

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**Mr. McKinley and a Third Term.** The opinion of Washington, that no one man should occupy the Presidential Chair of the United States for more than two terms, has been recognized as having something like the force of an unwritten law, and accordingly no one has been a candidate for a third term, in the history of the country. In the case of General Grant there was much agitation in favor of a third term, but his party decided against the nomination. It is fair however to say that if Grant had proved as strong and sagacious as Chief Magistrate as he did as Commander-in-Chief of the army, it is not improbable that in his case the objections to a third term would have been over-ruled. As the writer remembers to have heard the matter put by an American citizen at the time, the objection was not so much to the abstract idea of a third term as to the concrete example of the first and second terms. Of late there has been a growing agitation in the Republican party in favor of making Mr. McKinley its nominee for the next election, which, in case of a Republican victory, would mean a third term for the present Chief Magistrate. Mr. Chauncy Depew's public advocacy of this proposal has given it a prominence which in the President's opinion, has made it necessary for him to take notice of it. In doing so, Mr. McKinley has declared very emphatically that he will not again be a candidate for presidential honors. His words are: "I not only am not and will not be a candidate for a third term, but would not accept a nomination for it if it were tendered me. My only ambition is to serve through my second term to the acceptance of my countrymen, whose generous confidence I so deeply appreciate, and then, with them, to do my duty in the ranks of private citizenship." This will doubtless be accepted as settling the question of candidature so far as Mr. McKinley's name is concerned.

**Exploiting Vice for Revenue.** The Quebec Government is severely criticised by the Montreal 'Witness' on account of its attitude toward temperance legislation and especially in respect to its action in the matter of granting wholesale and bottler's licenses. "It was the boast of the people of this Province," says the Witness, "that it did not need prohibition, as two-thirds of the province was already under prohibition by the use of powers secured to the municipalities at Confederation. This municipal prohibition has certainly proved most beneficial. At great expense to individuals, it has been defended and successfully vindicated against a series of assaults made upon it by liquor men in various parts of the province, aided, though these assaults have been, by the shifty behaviour of governments and the timid recalcitrancy of municipal bodies. This whole system of municipal prohibition has now been annulled by the stroke of a pen at the hands of the Parent government, which has sent out a circular to all license inspectors to grant wholesale and bottler's licenses to whoever tenders the fee. Under this instruction those municipalities which have had the nobility to forego license fees for the good of their people must expect to see practically the same business carried on under fees paid to the government, and to see the bottler's cart peddling liquors from house to house. Are they likely to refuse licenses any more?" The Witness charges against the Government that its course in the matter is due to "a sordid desire to mend the decrepit finances of the Province by exploiting its vices." While the Witness admits an ambiguity in the law respecting the indiscriminate granting of wholesale and bottler's licenses, it contends that the action of the government in a certain case shows that it believes it had the power to withhold such licenses at its discretion, and adds that the government might easily have rectified any ambiguity existing in the law on the subject at the recent session of the Legislature, and so protected what was known to be the purpose and intent of the law. The course actually adopted by the Quebec Government the Witness characterizes as "atrocious."

**Prohibition in P. E. Island.** The prohibitory liquor law enacted by the Prince Edward Island Legislature at the last year's session came into effect on the fifth of the

present month. Temperance sentiment is strong on the Island. All the Province, except Charlottetown, was already under the Scott Act, and in other respects the conditions for success in the enforcement of the prohibitory law are probably more favorable in the Island province than in any other of the Dominion. This attempt to abolish the traffic by means of provincial legislation will therefore be watched with much interest. The liquor interest will no doubt make a fight, and the capital city will no doubt be the principal battleground. When the Act came into operation, the liquor sellers of the city appeared to be impressed with the majesty of the law, and at least made a pretence of conforming to the requirements of the new legislation. It seems probable that the liquor men will contest the constitutionality of the law, but as yet we do not hear of any prosecutions under the Act. The attitude assumed by the City Council of Charlottetown toward the law and its enforcement is remarkable. On the grounds that the prohibitory law was passed without the Council being consulted or a popular vote taken, that the law may be unconstitutional, and that the Government has assumed responsibility for its enforcement, the Council has adopted a resolution declaring that, "in view of all the circumstances it would be against the interest of the citizens that the City by its officers or servants should in any way interfere in prosecutions brought under the said Act so as to render the city liable for damages in respect thereof," and further practically instructing police officers of the city to take no action toward the enforcement of the law. Respecting this action of the Council the Charlottetown 'Guardian' says: "The Marshal and men of the police force are peace officers, and officers of the law, sworn to the discharge of their duties as such, and it is not within the power of the Council or of the Police Committee to absolve them from their public duties or from their oaths of office." The significance of the action taken, the Guardian considers to lie in the fact "that the Council have taken sides with the liquor interest with the clear object of breaking down the Prohibitory Law and sheltering as far as may be those who may hereafter violate its provisions. They seek to do this by excluding police officers from taking any part in the service of papers or the enforcement of this particular law."

