

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXII.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME LI.

Vol. XVI.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1900.

No. 24.

Provincial Prohibition. It seems probable that Provincial legislation prohibitory of the liquor traffic will be enacted by the Legislatures of Manitoba and P. E. Island now in session. The measure which has been introduced by Premier Macdonald of Manitoba, provides for the closing of all places where liquor is sold both in bulk and by the glass, with the exception of drug stores, which are to be permitted to sell under very stringent regulations, chiefly for medical use and by the order of a physician. The penalties provided for the infringement of the law are severe. For a first offence the seller will pay a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$1000, and for the second he will be imprisoned for three months with hard labor, without the option of paying a fine. The Provincial law will not be able to prohibit the manufacture of liquor, or to interfere with the business of the wholesale trade beyond the limits of the Province, but it is understood to prohibit all wholesale as well as all retail business within the Province with the exception of supplying such business as may be done under the law in connection with the drug stores. The P. E. Island Act has not yet, we believe, been submitted to the Legislature, but it is understood that in a general way it will embody the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act. Before asking the Legislature to deal with it, the Provincial Government has submitted the question of its constitutionality to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa. These movements will be followed with much interest by the friends of temperance all over the Dominion. Apart from the question of constitutionality the experiment of Provincial prohibition will be made in both cases under favorable conditions, and if the constitutional questions involved are decided favorably to the claims of the Provinces to prohibit, it will be of great importance in the way of demonstrating the value of prohibitory legislation under provincial auspices. The assertion is being made that any prohibitory law which Manitoba might enact would be nullified by the conditions attached to the deed of surrender executed by the Hudson Bay Company in 1869. It seems that when the Company surrendered its right of administration, there was secured to it the liberty to carry on its trade without hindrance in its corporate capacity, and it is held that a prohibitory liquor law would be a hindrance to the Company's trade. Premier Macdonald is reported as saying in reference to this contention, that the point raised was arguable and would have to be decided by the courts. The Government, however, would not withdraw the bill, and if the House passed it, the courts would be asked to give a ruling upon the disputed points at once. Supposing the contention as to the rights of the Hudson Bay Company in the premises to be sustained by the courts, the effect of enacting a prohibitory liquor law in Manitoba, would appear to be to give the Hudson Bay Company a monopoly of the liquor business in the Province, which certainly is not the aim of those who are pressing for such legislation.

Not for Art nor for Religion. We are pleased to note that Senator Dandurand's anti-lottery bill has passed the House of Commons, and without any amendments which would be likely to thwart its purpose. The refusal of the House to make any exception to the application of the law in favor of art associations, is based on sound principle and is expedient in practice. Both art and religion should be above the suspicion of wishing to profit by appealing to a passion, the indulgence of which is so utterly demoralizing in its effects. It should be considered an insult by any

art association and still more so by any Christian church that the law should offer it the exceptional privilege of promoting its interests by means of a lottery. The fact that art lotteries are countenanced by the law in England is no reason why they should be legalized in Canada. There are few vices which constitutes a greater stain and plague-spot on the moral life of England than that of gambling, and how much that vice has been encouraged and fostered by the legalizing of gambling in connection with art associations we cannot tell. It is certainly to be desired that in this country those who speak in the name of art and religion, shall do nothing to educate the conscience of the people toward the palliation of so great an evil.

