

# Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXVI.

Vol. XX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1904

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LV.

No. 30

**George Gee.** The last act in a sad and terrible tragedy was enacted when George Gee gave up his life on the scaffold at Woodstock at one o'clock on Friday morning last. The crime for which Gee has paid the last penalty which human justice can exact was the murder of his cousin, Millie Gee, on the sixteenth of March last. The facts brought to light at the trial showed that the crime was the immediate outcome of jealousy on the part of George Gee, stimulated by excessive drinking. But it also indicated a lax state of morals existing in the community where the tragedy occurred and making crime of a more or less serious character a thing to be expected. The lessons of this crime and its outcome should be plainly discernable. Evidently there had been a most lamentable lack of right education. If George Gee had been trained up in the way he should have gone, the results would have been very different. There seems to be no reason whatever for classifying the young man as a degenerate, as has been done in some quarters. The pictures printed of his parents and himself indicate that they were persons of excellent physical development and there is nothing to indicate that he was mentally defective. He has talked freely during the period of his incarceration, and in all that is reported of him there appears no lack of normal mental or moral development. He seems to have taken as reasonable a view of his position and his responsibility as one whose up-bringing had been so defective could be expected to take, and he met his doom with calmness and resignation. There is nothing to show that he was naturally cruel or vindictive. His terrible crime, as has been said, was evidently the outcome of jealousy stimulated by excessive drinking, which made him reckless of the moral character of his murderous deed and its consequences. Gee himself in a last statement which he made attributes his ruin to rum and other associated evil influences. "I would like to advise all you men to keep clear of rum and bad women, as it has been the ruination of me. It would pay the young men better to go to church instead of running about to dances and raffles and running through the fields on Sunday drinking rum." There is some reason to hope that the sad ending of George Gee's career may have a sobering and wholesome effect on the community in which he lived. It is said that revival services have lately been held there and that Gee's parent's have both professed conversion. Gee himself made a profession of religion before he died and expressed hope for the future.

**Cronje and Viljoen** It is interesting to note the estimate of Paul Kruger expressed by General Cronje and General Viljoen who were prominent leaders in the late Boer war. On learning of the President's death Cronje and Viljoen who are in St. Louis issued the following statement: "Kruger's death is mourned by every Boer here. They feel that his exile and isolation in a strange country in his old age have hastened the end. We recognize in him one of the greatest characters of South Africa. He was sadly misunderstood and maligned. His intentions were profoundly patriotic. Many things that he did would have been better, perhaps, undone. However, since his youth he served his country and his people and became grey in the service of the country he loved. His name and career will be indelible in the history of South Africa. He followed the dictations of Scripture and the Supreme Being in his simple way faithfully, and we are satisfied that he died in peace with his Maker."

**A Happy Reunion.** A remarkable story, which appears to be true, comes from Atlantic city of the meeting of father and son, after fifteen years of separation, during which each believed the other to be dead. The two, Richard Paget and his son Herbert, were both severely injured in the Johnstown flood. The father being unable to find his son, gave him up for lost and returned to his old home in Scotland. Herbert Paget had been sent to a hospital, and upon his release went to Johnstown and endeavored to get some trace of his father, but in vain. Finding himself cast upon his own resources, he went to Denver where he worked for several years. The last four years he had been employed by a mining concern of Battle Creek, Mich. Last April they sent young Paget to Bolivia, South America, to superintend the installation of engines and look after their mining interests there. The

elder Paget, after the effects of the great flood had gradually worn away, resumed business in Edinburgh, was successful and is now wealthy. A feeling kept urging him to return again to this country for a visit. The voyage did not agree with him, and he came to Atlantic City. He was accompanied to this country by Mr. and Mrs. John MacDermott of Edinburgh. The younger man having transacted his business in South America, came to New York and later to Atlantic city where, according to the story, father and son were passing each other on Young's pier when their attention was attracted by a man announcing a "thrilling and spectacular" reproduction of the Johnstown flood, and both went into the hall to witness the performance which however proved to be too much for the nerves of the elder man who, as he was being assisted from the place, was seen by Richard Paget and recognized as his father. The reunion appears to have been as happy as it was remarkable.

**Treasure Recovered.** It is reported from Madrid that the English company which under a concession from the government of Spain is raising the Spanish galleons that went down in the engagement between the combined British and Dutch fleets and the Spanish fleet in Vigo Bay, October, 1702, has raised the Santa Cruz, and that on board the wreck were found silver ingots valued at 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 pesetas—that is \$300,000 to \$400,000. It is seventy-nine years since the first attempt to recover this lost wealth was made, and from time to time other efforts had been made, all of which had proved abortive. The only fact that had been established was that at the bottom of the harbor of Vigo were the wrecks of eleven ships, and that on one of them at least there was silver in the form of ingots.

