

# Messenger and Visitor

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**The Gothenburg System**  
Professor Macnaghten of Montreal recently presented a paper on the Gothenburg system of regulating the sale of liquor which has attracted some attention. The *Montreal Witness* in discussing that system in connection with Prof. Macnaghten's advocacy of it, says in part:

"In his paper on this system, read before a club devoted to economic science, Prof. Macnaghten says that it is the first scientific attempt to deal with the great evils of the liquor traffic, and that those who object to it are not impartial, being bigoted teetotalers, who are crying and signing for the moon of prohibition. We always regret when the advocates of any good cause weaken that cause by the intolerance of their advocacy. This charge can no doubt be laid at the door of some of the advocates of prohibition, and we are equally sorry to find the cause of the Gothenburg system suffer by it. Those who let the evils of the liquor traffic go on and lift neither hand nor foot to stay it are safe from abuse. They are good, moderate, dispassionate and impartial people. But those who feel the burden of the world's evil on their souls and give time, thought and money and sacrifice their worldly interests to overcome this form of it, are all too ready to flout and sneer at each other the moment they find their methods differ. It would be better that all such should have sympathy for all others who are upon the same quest, and should court their assistance.

We think all true reformers will be found only anxious to find the way by which their end can be best accomplished, and, if they cannot get all they want, willing to take anything that will be progress in that direction. The government is already a partner in the traffic, as it is now carried on with a view to the largest sale possible, so that the crime of complicity, though more obvious perhaps, would not really be aggravated by the government taking control of it with a view to the smallest sale possible. That would, on the contrary, be a more moral attitude. It seems to us only necessary to prove that good would be accomplished by the change, to remove any objection to its achievement on the part of the teetotalers—no need to take umbrage at a nickname. But while those who hold, with Professor Macnaghten, that it is only the abuse of drink that is wrong, may accept that system without protest and with a clean conscience, they should remember that there are those who hold that alcohol drinks have no legitimate use as beverages, and that any system of dealing them out for that purpose is wrong. The protest of these against any sort of partnership or complicity between that business and the government for which they are in their measure responsible, remains in full force. For ourselves we believe that there is a place for the Gothenburg system in connection with any system of prohibition. We never heard of a prohibition law that had no exceptions. The usual exceptions are that alcohol may be sold for medicinal, mechanical and sacramental purposes. Grant that there must be exceptions and there remains an infinite opening for abuse. The temptation of personal profit is still operative and prohibition has generally had the effect of demoralizing the drug business. It might, therefore, be necessary for the government to take charge of that part of the sale which was considered legitimate. In any case, whatever part of the sale is treated as legitimate, would seem to be better in the government's hands. That is theory, however until it shall appear from experience that such an arrangement works better. What is obviously wanting is evidence to show that the Gothenburg system is something more than a scientific attempt and that it actually does what is by scientific economists expected of it. Facts from Russia, where the liquor business has now for ten or twelve years been under government control, might prove of interest.

## Opening of Parliament.

The opening of the Dominion Parliament took place on Thursday last with the customary formalities. The new Parliament and the presence of the new Governor-General lent to the occasion somewhat more than the usual interest. There was a remarkably large attendance, and the scene was a very brilliant one. The speech from the throne was brief, and foreshadowed little in the way of new legislation. Earl Grey expressed his appreciation of the honor conferred upon him by the King in appointing him to the distinguished position of Governor-General, and said that his pleasure in being called upon to represent His Majesty in the Dominion had been heightened by the cordial welcome he had received on all sides and from all classes. He alluded to Canada as a favored land which by the advantages it is able to offer settlers is attracting a constantly increasing immigration from the United Kingdom, the United States and other countries. The speech notes the gratifying fact that the trade of the Dominion, which in recent years has so steadily increased, is not diminishing, the aggregate trade for the last fiscal year being the largest on record. There is reference to the appointment of an international

commission composed of three representatives from the United States and from Canada, to investigate and report upon the conditions and uses of the waters adjacent to the boundary line between the two countries, and to make such recommendations for improvements and regulations as shall best subserve the interests of navigation in said waters. It is announced that, in consideration of the recent rapid growth of the Northwest Territories in population, a bill for the purpose of conferring upon them provincial autonomy will be submitted to Parliament. Reference is made to the progress of the surveys for the location of the proposed transcontinental railway and the belief is expressed that tenders for the construction of several sections may be invited during the coming season. The submission of the accounts of the year is promised, and Parliament is informed that the accounts will show a surplus of revenue over all expenses. There is talk that Parliament will close about April 1, but there are few dates more uncertain than that of the closing of our Dominion Parliament. Colonel Hughes has given notice of a motion in favor of an Imperial Parliament in which the colonies should be represented and which should be empowered to deal with inter-imperial, international, commercial, financial and other necessary national problems but leaving to the existing Parliaments their present powers, functions, control of tariff and other matters necessary for their own purposes."

