

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LX.

Vol. XIV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1858.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME XLIX.

No. 51.

Who is to Lead Who is to be the Liberal leader in Great Britain appears to be the present time a question of lively interest in the party. There are in the party a number of eminently able men, and men who possess in a respectable degree the qualities essential to leadership, but none of them apparently so pre-eminently endowed with such qualities as to make his election as party chieftain a foregone conclusion. Sir William Verdon Harcourt, who since Mr. Gladstone's retirement has been the recognized leader of the party in the House of Commons, is a very able parliamentarian but he appears to lack some things essential to eminent success as a leader. He does not impress himself very strongly upon the country, and his years are telling upon him. Lord Rosebery would be a more popular leader, so far as his personality goes, but he would labor under the disadvantage of being in the House of Lords, and the fact that he belongs to the titled aristocracy no doubt in the eyes of the radical wing of the party renders him less eligible for the position. Lord Rosebery, however, is said to consider himself as being outside of politics, and it is uncertain whether or not he has any ambition to undertake again the task of leadership. Mr. H. H. Asquith is a man who, within a few years, has come to the front in politics. He is a man of large ability, and of much oratorical power. He is an advanced Liberal and ambitious. Another name which has come to be mentioned in connection with the leadership of the Liberal party is that of Sir Edward Grey, and that the choice may finally fall upon him, Mr. Henry Norman considers not improbable. This would certainly happen, he says, if a strife arose between the other candidates. Sir Edward Grey is comparatively a young man and is further described as having no passion whatever for political life which has been thrust upon him by his own great successes. He is without enemies and his speaking and acting when forced to take a prominent position, give evidence of statesman like qualities which even his opponents respect. Matters have been brought to a crisis in respect to the leadership, by a letter addressed to Mr. John Morley by Sir Vernon Harcourt, in which he plainly signifies his intention to withdraw from a position which, arduous and responsible at any time, is intolerable in the presence of divided counsels and the absence of hearty and unanimous support.

Signing the Treaty of Peace. The treaty of peace between the United States and Spain was signed by the members of the joint commission in Paris on the 10th inst. An American newspaper correspondent thinks that the signing of the treaty would have afforded a subject for a great historical painting. Around the great mahogany table sat the ten arbiters of the destinies of an old and a young nation. Ranged standing behind them were numerous attachés of the American Commission. The jets from the crystal chandeliers above the heads of those present magnified the brilliant green and scarlet of the upholsterings into gaudiness. Between the scenery and the black-clothed actors there was a theatrical contrast. To the Americans it was a happy ending of the epilogue of the war. For the Spaniards it was a bitter tragedy, none the less painful because long foreseen. After the treaty had been read both in English and in Spanish, the two copies were passed round the table and the commissioners signed them in the order of their rank. When the last seal had been affixed, the commissioners arose, and without formality each commissioner shook hands with all those of the opposite side, exchanging assurances of personal esteem. It is said, however, that the Spaniards

afterwards commented acridly on what they considered the bad taste of the Americans in mustering a crowd of attachés to gloat over the consummation of their downfall and to scramble for relics of the event. The text of the treaty is not to be published before its submission to the United States Senate. It is understood, however, that it follows quite closely the lines indicated by newspaper correspondents during the progress of the negotiations. It is said to provide that Cuba is to be relinquished, and that Porto Rico and the Philippines are to be ceded to the United States. The Americans are to pay for the repatriation of the Spanish troops from all the colonies. The Spaniards are to retain possession of all military stores and munitions of war in the Philippines and of such ships as have not been captured. Whether or not Spain is to receive \$20,000,000 on account of her expenditures in the Philippines is not stated in the Paris despatch in reference to the treaty, but that is probably included among the stipulations.

More Money for McGill. McGill University is most fortunate in having wealthy friends who have shown themselves ready to use their means generously to promote its efficiency and enable it to enlarge its sphere of usefulness. It is well known that McGill had already received large donations from Mr. W. C. Donald of Montreal, and Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal (formerly Sir Donald Smith), and these gentlemen have now again given generous proof of their deep interest in the University. At a special meeting of the Board of Governors held on Tuesday of last week, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, who is Chancellor of the University, announced his intention to add to his former benefactions the sum of \$780,000. This is to be a part of the endowment of the Royal Victoria College for Women, now in process of building, and brings the endowment up to a million dollars. The Chancellor announced that the furnishing and equipment of the new college was making satisfactory progress and that it would open its doors for the reception of resident and non-resident students in September next. The announcement was also made that the teaching staff of professors and lecturers at the new college will be the same as that at McGill, with such additions to their members as circumstances may require. Notwithstanding the magnificent gifts which McGill has received in recent years, the enlargement of its work has more than kept pace with its resources, with the result that a large deficit had accumulated. Mr. McDonald called attention to the inadequate endowment of the Faculty of Arts and intimated his intention of endowing the chair of History, expressing also a desire that the chair should be connected with the name of the late Dr. Kingsford of Ottawa. This generous action of Mr. McDonald adds another fifty thousand to McGill's endowment. At the same meeting the governors of the University decided to wipe out the deficit on current expenditure by a joint contribution of \$186,000. This brings the total subscriptions of one day up to \$1,016,000. It is interesting to note in this connection that the benefactions of Lord Strathcona and Mr. McDonald to McGill now make up a total of more than three and a half millions, Lord Strathcona's gifts amounting to \$1,383,712 and Mr. McDonald's \$2,305,069.

