

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**Oxygen as an Antidote For Poisons.** The value of oxygen as a stimulant which, under certain conditions, may enable the physical system to pass a crisis safely, has for some time been recognized, and it would appear that the sphere of its utility in therapeutics is to be enlarged. A late despatch from Berlin announces that, as a result of experiments conducted by Dr. Rogevin, a Russian medical scientist, in connection with Dr. William Cowl of New York, it has been shown that oxygen is an antidote for many poisons. This conclusion is announced as the result of numerous experiments in cases of morphine, strychnine and arsenic poisoning made with cats, rats, guinea pigs, etc., and in each case where oxygen was given an unqualified cure was effected. It is pointed out that if the application of oxygen shall yield the results which are being claimed for it on the ground of these experiments, the discovery will afford the means of saving the lives of many suicides. It is said that in Berlin 90 per cent. of the suicides by poison result from the taking of morphine against which medical antidotes are powerless.

**Temperance Crusade in Great Britain.** It is gratifying to know that the Christian and philanthropic sentiment of England is being aroused to a vigorous expression in respect to the tremendous evils, moral and economic, growing out of the liquor business and the drinking habits of the people. The formal launching of what is described as, "the greatest temperance agitation ever undertaken in Great Britain," took place at Exeter Hall, London, on Sept. 24th. The movement is called the Free Church Million Pledges Temperance Crusade, and has the organized support of seventeen non-conforming religious bodies of the United Kingdom. The Rev. Frederick B. Meyer is the leader of the Crusade forces, and his principal lieutenant is Dr. J. Q. A. Henry, Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League in New York. The entire country, it is said, has been divided into districts and placed in charge of organizers of the Free Churches, the object being to secure a million total abstinence pledges. Dr. Henry is reported as saying: "The most powerful preachers and the greatest Christian laymen in the kingdom have dedicated themselves to this holy war against alcohol. Addresses will be given in the chief cities and in every town and hamlet of the Islands during the next two months. The intelligence and morality of the Kingdom are nervously themselves for a tremendous struggle."

**The Royal Tour.** When this is read the Duke and Duchess of York will once more be in sight of the Pacific ocean. Their journey across the continent in the magnificent "royal train," prepared by the Canadian Pacific company, has been attended with many pleasing incidents. At Ottawa the social functions, which were no doubt carried through in a manner creditable to our own court circles, formed only a small part of the entertainment. The royal couple were treated to an exciting trip on a lumber raft through the slides that pass over the Chaudier falls. This experience was enjoyed forty years ago by the Duke's father. At the foot of the falls the Duke and Duchess embarked in a war canoe, one of these long craft which carry a score of passengers, and swept down to Ottawa past the city, escorted by a fleet of canoes, manned by the voyageurs of modern times, the crews singing French Canadian chansons. Later still they witnessed a canoe race for which competitors came from many towns, and a log-rolling match wherein the raftsmen vied with each other in maintaining

their positions on floating logs. This part of the day closed with an exhibition of tree falling, such as the guests had seen last in Tasmania, a banquet of pork and beans with the lumbermen, and a queer speech in broken English from the shanty foreman, whose ideas were as quaint as his method of expressing them. Proceeding west their Highnesses received a hearty welcome in the towns and villages of Western cities. They tarried an afternoon and evening at Winnipeg, receiving the usual tribute of addresses, attending a meeting at the University, and a dinner at Government house. At Regina a reception was held and "Our Lady of the Snows" put in an early appearance, so that some of the neighboring visitors came to the functions in sleighs. Calgary, Banff, and the towns of the western slope, gave the royal pair a western welcome, culminating in a great demonstration on the coast.

**A Rift in the Lute.** Mayor Prefontaine of Montreal, who is also a member of parliament, and Mayor Parent of Quebec, who is also premier of the province, might, it is said, have been C. M. G.'s as well as Mayor Howland of Toronto. The mayor of Montreal has stated to the Herald of that city that he declined the honor. He is also quoted as saying that the Canadian Government recommended him for the K. C. M. G. which would make him Sir Raymond Prefontaine, and that the Governor General is responsible for the change. This has led to a discussion of the relative powers of colonial cabinets and viceroys in the matter of nominating colonials for knighthood. In the meantime neither the premier nor Lord Minto has given any information as to what has happened. Both are busy with the entertainment of the royal party, and Sir Wilfred is now in British Columbia with them.

