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Contents.

EDITORIAL	My Childhood's Sunday	8
Paragraphs	THE YOUNG PEOPLE	7
Expect Great Things from God	Daily Readings	7
The Lame Man at the Gate	S. L. C. Lesson	7
Notes	Foreign Period	7
CONTRIBUTED	Prayer Meeting Topic, etc.	8
A Methodist Meets From Halifax	FOREIGN MISSIONS	8
The Old Treasure	W. B. M. U.	8
A Debt of Honor (W. B. M.)	Notes by the Secretary	8
Acadia College (Dr. Sawyer)	The Horse	10
McLaren of Manchester	S. S. LESSON	10
Good Resolutions (Burdette)	The Boldness of Peter and John	11
THE STORY PAGE	From the Churches	12
Talford Strong	Marriages and Deaths	12
	News Summary	14 and 15
	The Farm	15

Treaty of Arbitration. The treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States, having been duly signed by Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote, was, on January 11th, submitted by President Cleveland to the United States Senate. The treaty provides that all pecuniary claims not exceeding £100,000 shall be dealt with by a court of arbitration consisting of a jurist of repute appointed by each Government, and a third chosen by these two, or, in case of their failure to agree upon a third, by joint action of the Supreme court of the United States, and the Judicial committee of the British Privy Council, or, failing that, by the King of Sweden. The award of a majority of the tribunal so constituted is to be final. In case of pecuniary claims exceeding £100,000, and of other matters which do not involve territorial claims, the treaty provides for their submission to the same tribunal. If its decision is unanimous, it is final. If the decision reached is not unanimous, either party may, within six months of the date of the award, demand a review of the matter, in which case, it is to be submitted to a tribunal composed of five jurists of repute, each party to the dispute choosing two, and the fifth being selected as in the former case. The award of a majority of this tribunal in the matters submitted to it will be final. In the case of controversies arising in which territorial claims are involved, the matter in dispute is to be submitted to a court constituted by the appointment of six eminent jurists, three by each party to the controversy. In this case there is no provision made for an umpire, and a final decision can be reached only if five out of six of the arbitrators agree, or—in case less than five agree—if neither party shall within three months protest that the award is erroneous. It is, however, provided that if the award is protested there shall be no recourse to hostile measures until the mediation of one or more friendly powers shall be invited by one or other of the parties.

The Value of the Treaty. It will be seen that the treaty does not by any means afford a guarantee that all contentions that may arise between the two nations shall be settled by arbitration. In the first place, it is understood that all controversies in which the national honor is involved, shall not be submitted. This was considered important by Lord Salisbury, while, as we understand, those who acted on behalf of the United States did not regard such an exception as necessary. Then, in all contentions in which territorial claims are involved, the treaty makes no provision for an independent umpire, and a final settlement of the dispute will not be reached unless five of the six members of the Court of Arbitration shall agree. Such agreement in cases involving important national interests, is improbable. It would appear, then, that the treaty falls a long way short of making adequate provision for the settling of all difficulties between the two nations by peaceful arbitration. At the same time, there can be no doubt that the

treaty marks a forward movement of great importance in the interests of peace, and men of peace in both nations—both statesmen and the plain people of the land—rejoice in what has been accomplished. If the treaty does not guarantee the peaceful settlement of all controversies between the two nations, it does at least provide for final settlement of all matters, except those involving territorial interests, and in the case of the latter, there will always be the assurance that the matters in dispute will be submitted to the calm and deliberate discussion of a court of arbitration, and that the mediation of friendly powers will be invited, before there shall be any recourse to hostile measures. The knowledge that international controversies must be submitted to this kind of treatment would promote a more tranquil state of the popular mind in regard to them, so that great disturbances of the money market and exasperating situations would be avoided, and counsels born of calmer moods would prevail. What fate the treaty will meet with in the United States Senate is uncertain. Promoting peace with other nations does not appear to be the most congenial employment for that remarkable body. The senate seems likely to take its time in dealing with the treaty, and it may be that no final action in the matter will be taken during the present session. Not unlikely there will be strong opposition to the treaty, but it is hardly probable that the senate will finally refuse to endorse a measure which evidently has so strong a popular support, and on behalf of which the best elements of the nation will be so generally and actively engaged.

