

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**The Provincial University.** The value of the University of New Brunswick to the province is a subject which has been called up for discussion by a notice of resolution given by Mr. Fowler, member for Kings County, near the close of the recent session of the Provincial Legislature. Mr. Fowler's resolution which was not discussed by the House, as the mover afterwards obtained permission to withdraw the notice, was as follows:

Whereas, there are in these Maritime Provinces six well equipped colleges, exclusive of the University of New Brunswick; and whereas, it is advisable that an institution be established in this province for the teaching of the science of agriculture; therefore resolved, that in the opinion of this house the amount of the annual grant of \$8,844.48 to the University of New Brunswick should be discontinued with a view to the better enabling the government to provide for the establishment of a school of agriculture.

It seems evident from the discussion of the subject in the daily press and on platforms that there exists in Fredericton and in St. John a very pronounced feeling in opposition to the proposal embodied in Mr. Fowler's resolution. How general and how widespread that feeling may be we cannot tell. Very naturally the sentiments in opposition to the change proposed is first to make itself heard. It is also very natural that among its alumni and those who in one way or another have been connected with its history and especially interested in its work, the University should have a large number of friends who are prompt to appear for its defence.

The interest thus expressed in higher education is most praiseworthy. We have no sympathy with the idea that Collegiate education is not of very great importance to a country like ours. Higher education under wholesome influences is one of the most potent influences for good which a country can feel. But the statement contained in the resolution printed above, that "there are six well-equipped colleges in the Maritime Provinces exclusive of the University of New Brunswick," naturally arrests attention, and suggests the probability that the supply in the matter of colleges is at least equal to the demand. These six institutions are on an average as well equipped probably and meeting the demands for higher education in the country as well as does the University of New Brunswick. Indeed it seems fair to assume that they are meeting such demands more satisfactorily, since, in the case of some of them at least, the number of students has increased rapidly in recent years, while, for the past three decades, the attendance at the University has not increased at all. Among the six colleges alluded to in Mr. Fowler's notice of motion no doubt room could easily be found for the number of students now attending the University of New Brunswick, and the transference could be made without prejudice to the educational interests of the students. It must be sufficiently evident to any person who has given much attention to the subject, that, speaking generally, the people of these provinces believe that higher education can be most satisfactorily carried on under distinctly religious influences. The sincerity of this conviction they have proved by establishing and maintaining, at convenient centres and at very large expense, colleges in which all the large denominations of the country are represented. In the face of these considerations it seems fair to ask two questions. 1. Why should the Province be at the trouble and expense of duplicating a provision for higher education which the people are voluntarily making for themselves? 2. Why should Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists and Episcopalians in this Province be taxed to support a Provincial Institution which can do no more for the student than is being done by these denominational colleges whose doors are freely open to all who

come? We have no feeling inimical to the Fredericton institution. It has done good work for the Province in the past, and no doubt is doing good work still, though to us there seems much less reason for its existence now than formerly. We have not, indeed, heard any general demand on the part of the Baptists or other denominations for the abolition of the University, and we do not feel called upon to preach a crusade against it. But we are certainly of opinion that an institution which is being so liberally aided from the public treasury should be able to show that it is doing at least as much for the cause of higher education in the country as others which are entirely dependent upon private resources.

