

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXI.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME I.

Vol. XV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1899.

No. 9.

Misinterpreted. Writing of matters in Great Britain, Mr. Henry Norman remarked in his letter to the New York 'Times' of January 29: "English statesmen are growing rather impatient of the American charge that the English want the United States to help them fight their European battles." To this Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of Philadelphia, who is a strenuous opponent of the policy of expansion in the United States, replied the next day in the 'Times,' saying:

"No wonder we receive this impression. Your cable despatches this morning report Mr. Chamberlain telling the people at Birmingham that 'we now see our cousins across the Atlantic entering the lists and sharing in a task which under the circumstances might have proved too heavy for us.' I hope Mr. Norman will not think hard of the American people for believing that Mr. Chamberlain is reported as generally knowing what he talks about."

A copy of this paper was in due time forwarded by Mr. Norman to Mr. Chamberlain, with the suggestion that possibly he might think it worth while to prevent his attitude being again twisted into serving the ends of American partisan politics. The following is Mr. Chamberlain's reply to Mr. Norman, which the latter has embodied in his letter of February 18 to the 'Times':

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have never concealed my satisfaction that the people of the United States are likely to take their part in the gigantic work of tropical civilization, which seems to me, in a special sense, the mission of the Anglo-Saxon race. It is, of course, a truism to say that Great Britain alone could not undertake the whole of such a task, but if Mr. Carnegie, in his endeavor to tie the United States down to that policy of national isolation and selfishness which on this side we associate with the name of 'Little Englander,' means to imply that I seek the co-operation of the United States for some purely British interest, he is entirely mistaken. The old country and its colonies are perfectly able to take care of their direct interests without help from any quarter whatever, and I have never desired nor spoken of co-operation except in cases where I am convinced that the interests of other nations are at least as much involved as our own. If I hope that the United States will be equal to its opportunities, it is because I am a friend to the United States, and not because I am striving by underhand and insidious methods to draw them into our quarrels.

I am, yours faithfully,

J. CHAMBERLAIN."

Remarking upon this letter Mr. Norman says it expresses in a characteristically lucid manner the ideas of intelligent Englishmen generally. "The British have their own share of fools," says the 'Times' correspondent, "but not a man fool enough to believe that America could be dragged at their heels into a European quarrel which did not concern her. Beyond what Mr. Chamberlain so well says, they only hope and believe that if the British empire were about to be crushed out of existence by an irresistible combination of enemies deliberately thrusting an unjust quarrel upon her, the American people would enter the arena, inspired by what Mr. Olney has finely called 'patriotism for the race,' just as I am perfectly certain that if an European combination were formed to crush America there would not be a British sword left in its scabbard. Recent events should have sufficiently shown this."

The International Commission Adjourned. The Joint High Commission which was appointed for the purpose of promoting reciprocity in trade and to secure the settlement of certain international difficulties between the United States and this country, and which, with some intermissions, has been in session since August last, first in Quebec and later in Washington, has now adjourned until August next, and without having been able to agree upon the basis of a treaty which would cover the points in dispute. According to a joint statement put forth by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, acting for the British commissioners in the absence of Lord Herschell, and Senator Fairbanks, on behalf of those of the United States, it appears that, while the Commission has made substantial progress toward the adjustment of many of the questions

upon which it has been engaged, it has not been able to agree upon the settlement of the Alaskan boundary. The commissioners have neither been able to effect an immediate delimitation of the boundary nor to agree upon conditions under which the question might be submitted to arbitration. The British commissioners desired that the whole question should be referred on terms similar to those provided in the reference of the Venezuelan boundary line, and which, by providing an umpire, would insure certainty and finality. The United States commissioners, on the other hand, thought the local conditions of Alaska so different that some modification of the Venezuelan reference should be introduced. They thought the reference should be made to six eminent jurists, three chosen by each of the high contracting parties, without providing for an umpire, they believing that finality would be secured by a majority vote of the jurists so chosen. They did not see any present prospect of agreeing to a European umpire, to be selected in the manner proposed by the British commissioners, while the British commissioners were unwilling to agree to the selection of an American umpire in the manner suggested by the United States commissioners. The United States commissioners further contended that special stipulations should be made in any reference to arbitration that the existing settlements on the tidewaters of the coast should in any event continue to belong to the United States. To this contention the British commissioners refused to agree.

