

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**General Buller Retired.** Sir Redvers Buller has been relieved of his command of the First Army Corps at Aldershot, and has been retired on half pay, and the event, with General Buller's speech preceding the action of the War Office, has caused a very considerable sensation. It is not quite easy to understand whether General Buller's retirement was because of his advice to General Sir George White in reference to the surrender of Ladysmith or because of the recent speech made in his own defence, in which he admitted that after the battle of Colenso—and being then under misapprehension as to the length of time for which the garrison was provisioned—he had sent a despatch to General White, which might be interpreted as advising surrender. Probably no one questions that General Buller has well earned the reputation of being a brave soldier. As to whether or not he is a great general, there may be a good deal of difference of opinion, and when it comes to speech-making, there will be general agreement that he can be indiscreet. Sir Redvers' soldierly qualities have won him many friends and admirers who sympathize keenly with him in his present unpleasant position. The appointment of General French to the First Corps in succession to General Buller gives very general satisfaction, and General Hildyard, who will be in command until the return of General French from South Africa, is recognized as a very competent officer.

**"Worse Than a Crime."** President Roosevelt has done a terrible thing and has sinned quite past forgiveness in the eyes of some of his fellow citizens. The act of which he has been guilty is described as "worse than a crime," and is thought to require some of the strongest adjectives in the language in order to its proper denunciation. It would seem indeed, according to opinions very freely and vigorously expressed in certain quarters, that the thing which the President has done has brought darkness over all his future and blighted the hopes of his political party for years to come. And what is this terrible thing that President Roosevelt has done? Has he been guilty of some horrible immorality, or cast in his lot with anarchists and assassins, or traitorously sold his country to some foreign nation? It is all because of inviting a man to dine with him. And who is this terrible man? He is a citizen of the United States, a man who has worked himself up from a lowly position to a national reputation. His reputation is that of an honest man, of stainless moral character, a Christian man, educator, philanthropist, patriot, a man of modest bearing, of shrewd common sense and judicious spirit, a man who is recognized as the best representative of ten million people who live under stars and stripes. And yet because this man, Booker T. Washington, has negro blood in his veins, some prominent men in the South, including leading journalists, the president of a college and the Governor of South Carolina, are denouncing the act of the President in inviting Mr. Washington to dine with him as if it were the most unpardonable of crimes and an unexampled outrage upon the nation. Snobbery may flourish alarmingly under monarchical institutions, but the article in its purest development, it would seem, is to be sought in a republic. It is to be hoped however, that the eager tongues and pens which are uttering maledictions against the President in this matter do not really represent the sentiment of the South.

**Yale's Bicentennial.** On Sunday, October 20th, Yale University entered upon the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the

founding of Yale College. Like most of the historic institutions of learning in Christendom, Yale had a religious parentage. It was founded in faith and prayer in the day of small things on this continent; small things that is if one speaks of the material results of human thought and industry. But if one speaks in respect to that courage and faith which lay foundations and build for the future in the name of God, it should rather be called the day of great things. It were well for this materialistic generation, in its avarice and luxury, its pride and trust in its accumulated wealth, to reflect how much it owes, not only in respect to the purifying and preserving influences of religion and virtue, but in respect also to the promotion of knowledge, enterprise, practical ability, the expansion of industry and commerce, with the culture and refinement which mark the present age, to the men who, in their poverty of material resources but in the strength of their faith and in their deep love of humanity, laid the foundations of those seats of learning which have been the inspiration of so much that is most valuable and most honorable in the life of this western hemisphere. It was fitting that the bicentennial of this historic school should be ushered in, as it has been, with religious ceremonies, reminiscent in their simplicity of the sturdy Puritan days of Yale's founding and early history. The services of Sunday, we are told, were in accord with the traditions of those days, the days when a handful of ministers of the gospel gathered together to supplicate the divine blessing on the institution which, in faith in God and love for men, they had founded. Let us hope that the prayers offered on behalf of the great University now are no less fervent and no less charged with faith than the prayers offered for the Christian school in its humble beginnings two centuries ago, and may they have a no less gracious and abundant answer.

