

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LX.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME XLIX.

Vol. XIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1897.

No. 47.

Contents.

EDITORIAL.	THE YOUNG PEOPLE.
Paragraphs.	Prayer Meeting Topic,
Thanksgiving Day.	etc.
The God of Our Fathers.	FOREIGN MISSIONS.
Armed With the Mind	W. B. M. C.
of Christ.	F. M. Board, Notes by the
Notes.	Secretary.
CONTRIBUTED.	THE HOME.
New England News and	THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.
Notes.	Bible Lesson Dec. 5.
BELIEVED.	Phil. 2:1-11.
The True Church and the	From the Churches.
True Christian.	Marriages and Deaths.
Thankfulness a Means of	The Farm.
Grace.	Quarterly Meeting.
The Family of God.	Notices.
STORY PAGE.	News Summary, 14 and 15

Returned to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Louis Davies have returned from Ottawa. Washington to Ottawa. The details of their conference with the United States authorities have not been made public, and how much has been accomplished by the visit of the Canadian ministers is to some extent a matter of speculation. It is stated that a practical agreement was reached by the sealing experts as to the effects of pelagic sealing in rapidly diminishing the seal herd, but no agreement has as yet been reached as to what action shall be taken in the matter. The Canadian ministers, it is understood, urged that in any plan of settlement, other questions must be embraced, and for the accomplishment of this they suggested an international commission. It is further understood that the representatives of Canada will, after consultation with their colleagues at Ottawa, formulate their views and submit them to the Washington government. The proposition of the latter will also be presented for the consideration of the Privy Council of Canada. What will come out of the negotiations it is not easy to forecast. The appointment of a commission as well as any considerable concessions in the matter of trade reciprocity will have to be submitted to Congress, and it is not to be taken for granted that these subjects will receive favorable consideration, from that body.

Britain's Liberal Policy. The disposition of Great Britain to extend her sway over large areas of the earth's surface is often made a subject for querulous criticism on the part of a certain considerable section of the United States press. England is represented as a selfish, bullying nation, ever ready to assert her power where no effective resistance is to be feared and forever grasping for the wealth and dominion of the world, eager to enrich herself at the expense of weaker nations. No one will undertake to defend England in respect to all her dealings with the nations of the world great and small. But it may safely be asserted that not only will her record in this respect bear comparison with that of any other great nation of the world, but that her colonial policy, especially during the last half century, has been distinguished by liberality toward the countries over which her sway has been extended and by generous dealings with the rest of the world. The effect has been to suppress barbarism and the cruel tyrannies of native princes, to introduce humane institutions and stable government in the stead of savagery and anarchy, and to open the countries which she conquered to the commerce not of Great Britain only but of the whole world. The British flag is every where a symbol and a pledge of freedom and of order. Lawlessness and savagery are suppressed and all the nations of the world are made welcome to come in and trade on the same terms as Englishmen. This policy of Britain is in striking contrast with the colonial policy of the other nations, of France, for instance, her great rival.

The extension of French rule over any new territory means that it will be held for the advantage of France and of French trade. On the trade of other nations such restrictions are placed as make competition difficult, if not impossible. This is just now seen in Madagascar, where French occupation and rule are interfering seriously with the trade formerly carried on by the United States. Everything in Madagascar must now bow to France and be controlled in her direct interest. Even the English missionaries who had labored long and faithfully in the Island, must remove, giving over this work to Frenchmen. It is this illiberal colonial policy of France that makes her aggressive attitude in Africa particularly obnoxious to England. The British policy in Africa, as Lord Salisbury declares it, is "to extend commerce, trade, industry and civilization, to throw open as many markets as possible, to bring together as many consumers and producers as possible and to open the great natural highways and waterways of the Continent." If France were pursuing a similar liberal policy there would be far less occasion for jealousy and friction.

The Fight at Dargai. The accounts lately received of the successful attack of the Gordon Highlanders upon the almost inaccessible heights of Dargai, held by the India hillmen, afford evidence, if any were needed, that British discipline is as steady and British valor not less indomitable than of old. The heights were held by a thousand well-armed tribesmen, and in order to dislodge them it was necessary for the British troops to cross an open space exposed to a murderous fire from the heights. The Gourkas, a native regiment, supported by a Dorsetshire regiment bravely advanced to the attack, but the fire from the heights was so deadly that the officer in command reluctantly signalled back to the main body that the position could not be taken. At this juncture General Kempster ordered the Gordon Highlanders to the front. It was then four o'clock in the afternoon and over a hundred men had already fallen.

