

Messenger and Visitor

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Religious

Bigotry in Spain.

Alluding to the recent visit of the young King of Spain to England where he was received with marked courtesy by King Edward and the Royal family and with hearty demonstrations of popular good-will, the *Montreal Witness* says:

"The English people are generous and well-mannered, or they would have shown to the young King of Spain some of the displeasure they must feel concerning his letter condemning the building of the new Anglican church at Barcelona. The 'Diario,' a Barcelona journal, characterized the opening of the church as a heretical move, and one of ignominy to the Spanish people as adherents of Rome. Notwithstanding ecclesiastical and other local opposition, the civil authorities could not prevent the building and opening of the church, as the British government supported the claim of its subjects to have a place of worship of their own faith. The civil authority of Barcelona did, however, act as insolently as it possibly could, and insisted upon the removal of two crosses from the facade of the building. But the civil authority was mild compared with the ecclesiastical. A protest was sent by the latter to King Alfonso, who replied at once that, as a Catholic King, and a son of the only true church, he was profoundly grieved to learn of the founding of a church opposed to the faith of his predecessors and the religion of the state whose destinies 'providence has entrusted to me.' King Alfonso also declared that he and his government would do all in their power to prevent any other Anglican church being founded in Spain and to remove those that already exist. Poor Spain! The King did not expect his letter to go beyond the church authorities, but Cardinal Cassanas took the earliest opportunity to make it public, indeed, he caused to be circulated thousands of printed copies. Naturally this was followed by a protest from the King's non-Catholic subjects. The president of the Spanish Evangelical Church sent him an address recounting the many persecutions which Protestants in Spain have to endure, while many of the newspapers very strongly criticized King Alfonso's action. It was pointed out how inopportune and ill-advised was such a letter in view of the King's visit to France, where the national movement against Rome has been so marked of late years, and to King Edward, the head of the Anglican Church. If the logical consequence of King Alfonso's letter were to follow, it would result in the closing of all the non-Catholic churches and a reversion to the conditions of the reign of Philip II. and the Inquisition. Already, fearing such a reactionary attempt many of the advanced political journals are agitating for religious liberty. In spite of all these facts being known to the English people, they have bated no whit of the heartiness of their hospitality. That is how good Protestants ought to act. It is an object lesson that King Alfonso cannot disregard. Probably, too, he may have had other object lessons on his trip, and it is to be hoped that he will return home a happier and a wiser man."

The Presbyterian and Queen's.

At the meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly in Kingston the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to co-operate with the trustees of Queen's University in securing an additional endowment reported, showing that the work of adding to the University's funds is proceeding encouragingly. The aim is to raise \$500,000 in aid of the Arts and Theological departments, and it was shown that more than \$130,000 had already been pledged. In connection with the report of the Committee, Principal Gordon said that during the past year he had been deeply gratified and encouraged by the interest shown in Queen's by many congregations in the two older provinces. He was gratified over the fact that the chairman of the board of management and the venerable principal of Knox's College were contributors to the endowment fund. To an objection raised that the church had nothing to do with higher education, the principal said that the church should vitally touch the education of the country, and it will do so by touching higher education. Queen's had justified its existence, and the buildings on its grounds testified to the activity in the sphere of its work. They all throbbled with life, while the number of students in attendance was increasing year after year. Secularism is not the best cure for sectarianism. No large university can continue to

flourish in Canada if it attempts to neglect the higher and ethical element in the life of the students. If it tries to do so, colleges will be established to give this element. The work of Queen's has been carried on at great economy. The time has come when the university must be more adequately equipped to meet the demands made upon her. In conclusion Principal Gordon referred to the increasing responsibilities being laid upon the universities, in view of the increasing population and prosperity. Queen's University is the most powerful agency that the Presbyterian Church can lay her hands upon to do the work in this connection, because it touches the higher education of the country. A great responsibility rests upon the church in connection with higher education.

Prison Education.

A system of prison education which should give good results is being inaugurated in the State of New York. No one in these days, probably, believes that education in itself will make men moral and law-abiding, but certainly it has some influence in that direction, since its effect is to enlarge the student's outlook and give him higher ideals. The discipline involved in the process of gaining education is valuable, and will have its effects upon prisoners as well as upon others. Mr. Collins, State Superintendent of prisoners, has asked the Department of Education for one of its inspectors to supervise the work which is being undertaken. Teachers have been selected from among the convicts themselves, some of whom are highly educated. The inspector from the Education Department will organize the prison classes by grades, and after that it is hoped that the system will operate automatically. In discussing this work Mr. Collins says: "At present each prison has its own system. The foreigner, who cannot speak English, will be separated from the American prisoners. These foreigners will be taught English. The other prisoners will be taught to read, write and figure. Geography will be one of the branches, and as the system improves, history will be taught. The schools will be open to pupils from 12 to 90 years old, and it will soon be said that not one convict leaves our state prisons without knowing how to read and write. The lowest sentence is one year, and in that time we can teach the most ignorant. I have decided to arrange for a course of lectures on law. This will be of advantage to the foreign prisoners, who violate laws without any knowledge of it. For instance, a foreigner may marry a girl under eighteen years. That constitutes the crime of abduction here, unless the consent of the parents is obtained. In other countries it is no offence. We had a prisoner who was convicted of abduction, and it was found that he was married by a justice of the peace. The offender did not know the girl he married was under age. Lack of knowledge of the law is not recognized as an excuse, but we can at least teach the men in prisons what the laws are."