**Dr. Grant's Illness.** Meanwhile the most gifted and eminent of the recipients of royal distinction lies ill at Kingston. At the time of writing, it is uncertain whether Dr. George M. Grant, president of Queens University, will recover. He has just returned from a visit to England, whence he brought two new professors for Queens, and is struck down at the beginning of the college year. Dr. Grant was one of the most eminent divines in the Presbyterian church of Canada, and one of the foremost among Canadian men of letters, before he began to earn for himself the position he holds in University work. He found Queens College an institution whose glory seemed to have departed. He has made it one of the chief Universities of Canada, and given it a character and individuality like his own. No man in the country has lived a more strenuous life than he, and no one taken a fuller and healthier interest in all matters affecting the life of the people or of a nation. He crossed the continent with the first Canadian Pacific survey, and was one of the first to impress upon the world the future greatness of the Canadian west. He was one of the promoters of the Royal Society of Canada, and among the first active imperial federationists. It is not necessary to agree with Dr. Grant in everything, in his opposition to prohibitory liquor law, for example, to recognize his greatness.

**Seth Low for Mayor.** The Conference Committee of the anti-Tammany league has decided to present the name of Seth Low, president of Columbia University, to the various bodies in its

membership as its choice for the nomination for Mayor of Greater New York. It is believed the nomination will be endorsed by the various conventions that are to act upon the matter. It will be remembered that Mr. Low was the anti-Tammany candidate in the mayoralty contest of '97 when he was defeated in a three-cornered fight. It is to be hoped there will be no split in the anti-Tammany forces, which include a large number of independent democrats. Under the control of the notorious Croker and his henchmen, the morals of New York have been systematically corrupted, its judiciary has been prostituted, and the name of the city blackened before the country and the world. Mr. Low stands for the best ideals of government and may be relied upon to give the great city a clean and progressive administration.

**Nova Scotia Election.** This is the day for the provincial general election in Nova Scotia. Government and opposition have each full tickets in the field in fifteen of the eighteen counties. In Antigonish and Yarmouth, Government candidates are elected by acclamation, while in Shelburne the Government ticket is opposed by one candidate who runs as an independent liberal. The contest is on the whole rather free from excitement, and the discussion both in the press and on the platform appear to be conducted with less bitterness than usually prevails in a general election campaign.

**Conviction of Czolgosz.** The trial of President McKinley's assassin was short and conclusive. Two days was sufficient to make out the case for the prosecution, and the defence offered no evidence. The prisoner desired to plead guilty, but the lawyers whom the judge assigned as counsel for him did not allow it. Czolgosz himself refused to recognize his counsel or to take any steps toward his own defence. In this he was true to his creed, for the anarchist says that he has no use for courts and judges and laws. After he was convicted and when he was called up for sentence he declared that he had no accomplices and no confidants, and that he alone was concerned in the act. Czolgosz will be executed by electricity, according to the laws of New York State, in the last week of October.

**Sir Louis Davies to the Bench.** Sir Louis H. Davies, late minister of Marine and Fisheries in the Federal Government, has been appointed to the Supreme Court Bench of Canada, in place of the late Justice King, of New Brunswick. Sir Louis has been twenty-nine years in political life, nineteen in the federal arena, and for five years has served as a Minister of the Crown. Since his appointment to office, Sir Louis has undertaken two international missions, one in 1896 to Washington, in reference to reciprocal trade, and the other in 1897 to London, in connection with the Behring Sea controversy, the question of the control of the internal fisheries of Canada, and the Belgian and German treaties. In 1897 he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. Justice Davies is a son of the late Hon. Benjamin Davies, formerly Colonial Secretary of Prince Edward Island, and was born in Charlottetown on May 4, 1845. He is of Huguenot descent. He has the reputation of being an exceptionally able lawyer and a gentleman of high character, and will no doubt fill the high position to which he has been appointed with grace and dignity. His successor in the cabinet has not yet been appointed.