

# Messenger and Visitor

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER  
VOLUME LXVI.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME LV.

Vol. XX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Wednesday, December 14, 1904.

No 50

## Dangerous

### Sport.

As usual in recent years the sport of amateur hunters has resulted in many serious accidents, involving the loss of a considerable number of human lives. The latest hunting fatality is reported from near Cloyne, county of Addington, Ontario, where Henry Vanness, of Arden, while deer stalking, accidentally shot and killed his son, a lad eighteen years of age. A man named Parks was wounded by the same bullet which killed young Vanness. Remarking upon the number of such accidents occurring in Ontario, the *Toronto Globe* says: "The shortening of the open season, the restriction of commercial shooting, the destruction of the wolves, and the restraints on hounding have made big game so abundant that it can be secured with but little skill or experience. The result is the crowding of a great force of amateur sportsmen into the woods at each recurring hunt. Many of them never see the woods at any other time, and they consequently lack the natural discernment that can come only with experience. Every object that moves is distorted by their excited imaginations into a deer, and the result is a lamentable chapter of accidents. These men are not only a menace to other hunters as innocent of woodcraft as themselves, but are a serious danger to settlers, lumbermen, and others whose work takes them into the danger zone during the open season. So great is the terror of the amateur hunter that some settlers are afraid to venture into the woods when any of that fraternity are about. Our records include the shooting of two road repairers while at work, and the death of another who was eating his lunch and was mistaken for a bear." It does not appear that the Canadian sportsman is more reckless in the use of his rifle than his brother sportsman across the border, and his aim when the mark is a human target no more deadly. It is reported that in the woods of Wisconsin and Northern Michigan during the season just closed forty-two hunters were killed or died of their wounds and twenty others wounded, making a total list of sixty casualties. The number of the deer killed is estimated at 4,000, making the ratio of the hunters killed to the game one to sixty-five.

## Japanese Shell

### Russian Ships.

The effective bombardment of the Russian battleships in Port Arthur, which began Dec. 1, was one of the results of the capture of 203 Metre Hill. Up to that time the warships had been able to seek shelter from the Japanese fire under Pei yu mountain, but the capture of 203-Metre Hill, Nov. 29, enabled the Japanese to train their guns on the Russian vessels, with a result that a number of them have been set on fire, and the others must either put to sea or suffer irreparable damage.

The Port Arthur besiegers report as follows:—

"On Saturday, Dec. 3, our naval guns bombarded the enemy's ships. The 'Pobiedia' (battleship) was struck six times, a vessel of the 'Retvizan' (battleship) type was hit eight times, and on other ships sixteen shells took effect. 'On Monday following the 'Pobiedia' was hit seven times, the 'Poltava' (battleship) eleven times, and the 'Retvizan' eleven times. At about three in the afternoon one of our sugar shells struck a magazine south of Pei yu mountain, causing a heavy explosion. The conflagration that followed was not extinguished for two hours. 'The same day our heavy (army) guns were directed at the enemy's ships. The 'Peresviet' (battleship) was struck twice, and two more shells were lodged in other ships. A vessel of the 'Poltava' type was observed to be on fire for one hour, sending up a great volume of smoke. 'The attacking operations against the Sung shu mountain forts eastward are carried on day and night. Two 36-millimetre quick-firers were captured on Sunday in a half moon fort ending a counterscarp on Rih lung mountain.

## Great is Joan

### of Arc.

Some remarks of a professor in the Lycée Cordoret, Paris, caused an uproar in the school, and the echo of it has been heard even in the French Chamber of Deputies. To say anything derogatory to Joan of Arc has much the same effect upon a large class of Frenchmen as the raising of the Union Jack on a level with the Stars and Stripes has on a certain class of United States citizens. The professor in question, having more regard evidently for what he considered the

fact of history than for the sentiments and prejudices of his audience, made some remarks touching the sainted Joan, which were so vigorously resented by the students of the Lycée that the matter came to the knowledge of M. Chaumie, the Minister of Public Instruction, and he, after enquiry, dismissed the professor, on the ground, it would seem that he had not sufficiently respected the susceptibilities of the students. The action of the Minister was subsequently made the subject of interpellation in the Chamber of Deputies and resulted in a discussion in which personalities and invective abounded. A large number of the Deputies, it would seem, did not share the popular sentiment in regard to Joan of Arc, and they strongly resented the action of the Minister of Public Instruction in dismissing the professor for the exercise of his rights of free speech. A motion of censure was introduced, but was eventually withdrawn. M. Chaumie defended himself on the ground that the professor unquestionably showed lack of tact and that boys should not be addressed with the same freedom as adults and said that the punishment of the offender would remind professors of the necessity of respecting public opinion. The Minister concluded with an eulogy of Joan of Arc, and promised to maintain the political neutrality of the schools.

## A Significant

### Admission

The story that there were Japanese torpedo boats in the North Sea at the time that Russian war vessels of the Baltic fleet fired upon British fishing vessels was probably never given much credence outside of Russia. It is now, it appears, admitted at Russian naval headquarters that the *Aurora* of the Baltic fleet was struck by Russian shells, and as a result the captain of the vessel received injuries which have proved fatal. This admission and attendant circumstances seem to show that the Russians fired upon their own vessels, mistaking them for hostile craft. A London despatch says it has been expected for a long time that such an admission would be made before the meeting of the inquiry commission. From the day when the first intimation was given to the world that the Russians undoubtedly fired on their own ships on the Dogger Bank there has been no doubt expressed anywhere but in St. Petersburg that such was the case. It has been felt that Russia would have to make an admission to this effect as soon as they could arrange their story. The impression their story was likely to produce is shown fairly well in an editorial of the *London Times*, which says:—

