

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, }
VOLUME LXIII.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LII.

Vol. XVII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1901.

No. 41.

The Nova Scotia Election. Thirty-six Government supporters and two Opposition members were elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature last Wednesday. The Murray government carried every county except Pictou and Cumberland, which constituencies elected each one conservative. Besides these two counties, which return a divided representation, Colchester and Halifax gave a rather close vote. Elsewhere the Government candidates had good majorities. The Government press attributes the victory to the merits and popularity of the Government and the failure of the Opposition to propound a positive policy. Opposition journals say that the Government won by railway promises and the influence of certain great corporations, and the failure of the Conservative party to organize. The new legislature is in personnel nearly the same as the last, containing only about half a dozen new members. The Toronto Globe, perhaps the leading Liberal paper in Canada, deprecates the virtual extinction of the Opposition in the legislative assemblies in two provinces. It says:

"What has happened in Quebec and in Nova Scotia really involves a somewhat important question. Party government requires for its working an Opposition of reasonable strength. When one party is virtually annihilated at the polls there is no organized criticism of the acts of the Government. Thoughtful men of all parties deplore the weakness of the British Opposition, but that is due to extraordinary excitement and bitterness of feeling, while the condition to which we have referred in some of the Canadian Provinces is apparently due to lack of interest."

The Royal Tour. Once more our royal visitors have their face to the East, after seeing many things on a large scale. The Duke was greatly impressed, as every traveller is, with the great extent and boundless possibilities of the Canadian West. He has travelled much but he never saw before such stretches of arable land. Nor had he seen so many or so high mountains as the Rockies, or trees so mighty as those which grow in Stanley Park at Vancouver. The greetings of the Indian Chiefs at Calgary and other points added an element of picturesqueness. Among those who addressed their Royal Highnesses at Calgary were White Pup, representing the Blackfeet, Crop Ear Wolf, of the Bloods, Running Wolf, of the Piegans, Bull's Head, of the Sarcees, and chieftains of the Stoneys and Crees. From these members of the ancient aristocracy of the land the future king received florid and fervent assurances of loyal devotion, mingled with suggestions that royal bounty was always acceptable. These addresses are interesting as among the few which have been presented to the Duke and Duchess without passing the censorship of Major Maude. The Duke's reply shows that he was capable of entering into the spirit of the occasion. He sent the chief's away in high good humor, and let us hope, not entirely empty handed. On his way East the Duke takes a short holiday to go shooting in Manitoba with Lord Minto and Senator Kirkchoffer, while the Duchess remains at Banff, to enjoy for a little the scenery of that beautiful nest in the midst of the Rocky Mountains.

Clerical Precedence. At the State reception in Ottawa the Bishops of the Roman Catholic and English churches were given prominent positions. Once more, some of those denominations which have no bishops are reminding the authorities that Canada has no State church, and contending that this official recognition of bishops is a discrimination among religious bodies. Dr. Herridge of Ottawa, one of the leading Presbyterian divines, preached a sermon on the subject in which he contended that all churches should be placed on the same footing at purely official functions. Mr. Tarte, whose officers issued the invitations, says

that he is of the same opinion. But the minister, or any official who has charge of these affairs, finds it a little difficult to change the old order of things. Some difficulty would probably be found in designating those representatives of non-Episcopal churches who should be ranked with bishops. Even if this were done most of the bishops would have precedence according to the role of seniority, as moderators, presidents, chairmen and other elected officers of the churches usually hold office for a short term. Another and simpler solution would be, to recognize no clerical rank or office, but to treat all clergymen alike. While these matters remain unsettled, and the honors are confined to the hierarchy of two churches, the members of other bodies may console themselves with the reflection that denominations which endure bishops should find compensation somewhere.

An International Incident. For the past two weeks the daily papers have given more space to the Shamrock and Columbia yacht races than to any other subject. In Nova Scotia the press does not usually neglect an election campaign, and yet Sir Thomas Lipton has been receiving as much attention as Premier Murray. New York papers have devoted more space to the races at Sandy Hook than to the fight against Tammany in their own city, or the investigation going on at Washington to determine whether Admiral Schley played the coward in the sea fight with Spain at Santiago. The London Times and its contemporaries, are apparently as much concerned about the yachts as they are over the war in Africa. Newspaper editors know what interests their readers, and it is therefore fair to suppose that the races for the American Cup were, in the public estimation, among the most important events of the time. No doubt the interest depends largely upon the international aspect of the contest. It would have been impossible to work up a world-wide enthusiasm over a race between two English or two American boats. While neither yacht, nor any boat that could win such a race, could be of the slightest use even as a pleasure boat for regular service, there is a feeling that in these races British and United States builders, designers, and sailors, are matched against each other. The victory once more rests with the United States whose boats have held the cup for half a century.