**The Queen and Her Prime Minister Visit France.** The fact that the Queen has gone for a visit to the south of France indicates — and perhaps Her Majesty is well pleased that it should indicate, that she does not regard any rupture of friendly relations between her government and that of France as imminent. The Queen's visit to France at this juncture in international affairs does not, however, command the unanimous approval of public sentiment in England. Probably no one supposes that Her Majesty is likely to be subject to danger or annoyance of any kind on the other side of the channel. But it is felt that the Queen's going to France at the present time may confirm M. Hanotaux, the French Premier, in the belief that the British Government is not after all determined to maintain its contentions in Africa and Eastern Asia at the cost of war; and it is feared that France may therefore be emboldened to continue in its aggressive policy. The Queen, however, is well known to be strongly averse to war, and it may be that she considers her going to France at this time as a salutary act, indicating a pacificatory feeling on her part and that of her Government, as if she would assure the French people and their government of her confidence in their good intentions, and say to France that, if war shall unhappily take place, it will not be because the British people and their rulers do not desire to live in the most friendly relations with their neighbors. That Lord Salisbury has not advised against the visit seems to be sufficiently indicated by the fact that he also has gone to spend a holiday in the south of France. It is said that Lord Salisbury goes on the advice of his physician and there are rumors that his health is very seriously impaired. It is easy to believe that such a report may be true. The labors and responsibilities which he has necessarily undertaken in his two-fold office of Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary must be such as to tax severely a man of herculean strength. Few men indeed are able to carry heavy a load, and Lord Salisbury is now within a year or two of seventy. If there is any one man for whom especially the prayers of the nation should be offered it would seem to be the man upon whom, more than any other, devolves the duty of determining the nation's foreign policy.

**Rumored Changes.** Such a matter as Lord Salisbury's illness is a godsend to the newsmongers, and it is to be expected that within the next week or two, the cabled despatches will contain many rumors, and more or less categorical statements, as to the gravity of the British Premier's physical conditions, all which it will be prudent to take with a grain of salt. During Lord Salisbury's brief absence in the south of France, Mr. A. J. Balfour, who is First Lord of the Treasury and Government leader in the House of Commons, will be at the head of the Foreign office. Mr. Balfour is Lord Salisbury's nephew and is understood to be in full

sympathy with his views in respect to present international complications. If Lord Salisbury finds it impossible to continue to carry the responsibilities connected with both the Premiership and the Foreign office, it is not improbable that Mr. Balfour will become Foreign Secretary, as such an appointment would not probably involve any departure from present lines of policy. Mr. George N. Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign affairs has been showing a sagacity in dealing with difficult matters, which is winning for him recognition, both in Parliament and in the country, as a man of ability, and there is talk of his being admitted to a place in the Government whenever opportunity offers. There is rumor of a reconstruction of the Government during the Easter recess, but whether it is anything more than a rumor it is impossible to say.

**Trade With Manchester.** We do not seem to have heard much of late about the great Manchester Ship Canal, which was completed a few years ago. It was stated after the opening of the Canal that the amount of traffic passing through it was disappointing, and the great work was represented as likely to prove a costly failure. It is now stated, however, that the Canal is proving a financial success, and that it has been the means of largely extending the trade of Manchester. In line with this is the fact that two gentlemen of that city, and connected with the Canal Company are now in this country with the view of making arrangements for the establishment of a direct steamship line between Manchester and ports in Canada—Montreal being named as the Canadian terminus of the line during the summer months and St. John or Halifax as the winter port. It is represented that Manchester is the centre of the most thickly populated district in the world. Within a radius of thirty miles from Manchester City hall, we are told, there are seven and a half million people, and it is believed that this populous district would afford a ready market for many Canadian products.

**The San Jose Scale.** A bill, introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Fisher, has passed the Dominion Parliament, prohibiting the importation of nursery stock from the United States. This is not a retaliatory measure, nor is it, as was explained, a protectionist measure in the ordinary or "N. P." sense. Its design is indeed to protect the orchards of Canada, not, however, against United States competition, but against an infinitesimal insect or microbe, known as the San Jose Scale, which is inflicting immense damage upon the orchards of that country. For once Government and Opposition were able to agree in regard to the merits of a measure, and Mr. Fisher's bill accordingly met with but little opposition.

The Vienna correspondent of The Times claims to have unimpeachable authority for the statement that since Marquis Ito resumed the Premiership of Japan the relations between Tokio and Peking have steadily improved. China recently asked Marquis Ito's advice regarding her intercourse with foreigners. He urged the Chinese Government to grant railroad concessions, to allow foreigners to establish banks and to restrict the powers of the Viceroy. The correspondent adds that Japan has received no intimation of Russia's intentions regarding Port Arthur, beyond a notification that a few warships would go there temporarily. Japan is determined not to allow her interests in China to be damaged by Russia, and will resist any attempt on the part of the Russians to establish themselves in Corea.