

Messenger and Visitor.

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121 Dresden Row.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXXIII.

Vol. XVII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1901.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LII.

No. 49.

Two Kinds of Warfare.

There is war going on in Africa much more pleasing to contemplate than that which is being waged between British and Boers. Bishop Tucker of Uganda, addressing a meeting at Tunbridge Wells, England, a few weeks ago, gave a graphic description of the change which had taken place in his diocese since he went to that country, eleven years ago. The converts, he said, had increased a hundred fold. Where there were then thirty Christians there were now three thousand, and the Bishop told of the pains taken to make sure that the change in the professed converts is real, so that the term Christian as applied to them is not one of merely nominal significance. He said there was every reason to believe that ere long the gospel would leaven all central Africa. Already it has reached the pigmy tribes which live in the remotest recesses of the forest. The great work is being carried on by means of native evangelists, and each convert at his baptism is made to understand that he is personally responsible for passing on the light which he possesses. One can but contrast the motives, the methods and results of such warfare as that which Bishop Tucker is waging in Uganda with that which Lord Kitchener is carrying on in South Africa. When will it be possible for the nation to pour out its blood and its millions as enthusiastically in the extension of the Kingdom of Christ as in the extension of the Empire.

Reindeer in Alaska.

Experiments which have been made with reindeer in the mail service in Alaska are said fully to demonstrate their value, and their great superiority over dog teams for that work, and especially when travelling through deep snow is necessary. In a trip of 1240 miles through a trackless wilderness, made by reindeer, the teams sometimes made 110 miles a day and that under unfavorable conditions. The taming of the reindeer and breaking him to harness is a matter of some difficulty and excitement. The plan pursued with the animal after it has been lassoed and taken into captivity is thus described: A halter is fastened on his head and with a long rope or strip of untanned leather made fast to a moss hummock he is allowed to run about for several days until he finds out what it is to be fastened. Now comes the most difficult task of all, that of harnessing him. Generally it is necessary to throw the animal before the harness can be put in place. When the deer finds that he is fastened in a new way, feels the tug rubbing against his legs and the pressure upon his shoulders, he makes his greatest struggle for liberty. This performance is continued for days and finally the deer is driven for miles at a time until he becomes thoroughly accustomed to his driver, harness and sled. Once broken to harness, he is docile, intelligent and possessed of indomitable pluck and endurance. There are said to be now in Alaska eight herds of reindeer comprising 3,500 head. The utility of the animal for courier purposes having been demonstrated the United States Government has become an importer of reindeer and it is expected that by January 1st the number will be augmented to 5,000.

Great Britain and Germany.

In a speech delivered in Edinburgh a month or so ago, by Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, dealing with public affairs and particularly with the South African war and the charges of cruelty directed against the British military administration, the Colonial Secretary said: "I think that the time is coming when measures of greater severity may be necessary, and if that time comes we can find precedents for anything we may do in the action of the nations who now criticise our 'barbarity' and

'cruelty,' but whose example in Poland, in the Caucasus, in Almeria, in Tonquin, in Bosnia, in the Franco-German war we have never even approached." This utterance has given great offence in Germany, and has led to an outbreak of anti-British sentiment in the German press and to fierce denunciation of Mr. Chamberlain at public meetings in Germany. It is remarked in England that the Berlin Government has not brought any pressure to bear to suppress this extraordinary outbreak of anti-British feeling, and its failure to do so is interpreted in some quarters as significant of some diplomatic friction between the two Governments. As a result of the German agitation, which appears now to be subsiding, it is noted that there is a sympathetic movement in England toward France and Russia, and a desire to promote the most friendly relations with the United States. "There is," says Mr. I. N. Ford, in cabled correspondence from London, "a perceptible hardening of the public feeling here against Germany. The remark heard on every side is that the German agitators may succeed in making Mr. Chamberlain Prime Minister if they persevere in distorting the obvious meaning of a harmless phrase and in holding him up to ridicule in indecent cartoons. Those behind the scenes smile grimly over the fatuity with which German agitators have run a tilt against the British statesman responsible in a large measure for the recent entente cordiale between the two countries."

Colonel Denison on Imperial Defense.

