

# Messenger and Visitor.

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In the Northwest. "Lally Bernard" of the Toronto Globe writes a graphic account of a day spent at Yorkton and vicinity, the terminus of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway. In the village, brick stores were replacing the old frame buildings and a general air of prosperity was noticeable in the atmosphere. A drive through the adjacent country convinced the visitor of its excellence as a grain-growing section. "We sped through the country among miles of tall standing grain. The oats were the tallest I had ever seen and my companion told stories of men who in shooting excursions had got lost in the tall grain which was level with their heads." The country, however, lacks water, and capital is required in order to secure a regular supply and to open roads. Among the new settlers met with many nationalities were represented. "On the way into the village we passed an Indian brave who, wrapped in a brilliant scarlet blanket, squatted on the verandah of a deserted building smoking a curious pipe. That evening I counted over the various nationalities I had met during the day and found that the ten fingers did not cover the list—Swedes, Hungarians, Icelanders, Africans, Russians, Poles, Germans, French, Indians, Galicians, Americans, Canadians, Irish, Scotch and English. Here was cosmopolis with a vengeance, and a curious medley of types and specimens of humanity were presented. . . . What the future of this heterogeneous mass will be it is impossible to say. The admixture may mean for the west an equitable balance of power, and may solve the question of a dual language in the new Provinces." The writer quoted is of the opinion that these immigrants of foreign origin possess in common and to a remarkable degree the power of adapting themselves to their new surroundings. They live in the most frugal way and appear to have the art of making money where an Anglo-Saxon would find means to spend it. "I shall never forget the teamster's picture of 'how we settled the Gallicians,' as he called them. 'We just took out a big load of men, women, children and bundles, and they had a ticket attached to each man and his belongings. When we reached section —, say, we just hustled out Mr. Man, his woman and kids and bundle, and said, 'Stay right here.' They would often squeal to be taken in, feeling lonesome like, with nothing but the cayotes to keep 'em company; but there they had got to stay. How did they live? Why, scraped a hole in the ground and got in. What did they eat? Gophers, I guess. Killed them? Lord love you, no! Many of them are putting money in the bank this year. Folks is spoiling them Douks with prayers and presents; they are putting on airs. Gallicians don't have travelling prayer meetings and cows sent them." However the writer is gratified at the thought that some portion of this new Canadian population should have "travelling prayer meetings and cows" given them, and fears his informant's picture of "how we settled the immigrants" would not make good literature for European circulation.

What South African Ministers Say. A statement signed by nine ministers connected with different religious bodies at Kimberley has been recently published in The Methodist Times of London. The statement sets forth certain facts connected with the South African war, and especially in connection with the experience of these ministers during the siege of Kimberley, and it is made in the belief that a section of the religious public of Great Britain is under serious misapprehension with regard to certain aspects of the war and its antecedents. The signatures to the statement published by The Methodist Times are as follows: James Scott, Wesleyan minister, Kimberley, Chairman of Kimberley District; W. H. Richards, Presbyterian minister, Kimberley; John Gifford, Baptist minister, Kimberley; Arthur

George Rainer, Congregational minister, Kimberley; Peter Milne, B. D., Presbyterian minister, Beaconsfield; J. S. Morris, Wesleyan minister, Beaconsfield; Harris Isaacs, rabbi, Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation, recently rabbi Johannesburg Hebrew Congregation; William Pescod, Wesleyan minister, Kimberley; Joseph Ward, Wesleyan minister, Kimberley. These ministers find it difficult to believe that the Boers desired a peaceful settlement of the dispute with Great Britain. Against such a conclusion is the persistent refusal of the Transvaal to accept the reasonable offers of the British Government and the complicated terms offered by the Boers, together with the fact that it was the latter who made war inevitable and invaded British territory. "So that the conduct of the Boers justifies the opinion frequently expressed that the real object of the war was Dutch supremacy in South Africa." In connection with the siege of Kimberley the Boers are accused of conduct disgraceful in the light of civilized warfare in deliberately shelling a part of the town in which the women and children almost exclusively were quartered. That the shelling was deliberate and intentional is evident from the reports made by the Boer commandants, and the results of it—"a mother and her three children stricken down here, a mother and the babe at her breast killed there, and other similar heart-rending occurrences"—caused great indignation. "We wish further to state," say these ministers, "that the impression that those who have become our enemies are for the most part God-fearing men, rich in Christian experience and of puritanical practical holiness of life is an erroneous one. The Boers are, as a rule, professing Christians, but, with acknowledged and marked exceptions, do not answer to the above description, which, we believe, expresses the idea formed of them by many religious people in England." The conviction is further expressed that in view of the character of the Boers, and especially in view of their treatment of the native and half caste people of the country, the interests of the country demand that in the settlement of the questions now at issue no supremacy shall be permitted to the Dutch in the Transvaal. Let the same measure of liberty be given to British and other settlers in the Transvaal as is now given to the Dutch in Cape Colony.