**Yale's Bicentennial**  
(Continued.)

Yale is now, as in the past, fairly representative, in an educational way, of much that is typically best in the life of New England and the United States. The University has long enjoyed a national reputation, and though the rapid growth of younger institutions may have diminished somewhat its relative importance, the nationality of its reputation is still well maintained. Yale is younger than Harvard, and in wealth, in the completeness of her equipment and the number of her students she has not overtaken the older school, but her influence has been strong and far-reaching. "Like the New England which gave her birth," says the New York Tribune, "Yale has never been left out in the cold, but, in the happy phrase of Mr. Lowell, still sits by every fireside in the land where there are virtue and valor and free thought. Preserving in a less degree than her elder sister the traditions and refinements of the Colonial aristocracy, she has exerted a controlling influence over a wider field. It is, moreover, an interesting and creditable fact that Yale has not achieved her place of popular esteem and authority by an easy yielding to new ideas and impulses. She has been steadily conservative—too conservative in the opinion of many faithful but impatient friends; too slow in recognizing the requirements of an expanding civilization, and too reluctant to admit the wisdom of departing from well worn paths. But she has made few mistakes, and her advancement has been sure, if it has not been rapid, during the comparatively brief period which has witnessed the development of true universities from the germ of the New England college. More completely, perhaps, than any other of the principal educational institutions of the United States, Yale has preserved her identity

through the eventful changes which the temper and the exigencies of the era have wrought in all." One of the most interesting features in connection with last week's celebration was an official welcome extended by President Hadley to Yale's returning sons and daughters. Delegates from thirty foreign universities and societies and 125 American institutions were represented in the audience which filled every part of the grey stone chapel. Nearly all the delegates were gowned. Scarlet-trimmed gowns and hoods of doctors of divinity mingled with the purple of the learned representatives of the law, the blue of the doctors of philosophy, the green of the medical departments, the white of the masters of arts and letters, the orange of science and the brown of fine arts, and gave a picturesque air of festivity to the dignified ceremonial. An allegorical exhibition given by the Dramatic Association of the University on Tuesday evening, with songs by the students, choruses was also a highly interesting part of the celebration, the various scenes presented being symbolic of successive events in the history of Yale. "The founding of the collegiate school, 1701," was the first scene, picturing the house of Rev. Mr. Russell, of Branford, where the clergymen were gathered, each bringing the treasured volumes which he had promised for the establishment of the new college. Following this was a scene representing the removal of the school library from Saybrook to New Haven, after the struggle in which Governor Saltonstall, a sheriff and citizens of New Haven play a prominent part; then an inspection by General Washington of the Yale company of volunteers, and next an effective tableau of the execution of Nathan Hale, the martyr-spy. Other scenes depicted the quaint ceremonies of initiation into the old freshman societies; the rites incident to the "burial of Euclid," glimpses of life about the historic Yale fence by day and night, the interior of a student's room, typical of things familiar to every graduate, and the final showing the students in chapel. Between each of the scenes there were familiar college songs by the student chorus, in which all the thousands of graduates ranged about the amphitheatre heartily participated. Several bands were stationed on the campus and at intervals added to the musical demonstration of the evening.

**The Government and the War.** The British Government continues to be severely criticised both by its friends and its foes in respect to its failure to bring the war in South Africa to a close. Lord Salisbury returned to England last week much improved apparently in health, it is said, by rest and change and was promptly reminded by his supporters in the press that the first duty of the Government is to bring the war to an end as speedily as possible. About the time of Lord Salisbury's return Mr. Winston Churchill delivered a speech at Leicester in which he is said to have handled the War Office without gloves, devoting his remarks almost entirely to the war and denouncing the Government's muddling policy in scathing terms. The war, he declared, had become an unmitigated nuisance and he wanted the Government to intervene in South Africa in order to localize, delimit and assign Lord Kitchener's functions, so that he might be relieved of a multiplicity of duties which he is unable to perform efficiently. The audience manifested great enthusiasm over Mr. Churchill's speech. In view of the spectacle which it presents to the world, the tremendous expense involved and the interference with trade, the war has become a kind of nightmare to the people of England, and public sentiment is prepared to sanction and demand the most rigorous measures for putting an end to the strife.