

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LX.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME XLIX.

Vol. XIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1897.

No. 17.

Contents.

EDITORIAL.	Short Pieces.	7
Paraphrase.	The Young People.	7
More Instruction Needed.	B. Y. P. U. Daily Readings.	7
The War in Europe.	Prayer Meeting Topics.	7
The First Foreign Missionaries and their Successors.	B. Y. P. U. Notes.	7
Notes.	Reports.	7
CONTRIBUTED.	FOREIGN MISSION.	7
Woman's Rights.	W. B. M. U.	8
Denver Letter.	The P. M. Board.	8
Boston Letter.	THE HOME.	10
We Have Found Christ.	THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.	11
(W. B. H.).	Lesson VI.	11
SELECTED.	From the Churches.	12
Heaveness.	Marriages and Deaths.	13
An Heroic Norwegian Girl.	The Farm.	15
The First Lighthouse.	News Summary.	14 and 15
Shorts.	Notes.	15
The Box from St. Marks.	Digby Co. Quar. Meeting.	15

British Colonization. At the annual dinner of the Colonial Institute recently held in London, the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, presided and made a somewhat noteworthy speech. Mr. Chamberlain traced the development of the colonial system and showed how important to the integrity of the empire the great colonies had become. He also spoke of the extension of British protection and government over lands where the establishment of self-governing colonies had not yet become possible, showing the beneficent and civilizing effects of British influence in those parts of the globe. The controlling idea as to the relationship sustained to these lands and peoples is not merely one of possession but of obligation. In carrying out this work of civilization the British people are fulfilling their national mission, they are finding scope for the exercise of those faculties and qualities which have made them a great governing race. Without claiming that the methods employed have always been irreproachable, or the efforts put forth always perfectly successful, it is indisputable that, in almost every instance in which the rule of the Queen has been established and the Pax Britannica has been enforced, there have come with it greater security to life and property and a higher status for material improvement in the whole life of the people. The conquest of the countries which Britain has subordinated to her rule has been attended with more or less of war and sacrifice of life both on the part of the conquered and the conquering people, but those sufferings have been greatly overbalanced by the resulting good. You cannot destroy the practices of barbarism, of slavery, of superstition, which for centuries have desolated the interior of Africa, without the use of force; but if you will fairly contrast the gain to humanity with the price which we are bound to pay for it, I think you may well rejoice in the success of such expeditions as those which have recently been conducted with such signal success to Nyasaland, Ashanti, Benin and Nupe—expeditions which may have, and indeed have, cost lives, but as to which I say for one life lost a hundred will be gained, and the cause of the civilization and the prosperity of the people will in the long run be eminently advanced. But no doubt such a state of things, such a mission as I have described, involves heavy responsibility. In the wide dominions of the Queen the doors of the temple of Janus are never closed, and it is a gigantic task that we have undertaken when we have determined to wield the sceptre of empire. Great is the task, great is the responsibility, but great is the honor; and I am convinced that the conscience and the spirit of the country will rise to the height of its obligations, and that we shall have the strength to fulfil the mission which our history and our national character have imposed upon us.

Canada's Tariff.

The feature of grand interest in the proceedings of the Dominion Parliament during the past week was Mr. Fielding's budget speech of Thursday, introducing the amended or reformed tariff which had been awaited with much interest and in some quarters, of course, with considerable anxiety. The tariff as it now stands is perhaps better described as an "amended" than as a "reformed" tariff. Mr. Fielding has not proposed that Canada shall at present take any long step in the direction of free trade. The movement in that direction will doubtless come far short of satisfying pronounced free traders, though they may be glad to accept what is offered as an installment and an earnest of larger things to come. Protectionists and those financially interested in protected industries would seem to have little cause for alarm at the changes in the tariff which the Finance Minister has indicated. It was found that a somewhat larger revenue was provided in order to avoid a deficit, and this has been required for by an increased tax on spirits and tobacco. Another change of some importance, and one that is said will be generally approved by importers, is that where specific duties existed they have been, to a great extent, replaced by ad valorem duties. There are slight reductions on quite a large number of articles, and in a few instances, as in the case of iron and woolsens, the reduction is considerable. The duty on kerosene is reduced from 6 cents per gallon to 5 cents, flour is reduced from 75 cents to 60 cents per bbl., and Indian corn, except that intended for the breweries, is placed on the free list. This last will be important to the cattle-raising industry. The tax on bituminous coal is retained, and if the United States duty on that article remains as provided for in the Dingley bill, a Canadian duty will be imposed upon anthracite. A noteworthy feature of the new tariff is the provision that on all British goods and goods from any countries treating Canadian products as favorably as Canada treats theirs, a reduction of one-eighth is made up to July 1, 1898, and after that a further reduction of one-eighth. The effect of this will be that after the date named British goods will be admitted at a duty only three-fourths as great as that charged against similar products of the United States and other countries which impose heavy duties upon Canadian products. This preferential feature of the new tariff appears to be generally popular. There is, however, some doubt as to whether it can become operative, as it is contended that treaties which the Imperial Government has negotiated with Germany and Belgium provide that British colonies shall not impose upon the products of those countries heavier duties than they impose upon the products of Great Britain. Sir Charles Tupper is very decided in holding to this view of the matter.