**The Case of Dr. Herron.** Alluding to the case of Dr. George D. Herron, which has of late attracted so much attention, 'The Outlook' says that the facts appear to be these: His wife has obtained a divorce from him on the ground that he has deserted her and her children: he has made no attempt to have this divorce set aside, and has made no public denial of the charge of desertion; he has since married another woman, if that can be called marriage in which no vows are pledged on either side and the form of the ceremony apparently leaves either party to sever the connection at will, except in so far as the law may prevent. It is said that the woman now living with Dr. Herron has provided amply for the support of the discarded wife and children. Whether this report is true or not the Outlook does not know, but properly holds that the acceptance of such a provision by the discarded wife would only add to the iniquity of the whole transaction. The Outlook first introduced Dr. Herron to the American public by printing in its pages some years ago his "Message of Jesus to Men of Wealth." It therefore takes occasion in this connection to say that "no man deserves to be called a social reformer who does what he can to overthrow the family which is the foundation of all social organizations, by the easy method of abandoning his own family, nor does he ever deserve to be called a teacher of morals who manifests his own moral character by discarding in so cavalier a fashion the most sacred obligation which one human being can assume toward another—the explicit pledge in marriage to a wife and the implicit pledge to helpless and dependent children. The only penalty which such an offender can be made to feel is empty audience rooms and unmarketed books, and we trust that the American public will visit this penalty on Dr. Herron." By the unanimous action of a council at Grinnell, Iowa, Dr. Herron has been deposed from the ministry of the Congregational body.

**Presbyterians North and South**

The Presbyterians of the United States, like the Baptists, are divided into many bodies, but principally into two, distinguished as Northern and Southern. But though the distinction in the names of the two Presbyterian bodies is geographical, the division was not determined by the physical facts of geography, but largely by a difference of attitude upon the question of slavery, the rock upon which other religious bodies also were split assunder. A generation has not been sufficient wholly to obliterate the differences engendered and nourished by the disputes and animosities of ante-bellum days. A union between the two bodies has indeed been canvassed and is by many ardently desired and hoped for. But the vision tarries, and at present there appears to be little evidence that the centripetal force in the two bodies is growing stronger. Certainly the report of a committee of the Southern body at its recent General Assembly at Little Rock, advising against the union of a southern and a northern theological seminary in the State of Kentucky, on the ground that it tended toward organic union between the two churches, did not look in the direction of union, and though the Assembly did not formally discountenance the amalgamation of the seminaries, it abstained from any hearty endorsement of the proposal. The question of creed revision has been before the Southern Presbyterians, but less prominently than in the case of their northern brethren. The proposal as to revision has had reference principally, if not wholly, to the statements of the Confession in respect to "elect infants." The Assembly declined to amend the Confession on this point, but in doing so made a declaration to the effect that the contrast which the Confession makes is not between elect and non-elect infants, but between elect persons dying in infancy and dying beyond infancy. The hope that all infants are saved is affirmed, but the Assembly declined to go farther in positive statement than the Confession goes, on the ground of the lack of scriptural authority.

**Religious Tendencies in Spain.**

'The Independent' notes the opposition which prevails among the Roman Catholic clergy of Spain toward the present policy of the Vatican. The opposition is largely political in character, the clergy being generally Carlists, and bitterly antagonistic to the present dynasty which, however, receives the papal recognition. In the clergy of this class, we are told, there is a disposition to condemn all the leading acquisitions of modern progress and to criticize severely the political methods and mild-mannered diplomatic ways of the present Pope, in unfavorable contrast with the belligerent policy of Pius IX. In marked contrast with this Ultramontane dissatisfaction with the authorities of the Church of Rome, reference is made to those movements in Spain which have a positive evangelical tendency. Most of this work has resulted from the efforts of outsiders. Evangelical preaching has been given an open door only since the expulsion of Isabella, and even now its proclamation is permitted only under great limitations. Some work done by the English Methodists has been reasonably successful, particularly the founding of schools, that at Barcelona being so well managed as to be patronized by the Roman Catholics. The best known Protestant missionary in Spain was, until lately, Pastor Fritz Fliedner. Pastor Fliedner who died recently under sixty years of age had made his headquarters in Madrid, where he had been conducting excellent schools and a successful Protestant publication house which has done much to spread Protestant literature throughout the peninsula. He also established congregations and missions in a number of places. Special mention is also made of the work of Bishop John Bautista Cabrera who, years ago, was ordained by the Archbishop of Dublin, and who aims at the organization of a purely Protestant church in Spain. Formerly a Roman Catholic priest, he has become a strong exponent of the Evangelical cause. One of his leading principles is that the work should be done only by native Spaniards and not by foreigners, as only the former can fully accomplish the desired results. The followers of this movement are chiefly the lowly of the land, who often need pecuniary assistance. Altogether, it is considered that the cause of Protestantism is stronger than surface indications might suggest.