

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXIII.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LII.

Vol. XVII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 1901.

No. 28.

Too Many Tael. A new and curious hitch has developed in connection with the settlement of the indemnity to be paid by China to the powers. It appears that China has agreed to pay 35,000,000 taels, or about \$24,500,000 more than is required to satisfy all the demands which have been made against her. The discrepancy appears to be due, it is said, to an error of calculation at Peking, in the first place by those making up the indemnity and in the second place by the Chinese in their hasty acceptance of the terms of settlement proposed. The amount, as made up and agreed to by the Chinese, was 450,000,000 taels, but now, in counting up all the demands that are known, the total is only 415,000,000 taels. It is to be hoped, however, that the disposition of this 33,000,000 which China has agreed to pay beyond all preferred claims for indemnity will not become a casus belli.

South Africa. The well-known London Correspondent of the New York Tribune, Mr. I. N. Ford, considering the present condition of affairs in South Africa as reflected in recent reports from those parts of the wide field of conflict where the embers of strife still smoulder and occasionally break forth into flame, expresses the opinion that the facts indicate that the resources of Dutch resistance have reached the breaking point and that the Boers must shortly consent to accept the inevitable results of the war. In expressing this opinion, Mr. Ford remarks that this has been said many times by British optimists, but, he thinks, never before with an equal degree of confidence. Military men assert that the Boers have been driven out of the Orange River Colony by the thoroughness of the clearance movements and by their utter lack of food, and that they will soon be dispersed by General French, after fighting in the last ditch south of the Orange River. Lord Milner, the British High Commissioner, who is soon to return to South Africa is said to take a hopeful view of the situation. He foresees a speedy end of hostilities and ultimate reunion of the hostile races with confederation as a political goal. He is expected to make an important speech before leaving England, in which he will explain briefly the principles to be carried out in his reconstructive policy.

A Royal Welcome. It appears from the despatches that the people of Cape Town are preparing to make much of the prospective visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall to their city. The demonstrations will surpass anything of the kind ever seen in South Africa, and are expected to cost the colony half a million dollars. The five days festivities will include a luncheon, fetes and military and naval displays. The Duchess has been invited to lay the foundation stone of a nurses' home and hospital as a memorial to Queen Victoria, and the Duke to lay the stone of a city arch to be erected as a memorial of the Royal visit, and as a monument to those who have fallen in the present war. There will be an *indaba* (whatever that may be) of chiefs brought from the native territories, and the Mayors of all the towns of the colony will attend to present addresses of welcome and fealty. A special feature will be a pageant of allegorical cars from different parts of the country, representative of South African industries and characteristics. Representatives of the regulars and blue-jackets and of the oversea and South African irregulars will also participate. A children's medal will be struck. The Mayor of Cape Town will give a civic banquet. The colony will present the Duchess with a magnificent cabinet of colonial woods, a kaross and an ostrich feather fan, gold mounted and set in diamonds. The ladies of Oudtshoorn, the principal ostrich district, will supply the feathers, Kimberly the diamonds and

South Africa the gold. A present will be given by the children, consisting of three Basuto ponies. As the plague is rapidly disappearing an immense gathering is anticipated. People are coming thousands of miles, and preparations are already being made to accommodate an abnormal population.

The King's Coronation. The royal proclamation announcing that the Coronation of King Edward VII., is to take place in June next, was read on June 28th, at St. James Palace, Temple Bar and the Royal Exchange, attended by quaint ceremonies and costumes which are survivals from medieval times. The ceremony began at St. James where from the purple draped balcony of the Palace the Norroy King of Arms (William Henry Weldon) in a brilliant uniform, accompanied by heralds and pursuivants in gorgeous tabards, and numerous State officials read the proclamation. A London despatch describes what took place at the Palace as follows: At the appointed hour four state trumpeters, lavishly adorned in gold-embroidered tunics, appeared in front of the balcony. By their side stood the Norroy King of Arms, flanked by two royal macers, bearing gold maces, and surrounded by the blue mantle (Gordou Ambrose Delisle Lee); the Rouge Dragon (Everard Green); the Somerset Herald, (Henry Farnham Burke); the York Herald (Alfred Scott Scott-Gatty), and the Windsor Herald (William Alexander Lindsay) all in their full official regalia, and the Earl Marshal (the Duke of Norfolk.) the Lord Steward (the Earl of Pembroke,) the Lord Chamberlain (the Earl of Clarendon) and others. The trumpeters sounded a protracted fan-fare and then the Norroy King of Arms bared his head and read the proclamation in a clear voice, which must have been audible to the royal party occupying a stand on the grounds of Marlborough House, facing the balcony of the palace. King Edward wore an admiral's uniform. Queen Alexandra and the others of the royal party watched the ceremony with the greatest interest, the King using field glasses to obtain a clearer view. As the Norroy King of Arms concluded with the words 'God save the King,' the trumpeters again sounded a fan-fare, the King in the meanwhile standing at the salute.

