

# Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN  
VOLUME LXXV.

First Baptist Church  
care of N. Beckwith  
121 Dresden Row

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LVI.

Vol. XXI.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Wednesday, July 26, 1905.

No. 30

## Earthworms and Robins.

An editorial writer in the Toronto Globe, writing of earthworms and robins, says: This silent, persistent invertebrate elongating and contracting his muscular body, twisting and turning his insinuating nose to find the easiest passages through the yielding earth, does more to cultivate and enrich the soil than will ever be recorded to his credit. The continuous stirring of the earth by invertebrate activity supplements or supplies the place of the plough, the cultivator, and the harrow. We can scarcely realize the importance of the actual physical labor of the earthworm and his subterranean friends. The robin knows all about his activity and his weakness for the light, which he is unable to appreciate. While the fat fledgling in the tree calls impatiently for food the alert, industrious mother waits, with head poised on one side, the appearance of the unsuspecting victim. This peculiar attitude has given rise to the belief that the robin listens for the earthworm, and locates it by the sound of its passage through the mould. The poise may seem a listening attitude, but with all birds except the owl the eye as well as the ear is on the side of the head. The robin watches for the tapered protruding head of the earthworm and seizes it with savage haste, drawing out the long, reluctant body by a skilful, steady pull. Then the poor victim is pounded on the ground, doubled up and pounded again, the process being repeated till it resembles a carefully-stowed string of sausages. The appetite of the little, fat fledgling in the tree is momentarily appeased, and its impatient cries are silenced while the mother returns to the fruitful ground to wait with tilted head the egress of another victim.

## Cabinet Changes.

An Ottawa despatch says: The long-talked-of changes in the Cabinet may be looked for about September 1st. They are said to involve the retirement of Mr. Fitzpatrick, Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Scott. Mr. Fitzpatrick will likely succeed Chief Justice Routhier at Quebec, although he could, if so desirous, become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. But he and his family prefer to live in Quebec. If Mr. Aylesworth can be persuaded to enter the Cabinet he will be the new Minister of Justice. For a constituency, if he has no objection on the score of distance, Gaspé is at his disposal. Mr. Lemieux was elected to Gaspé as well as Nicolet, and will choose to sit for the latter when the protest filed against his return has been withdrawn. When Mr. Scott goes out Mr. Lemieux will be appointed Secretary of State, and either Mr. Hugh Guthrie or Mr. Leighton McCarthy Solicitor-General. Mr. Arch. Campbell's name is freely mentioned as Sir Richard Cartwright's successor. With the adoption of the annuity scheme for ex-Cabinet Ministers Mr. Scott and Sir Richard Cartwright would receive \$6,000 per annum, including their Senatorial indemnity.

## They Praise the Country.

A party of newspaper men from Washington, D. C., have lately made a tour of the Canadian Northwest and have expressed their hearty appreciation of what they have seen in the course of their trip. The visitors numbered about twenty-five, some of them men who had travelled much and were well acquainted with other countries. Many of them, however, had not been in Canada before and none of them had made the trip to the Pacific coast on this side of the line. The west was a revelation to them, and according to a Toronto despatch, they could scarcely find words to express their appreciation of the magnificent country which still awaits development. They were also greatly struck with the manner in which law and order was maintained in the western towns, the difference between the mining camps in Canada and in the Western States being very appreciable. They unanimously predicted a great future for the country, and had nothing but praise for all they had seen on the trip. "There is not a particle of sentiment in the country in favor of reciprocity with the United States, and I'm glad of it," said Mr. Arthur J. Dodge, who represents the Milwaukee 'Sentinel' and the St. Paul 'Pioneer Press.' "I have taken pains to ascertain the feeling of people along the whole route from Toronto to Montreal, and to the coast, and I could not help noticing a sort of sturdy independence that pleased me mightily. The people just seem to want to be left alone to manage their business. They are loyal to Britain, but they

feel the country is getting big enough to run itself, and I certainly think that within a few years you will be able to meet any other nation on an equal footing."

## The Submarine Boat.

A good deal has been heard of late about the value of submarine boats in naval warfare and the French naval authorities appear to have been especially sanguine as to the results of their operation. It was positively stated at the time that submarine boats were employed by the Japanese in the naval battle of the Straits of Korea in which Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet was annihilated, and the Russian disaster was in part attributed to that fact. But the detailed reports of the engagement do not show that submarine boats played any part therein. Whatever may be the future of the submarine, its history so far would seem to indicate that its practical use is attended with much danger of death in most horrible form to those who operate it, whatever may be the effect upon the enemy. Several submarine boat disasters have occurred in connection with manoeuvres in the British navy and some of them were sufficiently terrible. But the most horrible disaster of the kind yet reported occurred to the French submarine boat 'Fafardet' which sank at the entrance of the Port of Sada Abdullah, Tunis, on July 6, and was towed into dry dock on the 15th, after ten days incessant efforts to raise her. The salvage operations, which were conducted by Admiral Aubert, assisted by two hundred and fifty sailors and a large staff of engineers, have been attended throughout with a long series of mishaps. The second day, after the accident when members of the crew of the 'Fafardet' were yet alive, the submarine was brought to the surface, and the rescue of the men was thought to be the matter of a few minutes, but the cables snapped and the submarine sank into the deep mud. Five successive efforts to raise the vessel likewise proved unsuccessful. The 'Fafardet' had a crew of fourteen men confined in the vessel with only a limited supply of air, and when this was exhausted they died a horrible death. For most of the time during which efforts were being made to float the 'Fafardet' her crew lived and were able by means of signals to communicate with the rescuing party. But before the boat was raised the end had come and when the door of the 'Fafardet' was opened the rush of noxious gases from the decomposing bodies of those who had composed her crew told the horrible story. An inspection of the vessel showed that the imprisoned men had employed every imaginable device in their efforts to escape.

