

# Messenger and Visitor.

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THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXIII.

Vol. XVII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1901.

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VOLUME LII.

No. 39.

**Sanitation in Cuban Cities.** The value of cleanliness and of the application of the results of practical science in promoting health, and especially in effecting deliverance from some epidemic forms of disease, has found striking illustration in the vast improvements which have been brought about in the sanitary condition of Havana and Santiago under American rule. Santiago, which was a festering plague spot, full of filth and yellow fever, has become to all outward appearances, we are told, as clean as any American city. Every house where yellow fever occurred in 1899 was disinfected three times. Eighty-five miles of streets were swept daily; 25,000 cubic yards of sweepings were hauled out of the city in the year; 118,000 cubic yards of garbage were removed, in the destruction of which 35,000 gallons of crude petroleum were used, 4,000 gallons of carbolic acid, and 11,000 pounds of chloride of lime disinfected the air in the same good work. No street excavating was permitted. The result of this work is that there has been no yellow fever in Santiago since December 27, 1899. Its banishment from that city, its habitat for four hundred years, was accomplished by American cleanliness and energy, intelligently directed by military authorities, and its absence has been no freak or accident. In Havana, too, there has been a great improvement in sanitary conditions and mortality statistics show a remarkable decrease in the death rate. Especially is this the case in respect to yellow fever, from which in the month of June there was not a single death in the city, and the records show that since 1761 no previous June had passed with absolute freedom from disease.

**The Mosquito and Yellow Fever.** In connection with the subject of the preceding article it is interesting to note that, beginning about the middle of February, the sanitary authorities in Havana based their whole management of yellow fever on the theory that the mosquito is the medium of its transmission from person to person, a theory considered to be fully established by the labors of the Yellow Fever Commission. The result of the adoption of this theory by the sanitary authorities in Havana has been to strengthen the conclusion reached by the commission: There have been years in which there was little yellow fever, but none in which it has entirely disappeared as at present. It would therefore seem to be a fair inference that the improved method of disinfection killed off the infected mosquitoes; that by March 8 the city had been rid of the infection and was free of fever until April 20, when a focus of infection again developed. Disinfection again apparently killed the infected mosquitoes, as the city was free from fever until May 6, when another focus developed. The same method of disinfection was again applied, with the result that no cases developed after that date. It is believed that by pursuing the present methods the island can be rid of yellow fever, and its spread may be prevented even when introduced from the outside. If this condition can be brought about many of the restrictions now imposed upon commerce by quarantines can be done away with.

**The Late Empress Dowager of Germany.** In a letter to the New York Independent on old-world affairs, Mr. Justin McCarthy alludes at some length to the late Empress Dowager of Germany, and confirms the generally received impression that the late Empress was a woman of remarkable ability and strength of character, but whose life was far from being a happy one.

Mr. McCarthy expresses much admiration for the late Emperor Frederick in respect to his personal and soldierly qualities. The marriage of Frederick, then the Prussian Crown Prince, with the Princess Victoria of England was, he thinks, a genuine love match, "and so far as these two hearts were concerned it might have been one of supreme happiness." But other persons and other matters were of course concerned. The Princess entered the German Royal family at a trying time, and her life became one of anxiety and trouble. "During my earliest visit to Berlin and in all later visits," says Mr. McCarthy, "I heard only the same story about the unpopularity of the Crown Princess. She was a woman of remarkable capacity, with advanced and enlightened views on political and social questions. She was a Liberal in politics, and she soon came into antagonism with the views and purpose of Bismarck and with the antiquated feudalism of the King. Bismarck was her enemy and made no secret of his enmity. She had courage and spirit, and would not give in, and her life was for many years a struggle against the great Imperial Chancellor. Her husband thoroughly shared her ideas; he was strongly opposed to the autocratic system, and to the medieval fashions of repressing free speech, which were dear to his father and to his father's great minister. Although a splendid and successful soldier, he found no joy in war, and his one great ambition was to make Germany a great, free and peaceful State, leading the way in civilization and enlightenment. With his too early death his widow had no longer any place in public life, and she must have known for years that her own doom was approaching. . . . She was by far the most gifted intellectually of all the children of Queen Victoria, and she might under happier auspices have made a noble figure in history."