The Case of Miss Stone. It is now some weeks since this missionary teacher was seized while on the way from her school in Macedonia, with a group of her associate teachers and students, and carried by her captors to some unknown place among the Balkan mountains. The brigands ask \$100,000 for her ransom, and threaten to kill her if the money is not forthcoming at a certain date. The outlaws are said to be Bulgarians, and late reports connect them with the Macedonian revolutionary committee. This is a body of conspirators with headquarters in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, and their purpose is to wrest Macedonia from Turkey and annex it to Bulgaria. One suggestion is that the purpose of this particular abduction is to obtain money to carry out the political design of the association. However that may be, it cannot be forgotten that among the Balkan States, assassination, if not one of the national industries, is at least an ordinary form of political activity, and a threat of murder when it comes from this quarter is not to be lightly treated. Such seems to be the view of the friends of Miss Stone in her United States home. They have already made an appeal for funds wherewith to pay the ransom. A considerable portion of the money required was contributed on Sunday last by churches and individuals in Boston, New York, and other cities. The largest contribution came from the Congregational church in Boston, of which Miss Stone is a member. A large banking house in the same city was open all

day Sunday to receive subscriptions—many contributing sums of \$100 to \$500. Meanwhile a representative of the United States Government has gone to Sofia to see what Bulgaria proposes to do about it. He will doubtless be told that the Government of that country has no knowledge of the incident. Slav Governments understand even better than Anglo Saxon ministries the diplomatic value of ignorance.

The War in Africa. Breaking in on the monotony of small skirmishes with little Boer commandos, and of long chases after fugitive marauders, comes suddenly a stirring account of two attacks made in force on British posts, one by the main Boer army under Botha, the commander-in-chief, the other by a corps under the famous General Delary. These attacks followed hard upon Lord Kitchener's proclamation, and were evidently intended to prove conclusively that the Boers still have an organized and effective army, and are entitled to be regarded as belligerent. It appears that Botha called together his scattered commandos, concentrated them on the border of Natal in the district still called Zululand, and prepared a surprise for the British garrisons, which numbered 300 at Fort Itala, and 20 at another post called Prospect. The reports say that General Botha had with him 4,000 men. This is probably an exaggeration, but he must have had more than half that number at Itala and Prospect. It was a night attack, and in spite of all the lessons of the past, the surprise was complete. The garrison seems to have thought scouting unnecessary, and the officers were oblivious of the neighborhood of the foe until 600 Boers rushed the outposts. At one o'clock in the morning the 80 men holding the outposts were attacked. They resisted with the bayonet until almost the last man was disabled. The main position on the top of the hill, with its 220 defenders, held out all night and all the next day under repeated assaults. Several times the Boers gained the summit of the hill, but they were driven off each time. Toward evening they withdrew, supposing, it is thought, that British reinforcements were at hand. The attack on the British Garrison at Prospect was also a failure. In this case the surprise was not complete, and the maxim gun was brought into action against the assailants. It is stated that sixty Boers were found dead in one place, and a report gives 220 as the number of the killed in this attack. This testifies to the determination and courage of the Boers, as did their repeated charges across the open on Fort Itala. In the main engagement the Boers admit the loss of 200 killed, and a Durban despatch says that more than 330 of their dead have been picked up on the field. If this statement is true the Boer losses in the attack are greater than in any previous battle of the war. Of the British 20 at Prospect, one was killed and 12 wounded. The British losses in killed and wounded at Itala are not less than one hundred. The Boer slain include two generals and a commandant. While this heroic nineteen-hour fight was in progress on the eastern border of the Transvaal, General Delary was gathering the commandos on the western side of the late republic with intent to surprise, and destroy or capture the force under his old opponent, Colonel Kekewich, who commanded the garrison at Kimberley during the famous siege. This officer, with a considerable body of men—the numbers are not given—held a position at Moedwill. True to the traditions of the British regulars he allowed himself to be surprised, but true to the spirit of the British soldiers he and his men fought off the enemy. It must have been a brave defence for Kekewich himself, and 21 of his officers were wounded and four were killed. The total number killed and wounded on the British side is near 200, which must be a large proportion of the garrison. No statement of the Boer loss is given. In the opinion of some authorities the failure of these two attempts implies the collapse of the Boer cause. Had Botha succeeded in capturing two garrisons, one commanded by an officer of note, he could then have claimed the status of an effective belligerent, and might have rallied to his flag many of those Cape Colony Boers who are rebels at heart. As it is he has concentrated his forces only to be beaten back by greatly inferior numbers, losing more men than whole body of troops attacked.