## The Khedive

The 'Westminster Gazette' publishes a pen picture of the Khedive of Egypt, which so far as it goes is certainly not unattractive. The 'Gazette' says: "The Khedive, who has again arrived in London, is a fine specimen of the all-round man—the student and the athlete. He learned English as a child, under tutors specially selected and sent to Cairo for his benefit, and that of his brother, Prince Mehemet. When twelve years of age, he entered the celebrated Haxius School at Geneva, and afterwards continued his scholastic career at the Theresianum at Vienna, from which he was called by the sudden death of his father the Khedive Tewfik, to ascend the throne of Egypt at the age of eighteen in 1892. At Vienna he was something of a favorite with the Austrian Emperor. The Khedive's knowledge of languages is extensive. During the course of an 'Audience Day' it frequently happens that he carries on discussion of state with the British and United States diplomatic agents in excellent English, with the representative of France in faultless French, and with the German in the choicest language of the Austrian court. Later, he conducts affairs with the Sultan's representative in Turkish, and may conclude the day by presiding over a council of his ministry, when all sorts of intricate details of policy are arranged in Arabic, the native tongue of Egypt, and one of the most difficult of languages. But even this does not complete the list. The evening may see his highness at the theatre listening with pleasure to and understanding the opera rendered in Italian. The Khedive is a strict Mohammedan, and as such eschews both wines and spirits. His abstinence goes even further, for in a country where everybody smokes he will have nothing to do with the fragrant weed. Like his father, he is a monogamist, although his religion allows him four

wives. He is known to be greatly attached to his consort, who was a Circassian lady of the Khedival household before her marriage. In fact, he is essentially a domestic man, and is very fond of his children."

The Peary Arctic Club steamer 'Roosevelt' arrived at Sydney, C. B., from New York on Saturday evening. After taking in 600 tons of coal at Sydney, the steamer would leave for the Arctic regions on Monday evening or Tuesday. Those to go in the 'Roosevelt' are Robert Bartlett, captain; Moses Bartlett, mate; John Murphy, second mate; George Waddell, chief engineer; M. J. Malone, assistant engineer; Charles Piercy, steward; Charles E. Piercy, assistant steward; Lieut. Robert E. Peary and his man Matthew Hanson, and Dr. Louis J. Wolff, the ship's surgeon. Besides there are five firemen and three sailors. The highest point of latitude which Mr. Peary made by steamer on former trips was 79.30, but he thinks the 'Roosevelt' is a better vessel than he has had before, and with her he hopes to be able to reach the 83rd parallel, and from that point, the distance to the Pole, he says, would not be greater than he has made on previous trips on sledges. Mr. Peary expects to start on this sledging trip to the Pole about the middle of February. On this expedition he expects to have four dog sleds with eight dogs each. Each sled will carry 550 pounds of supplies, comprising pemmican, hard tack, tea and condensed milk. Two men will accompany Mr. Peary—the Esquimaux, Mat. Hanson, and a white man. There is, we suppose, from a common sense point of view very small prospect of Mr. Peary reaching the Pole, but he seems to be a man who must either accomplish his purpose or die in the attempt. One cannot but wish that so brave and so determined a man may meet with success.

According to a Tokio despatch an officer who has returned from Port Arthur reports that the extent of damage to the sunken Russian ships is slighter than was anticipated. It has been known that the Russians applied explosives inside the vessels before they were abandoned, and the resulting damages were expected to be serious. It has been found, however, that the vital portions of the ships were strangely unhurt. The Bayan, which sustained the most severe damage, has been taken in tow, and the Peresviet is navigable with her own engines. Both of these vessels will soon be brought to Tokio to complete the necessary repairs. Even the Pallada, which sustained the heaviest damage, is expected to be refloated by the middle of August, and before this the Retvizan and Pobieda will be afloat.

An Associated Press correspondent reports an interview with M. Witte, the senior Russian plenipotentiary to the Peace Congress, from which it appears that M. Witte is not sanguine that the result of the Conference will be peace. He speaks of himself as the Emperor's Ambassador extraordinary to enter into negotiations with the representatives of Japan to ascertain whether it is possible to conclude a treaty of peace. In this he will follow precise instructions which he has received from the Emperor, and the ultimate decision in regard to peace or war remains in his Majesty's hands. M. Witte, however, very much fears that the Japanese terms will be such that the Czar will not be able to accept them. . . . From Tokio it is reported that it is believed there that the Czar recently sent an encouraging letter to General Linevitch, promising him men, provisions and other necessities for attaining an ultimate victory. It is also reported that the Czar recently ordered the mobilization of four army corps. And these facts, taken in connection with the reported limitations of M. Witte's power as a peace plenipotentiary are interpreted as meaning that Russia is not sincere in her expressed desire for the conclusion of peace.

Great excitement was created in the British House of Commons on Thursday night, when on a motion to reduce the membership of the Irish Land Commission, the Government was defeated by a majority of three. John Redmond, leader of the Irish party, said the Premier had repeatedly declared that he would resign if defeated, and asked if he was going to swallow this humiliation as he had swallowed every other humiliation during the last few years. Mr. Balfour replied coolly, and in terms which indicated his confidence that the Government could still command a majority in the House.