"Plainly the damage to the *Aurora* was done before she showed her searchlight. Russia has already established a reputation for naval gunnery in this war, but it is difficult to believe that five shots struck the *Aurora* unless they were aimed at her. No other Russian vessel suffered serious damage. 'Why did the *Aurora* draw the fire of her consorts? According to an account by an eye-witness, in The *Novoe Vremya*, Nov. 5, Admiral Enkuist, with the Dmitri Donskoi and the *Aurora* had been ordered to slacken speed and wait for the transport *Kamchatka*, which had fallen behind owing to an injury to her engines. The two cruisers apparently carried out their instructions, and the eye-witness goes on to relate that on the morning of October 22 those on board the *Suvaroff* saw in front of them two long, dark silhouettes emitting quantities of smoke and proceeding at a high speed. The *Suvaroff* took them for torpedo boats and fired on them; but does not the conclusion seem almost inevitable, after a comparison of the story in The *Novoe Vremya* with the statement issued by the naval headquarters staff, that these two silhouettes were the Dmitri Donskoi and *Aurora*?"

## Agitation for

### Reform in Russia.

The growing boldness of the reform element in Russia is indicated by some recent occurrences. On December 1, a despatch from St. Petersburg states, a remarkable meeting of a thousand persons was held in that city. Among those in attendance were Maxim Gorki, Somevsky the historian; Mme. Galino, the poetess; Mme. Shapi, the novelist, and other writers. Numerous resolutions were adopted demanding constitutional reforms, freedom of speech, a parliament, etc. A poem was read denouncing the bureaucracy for carrying on an unjust war in Manchuria. The meeting closed at three o'clock in the morning amid shouts of "Down with the autocracy." Again, on December 5th, anniversary of the codification of the laws under Alexander II, the Bar Association of the Russian capital assembled at the regular hall set apart for this purpose by the government, but found the doors closed by the procurator of the court of appeals. Thereupon the three hundred

members marched up Newsky Prospect to the town hall. There the president declined to preside, declaring that the meeting was illegal, but the members refused to disperse, elected a chairman and passed a resolution censuring the procurator, which will be officially lodged with Interior Minister Sviatopolk-Mirsky. The association entered into a general discussion of the causes why many of the laws passed 40 years ago remained dead letters, and adopted resolutions declaring that the laws could not be in living force and protect citizens against misuse until the inviolability of domicile and freedom of the press, conscience and association were guaranteed.

## The Tax on

### Drink and

### Tobacco.

According to figures given by *Everybody's Magazine*, the revenue of the United States from the tax on spirits was \$131,000,000 from the beer tax \$47,000,000, a total of \$178,000,000. State and local revenues from liquor and beer licenses amount to a large sum besides. The revenue of Great Britain from excise and custom taxes on intoxicants averages about \$163,000,000. France collects \$100,000,000 a year from the taxes on spirits, beer, wine, and so forth, custom duties not included. Thirsty little Holland and temperate Italy get about \$20,000,000 from these taxes. The Russian government has a monopoly of the sale of liquor. The official estimate of the revenue from this source for 1904 was \$358,000,000, an appalling sum. In the fiscal year closing June 30, 1904, the United States had a revenue of \$20,122,415.59 from the tax on \$6,707,471,863 cigars, from the tax on smoking and chewing tobacco, \$19,719,042.61. Along with an increase in the consumption of tobacco in other forms there appears to be a notable revival of the old custom of snuff-taking in the United States. In 1903, 20,157,580 pounds of this titillator were made in the United States, actually an increase of more than 1,300,000 pounds over the figures of 1902. In spite of the anti-cigarette league and legislation nearly two hundred millions more of cigarettes were made. But even then there are some eight hundred thousand less than were made ten years ago. More chewing and smoking tobacco, more cigarettes, more snuff, 78,917,670 fewer cigars. Such is the smoke record.

## Arrival of Earl

### Grey.

The steamship *Parisian* having Earl Grey and the vice-regal party among her passengers, arrived at Halifax about one o'clock Saturday morning after a rough passage. At 10.30 Earl Grey and party landed and were greeted by Mayor General Parsons, the Lieut. Governor, the Provincial Secretary and members of the Executive Council, the Mayor and the City Council. A guard of honor with band received His Excellency with the usual salute. His Lordship and suite were then conducted to carriages and proceeded by Granville, George and Hollis streets to the Provincial Building in the court yard of which a guard of honor was posted, which received them with usual salute. The installation then took place in the presence of a brilliant gathering. After His Excellency had been sworn in a salute of nineteen guns was fired from the citadel. Addresses were presented from the Nova Scotia Government and the Halifax City Council, to which the Earl made suitable replies. On leaving the Provincial Building His Excellency was received by a guard of honor with a royal salute. The vice-regal party then proceeded to Government House, the streets through which they passed being lined with troops from the garrison. In the evening there was a state dinner at Government House and later their Excellencies held a reception in the Executive Council Chamber. All classes of Canadians will unite in heartily welcoming the new Governor General with the Countess Grey and the members of their family to the Dominion.

## The War.

The capture of 203 Metre Hill, noted last week, placed the Japanese in a position to bombard the Russian ships in Port Arthur harbor, and the besiegers appear to have used their advantage with great effect. The correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph* before Port Arthur states that all the Russian battleships and cruisers and the gunboats *Giliak* and *Fasadinck* have been sunk or destroyed and only the torpedo boat destroyers remain intact. Previous reports as to the terrible carnage in connection with the taking of 203 Metre Hill are confirmed by later despatches. Among the slain on Nov. 30 was a son of the Japanese general Nogai. Another son had met death in the taking of Nanchan Hill and it is said the General is now childless. The price which Japan is paying for victory in the Liao tung peninsula in the sacrifice of the bravest of her sons, is a heavy one. There appears to be little change in the situation to the south of Mukden.