

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXIV.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LIII.

Vol. XVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1902.

No. 33.

**Crumbling Cathedral.** A few weeks ago the great tower known as the Campanile, of St. Mark's Cathedral, Venice, fell, and now comes the report that there is imminent danger of a somewhat similar catastrophe at St. Paul's London. It is declared that one of the great porticoes is in immediate danger, a gradual process of loosening having gone on for some time unchecked until it would now appear that it is impossible for it to last much longer. The stones of the roof of the portico are so separated, it is said, that anyone in a position above, can see the people beneath as they enter and leave the Cathedral. It is believed that the roof may collapse at any moment, and the probability is that if it did so it would drag a portion of the structure with it. The only remedy is repair of a very thorough and expensive character, and it is possible that some rebuilding may have to be done.

**Damming the Nile.** The last coping stone of the Nile dam was laid at Assuan on July 30. This dam is one and a quarter miles long and is pierced by 180 openings seven feet wide, which have steel sluice gates. The dam was built by John Aird and Company, under a contract which called for its completion in five years from July 1, 1898, and the contractors agreed to accept payments by annual instalments of £100,000, beginning on the completion of the dams and extending over thirty years—a total of £4,800,000. Sir Benjamin Baker is the chief engineer of the scheme. The Nile reservoir, for which the great dams at Assuan and Assoul have been constructed, will enable wide tracts of land to bear two crops a year instead of one, will bring waste districts into tillage, and will greatly increase the area of sugar cultivation. The reservoir will supply 1,000,000,000 cubic meters of water annually. Over the whole area Sir William Garstin, the Secretary of State for Public Works, believes the value of summer crops, will be increased by as much as \$30 per acre. Egypt's resources for growing corn and cotton will then be immensely enhanced, and are likely to bring her forward as a competitor in the world's markets. When the water is most wanted (in August and April) for the crops of corn, sugar, cotton and rice, the supply in the lower river will be increased from the reservoir, and thus a fairly even supply of water will be afforded throughout the year. A canal with numerous locks gives passage to the Nile steamers and other traffic. Commercially the value of the dam to Egypt in the future can hardly be estimated.

**What the Census Shows.** The census bulletin No. 10 issued August 1, showing the numbers of persons male and female of various ages in Canada and in the different provinces, affords data for interesting comparison. One table gives the proportion per 1000 of the population for different periods of life up to seventy years, and from seventy years upward. From this table it appears that the largest proportion per thousand of persons under ten years of age is to be found in the Northwest Territories with 478.60 per 1,000, while of the older Provinces Ontario stands lowest with 418.54 per 1,000. British Columbia, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are the regions of young men, as shown by the large proportions from the age of 20 years to under 45. British Columbia, however, rates exceptionally high, because her proportion under 20 years is low. For the same reason, apparently, the proportion of persons in Ontario from 20 to under 45 years is relatively high. The Provinces showing the largest proportion over 70 years are Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario, while those showing the lowest are Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, the proportion of old people being naturally larger in the Provinces from which there has been a large emigration and smaller in the newer Provinces. The number of persons whose ages are not given constitutes less than 1 per cent. of the whole population, the great majority of whom are in the unorganized territories.

**Natural Increase.** The census bears testimony to the superior fecundity of the French race in Canada, and the statement frequently made that the death rate is much higher among children in Quebec than in the English Provinces

does not appear to be borne out by the census figures. At all events the number of children under five years of age in Quebec is larger than in Ontario by 13,021, although the population of the latter Province is one-third more than the former, and the number under 20 years of age in Quebec is 490.29 per 1,000 of the population, whereas in Ontario it is only 418.54 per 1,000. In some parts of the Dominion the birth rate has evidently diminished materially. The table of comparative ages by Provinces for the four censuses from 1871 to 1901 reveals a remarkable decrease in the population of persons under one year in Ontario and Prince Edward Island. And when all the details of the census of 1901 are published there will be afforded facts for some interesting studies on the ages of the people, especially along the lines of race and religion. Whatever the cause of the decrease in the number of children may be, it is evidently not a decrease in the number of marriages, for in all the Provinces the four censuses show an almost invariable gain in the number of married persons per thousand of the population.

**Education Among the Boers.** The schools established by the British authorities in the Transvaal and Orange Colonies are said to have proved quite successful, and to have won in some measure at least the appreciation of the Dutch. At first, for a time, the Boer parents were reluctant to allow their children to attend those schools. But they learned in time to feel confidence in them, and, at the time of the breaking up of the camps and the schools, showed by little presents and otherwise their goodwill and gratitude toward the teachers. Many of the old Dutch teachers are to be employed by the new Government, and those who wish to continue in the profession are allowed sixty pounds a year for study at one of the two normal colleges which have been established. As the necessary expenses for attendance at the school are only forty pounds, the allowance is liberal. It is reported that a well equipped university will be established as soon as possible somewhere in the Colony.

