waiting recognition and claiming from the man they love. There is a pathos in the incident that only those who know mining camp life can fully appreciate." Governor John G. Brady, of Alaska, visited Dawson City about the first of August, on his way to the southern sections of his territory, and expressed his admiration of the progress evinced both in town affairs and in the mining industry. But according to the account given of him by the 'Globe' correspondent, Governor Brady is hardly the kind of man to promote conciliatory sentiments in reference to the Alaska boundary question. He believes in "Alaska for the Americans and as much of Alaska as it is possible to grasp with both hands," and says "Great Britain never yields territory unless she gains by yielding. Why should we?" Alluding to Governor Brady's words the 'Montreal Witness' remarks: "There is in all this not a word about right. It is simply 'we have grabbed and we mean to keep.'" Of the Alaskan Governor and others of like spirit, the 'Witness'

further says: "He is a good specimen of the marauder who so frequently does the pioneer work of civilization; he does not, as is generally done, clothe his lust for possession under the name of Civilization or of Liberty. He is, however, the same freebooter as the Boer, who in the name of the Lord and at the point of the rifle brought the blacks of South Africa to servitude, took their country from them, and made them work for him. He is the same freebooter as Rhodes and all his crowd, who have all sorts of good reasons for demanding things of the Boers, but whose bottom reason is that Great Britain ought in his opinion to control South Africa, and is going to do it. He is the same freebooter as those who, seeing the Spaniards unable to take possession of the Philippine Islands, said: 'Hands off, there; see us do it.' If we have sympathy with these other freebooters, why should we be angry with Governor Brady and the people who are behind him?"

**The Crops.** In a country so dependent upon agriculture as is Canada the crop question is one of immense importance, and it is accordingly very gratifying to know that, if present indications shall be realized, the labors of the Canadian husbandman will be crowned this year with at least a fair measure of success. According to all reports the grain crop of the Northwest is an excellent one. As in other years, estimates which are probably extravagant have been put forth as to the crop by persons of an over sanguine temperament or by those who have a personal financial interest in booming the country. There has been talk of 40,000,000 or 50,000,000 bushels of wheat in Manitoba, but it is probable that the government's estimate of about 33½ million bushels is much nearer the mark. This would mean an average per acre of 20½ bushels, which certainly is no mean average. The area in crop to oats is estimated at 575,136, which, with an average of 40 bushels per acre, will yield 23,003,126 bushels. The area in crop to barley is given as 182,912 acres, producing 5,532,972 bushels, an average of 30.25 bushels per acre. The estimates of flax, rye and peas are: Flax, acres 21,780, average yield per acre bushels 13.6, total bushels 296,208; rye, acres 3,217, average yield 20.4, total bushels 65,626; peas, acres 1,366, average yield 19.5, total bushels 26,637. The grain crop of the Province thus foots up a total of nearly 62½ million bushels, and the value of the crop at rates which are expected to prevail is about \$28,000,000. The samples of wheat which have reached Toronto are said to be excellent in quality, and with a continuance of good weather for the completion of harvesting and threshing, the standard will be high. The crops of Ontario, we believe, will probably fall below an average and especially so if the extremely dry weather which has prevailed in that province should continue on into the early autumn, thus destroying the hope of an average root crop. In the Maritime Provinces the summer has been favorable to the growth of vegetation, and most crops are likely to give at least an average yield. The hay crop was good and must have been secured for the most part in good condition. There are favorable reports from grain. Wheat especially is much better than last year, and in New Brunswick as well as in P. E. Island will be a very appreciable item in the general products of the farm. The apple crop of Western Nova Scotia, which is important for that section, is said not to be heavy, but it will probably foot up something near an average. Early potatoes appear to be a good crop, but the present dry weather, if it should continue long, will effect unfavorably the later root crop.