Salisbury's Primrose-League Speech. On the occasion of the annual meeting of the Primrose-League in London on Thursday last, Lord Salisbury presided and made a speech in which he discussed some public questions of much present interest. Referring to the enlargement of the popular view, during the last half of the century, in respect to the Empire, his Lordship said that under the brilliant guidance of Lord Roberts 200,000 soldiers—a larger army than had ever before been sent across so great an expanse of sea—were now engaged in reducing to obedience to the Queen territories which ought never to have been released, and in restoring to South Africa the conditions essential to tranquility and development. Lord Salisbury touched upon the Irish problem. His remarks in this connection indicate plainly that he regards home rule for Ireland as a lost cause. The African war was a demonstration of the perils involved in home rule. "We now know better than we did ten years ago," said his Lordship, "what a risk it would be if we gave a disloyal government in Ireland the power of accumulating forces against this country." The force of such a remark of course depends upon whether such a government as Ireland would have under home rule would be antagonistic to England. Home rule has been freely granted to Canada and Australia and these countries seem to be as strongly attached to the Empire as any portion of the Queen's dominions. Home rule does not necessarily foster disloyalty. The Prime Minister did not conceal some anxiety as to the relations of the British Empire with the world. There were elements of menace and of peril slowly accumulating, and who could tell but that these hostile forces might be united in one great wave which should one day break upon the shores of Great Britain. Lord Salisbury, however, anticipated any misconception of his meaning by assuring his hearers that he had no knowledge of any hostile intention on the part of other Governments. The present relations of the British Government with other Governments were

peaceful, and it was impossible to speak too highly of the careful, calm neutrality which had been observed by all the Governments of the world. It did not, however, follow that there was no need of precautions. Governments change from year to year, and back of the Governments are the passions and opinions of the peoples. That root of bitterness against England, which he felt himself unable to explain, might be a mere caprice to satisfy the exigencies of journalists, or it might indicate a deep-seated feeling which, later, Great Britain might have to reckon with. He urged the necessity of precaution in time, remarking that "there can be no security nor confidence in the feelings of other nations except through the efficiency of our own defence, and the strength of our own right arm." His Lordship urged that measures of land defence as well as invincible naval force was necessary, and he advised the Primrose League to promote the creation of rifle clubs. "If once the feeling could be propagated, that it is the duty of every able-bodied Englishman to make himself competent to meet an invading army, we would have a defensive force which would make the chances of an assailant so bad that no assailant would appear."

The War. The situation in South Africa from a British point of view steadily improves. Lord Roberts has been pushing northward during the past week with the same rapidity and skilful strategy which characterized the movements of the preceding week, and with at least an equal measure of success. On Monday of last week Lord Roberts had reached Smaldeal, about 60 miles north of Bloemfontein and nearly the same distance from Kroonstad, with General Ian Hamilton at Winburg, some twenty miles nearly due east from Smaldeal. On Saturday a despatch was received from Lord Roberts saying: "I entered Kroonstad at 1.30 without opposition today, when the Union Jack was hoisted amid cheers from the few British residents." The most serious opposition encountered by the British forces in their northward march from Smaldeal to Kroonstad was just north of the Zand river, where, on Thursday morning, Generals Hamilton and Smith-Dorrien met with quite stubborn resistance in an attempt to turn the left of the Boer position. The kopjes, in which the enemy was entrenched were finally taken in fine style by the infantry, the Cheshire, East Lancashire and Sussex regiments being most prominent in the attack. The ground to the South of Kroonstad is said to be favorable for defence, and it was generally supposed that the Boers would make a stand there. But they did not do so. Lord Roberts also reports that President Steyn has fled from Kroonstad after vainly endeavoring to persuade the burghers to oppose the British at that place. Before leaving he issued a proclamation making Lindley the seat of his government. The official despatch from Lord Roberts, as well as the reports from newspaper correspondents, indicate that there is much ill-feeling between the Transvaalers and Free Staters. The former refuse to fight longer on Orange Free State soil and are making off for the Vaal river, while the latter accuse the Transvaal Boers of deserting them. Many of the Free Staters have gone to their homes, it is said, and the testimony of Boer prisoners taken by the British is that they are very sick of the war. It is probable that the Boer forces are suffering considerably from disintegration. Those who elect to continue the fight will do so where the natural conditions are most favorable. They have gradually retreated before the British advance during the past two weeks, but they have suffered little loss of men, artillery or stores, and they will probably force Lord Roberts to do some hard fighting yet. Lindley, Steyn's new capital, is 45 miles south easterly from Kroonstad, half way to Bethlehem, on the road to Ladysmith, and was probably selected as affording a convenient rendezvous for the commandos now retiring before Generals Rundle and Brabant in the Thaba N'chu district. From Natal there is no news except that a despatch from Durban, dated Sunday, says that there are persistent rumors of heavy fighting there. From the western border country there is no late news. On Friday a mounted force 3,000 strong bound for the relief of Mafeking was reported to be at Vryburg about 80 miles from Mafeking. Its relief accordingly should be near at hand.