

Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXVI.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LV.

Vol. XX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1904

No. 31

Criminal

So many fatal accidents have been chronicled, resulting from the fact that someone did not know the gun or pistol with which he was threatening the life of a friend was not loaded, that one would think even the most ignorant and reckless would have grown cautious. But there seems to be a class of persons whose imbecility in the use of firearms is quite invincible. These persons seem to think that there is no fun to be compared with that of pretending to shoot their friends with an empty gun, and this kind of play has for them such a fascination that they do not pause to enquire particularly whether the weapon in their hands is loaded or not. One would think that the remotest possibility that a gun may be loaded should be sufficient to prevent any boy of common sense from pointing it at another, and yet boys, and sometimes men, will pick up a loaded gun and fire it full at a person at close range, their only excuse for their action being that they "didn't know it was loaded." The latest instance of this kind which has come under our notice occurred a few days ago near Napanee, Ont., where a boy of sixteen years fired a charge of buckshot into the shoulder and breast of a girl a little younger than himself. Happily in this instance the results are not likely, it is said, to prove fatal. The excuse in this case, as in so many similar ones, was that the boy who fired the gun didn't know it was loaded.

Ministers' Vacations.

A few weeks spent by a minister each year in the recuperation of physical and mental energy is by no means to be regarded as time wasted. Indeed it may be said that hard-worked pastors owe it both to themselves and to their people to take an annual vacation. A man may of course work on from year's end to year's end without a rest, but we believe it will be found that the ministers who take and enjoy their annual holiday are those who continue longest in the service and do the most valuable work. "No class of workers," says the *Toronto Globe*, "need the refreshment of brain and nerve and blood more indisputably than do the men whose business it is to deal with the great spiritual interests of their fellows. A preacher's utility in a community does not depend on what he does so much as on the temper and vitality of his life. The words he uses may be well chosen, but their message will not ring true, nor will it find its way to the heart and conscience, unless behind it and breathing through it there is a wholesome, well-poised, life-giving manhood. Work that merely tires the muscles, and even work that taxes only the brain, may indeed be carried on with something like efficiency through routine and monotony in season and out of season. But with the man whose service touches the spiritual in his fellows, and whose dealings are with the sorrows and errors and burdens of life, it is different. He must put his heart into his work, make himself one with the joys and griefs of others, be eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame, and feel in his own soul 'the heavy and the weary weight of all this unintelligible world.' The true minister must do that. If he fails in his heart he may not need recreation for his nerves or brain. But if he is in motive and spirit and sympathy a 'daysman' with his people, and if through him healing comes to them, it will be at the cost in virtue and vitality that many a time sent the man of Nazareth away from the thronging crowds to a desert place and to a high mountain apart. The great silences of nature, the gentleness of the solitary mountain, the soothing balm of the woods and streams and green fields—were it not for these the cities of men would still bear the primal curse of Cain, and would devour and destroy the things that make life noble and service true."

Sir Robert Bond's recent visit to Newfoundland does not appear to have done anything toward convincing him of the desirability of uniting the fortunes of Newfoundland with those of the Dominion. According to an Associated Press despatch, the Newfoundland Premier, just before leaving London, said: "I am strongly opposed to any such amalgamation. Newfoundland neither desires nor needs confederation. There are no advantages to us in such an arrangement compared with the disadvantages it would entail. There is no such movement worth mentioning on foot in Newfoundland. The oldest colony can

maintain the most pleasant relations with her Canadian sister, but she intends to paddle her own canoe." While Sir Robert Bond has nothing to say in favor of confederation with the Dominion he is not hopeful of establishing advantageous trade relations with the United States. There is small prospect that the Bond-Hay treaty will be ratified by that country. For fourteen years Newfoundland has given American fishermen rights which it has power to withhold and has even given the United States greater privileges than are given the mother country. The next step in the matter, Premier Bond says, must be on the part of the United States. "In the untoward event even of our failing to secure any measure of reciprocity, it may become necessary—although I hope it never will—to put into execution those differentiating tariffs which the other British colonies have enacted against foreign countries. The adoption of a thirty-three and a third percent preferential tariff in favor of British manufactured goods would turn the whole of our business with the United States over to Canada. Newfoundland has not so far adopted this preferential tariff, because it was thought that sooner or later the United States—both from the view point of self-interest and in return for a material sign of genuine friendship—would enact the reciprocal agreement."

Presence of

Mind.

If the statement of a witness, made the other day before the Federal Commission which is engaged in an investigation of the 'Slocum' disaster is to be received as correct (and the statement does not seem improbable) a striking illustration is therein afforded of the tremendous consequences which may depend upon a person's doing the right thing at the right moment. The statement is to the effect that the fire started in a barrel and a member of the crew who discovered it, in an attempt to smother the fire, picked up a bag of charcoal and threw it at the barrel and knocked it over, thus spreading the flames. Then he ran to get the fire hose leaving the door to the stairway open, giving the fire the air it needed to make it gain rapid headway. If the man had gone carefully about the work of smothering the fire or if he had picked the barrel up and thrown it overboard the terrible tragedy would have been prevented.

Drought and

Heat in

England.

