

Messenger and Visitor.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1896.

—HALIFAX has been disturbed of late by that species of miscegenation popularly known as "firebug." Early on Tuesday morning of last week four fires, started by incendiary origin, were visited in the city,—one at the Ladies College and Conservatory of music, another at the Grosvenor Hotel, a third at the lower end of Granville Street and the fourth in a building at the rear of the Halifax Hotel. In each case fortunately the fire was discovered and extinguished before much damage had been done.

—The London Freeman says: "There is a rumor that Dr. Clifford is contemplating a visit to the United States, and though nothing has yet been decided, it is possible that an arrangement may be made by which the pulpit in Westbourne Park will be occupied by Dr. Lorimer while Dr. Clifford is making the acquaintance of our brethren across the Atlantic." The same paper says that "the ministrations of Dr. Lorimer at the Presbyterian church, Marylebone, are obviously exciting a large amount of interest for the congregation is larger at each succeeding service."

—A Royal Commission which for three years has been sitting on the subject of Irish taxation has made its report. The commission is said to be composed mostly of Englishmen, and ten out of its thirteen members report that for the last fifty years there has been taken from Ireland each year about \$18,750,000 in taxes more than her proportion. According to this view, if Ireland should be repaid what is due to her, the country would have a very handsome sum at its disposal and Irishmen would be able to feel rich. But it certainly does not seem very easy to believe that Ireland can have been taxed to so great a degree in excess of the rest of the United Kingdom.

—The volume of American travel to Europe is stated to be much smaller this year than in some previous years, and those who have gone have regulated their expenditures according to a much more economical scale. Probably the falling off is due largely to the depressed condition of business in the United States, since there are fewer who find themselves financially in a position to indulge in a trans-Atlantic trip, than in years when business is more prosperous. It may be that the great prospective Paris Exposition is having some influence since many who otherwise would make their European tour—perhaps their only one—earlier will prefer to wait until 1900 and take in the great world's fair.

—In accordance with the request of a large number of the members, the bar of the House of Commons at Ottawa has been ordered closed, and it is said that the bar in connection with the Senate will probably be closed in like manner. If this means that the selling and drinking of intoxicating liquor within the Parliament buildings is to cease, the reform is a proper and praiseworthy one upon which both Parliament and country are to be congratulated. If it means only, as some say, that liquor will no longer be sold to be drunk at the bar, but that by sitting down to a table in the restaurant members can be supplied with all the liquor they may desire, nothing of importance will have been accomplished by the closing of the bar. It is to be hoped that the order to close means prohibition so far as the Parliament buildings are concerned.

—The managers of the Dominion and Atlantic lines have won the gratitude of the travelling public on account of the excellent steamboat service which they have provided between Digby and St. John. It is speedy and comfortable, at least as comfortable as the exigencies of wind and wave permit. The Prince Rupert is a finely equipped boat. The ability, courtesy and attentiveness of her officers and attendants seem to leave nothing to be desired in that respect. We should be pleased if it were unnecessary to add any unfavorable remark, but, in common with many, we have been with surprise and regret that the steamer is provided with a bar at which liquors are freely dispensed to passengers. This, as far as we have observed, is an innovation in steamers employed on this route. It seems to us most undesirable one. It is bad enough to have to allow place to the liquor business on land. It is worse still at sea. It seems wholly unnecessary and wrong that this temptation should be placed in the way of the travelling public and of the men employed on the steamer. The Convention at Barwick did well to enter its protest against this particular form of the liquor traffic, as well as against the whole miserable business—the great destroyer of property, health, happiness and virtue.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE Dominion Parliament has now been in session about three weeks, and as a matter of course a good deal of talking has been accomplished. According to the declared purpose of the government the session was to be a very brief one, but the length of a parliamentary session in Canada can never with any certainty be predicted except in the case (such as occurred last year) that the life of Parliament is about to expire by limitation. Among matters of special interest which have come before Parliament thus far during the session may be mentioned a correspondence between His Excellency, the Governor General, and his late chief adviser, Sir Charles Tupper, relative to certain appointments of the outgoing administration (in which were included appointments to the Senate and the Bench) from which the viceregal assent was withheld. The ground taken by the Governor General was that considering the peculiar circumstances under which the administration of Sir Charles Tupper was formed and its subsequent failure to secure the endorsement of the electorate, "the powers and authority possessed by the Government should be exercised in such directions only as are demanded by the exigencies of the public interest and so as to avoid all acts which might tend to embarrass the succeeding administration." On this principle His Excellency deemed it necessary to withhold approval from appointments of Senators and Judges and certain other appointments for which his endorsement was requested. On Sir Charles Tupper's side of the correspondence, surprise and regret are expressed on behalf of himself and his colleagues at the position taken by His Excellency in the matter, and Sir Charles proceeds to adduce precedents with the purpose of showing that such a position is not in harmony with recognized procedure in Great Britain and in other British Colonies, and that, as an instance especially applicable, Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, after his defeat in 1873, secured from Lord Dufferin, then Governor General of Canada, approval for a large number of appointments to office in which were included a Deputy Minister and several Judges. Whatever may be the merits of this controversy—if such it may be called—its occurrence is regrettable. Where government by party obtains, many matters of greater or less importance will necessarily come into the field of party politics and suffer the rough handling which seems inevitable in the heat of partisan discussion. It is, however, obviously to be desired that the acts or the policy of the Governor-General should not become the subject of such discussions.

