

nd?  
ease

ound are  
diseases of  
a rheuma-  
sleepless-  
in addition  
is up the  
ease from  
y decline  
representa-  
where that  
tively and  
at first  
ch other as  
and per-  
ases show  
run-down,  
d vitiated  
Compound  
urines and

ST.  
T.  
the  
you  
s.oo.  
which  
m.

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXI.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,  
VOLUME L.

Vol. XV.

ST JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1899.

No. 40

**Russia and Japan** Some recent despatches have contained intimations of coming trouble between Russia and Japan. Letters recently published in certain London papers from correspondents in Hong Kong and Wei Hai-Wei have stated that Japan has been sending considerable numbers of soldiers into Korea, disguised as coolies, and that Russia has been concentrating troops on the frontier. Several London papers, including the 'Daily Mail' and the 'Westminster Gazette,' appear to regard the report of impending hostilities as one to be taken seriously. There is no doubt that a strong feeling of irritation against Russia and jealousy of her encroachments is felt in Japan, and if Japan can ever effect anything by force of arms against Russian aggressiveness, the present would seem to be her opportunity, while the trans-Siberian Railway is not yet completed. Japan's naval strength in the Pacific is superior to Russia's, and so long as the Siberian Railway is uncompleted the advantages would obviously be largely on the side of Japan, and Russia would find in her a very formidable antagonist. Very likely the London papers are inclined to make quite as much of these reports from the East as their importance demands, but there is probably enough in the situation to engage Russia's attention sufficiently to prevent her taking stock in any scheme of France's looking to intervention on behalf of the Boers. The London Daily Mail says that the strict neutrality of the Russians at the present moment is by no means due to friendship for England, and intimates that the reason why the proposals for which the French have worked so vigorously finds no encouragement from Russia is due rather to the attitude of Japan in the East and that of Germany in the West.

**Shipbuilding in the Maritimes.** These Maritime Provinces of Canada once did a business profitable to themselves and not unimportant to the world in the shipbuilding industry. That industry, so far as the construction of wooden ships is concerned, we may not hope to see revived. But it does not seem chimerical to expect that we shall see here a development of the shipbuilding industry under its modern conditions in which iron or steel takes the place of wood. It is stated that, in connection with the expansion of the lake traffic, a modern shipbuilding plant of large proportion is to be established at Colingwood, Ont. The shipyards at Colingwood will be capable, it is said, of building four ships of full canal size at one time or of turning out a 500 foot ship if required. It is intended to have the works in operation in four or five months, so that the first steel ship may be launched by the middle of next summer. If the building of steel ships can be made profitable under present conditions in Ontario, it seems reasonable to expect that the much more favorable conditions which these eastern provinces offer for the prosecution of so important an industry will not be long neglected. Their maritime position, the presence of abundance of coal and iron of superior quality, and the large development of iron and steel production by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, offer advantages for the prosecution of modern shipbuilding, which certainly must be regarded as among the best which the world affords and which can hardly fail to attract the attention of practical shipbuilders and capitalists. And besides there are other advantages which industry and capital cannot afford to neglect. There is probably no more healthy climate in the world, and, taking it all the year round, few more pleasant. The people are robust, intelligent, industrious, taxation comparatively light, building materials are cheap and excellent and there are agricultural resources which only need the stimulus of a good and steady market to furnish food for a large population. Alluding to

the influence of the coal and iron industries now in process of development in Cape Breton the Toronto Globe says: "The effect will be felt throughout the Maritime Provinces. Nova Scotia's shipbuilding industry may return. In no other country can the material of the modern steel hull be produced so cheaply. There is now the same natural advantage for the production of ships of steel that there was in the early days for the building of wooden vessels. There is no depressing system of taxation and obstruction to increase the cost of necessary supplies. The success of this enterprise, already assured, will restore the early prosperity of the Maritime Provinces."

**French Recognition of General White.** The comments of certain Paris journalists upon the gallant conduct of Sir George White in accepting full responsibility for the loss of two battalions taken by the Boers in the engagement near Ladysmith are both gratifying and edifying. It shows that there is still in France ability to appreciate the nobility of conduct on the part of a commander who is ready to defend the honor of his army at the expense of his own military reputation, and they seem clearly to suggest a contrast with that spurious zeal for "the honor of the army" of which so much was heard in connection with the Dreyfus trial, a zeal ready to stoop to the most nefarious acts for the supposed necessity of protecting the reputation of high military officials. "I formed the plan," Sir George White declared, "in carrying out of which the disaster occurred, and I alone am responsible for it. No blame whatever attaches to the troops." Commenting on this in 'The Figaro,' M. Valfrey exclaims: "There is a man in truth! General White speaks and writes like a hero of ancient Greece. In any case he does not in the least resemble the generals of other European countries, who, when fortune frowns upon them, denounce their comrades as traitors, and have only one preoccupation—namely, to shirk the responsibility they have incurred." The 'Echo de Paris' calls it probably the single example given in many centuries of a vanquished general accusing himself for the loss of the army. M. de Moulins says: "Sir George sacrifices himself to avoid discrediting the soldiers of the Queen or compromising the honor of the British flag."

