

Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXV.

Vol. XIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1903.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME LIV.

No. 46

Typhoid Through Oysters.

It has been proved that under certain circumstances oysters may be a source of typhoid infection. Last November banquets were given by the Mayors of Winchester and Southampton, England, and of the guests who attended the banquets, 117 were taken ill, in 21 cases typhoid fever developed and five of the fever patients died of the disease. An investigation of the circumstances showed conclusively that the agents of infection were raw oysters which had been taken from a bed situated within a hundred feet of the outlet of a sewer where they were constantly exposed to contamination. A similar case occurred some years ago at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. A thorough inquiry established beyond doubt that an epidemic of typhoid in this case had resulted from the eating of raw oysters, by persons in attendance at a fraternity banquet. The oysters had been taken from a bed at Fair Haven, situated near the outlet of a private sewer connecting with a house in which there were at the time two cases of typhoid. While these cases establish beyond doubt the possibility of contracting typhoid through oysters, it is only in cases in which the beds have been fouled by sewerage or by some similar means that danger is to be feared. The conditions producing such results as those mentioned would of course rarely exist in the vicinity of oyster beds.

anama.

The political situation on the Isthmus of Panama has for the last week or two attracted much attention. Panama was one of the confederated States of Colombia, but has now declared itself an independent republic. This action is understood to be consequent upon the failure of the Colombia government to negotiate a treaty with the United States guaranteeing to the latter power authority to construct and operate a canal across the Isthmus. For the rights required the United States government had offered the sum of \$10,000,000, but Colombia had demanded \$25,000,000. A few days after it became definitely known that the Colombian government would not accept the proposals of the United States in respect to the Canal, Panama seceded from the Colombia confederation and proclaimed itself an independent republic. Two days later its de facto Government was recognized by the United States. The United States is under treaty obligation to keep open the line of railway across the Isthmus, and has evidently interpreted its duty in this respect in a way to prevent the Colombian government sending any military force into Panama to reduce the seceding State to submission. The United States may claim that it has acted in this matter simply with a view to prevent bloodshed and to keep open the line of transit as it is bound to do, but it is pointed out that the same treaty which places the United States under obligation to keep the Isthmus open to traffic also binds that country to guarantee the rights of sovereignty and property which Colombia possesses over Panama. The course which has been pursued by the United States government in the matter is severely criticised even by some leading American newspapers. It is pointed out that some forty years ago the government at Washington found itself in a position somewhat similar to that in which the Colombian government is now placed, but American statesmen of that day protested most strenuously against the right of other powers to recognize the Southern Confederacy, although it represented several millions of people, much wealth and a powerful army. It is not necessary to suppose that the United States has sought to promote the secession of Panama from the Colombian confederation, but it seems very evident that the action of Panama in declaring itself independent did not take the United States by surprise, and that Mr. Roosevelt's government stood ready to recognize the new government in Panama so soon as the flag of secession was raised, and also to manage matters on the Isthmus so that Colombia could have no hope of reducing her rebellious State to submission. Probably no one will suppose that the Washington government would have pursued this course if there had been no Panama Canal question involved. On the other hand, we suppose that the course taken will be justified by many on the ground that it has served to prevent much bloodshed and disorder and has made possible the immediate construction of a work of great commercial importance, which otherwise might have been delayed indefinitely. This, however, seems too much like saying that the end justifies the means.

Athletics and Nerves.

Commenting on the case of Miss Hickman, a young lady physician of London, England, who not long ago committed suicide, 'Lally Bernard,' the well-known lady correspondent of the *Toronto Globe*, now in London, says: "The evidence of Mr. Hickman is rather pathetic, and it points to the fact that while we women may easily vie with men in regard to the study of medicine, it is a problem whether a woman has the peculiar nerve power which enables a practitioner to accept without fear the responsibility which he is so often called upon to face. In spite of Miss Hickman being a remarkably athletic woman and having shown the most brilliant mental prowess in her professional life, she was, according to her father's evidence, 'overwhelmed with the sense of the responsibility of each new post given her.' She, in one instance, after taking up some new department in the hospital, came home to her mother and wept piteously at what she believed to be her incapacity for the work committed to her charge, and at the present moment there is only one theory advanced—the weight was too great, her mind gave way and in a panic she destroyed herself. Personally, I feel that this case is one which should make modern educationists think seriously on the subject of women's work. Too much in the way of athletics and mental effort is calculated, to my mind, to weaken the nervous system. And the great danger about athletics is that the woman who really likes them is sure to overdo them, and there is no allowance made for temperamental exhaustion, if one might use the phrase."

A Reported Agreement Between Russia and Germany.