ANOTHER matter which has been discussed quite freely both in Parliament and in the daily press is the case of civil servants who are politically opposed to the party in power. A party coming to assume the functions of government, and especially a party which has been for a long time in opposition is likely to be subjected to strong pressure in this matter. The leaders are of course told in many quarters that they are expected to help those who have helped them on to victory and leadership. The doctrine that any man is to be rewarded for having done his duty or what he conceived to be his duty as a citizen is certainly a vicious one. At the same time there are a great many men who will contend that they have a special right to consideration from a government; representing the party which they have rigorously supported. Not many perhaps would boldly advocate the Jacksonian doctrine that "to the victors belongs the spoils." The party in opposition, whichever it may be, is pretty likely to take high moral ground on this question. In politics as well as in other affairs it makes a vast difference whose ox is gored. But it seems really rather a difficult question to decide to what degree a civil servant may be a political partisan without making himself justly liable to dismissal. The Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries has intimated that, if a man goes on the platform and abuses a party and its leaders, he has in justice forfeited his official head, if that party shall come into power. Mr. Laurier has intimated in his witty way that when a civil servant plays the part of a politician the government will relieve him of his duties as its servant that he may devote all his energies to politics. Still, it may be asked, has not a civil servant the rights of a citizen? Has he not a right to have and to express political convictions? It is certainly difficult to see how, without denying to its servants rights belonging to citizens in general, a government can call its officers to account for voting according to their convictions or for advocating in public

and in private the political principles in which they believe. Still, under present conditions, it seems as the part of wisdom and righteousness for a man who accepts a government position not to make himself offensively partisan, seeing that he is not compelled to become a member of the civil service. But if a man has declared his utter want of confidence in the leaders of a party, denouncing them as corrupt or dishonest and unfit to be entrusted with the duties of government, it would seem to be only his simple duty to decline to serve under a government so constituted. And if he failed to do so, he would seem to have little cause for complaint if his place were given to someone who believed the government to be of a character entitling it to his respect.

ON Thursday morning of last week, a large and notable delegation in the interests of Prohibition waited upon the Government at Ottawa. Among the delegates were such well-known men and women as Hon. J. C. Aikens, J. J. McLaren, Montreal; J. R. Dougal, and Walter Paul, Toronto; Dr. Christie, M. P., F. S. Spence, M. J. E. L. Bond, T. D. Craig, M. P., Rev. Dr. Saunders, Ottawa; Mr. Ganong, M. P., Mrs. A. D. Scott, Miss Mary Scott, and Mrs. Alexander, of Ottawa. Senator Vidal, president of the Dominion Alliance, presided at a preliminary meeting of the delegates, when the following three delegates, were chosen to address the government: Messrs. J. J. McLaren and J. R. Dougal and Mrs. Alexander. The delegation was met by Premier Laurier, Hon. Sydney Fisher and Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, on behalf of the government. The delegation through its representatives presented a plea for prohibition and expressed their confidence that the policy to which the platform of the Liberal party pledged the government would be carried out. Mr. Laurier replied at some length. He agreed that the cause of temperance was, as Mrs. Alexander had said, perhaps the most important of any. He presented evidence to show that it was making progress and that prohibitory legislation had been adopted in considerable portions of Quebec province. There was, however, the Premier said, a difference of opinion as to what temperance meant. Prohibitionists believed it meant absolute abstinence from alcoholic drinks; others believed it meant moderation in the use of them. The party which he represented had thought it right that the question—whether prohibition was to be desired in Canada should be submitted by plebiscite to the country. "The plebiscite," Mr. Laurier said, "is part of the Liberal programme adopted at the convention of 1893. Our policy has been before the people who have pronounced upon it. It now becomes our duty to carry out our programme, and I say frankly it is our intention to do so. As to the time when it should be done, my answer is this:—It is the intention of the Liberal party to carry out the letter every article of its programme within the very shortest possible limit. There is no intention to delay. On the contrary, speaking even politically, it is perhaps the best policy of all to deal with the question within the shortest time. It is not our intention this session, but I have every hope that next session, and not later, we shall introduce the legislation we have promised. This is a question in which the women are, perhaps more than the men, interested. Mrs. Alexander has not the right of suffrage, but all will admit that she could not influence the government of this country more if she had a vote than she can do simply by speaking." The delegation was also addressed by Hon. Mr. Fisher and Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat who supported the assurances given by the Premier. At a meeting of the Dominion Alliance held immediately afterward the following resolution after some discussion, and apparently not without some difference of opinion, was adopted:

"That this meeting having heard the statement of the Hon. Mr. Laurier, Premier of the Dominion, desires to express its satisfaction with his promise and calls upon temperance workers everywhere to get ready to give all the help possible that when a plebiscite is taken the temperance vote shall be successful."

HON. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, Secretary of State for the Colonies, is in the United States. The purveyors of news have endeavored to persuade themselves and the public that Mr. Chamberlain's visit must have political significance of some kind. He was doubtless coming to discuss with the United States authorities the matter of International Arbitration, or to settle the Venezuelan difficulty, and it was thought his presence might have something to do with

the political situation in Canada. Mr. Chamberlain, however, punctures these ingenious theories by telling the newspaper men that his American visit has no political significance whatever. He has not come to discuss arbitration or the Venezuelan question, he will not probably have time to go to Canada at all, although he should like to do so. His visit has simply a social and a holiday significance. He and his wife have come across the sea to visit her relatives. Mrs. Chamberlain was an American lady, a daughter of Hon. Wm. C. Endicott, ex-Secretary of War in President Cleveland's first cabinet. When he was asked to state his opinions in regard to the currency question in the United States, Mr. Chamberlain replied, "Really, I must say it would be an impertinence in me to discuss that question. It belongs to the United States. I am at liberty to say that in England we are almost all of one mind in the belief that gold and silver cannot be kept at a fixed parity by a single nation." As to the relations between the British government and the Boer republic the reporter was assured that "everything is peaceful now." Of course the interview could not conclude without a reference to the Monroe doctrine and on that subject the Colonial Secretary is reported as saying: "No Englishman will criticize or object to the Monroe doctrine. Do you realize that your American Statesmen, while they have long maintained that doctrine, have never submitted it to other nations for their approval? Thus you see it has never become a principle of international law. I am convinced that the doctrine, as President Monroe declared it, is perfectly reasonable and it is so recognized by our people." Respecting the Venezuelan difficulty, Mr. Chamberlain assured his interviewer that he had no fear of war between England and the United States over that question. "While we do not follow the policy of your peace at any price advocates, we have an intense abhorrence of war, especially with a sister nation such as the United States. Opinion favorable to war is impossible and in England public opinion is by all means opposed to it. We know too much of war to look at it carelessly."

LI HUNG CHANG was naturally regarded as a bright and shining mark for the American interviewer. It would appear from the reports of the interviewers that the old man from the Celestial Empire is pretty able to hold his own with the Yankee newspaper man. When Li was asked if he had any comparisons to make between America and England, he replied: "I would not like to make any; whatever you do here you have learned from England. For that reason it would be indelicate to make comparisons." When questioned as to his reasons for making his journey homeward by way of Canada, he intimated that there were two reasons. First his countrymen had been denied in America the rights accorded to other peoples, and he did not care to pass through those States of the Union whose people had been most influential in securing anti-Chinese legislation; and secondly, being an old man, he wished to avail himself of the superior accommodations of the Canadian Pacific steamers sailing from Vancouver. The Chinese exclusion Act he declared to be most unfair. "Competition," said the Chinese statesman, "is good for any country, whether it is in the price of labor or of commodities." The Geny (anti-Chinese) Act, he said, was brought about by the Democrats under the influence of the Irish people, because the Chinese are rivals of the Irish laborers. "You boast of your liberty and freedom," he said, "but there is no freedom of labor. I cannot see the fruits and effects of this liberty." It was for lack of free competition in labor that United States machinery and agricultural implements, though the best in the world, could not compete with those of other countries in the world's markets. When asked whether his visit to the country had any political significance, Li declared that he had no more time to devote to newspaper men, and the interview was closed.