Cecil Rhodes. Mr. Cecil Rhodes of South African fame, is on his way to England to answer to his Government for his share in the famous conspiracy of last year, against the Boer Government of the Transvaal. Mr. Harold Frederic, the London correspondent of the New York Times, believes that Mr. Rhodes' arrival will mark the beginning of another period of popular concern about the South African problem. The same correspondent intimates that Mr. Rhodes will be received by the public in a different spirit from that exhibited towards him at the time of his last previous visit to England. Then the public was too confused over the recent disturbances in the Transvaal to know just how to treat Mr. Rhodes. Besides there were influences set at work by those who had pecuniary interests in the South African company to surround Rhodes and Jameson with a halo of patriotism. Mr. Rhodes is doubtless aware of this modification of public opinion. He is a man of masterful and indomitable spirit, and does not know how to bend before the blast. His public conduct, it is certain, has not been determined by a strict regard for righteousness, but he boasts that he has added two million square miles to the British Empire. The ostentatious manner of his leaving South Africa on his return to England, the haughty insolence characterizing his recent speeches in Capetown, and his arrogant attitude towards his official superiors will certainly not win favor for him with the British Government, and hardly with the British public. Whether the name of Cecil Rhodes is still to be a power in South Africa, and perhaps a force inimical to the British Empire, or whether his glory is a thing of the past, are questions which are canvassed with interest. Mr. Rhodes' speech and conduct has intimated only too plainly that if he cannot have his way by the consent of the British Government, he will be willing to lead a revolutionary movement for the establishment of an independent South African republic.

The Dutcher Murder Case.

In the Supreme Court sitting at Dorchester last week, the grand jury found a true bill against John Sullivan, of Moncton, charged with the murder of Mrs. Dutcher and her young son at Meadow Brook, near Moncton, on the night of Sept. tenth, 1896. As we go to press the trial is still in progress. The contention of the Crown, as stated by the Solicitor General, is that on the day preceding the murder Sullivan visited Mrs. Dutcher; that he abstracted the key of the side door; that after midnight he approached the house and, knowing the dog, enticed it towards him; that he then killed the dog and threw it into that which served as a cellar under the building; that he entered the house and went up stairs and entered the bedroom where Mrs. Dutcher and the children were sleeping; that he thought to find where the money was concealed; that Mrs. Dutcher awoke and recognized him by the light from the window; that she got up and some words took place between them and trouble followed; that he struck Mrs. Dutcher into unconsciousness; then he killed the little boy; that prisoner then collected materials for the fire, and took the lamp and set the place on fire to cover up the traces of the crime; that it was probably through fear of discovery that he hastily left and did not take time to find all the money. The most important witness in the case for the Crown, and the only direct evidence against Sullivan, is little Maggie Dutcher, who was sleeping with her mother and brother on the night of the murder, and was very severely injured, apparently by a blow or blows on the head. After hanging for some time between life and death, the little girl has quite recovered and professes to have a clear recollection of what took place on the night in question. Her evidence was given on Saturday, and she distinctly identified Sullivan as the man who struck down her mother, her brother and herself. On cross-examination, her testimony was somewhat confused and contradictory, but on the whole it would seem that the impression made on the court and spectators was that the child had told the truth, and had described, as clearly as could be expected under the circumstances, what she had seen. It should be remembered, however, that the evidence in defence is yet to be presented, and that it may materially alter the present aspect of the case.

—Everyone has heard of circulating libraries but out in the state of Wisconsin they have what may be regarded as a new application of the idea in the "travelling library." As to the details of this educational enterprise we are not informed, but it is said to be undertaken by private citizens with the co-operation of public libraries and is intended for the benefit of the more sparsely settled districts of the country. It would seem quite feasible, by means of railway trains and wagons, to arrange a system of distribution and collection of books, which, under wise Christian management, would place the best literature within reach of all the people. The MESSENGER AND VISITOR has a number of readers in the State of Wisconsin; perhaps some of those friends will give us information in reference to the management of this travelling library. Possibly the plan could be adopted in connection with denominational interests and as a feature of colportage work. For one thing, it would seem that on this plan a regular system of exchange of Sunday school libraries might be arranged.

—We have done the best possible for correspondents this week, but regret that it is necessary to hold over considerable matter to another issue.