**Atrocities of War.** War is at all times horrible enough without the addition of any avoidable barbarities, and yet it is probable that in most wars needless cruelties and atrocities have been perpetrated. Some of the men who are engaged in war will always be of a class from whom the restraint of the passions apt to be aroused by the bloody strife of the battle field and the influences of the camp are not to be expected. In the present war between Russia and Japan there have been charges and counter charges of atrocities committed by the combatants, and it is not improbable that on both sides there may be more or less ground for these accusations. A recent despatch to the London Times from its Tokio correspondent says that the Japanese War Office has published a statement received from Oku's army arraiging the Russian conduct in the field on eleven counts: two for abuse of the white flag, one for persistent firing on a field hospital conspicuously flying the Red Cross flag, whereby the Japanese were compelled to remove the hospital amid great danger, two for firing on men of the hospital corps, though they were clearly distinguished by badges, three for stabbing, shooting and slashing the wounded, two for shockingly mutilating the dead, one for stealing cattle and horses and violating women. Besides the above, numerous instances are given in which wounded Russians have fired upon Japanese scouting parties. These charges are preferred with full details, relate to General Oku's army only, and are independent of the experiences of General Kuroki's army, which are not less shocking. It is understood the Japanese did not desire to publish such accusations, because they tend to embitter feeling between the combatants, but have been compelled to do so on account of the Franco-Russian story of Japanese outrages at Wafangtien, which are indignantly denied.

**Elections.** It is known that a presidential election in the United States in November is in the regular order of events. Whether there will be general elections in Great Britain and in Canada is still a matter of speculation. In neither country is it imperative in a legal sense that a general election shall be held. There appears however to be a somewhat general expectation that within the next few months there will be a dissolution of the British Parliament. That the Government is unpopular has been pretty conclusively shown by the general results of bye-elections during the past year or two, and probably the Government will have nothing to gain by postponing its appeal to the people. In

this country the expectation seems to be general that the elections will be brought during the coming autumn. It would be constitutionally possible for the Parliament to hold another session, but the possibilities are in favor of an election before another session of parliament. Discussing the probable outcome of an appeal to the country, the *Montreal Witness* says: "Wherever men do congregate, just at the present time, one hears pros and cons as to whether the present government will be returned to power. Charged against it by 'old time Liberals' are sins of omission and commission. The sins of commission are, perhaps, the most condemned because the most palpable. Sticking on dumping duties and surtaxes, giving heaps of subsidies and bonuses to railways, mines, manufacturers, and what not, political patronage, extravagance, opportunism, and a dozen of other things, are charged against the party in power, and there is a good deal of reason for it. So much so that perhaps ten per cent. of the Liberals you meet will tell you that they intend to vote against the Liberal 'ticket,' and for 'the first times in their lives.' Most of us, however, have had enough experience in these things to know that, when it comes to voting for those who are, to say the least, no better, a disgruntled party man does not carry out such threats. Most of us, also, have had experience enough to discount to some extent the 'dead certainty' of the Opposition, who never yet, in the history of politics, were known to do other than prophesy the extreme of their hopes—a return to the loaves and fishes of power. Statesmen have found to their cost that no election can be counted on, but it is at least usual that a prosperous country does not change its government."

**Dr. Hertzl and Zionism** Dr. Hertzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, has lately died at Vienna. It was due to Dr. Hertzl's efforts that the first Zionist Congress was held. He succeeded in interesting Jews from all parts of the world in his plan for establishing an independent Jewish nation in Palestine, and for many years devoted all his time and money to the project. It was through him also that the plan of a Jewish colony in East Africa originated and by his speeches and writings he did much to popularize the Zionist idea. Put the proposal to establish a Jewish colony in East Africa as a practicable substitute for the repatriation of the Jews in Palestine has met with opposition on the part of Sir Charles N. E. Eliot, British Commissioner and Commander-in-chief for the East African Protectorate, who holds that it is wrong to refuse grants of lands to private individuals, as he was instructed to do by Lord Lansdowne, while giving enormous tracts to a syndicate. Sir Charles Norton has accordingly resigned his position rather than make the grant of land offered to the Jewish Colonial Trust.

**Another Murder.** On Sunday night, July 17, murder of a peculiarly cold-blooded and atrocious character was committed at a place called Ruther Glen, in Carleton county. This place is not many miles from Holmeville, the place where George Gee committed the crime for which he paid the penalty on the scaffold on Friday last. The murderer in the present case is named Cammack, and his victim William Doherty. Three brothers, William, Charles, and George Doherty lived together, and their sister, Cammack's wife, who some time before had left her husband, was living with them at the time. Cammack entered the house in the night through the cellar, shot and killed William Doherty, beat Mrs. Cammack into insensibility, and shot at and wounded the other two Doherties. Being pursued and over taken by the officers of the law, Cammack attempted suicide by shooting himself in the head. It was supposed at first that he would die, but later reports indicate that he is likely to live. According to a signed statement made by Cammack when it was supposed he would die, he went to the Doherty house with the intention of killing his wife as well as William Doherty. His enmity against William Doherty is said to be due to the fact that the latter was keeping company with a daughter of Cammack's by a former wife. Whether or not Cammack was addicted to drink, is not certain, but is said to have been known as a man of violent temper. After the murder the Doherty house was burned. According to the story of the Doherties, the fire was set by Cammack or some accomplice, suspected to be his son who is in jail on the charge of being an accomplice in the murder. Cammack however says that his son knew nothing of the murder, and that the fire was set by the overturning of a lamp which his wife had lit when the alarm occurred. The facts will of course be sifted in the trial which will take place if Cammack lives.