A Disappointment. The adjournment of the International Commission without having reached any results and because of a dead-lock upon the Alaskan boundary question naturally causes keen disappointment both in this country and in Great Britain. So far as it was concerned with an endeavor to promote reciprocity in trade between the two countries, the work of the commission did not from the first give promise of large results. The policy and practice of extreme protection has so thoroughly permeated the commercial life of the United States, and every large protected interest has so large and so immediate an influence upon the treaty making powers of the nation, that any great hope of more than unimportant concessions in the interest of freer commercial intercourse was precluded. The temper of the United States, however, did seem favorable to the settlement, on equitable terms, of certain matters which have been more or less sources of friction in the past and which constitute potential sources of more serious trouble in time to come. Of these matters, the question as to the disputed Alaskan boundary seemed the most serious, and it was hoped that the Commission would be able to agree upon conditions for its settlement, either directly or else through the submission of the points in dispute to a council of arbitration whose decision could be received as final. This hope unhappily has been disappointed. The Canadian Commissioners, with Lord Herschell representing directly Imperial interests, earnestly desired to have the boundary question settled on such terms as could be accepted as reasonably equitable and satisfactory to Canada and to the Empire. Our commissioners therefore have doubtless gone as far in the way of concession as they felt it possible to go, at least without feeling the pulse of the country through its representatives in Parliament and further consultation with the Home Government on the subject. The position taken by them as to the conditions of arbitration seem entirely fair and reasonable. They are conditions which have had the endorsement of the United States in the Venezuelan dispute, and they are the only conditions which would seem to offer any guarantee of reaching a final

settlement in the matter. It is to be hoped that when the Joint Commission shall resume its sittings, some five or six months hence, it will have become possible for it to agree upon conditions upon which both this and other troublesome questions between the two countries shall find settlement. There is some danger, however, that a heated and imprudent discussion of these matters in the press, if not in the Parliaments, of the two countries, shall render the international temper less favorable than it has recently been toward a fair and amicable settlement. We are pleased to note that leading Canadian journals for the most part appear inclined to discuss the subject with praiseworthy moderation. The Toronto 'Globe,' in the course of an admirably fair and dispassionate article on the subject, says: "When the commission reassembles may we not hope to find at Washington a cordial recognition of the good disposition and self-respecting attitude of Canada, and thorough understanding of the fact that we seek no favors, no coddling, no consideration based on charity, or even on sentiment, but that we are concerned for international good neighborhood, and that we do seek a fair, straightforward business settlement of all questions that may cause friction or misunderstanding between the United States and Canada, or between the republic and Great Britain? We shall not rush off into any vulgar, blatant assertion of Canadian rights, nor into any passion of invective against the United States. We know that Canada is not merely seeking food for that small pride and petty complacency which come from driving a harder bargain than fair dealing warrants, and we will not believe that the United States has any deliberate design to harass and humiliate this country."

France and its New President. Considering the present condition of France and the excitable temperament of its people, it was inevitable that there should be more or less of disturbance at such a crisis as that precipitated by the sudden and wholly unlooked for death of President Faure. There has been disturbance, demonstrations of anti-Loubet factions, and some futile efforts to bring about a *coup d'etat* in the interest of the monarchists. It is possible that demonstrations of a more serious nature will follow, but the present outlook seems favorable to a continuance of government along regular lines. M. Loubet, the new president, is a man of moderation and considerable strength of character. He has the advantage (otherwise his election would have been impossible) of not having taken any active part in the Dreyfus agitation. In his message submitted to the Legislative Chambers on Tuesday, M. Loubet congratulated the country on the regular transmission of power to the new president at a time when misguided persons were seeking to shake the confidence of the country in its institutions. The president dwelt on the necessity of appeasement, union and respect for the essential organs of society,—Parliament, Government and the National Army. He magnified the Republic and called attention to its work as seen in the promotion of liberty and peace, the founding of a great Colonial Empire and the establishment of alliances and precious friendships. The President's address was received with demonstrations of approval both in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate.

—Premier Murray of Nova Scotia has laid on the table of the House of Assembly the returns of the expenditure and revenue for the past year. The expenditure has been \$849,330 and the receipts \$855,960, leaving a surplus of \$6,630. The money to the credit of the province at Ottawa is \$1,056,133, yielding five per cent. interest. The mines department the past year have yielded in royalties \$277,870, an increase of about \$7,000 over the year before. The succession duties have yielded \$58,161. The total revenue of \$855,960 is \$14,000 in excess of that of the year before. The coal royalty is charged at ten cents per ton in all coal except that raised by the Dominion Coal Company, which pays 12½ cents. The expenditure was less by \$4,368 than in the year before. The expenditure on capital account for 1898 was \$119,206, and the net debt of the province is \$2,387,314.