

# Messe and Visitor

First Baptist Church  
care R. N. Beekwith  
131 Dresden Row

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER  
VOLUME LXVII.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LVI.

Vol. XXI.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Wednesday, February 22, 1905.

No. 8

## Russian

### Methods.

There are conflicting reports, and consequently a good deal of uncertainty, as to the facts in connection with the popular demonstration in St. Petersburg on January 22nd. Some correspondents have been charged with gross exaggeration of the facts in describing the measures employed by the military in suppressing the outbreak and in statements as to the number of the killed and injured. But if certain statements made by a special correspondent at St. Petersburg of the Paris Temps are to be credited it is easy to believe that the treatment of those who engaged in the popular demonstration of January 22 was far more severe, and the number of the killed and injured far greater, than the Russian official reports would indicate. The Paris correspondent of the London Times speaks of the Temps as the most reliable and sober-sided of all the Paris journals and the favorite semi-official organ of the French Foreign Office. According to the Temps correspondent, a Russian who did not belong to the official class, but who spoke with a profound accent of sincerity, recounted to him that the St. Petersburg police, with the object of establishing the existence of a revolutionist plot, which, however, was purely fictitious, had made free use of the birch in order to force imaginary confessions from their prisoners and from wounded men and women who were being treated in the hospitals, and this in spite of the fact that the practice of corporal punishment and torture had been legally abolished by the Czar. One girl student, who had had her breast partially severed by a Cossack's sabre, was taken away from the hospital before she was half cured and questioned as to her connection with the Anarchist organization by the Commissioner of Police. Her replies being unsatisfactory, she was stripped and flogged with a birch on the lower part of her back until sheer agony forced her to declare anything her torturers wished. She was then returned to the hospital, where it was necessary to place her on an elastic bed filled with curdled milk so dreadfully had she been thrashed. A student of the Technological Institute was similarly whipped and sent home in a dying condition. Preposterous stories as to the amount of money forwarded from England and Japan were told by rioters, and they were all extracted from the victims of the police under the above circumstances. The same Russian informant of the Temps states that he visited fifteen out of forty-six hospitals in St. Petersburg in search of a missing relative, and counted two thousand one hundred and ninety-five dead, which would prove that the grand total was very different from the ninety-six which the authorities confessed to.

## Opening of the

### British Parliament.

The sixth session of the first Parliament of Edward VII. reign was opened by the King in person on the 14th instant. The speech from the throne was comparatively brief and uninteresting. Its longest paragraph was devoted to the situation in the Balkans, which, it is said, gives cause for anxiety. The hope was expressed that the steps to establish a representative constitution for the Transvaal would result in substantial progress towards the ultimate goal of complete self-government. His Majesty referred to the Thibetan expedition, to the exchange of visits between representatives of Lord Curzon, of Kedleston, the viceroy of India, and the Ameer of Afghanistan, to discuss questions affecting the relations of the two governments and concluded with mentioning the proposals for the redistribution of parliamentary seats to be laid before the commons; the alien bill to be introduced and legislation dealing with the unemployed, besides other unimportant domestic legislation. In the House of Lord's Lord Lansdowne, Foreign Secretary delivered a speech of some length dealing with a number of matters of more or less interest in connection with Britain's foreign relations. Touching upon the Thibet expedition Lord Lansdowne said that the attitude of the Government toward Thibet had been absolutely consistent. Colonel Younghusband (the British political agent who headed the mission) had transgressed his instructions when he arranged for British forces to remain in Chumbi district for seventy-five years pending the payment of an indemnity by the Thibetans, and this action had been repudiated by His Majesty's Government. It is said that the first day's proceedings in Parliament left rather a decided impression in the lobbies that the Government will man-

age to hold out till the end of the session. The Government's legislative programme, which is devoted in the main to social reforms, will be mainly popular, while the avoidance of difficult questions like that of the redistribution of seats and Premier Balfour's firmness in thrusting aside the fiscal problem, all will tend in the same direction. On the other hand, the Liberals appear to be as distant as ever from any approach to unanimity on the vexed question of leadership. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Earl Spencer, Herbert Asquith and Sir Henry Hartley Fowler all are spoken of as possible leaders of the next Liberal ministry, to say nothing of Lord Rosebery's even superior claim to that position, should he be inclined to exert his undoubted influence. Everything will depend upon Mr. Balfour's success in holding his followers together and overcoming the apathy born of the knowledge that the whole country is looking for and expecting a general election. The first division approaching party lines occurred in the house of commons when Mr. Delziel (Liberal) moved that the house censure Lord Arlington for breach of privilege by his action in the North Dorest election. Premier Balfour said nothing could be gained by continuing the discussion and moved the previous question which was carried by 257 to 191 votes. In the debate on the address the following amendment has been offered by Mr. Asquith: "We humbly represent to Your Majesty that the various aspects of the fiscal question have been fully discussed in the country for nearly two years and that the time has come for submitting the question to the people without further delay."

## The North

### Sea Incident.

On February 13 the International Commission which is inquiring into the North Sea incident heard the conclusions of the British and Russian agents upon the testimony presented. It had expected that the two agents would reach an agreement upon a number of the points involved, but the pleading showed that the main issues were not reconciled.