"The enemy were shouting their defiance and waving their standards, confident of their position and certain of success. But the Gordon Highlanders had yet to be reckoned with. Rapidly forming his brave men, and after the now historic speech: 'Men of the Gordon Highlanders, our general says that position must be taken at all costs; the Gordon Highlanders will take it,' Colonel Mathias, the commander, dashed out at the head of his regiment. And with a shout the leading company of killed men was in the fire zone. A stream of lead swept over, through and past them, bullets churning up the dust which half hid the rushing men. Piper Findlater was among the first to show the way across that deadly strip of ground, and when after traversing but a few yards, he was laid low by a shot through both legs; he managed to prop himself up against a boulder and continued with unabated energy the stirring music of his pipes. Men kept pouring into the passage and the leaders struggled across to the cover. Then there was a lull, and, as one paper remarks, 'one had time to see how cruel had been the slaughter.' Then, with a second cheer, the mixed troops streamed across and the enemy, seeing the barriers swept away, left their loopholes and rock barricades and fled precipitately down the reverse slope, without waiting for the line of cold steel which was then nearly on the crest of the ridge."

Such courage, such discipline is magnificent. But when it is asked what permanent advantage is to result from this sacrifice of Britain's bravest soldiers, the answer does not appear to be satisfactory. It is not plain that it will advance the British frontier in India or even render it greatly more secure. It is rumored that the government is finding the movement against the hill tribes a far more formidable matter than it expected and is now trying to find a way of escape by accepting the tribes' formal acknowledgement of British supremacy, and then leaving them much as they were before.

The Pope and the School Question. Interest in the Manitoba School settlement has been revived by the intelligence cabled last week from London to the Montreal Star, to the effect that

the Pope has issued a deliverance in which the right of the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba to separate schools is maintained, and they are forbidden to attend the public schools established under the law of the province. It has since been denied that any deliverance on the subject has yet been issued from the Vatican. But it is understood and generally believed that, in answer to the prayer of the Canadian bishops, the Pope will shortly make a pronouncement, the general features of which it is probable have been foreshadowed in the despatch alluded to. It is not to be expected that the Pope will pronounce against the contention that the Roman Catholics of Manitoba have a constitutional right to separate schools, or that he will advise the acceptance of the Laurier-Greenway settlement as final and satisfactory. But it is not to be supposed that any influence issuing from the Vatican can make the Manitoba School question again an issue in Dominion politics. The logic of events in that connection is so plain that a way-faring man though a fool is not likely to make any mistake about it, much less our astute political leaders. It is pretty well settled that the school question is for Manitoba, as well as for the Maritime Provinces, a provincial question, and it is for the advantage of Roman Catholics, as well as for the peace of the Dominion generally, that it be so considered. It is not probable, we take it, that the Pope's deliverance will be found to contain anything to forbid Roman Catholics taking this view of the subject.

Governor Mowat and His Successor. After nearly two score years of almost continuous service in public life, Sir Oliver Mowat, at the age of seventy-seven, retires from the political arena to accept the office of governor of his native province. This honorable position, with its comparative ease and quiet, has been well earned, and doubtless there is no other man who would have had any chance of winning against Sir Oliver, if the choice of a governor had been submitted directly to the people of Ontario. As a matter of course no man prominent in political life escapes adverse criticism. Probably there is none who does not more or less deserve it. But be this as it may, there are none among Canada's public men who have won for themselves a better reputation than the present governor of Ontario, and men of all classes and political parties all over the Dominion will heartily congratulate him on the prospect of spending the evening of his life in honorable, though not arduous service, for his country. Sir Oliver's successor as Minister of Justice in the Dominion Cabinet is Hon. David Mills, of the Senate. Mr. Mills is in his sixty-seventh year, a man of distinguished ability and large experience of public life. For the greater part of the time since 1867 he has been a member of the House of Commons, where his knowledge and broad views of public questions; and his power as a debater have always commanded the highest respect.

London's Great Fire. On Friday last the Cripplegate district, of London, was the scene of one of the greatest conflagrations which the British Metropolis has experienced during a century. The fire broke out about one o'clock in the afternoon in a large block of buildings lying eastward of Aldergate street and between that thoroughfare and Red Cross street. The flames were fanned by a strong wind and were fed by highly inflammable stocks of fancy goods and flimsy dress materials of all descriptions that crowded every floor of the six story buildings in the old streets, in view of the coming Christmas trade. Consequently the conflagration gained headway with surprising rapidity, and was soon far beyond any possibility of being checked by the few engines that were early on the spot. For four hours and a half the flames had their own way, and it was only after more than one hundred engines had worked an hour that the chief of the fire brigade sent out the signal that the fire was under control. This was at 5.45 p. m. When this good news became generally known nearly fifty warehouses and a dozen or so other structures had vanished or remained only in blackened walls, a chaos of fallen girders and smoking piles of bricks and stone. It is stated that one hundred and fifty warehouses were destroyed, and the loss is estimated at from £3,000,000 to £5,000,000.