Helen Keller in Halifax. A more than ordinary interest attached to the annual closing exercises of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, held on Saturday, June 29, by the presence of Miss Helen Adams Keller, of Boston. Hon. Dr. Parker presided on the occasion. Lieut. Governor Jones was present and gave an address. There were addresses also by Principal Fearon, Attorney-General Loagley, President Forest, of Dalhousie, and Rev. Dr. Gordon. The work of the year appears to have been quite successful. The school is affording opportunities for education of which every deaf mute child in the province should be able to take advantage. Almost every one has heard of Miss Helen Keller who is both deaf and blind and has been so almost from infancy, and yet has learned not only to read and write, but also to talk, expressing her thoughts correctly by the proper organs of speech. Miss Keller who is now twenty-one years of age was born in the State of Alabama. When eighteen months old as the result of a severe illness she lost both sight and hearing, but under the instruction of Miss Sullivan—who accompanied her to Halifax—Miss Keller, at the age of seven, learned the alphabet through the sense of touch, and soon was able to read. With this key of knowledge in hand and with the guidance of patient and efficient instructors, Miss Keller made such remarkable progress, that at the age of twenty she was able to enter Radcliff College, the Ladies' Annex of Harvard, and has now completed the first year of the

course. This young lady's case is a remarkable illustration of the power of a vigorous mind, when sustained by patience and perseverance, to triumph over the most formidable obstacles. Considering how tremendous must be the difficulties of teaching the use of language and of abstract terms to one who from infancy has been both deaf and blind, one would be inclined *a priori* to pronounce the task impossible. But Miss Keller, the successful student at Harvard University, is certainly a living and illustrious demonstration of its possibility. Miss Keller gave an address at the Halifax institution on the occasion alluded to above. "Her address," says the report of the proceedings published in the Chronicle, was delivered in a natural voice, which had in it no trace of that strained sound so common in the speaking of the deaf. She spoke quite fluently, with good articulation and modulation. For about ten minutes she held the audience spell-bound as she told in brief the wonderful story of her life, and urged no one to despair for all obstacles might be made but the stepping stones to success.

The address was in part as follows:
"Dear friends:—I am glad to be with you. I do not at all feel as if I were in a strange country, for I have been familiar with the name and the story of Evangeline's Land from earliest childhood; and when I knew that I was at last to visit Nova Scotia my heart overflowed with pleasure. This is one of the unexpected joys which meet us round the corner of the street of life.

"I do not know whether you understand what I am saying or not; but you must feel how glad I am to be here. I am deeply, earnestly interested in the education of those who, like myself, cannot hear. I understand the peculiar difficulties and discouragements that beset your path—the obstacles that you must overcome, before you can enter into your rightful inheritance; but remember obstacles are opportunities, and we can and must make them stepping stones to the attainment of our ideals. I think we can accomplish anything that we undertake, if we earnestly persevere."

"Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate,
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."

Joseph Cook. The announcement of the death of Joseph Cook, which took place at his summer home at Ticonderoga a fortnight ago, has made but slight impression on the public mind compared with what would have been caused had the event taken place some fifteen or twenty years earlier. During the decade following 1874 few names of living men could have been mentioned as better known or more influential in the philosophical and religious thought of his day in America than that of the man who, through the Monday lectureship in Tremont Temple, was attracting great crowds representing much of the intellectual and religious life of Boston to listen to his discussion of great questions in philosophy and theology. His lectures, when published in book form, were widely read and exercised a corresponding influence. Mr. Cook was a doughty champion of the orthodox faith, powerfully and successfully maintaining the cause of a spiritual idealism against the materialistic doctrines which had become so fashionable in many of the intellectual circles of that time. Mr. Cook, if not a thinker of a very profound type, was at least a man of very remarkable powers both of assimilation and expression. He gave the impression of a man of indomitable will and purpose, strong in Christian faith and profoundly devoted to the cause of truth. Doubtless he did good service in a good cause, and by him many feeble hands were held up and many faltering knees were strengthened. Mr. Cook has died at the comparatively early age of 63, and for the last ten years or more the world has heard little of him. He seemed almost to have faded from view. Doubtless his gradually failing health has had much to do with this, but even if his health had remained firm, it is more than doubtful if anything like the measure of influence which he formerly exerted would have been maintained.