**The Autopsy.** An autopsy was held on the body of President McKinley on the day following his death, and the following report signed by the surgeons in attendance has been issued:

"The bullet which struck over the breast bone did not pass through the skin and did little harm. The other bullet passed through both walls of the stomach near its lower border. Both holes were found to be perfectly closed by the stitches but the tissues around each hole had become gangrenous. After passing through the stomach the bullet passed through the dark walls of the abdomen, hitting and tearing the upper end of the kidney. This portion of the bullet track was also gangrenous, the gangrene involving the pancreas. The bullet has not yet been found. There was no sign of peritonitis or disease of other organs. The heart walls were very thin. There was no evidence of any attempt at repair on the part of nature and death resulted from the gangrene which affected the stomach around the bullet wounds, as well as the tissues around the further course of the bullet. Death was unavoidable, by any surgical or medical treatment, and was the direct result of the bullet wound."

The gangrenous condition of the wounded parts had raised the question whether the bullet used was poisoned. One of the surgeons in attendance is said to be strongly of the opinion that such was the case, but the theory does not appear to obtain general favor. Light may be thrown upon this by a chemical examination of the bullets which remained in the revolver. Another theory is that the pancreas was injured by the bullet, and that the remarkable failure of nature towards repair of the injuries was due to the escape of the pancreatic fluid.

**Funeral of the President.** At Washington on Tuesday of last week the American nation officially and with State ceremonies paid its tribute of respect and love to the

memory of its Chief Magistrate, whose life was sacrificed to the insane and murderous hate of anarchism. Beneath the great white dome of the Capitol the funeral services of State were held over the body of the dead President. Gathered around the bier were the representatives of the national life of the United States, including the President and the only surviving ex-President, together with the official representatives at the American capital of all the chief nations of the world. Great Britain was represented by Mr. Gerard Lowther, Charge of the British Embassy, whom the King had specially commissioned to participate in the services as his personal representative. The procession from the White House to the Capitol was deeply solemn and impressive in character, contrasting painfully with the scenes which had occurred six months before, when Mr. McKinley had passed along the same route to accept for the second time the responsibilities and honors connected with the presidency. Two days later the final offices of respect were paid to the remains of the departed President at the family home, Canton, Ohio, where the entire population of the little city, with many thousands from all over the State, and with many representatives of the civil power with a grand parade of the military, participated in the final ceremonies. By command of King Edward a memorial service in honor of the late President was held on Thursday in Westminster Abbey. The service was attended by Ambassador Choate and many distinguished Americans, also by many titled Englishmen and others prominent in the social and political life of the nation. A proclamation was issued by the Governor-General of Canada, requesting the people of the Dominion to observe Thursday in sympathy with the national sorrow of the United States, by the half-masting flags, the holding of religious services, etc. Memorial services were held in Ottawa and perhaps other cities, but the late date of the Governor-General's proclamation was against any very general observance of the day.

**The Royal Tour.** At the present writing, Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa have enjoyed the privilege of paying honor to their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. In all these cities the most abundant proof has been given of the loyalty and devotion of the Canadian people to the British throne and empire. Everyone seems to be charmed with the Duchess. The illustrious examples of noble womanhood set forth by the late beloved Victoria and Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, appear certain of perpetuation in the person of the wife of the King's son. The Duke is also creating the most favorable impressions. He takes his visit seriously, and seems determined to gain the fullest possible understanding of the conditions amid which his Canadian subjects live. As a mark of sympathy with the United States in their recent bereavement, certain festivities were struck out of the programme of entertainment at Quebec and Montreal, but the enthusiasm of the people was not the less deeply felt. Extraordinary precautions have been taken to safe-guard the Royal couple during their stay in Canada. The University of Laval at Quebec has conferred upon the Duke the honorary degree of LL. D., a distinction which it bestowed upon the King during his visit as Prince of Wales in 1860. The University of McGill extended the courtesy of a similar degree to the Duchess. An interesting feature of the reception at Montreal was the presentation to the royal visitors of a delegation of chiefs and squaws from the Iroquois Indians of Caughnawaga. The chiefs, who were in full costume, shook hands with the Duke and the squaws knelt. At Ottawa His Royal Highness unveiled a statue to her late Majesty the Queen.