THE result of the elections held on Tuesday last in Vermont has been to give great comfort to the Republicans and those Democrats who are supporting the cause of sound money against the nominees of the Chicago Convention. Mr. Bryan had been making a tour of New York, speaking in the interest of his candidacy and of free silver, and though the republican and anti-silver papers had declared that his oratory had fallen flat upon the ears of the Empire-State people, there was at least a suspicion in many quarters that Mr. Bryan was getting the popular ear and using his oratorical powers to much greater effect than the newspapers alluded to were willing to admit. But whatever may be the fact in New York, it appears that the people of Vermont have not to any very considerable extent accepted the gospel of free silver which Mr.

Bryan so eloquently preaches. A fact that makes the Republican victory in Vermont the more significant is that it is the most distinctly agricultural state in New England, and it is among the farming population, if anywhere, that the free silver doctrine is expected to find acceptance. But though, apart from the main issue conditions were unfavorable to the Republicans, so that something less than an ordinary majority was to have been anticipated, yet the popular feeling against the currency doctrines for which the Bryanite Democrats stand was evidently so strong that many Democrats voted with the Republicans, and the verdict for sound money and national credit is so emphatic as to fix the attention of the whole country and to strengthen the confidence of those who believe that it would be a national disgrace and disaster if the United States should adopt legislation making debts payable on the basis of fifty-three cents worth of silver to the dollar.

THE great Irish Convention held last week in Dublin would appear to afford another striking illustration of the fact that the grand hindrance to the success of the Irish cause lies in the character and conduct of the Irish people, and not in the opposition of the British government and the Boer republic. The reporter was assured that "everything is peaceful now." Of course the interview could not conclude without a reference to the Monroe doctrine and on that subject the Colonial Secretary is reported as saying: "No Englishman will criticize or object to the Monroe doctrine. Do you realize that your American Statesmen, while they have long maintained that doctrine, have never submitted it to other nations for their approval? Thus you see it has never become a principle of international law. I am convinced that the doctrine, as President Monroe declared it, is perfectly reasonable and it is so recognized by our people." Respecting the Venezuelan difficulty, Mr. Chamberlain assured his interviewer that he had no fear of war between England and the United States over that question. "While we do not follow the policy of your peace at any price advocates, we have an intense abhorrence of war, especially with a sister nation such as the United States. Opinion favorable to war is impossible and in England public opinion is by all means opposed to it. We know too much of war to look at it carelessly."

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THAT the British Columbia gold fields are of great richness and that their development will mean great things for the province are generally admitted facts. But until the necessary railroad facilities are provided the development must be comparatively slow and those facilities are not to be secured without heavy expenditure. The great desideratum from the mine-owners point of view is a railway through the Crow's Nest Pass, which would tap a coal region from which the miners could obtain coke, an article absolutely essential for smelting the ore. Vice president Shaughnessy, of the Canadian Pacific company is quoted by the Montreal Witness as saying that the company has not been indifferent to the matter. "We understand the necessity for the road, but at the same time we cannot be indifferent to the difficulty and the expense attendant upon its construction. For some time past the times have not been favorable to the investment of a large sum of money in fresh constructions. This has been the cause of the delay. We appreciate the need; the question is still engaging the attention of the management. Just whether any active steps can be taken in the near future it is impossible to say. The matter will require careful consideration. The work is of an important character. There is no doubt that if the line was built it would be of vast advantage, opening up communications and encouraging those who have invested their money." The long and short of the matter appears to be that the Canadian Pacific is ready to undertake to provide the required railway facilities if only the government will afford sufficient assistance.

THE condition of the United States treasury bears evidence of the business depression from which that country is suffering. It is said that the deficit in the treasury for the month of August will exceed \$10,000,000, and this added to the deficit for the previous month makes a total of \$23,000,000 for the first two months of the fiscal year. The heavy deficit is in part accounted for by an extra expenditure of \$5,000,000 for old sugar bounty claims. But while the demands on the treasury have been unusually heavy, receipts have been remarkably small. Revenue has been declining both from customs and from internal taxes.