Colonel Denison of Toronto, President of the Canadian branch of the British Empire League, addressed a meeting in St. John on Wednesday evening last. The audience, if not very large, might fairly be regarded as representative of the intelligence and citizenship of the city. The subject to which the speaker principally devoted his attention was that of imperial defense. He showed very clearly that the expenditure of Canada on account of military and defence purposes was now far less than she would have to pay if independent, according to the military expenses of other nations, and far less than would be her share of expense, if she paid for the protection of her trade in the same proportion as Great Britain does. The contention of Colonel Denison that if Canada is to remain a portion of the British Empire, she must, as a matter both of justice and of self-respect, assume a large measure of responsibility for its defense, is one, it seems to us, which must commend itself to every patriotic and intelligent Canadian. It is quite possible, however, that there may be more difference of opinion as to the practicability of the scheme by which Colonel Denison would provide for the defense of the Empire. That scheme is to create a defense fund equal to the needs of the Empire, by imposing a special duty of from 5 to 10 per cent. on every article of foreign production, entered at any port within the Empire. On this scheme, Canada would pay from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 annually for defense, instead of the \$2,212,000 she is now paying, but, said the speaker, she would get it all back and much more by reason of the protection which could be given to her grain, butter, cheese and all the natural products of her soil, in the British markets. This is certainly a fine scheme, looked at from this end of it, but how will it appear from the transatlantic end? Canadians may be expected to fall in love with it, but what will the British tax-payers have to say about it? Some sub-consciousness of apprehension on that point seemed indeed to be in the mind of Mr. George Robertson, M. P. P., who moved a resolution endorsing Col. Denison's scheme for imperial defense. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. J. D. Hazen, M. P. P., Mr. G. W. Ganong, M. P., Mr. G. V. McInerney, ex-M. P., and Senator Wood. These gentlemen made eloquent and pleasing speeches, praising the gallant Colonel and professing much confidence in his plan for imperial defense.

The Privy Council's Judgment.

The recently announced judgment of the Imperial Privy Council in respect to the Prohibitory Liquor Law of Manitoba, is one which may be expected to have important bearings upon the history of the country in the immediate future. For it would appear that the judgment of the Privy Council not only declares the validity of the Manitoba Law, but also by plain implication affirms the principle of provincial jurisdiction in respect to prohibitory liquor legislation in Canada. Of the eleven questions which were submitted to the Privy Council in respect to the validity of the Act, their Lordships answer only the first: "Had the Legislature power to pass the Act?" The answer to this is: "The Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba had power to enact the Manitoba Liquor Act." In regard to the other ten questions the judgment says: "Their Lordships are of opinion that the answer to question one answers questions two to eleven, and that therefore no useful answer can be given to these questions." It is being contended in some quarters that, as the Manitoba Court of King's Bench declared the Act invalid on the ground that it contravened the British North America Act by interfering with the interests of inter-provincial trade, and that as the Manitoba Court did not pronounce on the question whether the Act involved any interference with the rights of the Hudson Bay Company, therefore the judgment of the Privy Council also leaves the latter question an open one. This may be so. But that is surely not the conclusion which one would naturally draw from the statement quoted above, that their Lordships are of the opinion that "the answer to question one answers question two to eleven," the questions ten and eleven being the ones which bear upon the Hudson Bay Company's claim to sell liquor under the deed of the surrender of their lands. But whatever rights the Hudson Bay Company may or may not have in Manitoba, that question is not one that will enter into the problem in the other provinces. Provincial prohibition may be considered to be therefore at the present time a very live question. The Provinces, their Governments and Legislatures will have to decide what they are going to do about it. In Ontario the question will be an immediately pressing one in view of the fact that the Premier had some time ago given assurance that if provincial jurisdiction in the matter should be established, he was prepared to introduce a prohibitory law.

South Africa.

The war news from South Africa during the week is meagre in quantity and character. This may be due more to the censorship which is being maintained than to the lack of anything to report. The principal military event noted in the despatches is an attempt made by the Boers on the night of November 26 to break the blockhouse cordon along the railway west of Middleburg. The attempt was unsuccessful, the main body of the enemy being turned back by an armored train, and the garrisons of the blockhouses checking their advances at other points. It is believed that the Boer loss was considerable. A despatch from Pretoria to the London Daily Mail gives indications why with continuous captures the Boer forces do not seem to diminish. The despatch says the Boers are constantly escaping from the concentration camps and towns to rejoin the fighting forces and that measures will have to be taken to stop this leakage. The Boers in the towns are irreconcilable, says the despatch, and believe their cause will eventually triumph. In a speech recently delivered, Sir Gordon Spriggs, Premier of Cape Colony, said that the Colony was now maintaining an army of 18,000 men, the majority of whom were mounted, and though it was a great strain on the treasury the Colony was prepared to bear it as long as was necessary. The rebels, he said, were being gradually worn down and the prospect was not discouraging. Sir Gordon's helpful tone is hardly echoed in England, where impatience at the continuance of the war seems to be aggravated with every passing week.