

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**The General Assembly and Prohibition.** The General Assembly now sitting in Montreal. The matter came before the Assembly in connection with the report on Church Life and Work. The adoption of the report having been moved by Rev. Dr. Parsons, and seconded by Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario, Principal Grant secured the floor and proceeded to set forth at length his views in opposition to the affirmations of the report in favor of prohibition. Concerning the debate upon the question the Montreal Witness has the following: "When the resolutions proper were read the Principal proposed two amendments, in support of which he used for his main argument that the question was one outside the sphere of the General Assembly and the Church; that it belonged to the domain of private citizenship, where the elector should exercise his franchise without dictation from the church courts. To many it seemed a strange doctrine that the church was not interested in the actions of its members as citizens when such interest involved a statement of the assembly's views on prohibition. Another point that Dr. Grant insisted on was that the assembly could not speak on this matter for the church. The best reply to Principal Grant's arguments was made by Principal MacVicar, who, in a quiet way, showed how easy it was on the premises from which Dr. Grant started to build up arguments illogical and untrue, and then proceeded to answer every point clearly and definitely." The resolutions finally adopted by the Assembly in respect to the subject of Temperance and the Plebiscite are as follows:

"This Assembly desires to renew deliverances of past years on the subject of temperance, declaring the general traffic in intoxicating drink to be contrary to the Word of God and to the spirit of the Christian religion, that total legal prohibition is the true goal of all efficient temperance legislation, and that the Church of Christ can make no compromise with a traffic that is in such deadly antagonism to all human happiness, all social virtues, and all religious life."

"That in view of the approaching plebiscite the recommendation of last Assembly be renewed, namely: 'That our people are hereby earnestly exhorted to use their utmost endeavors in every lawful way to carry the plebiscite in favor of prohibition, by an overwhelming majority, and thus free the church from one of its deadliest foes, our land from untold misery and crime, and our modern civilization from its direst reproach and shame.'"

**Sir Adolphe Chapleau.** Sir Adolphe Chapleau, who a few months ago retired from the governorship of Quebec, died at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on Monday, the 13th inst. Sir Adolphe had been for many years prominent and influential in the political affairs of his Province and of the Dominion. He was born at Ste. Therese de Blainville, in the County of Terrebonne, Que., on November 9, 1840. His father was the late Pierre Chapleau, the descendant of an old French family that settled in Terrebonne nearly a century before the conquest of Canada by the British. He received his education first at the College of Terrebonne and afterwards at the College of St. Hyacinthe. Adopting the law as a profession, Sir Adolphe was called to the bar in 1861, and practiced in Montreal, being made a Q. C. by Lord Dufferin in 1873. In 1867 he entered the Quebec Legislature as member for Terrebonne, at the union of the provinces, became Solicitor-General in the Ouimet Administration, February, 1873. He was subsequently Provincial Secretary under Mr. de Boucherville, January, 1876, and in 1879 became Premier of the Provincial Government. In July, 1882, he exchanged places with the late Mr. Mousseau, who was then Secretary of State at Ottawa. After Sir John Macdonald's demise, June, 1891, he was continued in the Abbott Ministry, first as

Secretary of State, and afterwards, for a brief period, as Minister of Customs. He was appointed to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec in December, 1892, a position he held until February of the present year, when he retired, being replaced by the Hon. Judge Jetté. In 1884 he served as a commissioner for the purpose of investigating and reporting on the subject of Chinese immigration into Canada. Sir Adolphe was the recipient of the Roman decoration of St. Gregory the Great, 1881, the Legion of Honor of France, 1882, and was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1896. He was also an LL. D. of Laval University, of whose law faculty he was for some years a member. He was married on November 25, 1874, to Miss Mary Louisa King, a daughter of Lieut.-Colonel King, at that time brigade-major at Sherbrooke, Que. Sir Adolphe Chapleau was a man of impressive presence and magnetic personality, a man of great astuteness and resource as an organizer and a tactician. Whatever opinions may be held as to the character and value of his political views and acts, it will be generally admitted that he was one of the most notable French Canadians of his generation. As an orator—when he spoke in French—he had few, if any, equals among his confreres.

**Prorogation and Presentation.** The prorogation of the Dominion Parliament took place on Monday of last week. In addition to the usual ceremonies, there was a joint farewell address to the Governor-General from the House and Senate, presented in French and in English by Speakers Pelletier and Edgar. To this address Lord Aberdeen replied in cordial terms. The closing sentence of his lordship's reply was as follows: "In bidding you a cordial farewell, I have to return my warm acknowledgements of the parting address full of loyalty to the Queen and of kindly good-will to myself, which I am officially informed has been unanimously passed by both Houses of Parliament, and which will always constitute a valued token and memorial of my stay amongst you, and in conclusion I desire to express my most hearty good wishes for your personal happiness and for the welfare of the great interests entrusted to you." Another interesting matter connected with the occasion was the presentation to Lady Aberdeen of a "historical" China dinner set, painted by a Canadian artist. The presentation was made by Senator Allen on behalf of the subscribers to the purchase money. The Countess acknowledged the gift in an eloquent speech.

