

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXV.

Vol. XIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1903.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LIV.

No. 4;

The Armenian Patriarch While conducting service in the Cathedral at Constantinople on the 19th inst., in celebrating the Armenian Christmas, the Armenian patriarch was shot by a drug clerk. Happily the wound is not supposed to be fatal. The shooting is believed to be the work of agitators. Malachias Ormanian has been the head of the Armenian church for six years. He began his ecclesiastical career as a Catholic priest, but joined in a secession when a number of Armenian Catholics entered the national Armenian church. He is scholarly, preaching fluently in our languages, and has enjoyed the confidence of both Turks and Armenians. The Armenians belong to that part of the church which separated from the Greek church in the year 596, at the council of Chalcedon. They recognize as their highest religious authority the patriarch who resides in Russian Armenia, but the patriarch at Constantinople occupies an equally important position as he is the acknowledged representative of the Armenian nation and church, at the Sublime Porte.

The Archbishop of Canterbury The appointment of Dr. Thain Davidson, the Bishop of Winchester, to be Archbishop of Canterbury is an event of some significance. Compared with some of his predecessors he is still in the prime of life. At fifty-four he ought to be able to do his best and most vigorous work. The condition of the Church of England will give ample scope for the exercise of his executive ability. The Education Bill which has recently passed both Houses of Parliament, and its inauguration will call for all the skill and tact which he can command as the head of a clergy who are supposed to have much to say as to the teachers who shall be employed in the schools as well as those who are to control them. The Archbishop has earned for himself a good name as to his fairness in dealing with conflicting opinions in his own church and with opponents without. The position he fills is one of commanding influence and power. All good men will hope that he may use both in such a way as shall be for the highest and best good of all.

Argentina and Chili Last year the difficulties between these two republics which had been of long standing were referred to King Edward for arbitration. Both parties agreed to abide by his decision. It was the old trouble about boundaries. The action of these republics is worthy of special commendation, since they are not supposed to be in such an advanced state of civilization as many other countries in the world. They have reached the conclusion that it would be to the advantage of both nations to cease spending millions on armies and navies, and to devote these millions in developing their splendid resources, and so they have agreed to put an end to competition in armaments, stop the purchase of war ships, already in course of construction, and turn their attention to the formation of a United States of South America. They have an immense territory covering the whole of the temperate zone of that great continent. This is good news and augurs well for the future of South America.

The Irish Land Question The settlement of the Land question in Ireland is a necessity. It is expected that at the next session of Parliament the Government will introduce a Bill with this object in view. The report of the conference between Irish landlords and the Nationalist members of Parliament will form the basis of such legislation. If this vexed question,

which has been before the world for centuries can now be satisfactorily settled, it will give Ireland a chance for self development which she sorely needs. The committee does not advise the direct purchase of the land by the State, and its re sale to the present tenant-holders, but that the State shall confine its intervention to the fixing of a fair valuation, on a basis agreed upon, by which the rights of the landlord are guaranteed, and the purchaser assisted either with a loan or a government guarantee. All lovers of British institutions and those who desire the welfare of Great Britain will hail with delight any Act of Parliament which will heal this open sore and give continued health and strength to the British body politic.

Russia and China. The establishment of custom posts in Manchuria by Russia is being stoutly resisted by China. That country has at least the moral support of Japan and Britain in her resistance to Russian encroachments. To permit that country to establish these custom houses in her territory is practically to give up Manchuria and make that state Russian to all intents. It would be the death knell to the "open door" policy to which the powers are pledged. Once allowed, Britain, France, Germany and Japan might be justified in stepping in and claiming similar rights in their respective spheres of influence. The time for making this request is a most inopportune one for China. Several of her provinces are in rebellion, and while the Imperial troops are not making much headway in quelling the turbulent spirits of unrest, they are adding fuel to the flame by their flagrant excesses upon innocent villages and towns. The situation is serious in that great country. A strong government at Peking is the need of the hour in this time of stress and strain. With foes without and open hostility within the future is not streaked with a coming dawn. The demand of the powers to be paid their indemnity in gold and not in silver, increases the difficulties which confront the Chinese government today. There are many prayers ascending to heaven for China. May the God of nations interpose His strong arm and save it from a far worse trouble than the Boxer uprising.