BRITISH investors in American securities are not as yet manifesting any very great anxiety to dispose of their investments. It would seem that they regard the election of Bryan and the introduction of free silver legislation as possibilities so remote as to scarcely be taken into practical account. It, however, it should appear as the presidential campaign progresses that the Silverites have a fair chance of winning, there will almost certainly be a rush of British investors to unload, and a consequent panic in American securities.

W. B. M. U.

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 motto for the year
 "We are laborers together with God."
 PRAYER TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER.
 Thanking to God for the success that has attended our work during the past year. Prayer for a still greater blessing on our efforts during the coming year. Ask that God's spirit may accompany our mission work efforts as they visit the churches and a great blessing attend their efforts to increase the mission interest.

A meeting of the W. B. M. U. of St. John and Fairville will be held in Brussels St. church on Friday, Sep. 13, at 3.30 o'clock. The lady missionaries elect, Miss Harrison and Miss Newcombe, will be present and give addresses. All the sisters are invited to be present. A social hour will be given when all will have an opportunity of becoming acquainted. Tea will then be served at 6 o'clock.

A public missionary meeting, under the auspices of the W. B. M. U., will be held at 7.30 in Brussels St. church, at which all the missionaries will speak. These meetings shall be seasons of great power and blessing. Pray for this and do not fail to be present.
 Mrs. Margaret Cox, the Provincial Secretary for New Brunswick, has been engaged by the W. B. M. U. to undertake the work of organizing new Societies, re-organizing old ones and strengthening the weak and ready to fall. She has just sent the report of her first month's work, which is most satisfactory. The results may not be apparent just now, but time will reveal the benefits to be derived from this kind of work. We have been looking and praying for some one to engage in this service for a long time. The Lord has heard our prayers and sent us sister Cox. She is well fitted for the work. My sisters, let us sustain and help her all we can. Will those to whom she goes render her all the assistance in their power; will all remember her daily in their prayers. It is no easy task, no "holiday trip," anyone who thinks so has not conceived the faintest idea of the work. Mrs. Cox says of her report: "The amount of work accomplished looks small, though you have only the skeleton. The real life and soul of the work it is impossible to report. God knows it has been a little that is of value. Some despatches represent Mr. Dillon and other members of the convention as having been rescued by the police from serious danger at the hands of a mob in the streets of Dublin. Later despatches, however, say that the first accounts given of this affair were much exaggerated."

A note received from Miss Rita Richardson, Bedford, says: "The Lord led upon our hearts that we ought to be in the good cause of missions, so we organized an Aid Society on March 20th. Mrs. Jeremiah Daniels, President; Mrs. Joseph Archibald, Vice President; Miss Rita Richardson, Treasurer; Miss Louisa Richardson, Secretary. We send you five dollars, trusting the Lord will bless our miles. There is no Baptist church at Bedford so we are rejoiced to welcome these sisters among our 'scattered helpers' and ask that as they work and pray for the salvation of the heathen a rich blessing may come upon them."

W. M. A. S. Bridgewater
At our annual meeting in July reports were given and officers appointed, Mrs. F. M. Young being elected as our president. The attendance was small but the meeting earnest in expression. Our August meeting was one of the best and most enthusiastic of all. Sister Mrs. Wm. Chipman invited the Society to her pleasant home, where a number of the sisters gathered, bringing husbands or friends with them, thus adding to our numbers and enjoyment not a little. Tea was served in a most pleasing manner, after which the gathering was called to order by the Vice-President, Mrs. Geo. Dixon, who filled the chair most excellently, our President, Mrs. Young, being absent in British Columbia. After the usual opening exercises short addresses were given by Bros. William and Benjamin Miller, also sister Mrs. DeHois, of Wolfville, who encouraged us much, with kindly words, spoken to us in such a pleasing manner. Miss Fitch, of Wolfville, and Mrs. Marshall, of Boston, were also visitors. Prayers were offered by several, and a spirit of deep earnestness prevailed. Our annual Home Mission collection was taken, amounting to \$40. Some business matters were attended to, delegates were appointed for Convention, etc. The hour having come to adjourn all united in a hearty vote of thanks to our hostess and host, for the very enjoyable evening we had spent with them. As the president, Mrs. Dixon, presented the vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Chipman she returned feelingly to the parting so soon to come, when our sister and brother will take up their abode in our colleague town, Wolfville. Mr. Chipman, answering on behalf of Mrs. Chipman and self, thanked the Society for their kindly expressions of good feeling, closing his remarks with wishes for the prosperity of our Union and for the increased growth of missions as a whole.
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