**Prospects in the Klondike.** A report of Mr. George H. Hees, Chairman of the Commercial Intelligence Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, recently made to that body in respect to affairs in the Klondike, is considerably at variance with the optimistic statements sometimes put forth as to the present condition and prospects of that country. Mr. Hees went to Dawson City in June to investigate affairs in the Yukon in the interests of his company. The days of fabulous prices in Dawson City, he says, are now of the past, but still one has to pay on an average about four and a half times as much there for everything as he would have to pay in Toronto. Mr. Hees found in Dawson a great surplus of laborers eager for work, and was told that there were ten applicants for every job available, and boat load after boat load of adventurers were arriving almost daily to swell the crowd of idlers. Mr. Hees quotes Governor Ross as saying,—"Since 1899 hundreds and thousands of prospectors have been exploring and prospecting every creek and mountain in that country, and no new discovery of importance has been made for more than a year." Mr. Hees also makes the following statement in respect to the present and prospective output of gold.

"I have permission from Mr. Senkler, Canadian Assistant Gold Commissioner, to use his name as saying, 'The output of gold in the Klondike last year was over \$3,000,000. The production of the coming year, according to the Government's estimates, will not exceed \$14,000,000, a falling off of nearly one-half. The reason for this very large decline is that the old creeks or "finds" are being worked up, and no new discoveries have been made for more than a year.' The hope of the Klondike now is the discovery of gold-bearing quartz of sufficient richness to pay to work. So far no such quartz has been discovered."

**Boer Farmers to Visit Canada.** The British Government is arranging for the visit of intelligent farmers from among the Boers to the United States and to this country, for the purpose of gathering knowledge in respect to

improved methods of agriculture, which knowledge on their return they will communicate to their fellow-countrymen. The Secretary of State at Ottawa is reported to have received a communication from London, asking if the Canadian Government would extend facilities to a number of these Boer farmers to witness farming operations in Canada. The Government, it is said, will do all in its power to make the proposed visit successful. The visitors will be taken to see the Government Experimental farms and shown over the best farming centres of the Dominion. A trip to the Northwest will probably be included in the programme. When the Boers return to South Africa they are to give their fellow farmers the benefit of their observations by means of lectures.

**The Coronation.** King Edward and Queen Alexandra were crowned in Westminster Abbey shortly after noon on Saturday the 9th inst. Something of the pageantry which would have attended the coronation had it taken place on the date at first intended was absent, but as compared with any ordinary event the ceremony must have been of a most elaborate and impressive character. In the Abbey, beyond the structural decorations for the seating of the spectators, there was little attempt at display, and the old gray arches lent their stately perspective to the scene, untouched by flags or any gleam of color. As soon as the doors were opened, peers and peeresses swept up the aisle, their robes and ermine making deep contrast with the deep color of the carpet. As they arrived before the throne they separated, the peers to the right and the peeresses to the left. By ten o'clock the Abbey presented a blaze of color. Along the nave which was lined by Grenadiers, every chair was taken up by high officers of the Army and Navy and others in equally handsome equipment. On top of the arch separating the nave from the chancel sat the surpliced orchestra. In stalls within, with the other Ambassadors, were the United States Ambassador, Joseph H. Choate and Mrs. Choate and many officials. During the long wait the American artist who was appointed to paint the coronation scene in the Abbey, and who wore court uniform, took careful notes of the surroundings for the historic picture ordered by the King. After the preliminary ceremony of consecrating the regalia had taken place, the Duke of Connaught, the King's brother, took his place in front of the coronation chair, with the earl of Halsbury, the Lord High Chancellor, seated by his side. A little later the King and Queen came in sight of those gathered about the throne. Then the Queen, welcomed by cries of "Viva Alexandra" from the boys of Westminster, advanced and took her seat. A little later the King, similarly welcomed and announced by a fanfare of trumpets, walked to his chair in front of the throne and was seated. With the King and the Queen knelt in prayer before taking their seats. Then followed the ceremonies more particularly connected with the coronation. First there was the Recognition, in which the Archbishop of Canterbury in a trembling voice read a statement, beginning—"Sirs, I here present unto you King Edward, the undoubted King of this realm, etc." Then came the celebration of the Communion, and then the King took the Coronation Oath, which was followed by the Archbishop's anointing prayer. After the ceremony of anointing, followed other prayers and the presentation of the sword by the Archbishop. Then, with other ceremonies, came finally the placing of the crown upon the King's head. The choir sang God Save the King, and the coronation was announced to London and the world by the ringing of joy-bells and the thundering of cannon. Afterwards the King was seated upon the throne and received the homage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prince of Wales and others of noble rank. The Queen was then also crowned by the Archbishop of York and led to the throne beside that upon which the King sat. Afterwards the King and Queen walked to the altar and received the Communion. Great popular enthusiasm attended the progress of the Royal Procession to and from the Abbey. The King's health appeared to be fully equal to the demands of the ceremony, but the Archbishop of Canterbury manifested extreme weakness, and it was only with great effort that he was able to conclude the service.