**Lord Salisbury's Guild-Hall Speech.** In accordance with time-honored custom the speech of the British Prime Minister at the Lord Mayor of London's inauguration banquet is expected to take the form of an exposition, more or less definite in character, of the Government's public policy, and accordingly in view of the South African war and its contingencies, the speech delivered by Lord Salisbury at the Guild Hall last Thursday evening had, of course, been anticipated with special interest. Probably few men better understand how to employ the art of enigmatical speech than does his Lordship, when for any reason he does not deem it desirable to take the public into his confidence. But the Prime Minister seems to have felt on this occasion that, in view of the profound public feeling over the war and the great interests—actual and potential—involved in the conflict, it was a time when, so far as practicable, the Government should take the people into its confidence. Before dealing with the war and questions directly connected with it, Lord Salisbury declared that, apart from the situation in South Africa, the Government's relations with other nations give no occasion for apprehension or doubt. He alluded with satisfaction to the increasing cordiality subsisting between Great Britain and the United States, and declared that, in spite of a certain acerbity toward Britain to be observed in the press of some of the European countries, he did not believe that the people were unfriendly, and he was sure that the expressions of the press alluded to did not indicate any unfriendly intention on the part of the Governments of those countries. Special reference was made to the friendly attitude of Germany and to an agreement in reference to Samoa

just concluded, which was naturally satisfactory to Germany and Great Britain. Coming to the war, Lord Salisbury declined to assume the role of prophet as to what lay in the future for South Africa. He defended the Government from the criticism of having been taken unprepared, showing that it was the movement of Britain to prepare for war which had evoked the Boer ultimatum, and that any earlier attempt at preparation would but have resulted in precipitating war at an earlier date. As to what was to come after the war, Lord Salisbury would only say, "What we desire is equal rights for all men of all races and security for our fellow subjects and our empire." By what means this aim is to be worked out he left for events to determine. As to interference of other powers in the matter, there was no reason to anticipate it, and Lord Salisbury made it plain to the nation and the world that such interference would not be accepted. "Whenever we are victorious," said his lordship, "we shall consult the vast interests committed to our care. Vast duties lie upon us to perform; and taking counsel of the uniform traditions of colonial government and of the moderation and equal justice to all races of men which it has been our uniform practice to observe, I do not doubt we shall so arrange that the issue of this conflict will confer good government on the area where it rages and give the security, sorely needed, against the recurrence of any such dangers and the necessity of any such future exertion for the restoration of peace and civilization to that portion of the world."

**The War News.** The news from South Africa during the past week has been scanty in quantity and meagre in character. This is due in part to the fact that with Ladysmith, the point of chiefest interest, communication by telegraph and by railway has been cut off, and in still larger part no doubt it is due to the rigid censorship now exercised over despatches. In this situation the purveyors of news have been reduced to the necessity of threshing over old despatches and employing their imaginations in the way of conjectures and forecasts as to what is now happening or what is about to take place. As noted in these columns last week, fighting of a more or less serious character is known to have taken place between Ladysmith and Colenso on November 2nd and 3rd. One despatch represented that in this fight the Boers had suffered very heavily, some two thousand of them having been taken prisoners. This is probably an exaggeration of the facts. Some despatches have appeared to show that Colenso had been evacuated by the Boers, but what the situation is at that point is not clear. Troop ships from England have been arriving at Cape Colony during the week, and several of them have been sent on to Durban. It may be considered certain that Durban and Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal, are being effectually strengthened and that Sir Redvers Buller will now shortly be in a position to send forward a strong force to relieve General White at Ladysmith. The latest information respecting Ladysmith, which at present writing is November 9, shows that the place was at that time sustaining a vigorous bombardment. The information comes through parties who observed the situation from outside and gives little information as to the effect of the bombardment. If General White is well supplied with ammunition there is good reason to hope that he can hold Ladysmith until relief shall arrive. The latest intelligence from Mafeking and Kimberly—about a week old—indicates that those places were holding out bravely, though Mafeking was being vigorously bombarded by the Boers, and at Kimberly the enemy was exceedingly active, chiefly with the purpose of carrying off cattle. Northern Cape Colony has been invaded by Boers from the Orange Free State, and it appears that the despatches that some fighting of an indecisive character has taken place near Belmont, in which the British loss, though small, included General Falconer killed. On the whole, if the situation for the British is no worse than the despatches indicate, it may be considered encouraging. If General White has held Ladysmith until the present, every day now must add to the strength of the British forces, and we may expect to hear of the war being waged under conditions more favorable to the success of the British army.