Reports from Paris during the France Still Agitated. past week indicate that there is still a good deal of agitation in France over Anglo-French relations. The recent speech of the British Ambassador at Paris, Sir Edmund Monson, of which some account was given in these columns last week, is reported on the whole to have been well received in Paris and to have had some effect in abating popular resentment toward England. Some French newspapers and public men, however, professed to find in the speech of the British Ambassador another proof that Great Britain is determined to force France into a war for which she is unprepared and which must almost certainly result disastrously for her, unless she can find a powerful ally. There is in some quarters an outcry against Russia, because that Power seems indisposed to take up France's quarrel against Great Britain. There is even talk of an alliance with Germany. But probably the people of France are hardly ready yet to dismiss their dream of revenge upon Germany and join hands with their long hated enemy, even for the sake of wreaking revenge upon their neighbor across the Channel. It does not appear to have occurred to the excited Frenchmen that possibly Germany might have as little liking as Russia for entering upon a war with Great Britain. There is certainly a much easier, more profitable and more honorable way for France to get along with her neighbor than going to war, that is to take the excellent advice of Sir Edmund Monson,—disabuse her mind of the foolish notion that England desires war and cease from the pursuance of a policy constantly designed in a petty way to thwart British enterprise and interfere with British interests. France is not in a good condition to go to war with Great Britain. In fact she is not in a good condition for either peace or war. Her military leaders seem likely enough to ruin the country if it remains at peace, and if it should go to war they are perhaps still more likely to do so. One of her public men is reported as saying that victory for France would be almost more to be dreaded than defeat, since the inevitable result would be the overthrow of the republic and the establishment of a military dictatorship.

By-Elections. By-elections for the Dominion Parliament were held on Wednesday of last week in five constituencies. Two of these were in Ontario, two in Quebec and one in P. E. Island. The results apparently do not indicate any material change in the political sentiment of the country. The opposition made a vigorous and hopeful fight in Prince county, P. E. Island, and succeeded in reducing the Government majority of 1896 from 17 to 56. But, of the five constituencies, the Government carried four, winning from the Conservatives Bagot in Quebec Province. The fifth constituency, that of North Simcoe, elected Mr. Leighton McCarthy, the nephew of the late Dalton McCarthy, who like his lamented predecessor, takes independent ground. Mr. McCarthy was opposed in the contest by a candidate who had the local Liberal support, but whose candidature was not authorized by the leaders of the party. The result of Wednesday's elections is to increase by two the government majority in Parliament.

Literary Note. Dr. T. H. Rand, of Toronto, has been busy during the past summer which he spent at Partridge Island, N. S., in preparing for the press a volume to be entitled, "A Treasury of Canadian Verse." The book is to be a compilation from the works of our Canadian poets. Its preparation has involved no little labor, and the fine poetic sense of the compiler, together with the not inconsiderable wealth of material at his hand, gives assurance that the forth-coming volume will be one of much interest and value. The book is to be issued next March, simultaneously in Canada, the United States and Great Britain.

By-Elections. By-elections for the Dominion Parliament were held on Wednesday of last week in five constituencies. Two of these were in Ontario, two in Quebec and one in P. E. Island. The results apparently do not indicate any material change in the political sentiment of the country. The opposition made a vigorous and hopeful fight in Prince county, P. E. Island, and succeeded in reducing the Government majority of 1896 from 17 to 56. But, of the five constituencies, the Government carried four, winning from the Conservatives Bagot in Quebec Province. The fifth constituency, that of North Simcoe, elected Mr. Leighton McCarthy, the nephew of the late Dalton McCarthy, who like his lamented predecessor, takes independent ground. Mr. McCarthy was opposed in the contest by a candidate who had the local Liberal support, but whose candidature was not authorized by the leaders of the party. The result of Wednesday's elections is to increase by two the government majority in Parliament.

Literary Note. Dr. T. H. Rand, of Toronto, has been busy during the past summer which he spent at Partridge Island, N. S., in preparing for the press a volume to be entitled, "A Treasury of Canadian Verse." The book is to be a compilation from the works of our Canadian poets. Its preparation has involved no little labor, and the fine poetic sense of the compiler, together with the not inconsiderable wealth of material at his hand, gives assurance that the forth-coming volume will be one of much interest and value. The book is to be issued next March, simultaneously in Canada, the United States and Great Britain.