Recent despatches from England tell of a prolonged drought which is having a serious effect upon the country. The hay crop was early and abundant, but the grain crop, though it will be early, is likely to be light for the lack of seasonable rain. Market gardeners too are very anxious over the situation, vegetables are growing scarce and the country bears more the appearance of late autumn than of midsummer, the fields have lost their greenness and have grown brown under the intense heat and the trees are profusely shedding their scorched leaves. Another result of the drought has been fires on the moorlands. One of the most serious was on Roughton Heath, Norfolk, where eight acres were destroyed and some hundred of young grouse perished in the flames. Staniton and Elterton moors in Yorkshire have also been badly damaged by the fires. So extreme has been the heat that at Toubridge Wells cattle show valuable cows had to be treated for sunstroke and one prize animal died from this cause. On the railway line between Aldershot and North Camp the heat caused the rails to expand to such an extent that the line buckled—a thing said to be unprecedented in England, and a serious accident was narrowly averted, the driver of a passenger train noticing this condition of the track just in time to save the train.

Sir William

McGregor.

Sir William McGregor who has just been appointed Governor of Newfoundland has a reputation for herculean physical strength and indomitable courage as well as for superior intellectual ability. While Sir William was high commissioner and administrator of Great Britain's possessions in the Pacific with headquarters at Suva, the capital of Fiji, circumstances led to his giving an exhibition of his courage and physical strength, which together with his modesty, led Queen Victoria to bestow upon him the Albert Medal granted to civilians for acts of extraordinary gallantry which in the army or navy would have won the Victoria Cross. The 'Syria,' with a shipload of Indian

coolies on board, had gone aground at some distance from Suva. The only way by which the vessel, which was stuck on a reef at the foot of a precipice and being pounded to pieces by the surf, could be reached, was by means of ropes and by a broken mast, which had fallen against the side of the cliff. Again and again Sir William made the perilous journey to and from the wreck either with a man or woman on his back, and sometimes with a child held by its clothes between his teeth in addition thereto. The greatest tax on his strength was, however, in connection with the rescue from the wreck of a white woman who had got at the spirits, was mad with drink, and had fallen overboard. The captain of the ship and a police officer, who had gone after her, were being swept out to sea. Sir William caused himself to be let down by a rope, caught the knot of the woman's hair in his teeth, and with his hands seized the two men and dragged them all three to safety. Then he wrote his report of the disaster and of the rescue. Several of those who had taken part in the latter received the Royal Humane Society medal. But as there was no mention in Sir William's report of his own services, or, in fact, of his having been upon the scene at all, it was not until much later that the matter was brought to the attention of the Government and by the latter to that of the Queen, who, as stated above, conferred upon him the Albert medal.

The Pan Presbyterian Council

Some of the Canadian delegates to the Pan Presbyterian Council lately held in Liverpool have returned. Among these is Rev. Dr. Fraser of St. John, who during his absence has been appointed to the Chair of New Testament Literature and Exegesis in Montreal Presbyterian College. Judge Forbes who was the other delegate from the Maritime Provinces will spend some time in travel before returning. Principal Caven of Knox College, Toronto, late President of the Council, is reported to be much improved in health by the trip and has gone for a visit to Scotland. Rev. Dr. Warden of Toronto has also returned, and some of his impressions of the Council have been published in a Toronto paper. The attendance of delegates, Dr. Warden says, was not quite as large as it should have been, partly because of the bad effects of the meeting at Washington four years ago, which did much to discount the Council, and partly because of the political interests in the United States, which claimed the attention of some American delegates. But the quality of the Council was excellent, thoroughly representative of world-wide Presbyterianism, and the attendance of the public was always large and interested. "The programme of subjects was very much better than at Washington. There was greater variety. Questions of present-day interest, even questions of controversy, were given prominence, and were dealt with by men who were at once competent, outspoken and sane. At Washington, for instance, all the vexed problems of Biblical criticism were left off the programme, but at Liverpool some of the ablest papers and some of the most interesting and useful discussions dealt with questions of literary and historical criticism and with the unsettled problems of theology. The gain by this was very great. The Council was held in touch with the real thought of the churches, and the effect will be good. What struck one was the freshness with which the problems were faced, and also the moderate and steady views that prevailed. Nothing was lost to truth or to the church in the frank recognition by well-informed men of the difficulties and dangers of these questions, and there was no disposition, on the one hand, to stifle honest investigation, or, on the other, to cut loose from old moorings. The Presbyterian churches in nearly every part of the world are plainly neither reactionary nor radical in their temper and attitude." Alluding to the speakers, Dr. Warden spoke of the very favorable impression made by Principal Caven. No man was heard with more respect or grew more upon the Council. Perhaps the most brilliant and impressive paper presented during the sitting of the Alliance, Dr. Warden considered, was that of Professor Henry Vanduyke, of Princeton University, who roused the great audience again and again to the utmost enthusiasm with his discussion of "Christianity and Current Literature." In reference to preachers Dr. Warden grew enthusiastic over Rev. R. J. Campbell, Dr. Parker's successor at City Temple, London. "Campbell is far and away the best preacher I heard. He is simply superb, fresh in his thinking, broad in his sympathies, the master of effective literary style, and genuinely sincere and Christian. No one could fail to be impressed by the service at the City Temple. To me it is more impressive than even in Parker's best days. They tell me there is a new school of preachers arising in the Free churches, of which Campbell is a type. If so, it means much for the churches and for Britain."