## The Emperor

Writing of the Emperor Francis Joseph in "Chapters from My Diplomatic Life" in the *January Century*, Andrew D. White says that he is probably as thoroughly beloved by his subjects as any sovereign in history has ever been. His great misfortunes and fearful defeats in the wars with France and Germany, the suicide of his only son, the assassination of his wife, and family troubles in more recent times, have thrown about him an atmosphere of romantic sympathy; while liking for his kindly qualities is mingled with respect for his plain common sense. During his stay in Berlin I met him a second time. At my first presentation at Dresden, two years before, there was little opportunity for extended conversation; but he now spoke at length and in a manner which showed him to be observant of the world's affairs even in remote regions. He discussed the recent increase of our army, the progress of our war in the Philippines, and the extension of American enterprise in various parts of the world, in a way which was not at all perfunctory, but evidently the result of large information and careful observation. His empire, which is a seething caldron of hates, racial, religious, political and local, is held together by love and respect for him; but when he dies this personal tie which unites all these different races, parties and localities will disappear, and in place of it will come the man who by force of untoward circumstances is to be his successor, and this is anything but a pleasing prospect to an Austro-Hungarian or indeed to any thoughtful observer of human affairs.

## Why was it not prevented?

If the facts are as reported, it is difficult to see how, in permitting the departure from New York of the torpedo boat, *Gregory*, built for the Russian Government by Lewis Nixon of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, the United States Government can escape the charge of permitting a breach of the international law of neutrality. It appears to have been a matter of common knowledge that the *Gregory* was being built for Russia, and accordingly there is no apparent reason why the United States Government should not have prevented the departure of the vessel if it had desired to do so. The action of the U. S. Government, or rather its failure to act, in this instance seems all the more remarkable in view of the "Alabama" incident and the strong stand taken in that connection by the United States in support of the view that neutral powers are responsible for damages caused by war vessels built in and sailed from their ports.

## Was it

The release from the Innsbruck prison of a Tyrolean guide who had served eight years for manslaughter recalls a story of pathetic and somewhat romantic interest. The story of the events leading to the guide's conviction is related as

follows: "He and a young Viennese doctor, roped together, were returning from an excursion on one of the most perilous peaks in the Tyrol, when the doctor slipped and fell over a precipice. By a superhuman effort the guide preserved his balance, and, the rope holding, he tried to pull his companion to safety. His efforts were futile, but he remained standing upon the ledge, and from the early afternoon of one day to noon the next supported the weight of the doctor's body, and waited for help. No help came, and after hours of agony, the guide finding his strength failing, cut the rope. The doctor fell to his death on the rocks below. The guide succeeded in reaching home, and informing the police of the accident, was arrested. The doctor's family, who were rich and influential, did all in their power to obtain his release, as they considered that he did no wrong in saving his own life, when all chance of saving their relative had gone. They failed however, and the guide was convicted. During his incarceration the doctor's family have supported his wife and children, and now that the guide is a free man again they intend to set him up in business.

## An Alleged Pardon.

Kang Yu Wei, a noted Chinese reformer in British Columbia, is said to have received direct advices from Peking that the Chinese Government has granted full pardon to himself and Liang Kai Chow, another reform leader. Both these reformers were excluded from the general amnesty granted other reformers last July. Kang Yu Wei is reported to be much pleased at the news, taking it as a sign that the Chinese Government is beginning to realize that the adoption of the reformers' views will prevent the decay and disintegration of the once mighty Celestial Empire. He says, however that he will not be able to avail himself of the pardon for some time, as far as the liberty to return home is concerned, as he has a great deal of work to do on this continent, including a trip to San Francisco, New York, and other leading centres. Some of Kang Yu Wei's friends and fellow reformers are said to have less faith than he in the good-will of the Chinese Government. They look upon the announced pardon as a trap devised by the wily Empress Dowager to lure Kang Yu Wei to execution. They accordingly advise him not to return to China while the Empress lives.

## Reindeer in Alaska.

That scheme for importing reindeer into Alaska from Siberia, which met with criticism and even with ridicule when first suggested a few years ago by Sheldon Jackson, says *Osting*, is now proving the salvation of the Alaska Eskimoes. While the original thought was only to repair the rapidly lessening food supply of the natives, yet it has developed into a veritable reindeer industry. So successfully has the plan worked, in fact, that not only does it furnish the natives with food, clothing, and means of transportation, but holds out the prospect of putting Alaska in a few years in the position of supplying deer meat to the outside market. Reindeer does are prolific, and an excellent cheese is made of their milk. As carriers they have already supplanted dogs for the United States mail, and may be ridden or will carry easily a pack of 150 pounds. In fact the reindeer industry is already a very important one with widening significance.

—Our Lord had a great deal to say about the kingdom both in plain teaching and in parable. He tells us often what it is like, but never just what it is. But while this is so, He has told us very plainly what is its essential characteristic. In His prayer which He gave to His disciples for a model, the nearest approach to a definition is found in the clause immediately following: "Thy kingdom come," viz: "Thy will be done." The doing of God's will is the root idea involved in being in His Kingdom. Whether the Kingdom is within you or without you, is not a question to give much concern. Am I doing God's will, as He has revealed himself to me in His book and in His providences? is of greater moment. That fact assured, puts you into the Kingdom or puts the Kingdom into you.