The War and its Issues.

The problem created by the outbreak of hostilities between Greece and Turkey contains too many unknown factors to admit of its issue being forecast with any degree of confidence. Turkey, it is quite certain, will not be anxious to prolong the conflict. With an exhausted treasury and a well nigh exhausted credit, war becomes a difficult business for the Porte, and besides, Turkey well knows that whatever success she might win in arms against Greece, the Powers would not consent to the extension of the Ottoman power in Europe. On the other hand Greece can have small hope of coping single handed with the greatly superior military forces which Turkey is able to bring into the field. Greece's army on a peace-footing is

placed at 22,000 men, and that of Turkey at 144,000 and these figures probably represent approximately the proportional strength of the land forces which each nation would be able to put into the field. The Greeks will no doubt fight bravely, but the fighting quality of the Turkish army is probably quite equal to that of the Greek. In the naval forces of the two nations the Greeks can fairly claim some points of superiority, though neither nation, it would appear, has anything in the shape of a first class modern warship. The Turkish navy is, on the whole, probably quite as strong as that of Greece, but probably the latter has a distinct advantage in having her ships better officered than those of her antagonist.

The Nova Scotia Elections.

The general election for the Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia, held last Tuesday, resulted in a very sweeping victory for the Government. Out of a House of 38 members only four Conservatives have been returned to constitute "Her Majesty's loyal opposition" in the new House. Pictou, Colchester, Hants and Lunenburg counties each contribute one member. Mr. Stairs, of Halifax, who had lately been chosen as leader of the Conservatives, and Mr. McKay, of Cape Breton, leader of the party in the last House, are both among the defeated. The Government has certainly secured all that it could well ask for, and, no doubt, much more than it expected, in the way of a popular endorsement of its general policy and its public acts. It does not, however, seem desirable that, where party government obtains, the Legislature should be so very unequally divided. It is well that there should be an opposition strong enough numerically and otherwise to be a formidable barrier in the way of any indefensible legislation. To a government that desires to administer righteously the affairs of a province or of the Dominion, a well organized and fairly strong opposition is an advantage rather than otherwise. The election in Colchester county for the Dominion Parliament was very close, resulting in the election of Mr. McClure, the Government candidate, over Dr. Muir, Conservative, by 10 votes. A recount has been demanded. At the general election last June the seat was carried by Mr. Dimock, Conservative, by a majority of 127.

Will Greece Find Allies.

The Greeks look for active co-operation in Macedonia, that part of the Turkish empire which borders on Greece, where the people though unwillingly held under the tyrannous rule of the Sultan, are largely of the Greek race. There is a possibility too that the Balkan States, Servia, Bulgaria and Montenegro, may make common cause with Greece against the Turks, and in that case their united forces would probably quite equal any strength that Turkey could bring into the field against them. In reference to such a contingency as that alluded to, an English writer says: "Any contest between the allied states and Turkey would be a terrible and sanguinary struggle, for both sides would bring into battle some of the most resolute fighting men in Asia and Europe." It seems certain, however, that much will depend for Greece on the attitude which the people of Macedonia assume in reference to the conflict. Unless the Greeks find active sympathy and co-operation among the people of their own race in Macedonia, their cause will seem almost hopeless. Macedonia is an object of desire, not only to Greece, but to Bulgaria and Austria. Russia also doubtless has ulterior designs on Macedonia as well as on Bulgaria whose claim she now favors. "The Russian government under Muravieff, a new and ambitious man," says the writer quoted above, "would doubtless like to foreclose upon Bulgaria and take Macedonia too. But the trouble would be to get at them. Russia is separated from Bulgaria by Hungary and Roumania. And Roumania is now a strong power, almost a great power, with its capital, Bucharest, the most strongly fortified city on the Continent. So a march overland would not be practicable. She could get at Bulgaria by way of the Black Sea, to be sure, but her Black Sea fleet is needed at the Bosphorus. So she is likely to keep hands off Bulgaria until she first forecloses on Turkey, when she will of course claim Bulgaria as a tributary state and will be free to enforce the claim."