The Manitoba School Question. That the Manitoba School question is again becoming a subject of discussion in political circles need not occasion surprise, as the Roman Catholic authorities may be expected to exert their influence in the politics of the country so far as it may seem to them that there is good reason to believe that they can thereby secure the establishment of a separate school system in Manitoba, or make headway in that direction. On Sunday, June 3rd, Archbishop Langevin read a pastoral letter to the Roman Catholics of Winnipeg, in which he said that the report that the school question has been settled is untrue, and that he wished to deny it in his official capacity, and also to state that the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba was not satisfied with the so-called concessions granted by the government. The letter exhorted the Roman Catholics to continue their efforts towards having their grievances redressed, and advised them to pray for the desired end and have patience. Senator Bernier of St. Boriface, has lately been telling the people of Montreal that the Manitoba School question is by no means dead, that the Dominion Parliament has still power to deal with it, and that the Catholics of Manitoba will therefore again look to Parliament for relief. Mr. Bernier is said to have declared that Sir Charles Tupper, if restored to power, would introduce a bill with the purpose of establishing a separate school system in that Province, and some of the French Catholic papers are said to have been making similar assertions. So far as we have observed there have been no utterances on the part of Sir Charles Tupper or other leaders of the Conservative party to justify such statement, and we shall be surprised if any such utterances are forthcoming. If the Roman Catholic Province of Quebec had indicated a strong desire for the enactment of a separate school system in Manitoba by standing strongly by the Conservative party in the last general election, they would doubtless have received from Sir Charles Tupper and his party, the legislation on that subject which the Manitoba Roman Catholics demanded. But after Quebec so strongly supported Sir Wilfred Laurier with his policy of settling the Manitoba School question apart from any intervention on the part of the Dominion Parliament, there has been no disposition on the part of the leaders of either party to make the question of remedial legislation in the interests of the Roman Catholics of Manitoba an issue in Dominion politics. Of course if either party can make capital out of the school question in view of a general election, it is not likely to miss its opportunity, but the part which the question will play is likely, we should suppose, to be a subordinate one.

The Disturbances in China. The present condition of affairs in China, and especially in the Province of Chi-li in which the city of Peking is situated, is one of great disturbance. The trouble is connected with a Chinese society

known as the Boxers, which is said to be of very ancient origin, and which represents the spirit of Chinese conservatism and hatred toward modern and foreign influences and innovations. The society has been in the past the cause of occasional disturbances of a more or less serious character, and the present outbreak would seem from all accounts to represent a widespread and determined effort to eradicate foreigners and foreign influences in China. The fanaticism of the Boxers is understood to be of a political rather than a religious character, but the Christian missionaries and their converts, as representing one of the largest and most prominent foreign elements in the country, are especially objects of their hatred. Already some have suffered at their hands, and there is much reason to fear for the safety of many others. Respecting the relations of the Boxers to the government of China there are conflicting reports, but there seems to be good reason to believe that the Empress-regent is not disposed to deal with them in any very strenuous way, since their attitude toward modern and foreign influences is supposed to be in harmony with her own. The Imperial troops under General Nieh are however making an attempt, or at least a pretence, at putting down the disturbance and protecting foreign interests. A battle was fought on June 7th, near the city of Tien Tsin, in which hundreds are said to have been killed. The representatives of European Powers and the United States, are endeavoring to take such measures as are practicable to guard the lives and interests of their subjects in the disturbed district. But international questions and other reasons render effective action difficult. It is stated that a joint force of about 350 marines has been sent to Peking for the protection of European and American interests in the Chinese Capital. Railway communication between Tien Tsin and Peking has been interrupted by the Boxers, and a Shanghai despatch of June 7th says, that one hundred and eighty British marines, with a machine gun, are about to force a passage from Tien Tsin to Peking. Altogether about 900 British have been landed from the fleet, a greater number than have landed from the combined vessels of the other powers. From Peking it is reported that the Tsung Li Yamen, or Chinese Foreign Office, had undertaken that railway communication should be restored by Saturday, and had protested against the arrival of more British guards.

The War. Pretoria was occupied by Lord Roberts and his forces on Tuesday of last week. The Boers made no effort to defend the place. The resistance offered to the advance of the British forces on Monday being evidently for the purpose of recurring time for the removal of their artillery to the Lydenburg district, where their forces are now principally concentrated. President Kruger is said to be administering government from a coach on the Delagoa Bay railway on a siding at Machadodorp. Mrs. Kruger was left behind at Pretoria, as being on the whole a position of greater safety than the present somewhat uncertain Boer capital of the Transvaal. Little has been heard from Lord Roberts since his report of the occupation of Pretoria. This silence was supposed to indicate that he was busy organizing his plan of campaign, but Monday morning's despatches indicate another cause for the silence. It appears that the Boers have succeeded in interrupting Lord Roberts' communication with Capetown, and have torn up twenty miles of railway between America Siding and Roodeval. Such an interruption, unless quickly restored, would be serious, because affecting the means of supply for Lord Roberts' army. No doubt the communication will soon be restored, but the fact that it has been so effective

(Continued on page 5.)