A Great Explosion.

What is believed to be the greatest submarine explosion that has ever taken place occurred recently at Alexandria, Egypt. A consignment of explosives from Glasgow was being shipped to Cairo in native boats. One of the boats, on which was sixteen and a half tons of dynamite was wrecked. The explosives were recovered and taken to Aboukir, but owing to contact with the water the dynamite had generated gases, which made it a public danger. It was accordingly conveyed a quarter of a mile out into the bay from Aboukir's Fort, off Nelson's Island and sunk in fifteen fathoms of water. Then it was exploded by electricity. The sight, it is said, was one that never will be forgotten by those who saw it. The sea was perfectly calm; but all of a sudden, without any visible warning, there was a tremendous upheaval of water. The sea became a churning mass for a great distance around, and a waterspout of gigantic height arose toward the sky. The sun, shining on, or rather through, the mass, gave it a superb, glistening appearance, and produced a wonderful effect. The rising water lasted nearly two minutes. It was estimated by a technical spectator that the waterspout attained a height of two thousand feet, while its base was two hundred feet in diameter. These details, coupled with the fact that the explosives consisted of sixteen and one-half tons of zelnite and ten tons of blasting gelatine, which contains ninety

per cent. of nitroglycerine, and is, therefore, one of the most powerful of explosives, made the explosion at Aboukir a record. It is believed to have been the greatest submarine explosion that has taken place since explosives were invented.

Presbyterian

Statistics.

The General Assembly's Committee on Statistics reported through Rev. Dr. Torrance who, "though in his 88th year, is quite vigorous in body and mind and one of the most admirable men in the Assembly." The returns of the committee show a total of 1,024 pastoral charges, of which 193 were in the Maritime Provinces, 158 in Montreal and Ottawa, 259 in Toronto and Kingston, 224 in Hamilton and London, 127 in Manitoba and the North West and 63 in British Columbia and Alberta Synods. Among the charges were 1,270 self-sustaining, 417 augmented, and 899 mission fields or stations. The total number of families was 125,799, which may be taken as representing a population of 628,950. The revision of the communicant roll is not regularly attended to in many churches, and the committee considers the neglect a serious matter. The total number of the communicant's rolls was 232,734. Baptisms numbered 11,499 infants and 1,246 adults. Consecrations had paid as stipend of their own contributions \$1,099,767, giving an average of \$1,074 from each pastoral charge, and of \$651 from each congregation, self-sustaining and augmented. The stipend from other sources amounted to \$104,059, the total stipend received by ministers being \$1,203,826. At the common rate of stipend, no minister can provide for himself and his family. Hence the need for a retiring allowances fund. The total payment for all purposes was \$2,886,602, making a sum of \$5,250,441 for the thirty years since the union in 1875.

The Bye-Elec

tions in Ontario

The bye-elections last week in Ontario for the Dominion Parliament resulted in majorities for the Government candidates which may be called substantial. Hon. C. S. Hyman had a majority in London of 129, and in North Oxford Mr. George Smith's majority was 349. These results are disappointing to those who expected a great turnover in these constituencies because of dissatisfaction with the Government's separate school policy as embodied in the Northwest Autonomy Bills. However, it is undeniable that in both constituencies the Government majority is much smaller than it would have been but for the unpopularity of its policy imposing Separate Schools upon the North West. In North Oxford a majority of over 1500 at the general election of 1904 and of several preceding elections has been cut down to 349. In London at the general election Mr. Hyman had only 24 majority. But he is personally popular, and but for the unpopularity of the Government's separate school policy, it is more than doubtful if he would have encountered any opposition when he returned to London for re-election as Minister of Public Works. From the standpoint of the opportunist politician the Government's victory in these elections may be satisfactory, but for those who entertain a high regard for consistency and principle, it may seem otherwise. It ought to be considered less important to obtain endorsement for policy than to stand firm and faithfully by a principle. We are inclined therefore to ask with the *Toronto News*: Is it a gain to the Liberal party that its leaders have struck a blow at the most vital principle of Liberalism self-government and Provincial rights? The most honorable traditions of the Liberal party are bound up with this principle. They pride themselves on winning responsible government for Canada, on defeating Ontario and Manitoba from the encroachments of the central authority. The coercion of the new Provinces is a matter not of pride but of shame to self-respecting Liberals, even to many who for party reasons have been persuaded to excuse the government for this lapse from principle.

There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel or nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given him to till.