M De Blowitz. The death of this eminent man a few days ago, removes from the ranks of journalism one of its most prominent members. For thirty years he was correspondent of The London Times in Paris, and considered one of the most noted newspaper correspondents in the world. He was an Austrian by birth and was born in 1832. In 1870 he was naturalized as a citizen of France, and formed one of the National Guard at Marseilles. By a private wire from a house belonging to his wife, he remained in communication with Thiers at Versailles, when all other communication had been cut off by the Commune. He entered the service of The Times in 1871, inaugurated constant telegraphic communication and obtained the concession from 9 p. m. to 3 a. m. of a special wire for The Times. He is credited with having obtained more items of great interest for his paper than any other correspondent. He was the friend and confidant of many French and European rulers and statesmen. He was entrusted with many grave secrets and was never known to betray a trust. In a letter to The Times in May 1875, he revealed the intention of the German military party of another invasion of France; he predicted the march of Russia to Herat; sent the treaty of Berlin to The Times before it was signed, and it is estimated that he has written more than 4000 columns in The Times. It is thus seen what an important part he took in the stirring events of his day.

Mr. Chamberlain on South African Finance. One of the problems which confronted the British Government at the close of the war in South Africa was how to dispose of the war debt. By whom was this to be borne, by the British tax-payer, or by the colonies, or by both, if the latter, in what proportion to each? In a speech at Johannesburg last week, Mr. Chamberlain outlined the course which would be pursued and which met the approval of representative men of the Transvaal and of the Orange River Colony. The proposal he said was, first, that the government undertake to submit to the Imperial Parliament a bill to guarantee a loan of \$175,000,000 in the security of the assets of the Transvaal and of the Orange River Colony, which were being united for this purpose. The loan would be raised as soon as the Imperial Parliament shall give its consent, the money being devoted to paying the existing debts of the Transvaal, buying the existing railways, providing for the construction of new lines, allowing the necessary expenditure for public works and also providing for the land settlement. This part of the plan will enable the Transvaal and Orange River Colony to carry out the development of their country. The second part of the agreement provides that as soon as possible after placing the first, another loan of \$150,000,000 shall be raised, to be called up in three annual instalments of \$50,000,000 each. This second loan is to be treated as a war debt and will be secured on the assets of the Transvaal. It is said that a number of Transvaal financiers have subscribed the first \$50,000,000 without receiving preferential security. They have the greatest confidence in the resources of their country. This augurs well for its future.

Rice Culture. It is said that nearly one-half of the human race lives upon rice. Chemical analysis has shown that this most important grain contains a larger amount of nutriment than any other fruit product. Rice is a native of Southern Asia. It was first cultivated by the Chinese, and until within a few years little effort has been made outside the Orient for its cultivation. It is truly the agricultural marvel of the age. It was introduced to America as early as 1694, but was not cultivated to any extent until many years after this date. There are fourteen hundred varieties of the rice grain known, of which fifty or more are cultivated. Its capacity for spreading is simply wonderful. From 300,000,000 to 500,000,000 pounds of rice are consumed in the United States. Last year all but 50,000,000 pounds was grown in that country. Louisiana and Texas are two states where this grain grows most readily, and out of a possible 3,000,000 acres capable of growing this cereal, only 350,000 are as yet under cultivation. This shows to what proportions it may yet attain. The full possibilities of rice are only realized when it is affirmed that in the Orient the people live on the kernel and with the by-products do everything else. The houses are decorated with it inside and out; furniture, picture frames, hats, shoes, paper, currency, clothing, glue and saki, the wine of the country, are made from it. Rice is of chief commercial interest to the people of the far East. The success or failure of the crop in any year is of the utmost moment to one-half of the population of the globe. The quantity of the grain raised by the Orientals is simply beyond comparison. In one single year between 2,500,000,000 and 3,000,000,000 pounds are raised. It exceeds the crop of the United States more than 2000 times. Japan alone has 86,000,000 acres under cultivation. The bulk of this enormous growth is consumed at home. It is said that in China from four to nine barrels of rice to the acre are produced, while a usual American crop is from ten to eighteen barrels. Hunger ought to be unknown in America.