The British conclusion maintained that the testimony showed that no torpedo boats were present and that therefore the firing was unjustifiable, whereas the Russian conclusion held that the testimony showed that torpedo boats were present and that the firing was fully warranted. However the Russian statement closed with a declaration of profound regret at the fact that innocent lives had been sacrificed and announced the willingness of the Russian government to pay an indemnity to the survivors and families of the victims leaving the amount and partition of the indemnity to The Hague Tribunal. The British summary of facts is under four heads:

First—That no torpedo boats or torpedo boat destroyers were in the vicinity of the incident as shown by the declaration of the fishermen and the official statement of various governments that no torpedo boats belonging to their fleets were in that neighborhood and that therefore the Russians made a mistake largely as the result of apprehension that an attack was about to occur.

Second—That the fire was opened without sufficient reason and was continued for an unreasonable time after the mistake had been detected.

Third—That no effort was made to succor the sinking ships or wounded.

Fourth—That not the slightest irregularity was shown in the conduct of the innocent fishing fleet.

The Russian summary, after setting forth the justification under four heads, concludes as follows:

"The imperial Russian government therefore maintains that the fire of the Russian squadron was ordered and executed in the legitimate accomplishment of the military duties of the commander of the squadron. Consequently no responsibility whatever is chargeable against Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky or any of the officers of the squadron. The imperial government sincerely deplore that the incident resulted in innocent victims and therefore the admiral's responsibility being eliminated, the Russian government expresses its readiness to make reparation by indemnifying the innocent victims, deferring the amount and partition of the indemnities to the permanent tribunal of arbitration at The Hague." Monday's session practically closed the work of the commission until a decision is reached, when Admiral Fournier (the president of the commission) will call a meeting for the public announcement. The admirals

in the meantime will hold daily private sessions to deliberate upon the decision. It is expected that some days will elapse before definite results are reached.

## The Hay-Bond

### Treaty Killed.

Newfoundland's hopes of concluding a mutually advantageous commercial treaty with the United States has been sadly disappointed. The great republic was apparently willing, at least so far as its executive was concerned, to make such a treaty with its small neighbor, and accordingly what is known as the Hay-Bond treaty was negotiated. But when this instrument came to be submitted to the United States Senate for ratification, it became apparent that it would receive the necessary endorsement only on condition of being so amended that the advantage involved should be wholly on the part of the United States. The protection principle is so supreme and ubiquitous in the republic that the interests and demands of every national and sectional industry must be considered, and accordingly any measure of reciprocity which another country would deem worthy of consideration has small chance of receiving the endorsement of Congress. The practical rejection of the Hay-Bond treaty has naturally caused disappointment in Newfoundland and a feeling that the attitude assumed in this matter by the big republic toward her small neighbor is the reverse of magnanimous. It is said that Newfoundland will now probably enforce the bait act against United States vessels as well as against those of France. Hitherto the United States fishermen have had the privilege of purchasing but not of catching bait in Newfoundland, the usual price being \$1.25 per barrel. French fishermen at one time had this privilege also, and it being cut off almost completely ruined the French fisheries on the Newfoundland banks. Hon. E. M. Jackson, Minister of Finance and Customs in Newfoundland is quoted as saying in this connection: "We practically control the bait supply of the North Atlantic. We regard this littoral fishery as our greatest asset. From the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Hudson's Strait we have thousands of miles of coast line, and every creek and headland from Fortune Bay by the north to Cape Chudley is a baiting ground. This is the key to the North Atlantic fisheries, and whatever country holds this key has a powerful leverage as a treaty-making power either with France or with the United States of America."

## The Gaynor

### Greene Case.

Alluding to the recently announced decision of the British Privy Council in the Gaynor-Greene case, which, as was generally expected, would be in favor of the United States, the Montreal Witness says: "The action of Mr. Justice Caron in releasing Gaynor and Greene is criticized in the following terms: 'Where a prisoner is brought before a competent tribunal, charged with an extraditable offence, and is remanded, for the express purpose of affording the prosecution an opportunity of bringing forward evidence whereby the accusation is to be supported, if in such a case upon a writ of habeas corpus, a learned judge treats a remand warrant as a nullity and proceeds to adjudicate the case as though the whole evidence was before him, it would paralyze the administration of justice and render it impossible for proceedings in extradition to be effective.' In that criticism most people will find common sense as well as good law. The decision of Judge Caron was considered a most astounding one in Canada at the time it was given, and the presence of Messrs. Gaynor and Greene at Quebec, under the circumstances, has not been cherished as redounding to its credit. The legal battle for and against extradition will now vigorously recommence, and we must await the outcome."

—An appreciative subscriber sending her renewal subscription from Vancouver says, "we cannot do without the MESSENGER AND VISITOR though we have our local church papers the 'MESSENGER AND VISITOR' keeps us in touch with the old friends in the East as nothing else can. It is very cheering to get such appreciative words from old friends. This is only one of many which find their way to us. Our aim is to be a messenger of good to all our readers."