**What Harold Frederic Says.** The London correspondent of the New York Times, Mr. Harold Frederic, writes that a rumor is going through Germany that a sharp quarrel between Berlin and Paris is to be looked for in the course of the present summer. In two recent visits to Germany, Mr. Frederic says, he has been impressed with the universality of this expectation. "In military and political circles it is no secret that the Emperor has taken a most perfunctory interest in the Dreyfus case, and is in that state of mind about it to which the punishment of people capable of such a crime seems a sort of holy mission. Sovereigns do not make wars on such grounds, but in this special instance I have reason to believe there is going to be German interference to the extent of publishing the official facts about Esterhazy's treasonable commerce with the German attaché, and it is not to be expected that the French will take this kindly. Thus this miserable business into which the French people allowed themselves to be ignorantly led by a clique of stupid generals and venal politicians prepares a calamity for them now on every side. It has cost them the intellectual respect of Americans and English, it has frightened Russia to death about the value of an allied army led by such amazing asses, and it will bring them insult from Germany, practically from the German throne itself, which will be very hard to bear." The same writer intimates that Germany's interest in the issues of the present war is determined by commercial considerations. The Germans have been greatly exasperated by Dingleyism, and they cannot be expected to regard with complacency an exten-

sion of the American high tariff policy to Cuba and the Philippines. This is especially the case in reference to the latter, where German commercial interests largely preponderate. Hence, says Mr. Frederic, there may easily arise some rough bluster about the Philippines if there is any unnecessary delay in making it clear that American tariff restrictions are not to be extended to these islands.

**The Plebiscite Bill.** The Governor-General, in his speech at the prorogation of Parliament, alluded to the Franchise Bill and the Plebiscite Bill as two especially important measures passed during the late session. It seemed for a time doubtful whether either of these measures would pass. It was provided in the Plebiscite Bill that the persons to vote on the plebiscite should be the same as those entitled to vote in the election of members to the House of Commons according to the provision of the Franchise Bill then before Parliament, and as the Senate seemed disposed to insist upon an important amendment to the Franchise Bill which the government would not accept, the prospect was that there might be another dead-lock between the two Houses, with the result that neither of the measures would be passed. The Senate, however, at last concluded not to insist upon its principal amendment to the Franchise Bill, and accordingly both measures have gone through, the Franchise Bill with some minor amendments effected in the Senate and the Plebiscite, as it was passed by the House. The time of taking the plebiscite has not yet been announced by the government, but the necessary appropriation has been made for the expense attending it, and it is understood that the vote will be taken in the autumn. In view of this the Dominion Temperance Alliance has issued an address to the temperance workers of Canada, calling upon them for earnest, united and organized effort, to the end that the plebiscite may show the most decisive possible result in the interests of prohibition.

**The Situation in the Philippines.** The situation in the Philippines is such as to give the gravest apprehension to the government at Madrid; it also causes some concern at Washington. The insurgents are very active on the island of Luzon and are ably led by General Aguinaldo. The whole Province of Cavité is said to be in revolt as well as much of the rest of Luzon, and the City of Manila is closely besieged. The Spanish Commander, General Augusti, has the insurgents to contend with, on the one hand and the American fleet on the other, and feels his position to be desperate. The insurgents are evidently determined to free themselves from the domination of the Spaniards. In the Philippines Spain has pursued the same tyrannous and faithless-course as in Cuba, and with like results. Whether the insurgents of the Philippines are willing to accept the control of the United States, or whether they are aiming at independence is not clear, and it is this element of uncertainty which causes concern at Washington. Admiral Dewey is using his influence with the insurgent leaders to restrain them from an attack upon Manila and from excesses toward the Spanish residents, and it may be that this influence will avail until the arrival of the American forces now on their way to Manila. But it may be that the insurgent leaders will be ambitious enough, and astute enough to seize the present opportunity to strike an effective blow for independence and establish some kind of a native government at Manila before the coming of the reinforcements for which Admiral Dewey is waiting. Such a movement on the part of the native leaders would certainly complicate and embarrass the situation for the United States, for whatever right the latter may have to wrest the Philippines from Spain, it would be difficult to establish a right to occupy the islands against the will of the native population. It is, however, improbable that the insurgents have any plans for independent government. Their leaders are more likely to listen to Admiral Dewey and cooperate with the United States authorities to establish an American protectorate over the islands, or to make some other provision for their government, by which the people will have assured to them reforms which the faithless Spaniards promised but never granted.