The Vienna correspondent of the *London Times* says that it is reported in certain quarters that the result of the meetings between the Kaiser and the Czar at Wiesbaden and Darmstadt, has been the conclusion of a Russo-German arrangement in the far East, as a counterpoise to the Anglo-Japanese alliance. It is claimed that the agreement stipulates that in the eventuality of a Russo-Japanese war, British intervention on behalf of Japan would be followed by German intervention on behalf of Russia. It is not stated what compensation Germany has obtained for granting Russia this guarantee, nor is anything said of its relation to the Franco-Russian convention regarding the far East. Possibly the arrangements are on the line of a second edition of the Franco-Russian-German alliance which robbed Japan of the results of her victory over China in 1895.

Manelek's Attitude Toward Slave Dealers.

King Menelek of Abyssinia has lately issued a decree with the purpose of putting an end to the slave raids carried on by some of his people against the Gallas. The Gallas are described as a very fine tribe, widely spread over the country south of Abyssinia. It appears that they have been subject to much hardship and injury at the hands of predatory bands of Abyssinians who, having the advantage of modern arms and superior military skill, had the Gallas at their mercy and robbed them not only of their possessions, but frequently also of their liberty. The evil, it is said, has been increasing, and the crimes committed against the Gallas have been the scandal of Menelek's reign. The outrages committed against these people are the more scandalous because they appear to be a people peacefully disposed toward their neighbors, and in cattle raising, agriculture and other industries are, it is said, more advanced than any of the pagan people in that part of Africa. They are described as famous for fidelity and frankness and distinguished by an intense love of freedom and self-government. Whatever may have been Menelek's attitude in the past toward the depredations of his subjects upon the Galla people, he seems determined now to deal with them as they deserve. His decree alluded to above is sufficiently explicit. It is as follows:

"By a letter forwarded some time ago to all the provinces, I forbade traffic in men of the Galla tribe. I also intimated that those guilty of this offence would be excommunicated from the Christian Church of Abyssinia, but you refuse to cease making slaves of the Galla men. —Now beware. You who are taken in the act of enslaving the Gallas will no longer, as heretofore, be fined or

turned out of the church. But you will be punished in your own persons, by which I mean you will be subjected to the penalty of mutilation."

Reckless Hunters.

It would be interesting to have a full list of the casualties which have occurred during the present hunting season in this country and the bordering States. It is evident, however, from the very frequent reports of fatalities or serious accidents in this connection that hunting has become an exceedingly dangerous amusement. The danger of course arises, not from the ferocity of the game that is hunted, but principally from the inexperience and recklessness of those who hunt. It would seem that there should be some means of preventing persons going into the woods, armed with rifles, who are so ignorant or so reckless in respect to all that a huntsman should know that they are much more likely to kill themselves or their companions than to bring down a deer or any other kind of game. Even with the exercise of reasonable skill and caution on the part of the hunters, there is of course some liability to accident and the danger is increased by the presence of so large a number of hunters in the woods. A young man belonging to a deer hunting party in Ontario was a few days ago shot through the head. It is supposed that he was hit by a stray bullet which had been fired at game and had missed its mark. The same paper which records this sad accident, tells of a man in another part of the same Province who had gone to the woods to hunt deer and was accidentally shot through the body by a companion. In fact since the opening of the hunting season one has hardly been able to pick up a newspaper without reading of one or more such accidents, due for the most part to utterly inexcusable carelessness on the part of amateur huntsmen. Since the above was written several accidents of the kind alluded to have been reported by the papers. The latest to come under our notice is a most shocking affair which occurred on Nov. 10, near Edgington in the neighborhood of Parry Sound. Three men were engaged working on a camp road when two of them were shot, one of them fatally, by a man named Stanley, who at little more than a hundred yards away from the men mistook them for deer. The man who was killed was named McComb, a well known resident of the district, a married man with a large family. It certainly seems that huntsmen who carry on their sport in so reckless a fashion should be held accountable for the results of their carelessness.

Immigration.

The autumn months, are of course much less favorable for immigration than the spring and summer. The number of immigrants arriving in Canada in the month of October is reported as 7,892, and the total number of arrivals for the ten months of the present calendar year is 121,115. Of these 47,541 came from the British Isles, 39,046 from the United States and 54,528 from the continent of Europe. As to the settlers from the United States, Superintendent Scott is quoted as saying, that they are not for the most part native Americans but immigrants from the old countries who originally settled in the United States, but have now crossed the international line with the expectation of bettering their condition. It is quite a common thing to find, in the papers filed for every family of immigrants, that the place of birth of the father, mother and older children appears as Great Britain or an European country, while the younger children have been born in the United States. These people, Mr. Scott says, are the best class going into the Canadian West. They are practical farmers, have money and give absolutely no trouble to the officials. It is stated that the Immigration Department will soon inaugurate active work looking to an increased immigration from Great Britain next year. Arrangements are being made also for a campaign both in France and Belgium. The work will be altogether in the rural districts. In these countries about one-half the population are farmers, and are said to be a most desirable class of settlers.

—We desire to call attention to the prize which is offered by the editor of our B. Y. P. U. department for the largest list of new subscriptions for the *Messenger & Visitor* sent in before the end of the year. Such a prize should incite to competition in so good a cause. See page 7.