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# Messenger and Visitor.

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Vol. XIV.

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No. 31.

**Governor-General.** London cablegrams announce the appointment of the Earl of Minto as Governor-General of Canada in succession to the Earl of Aberdeen. Lord Minto, whose full designation is Gilbert John Elliot-Murray-Kynmound, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund, is son of the third Earl of Minto. The family name is generally given as Elliot, the two other surnames being conventionally dropped. The present Earl was born in 1845 and succeeded to the title in 1891. He married, in 1883, Mary Caroline, daughter of General, the Hon. Charles Grey. Their family consist of three daughters and two sons, the eldest of whom, Lady Eileen Nina Evelyn Sibell, was born in 1884. The Elliots are borderers of Teviotsdale, and Minto, from which the family takes its title, is a little village situated in one of the most picturesque parts of that country. In connection with the family history the names of a number of men appear who have won distinction in arms, in politics or in literature. Lord Minto, who, before he succeeded to the ancestral title, was known as Lord Melgund, distinguished himself in his Eton and Cambridge days in athletic exercises, and at the age of 22 entered upon a military career. He has seen active service in Afghanistan and Egypt, and also took part in the suppression of the Canadian Northwest rebellion as chief of the staff of General Middleton.

**Mr. Goschen's Speech.** The recent speech of Mr. Goschen, British Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons, in which he presented supplementary naval estimates to the amount of \$40,000,000, is said to have created a profound impression. This sum is to provide for the building of four additional battle-ships, four armored cruisers and four torpedo-boat destroyers. Mr. Goschen appears to have been quite frank and explicit in stating the reasons for this additional outlay, which makes the whole sum required for naval construction \$75,000,000. The explanation is that Russia has resolved upon a very material increase to her naval force, involving the construction of four battle-ships, six powerful cruisers and a torpedo flotilla. Great Britain, it was explained, must respond to this movement by the addition to her own fleet of vessels superior to those of Russia. It was explained further that these new ships would be specially built with reference to the passage of the Suez Canal and meeting the Russian fleet in Chinese waters. The Chancellor's speech appears to have been intended as a plain intimation to Russia that Great Britain was determined at all costs to maintain her relative naval superiority among the nations, and that she would not submit to any combination which might be organized with a view to curtailing her commercial interests in Eastern Asia. This speech, says the correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, with the threat to build ship for ship with Russia and France combined, was a more aggressive reply to the occupation of Port Arthur than Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Mr. Chamberlain or anyone else has made.

**Spain and the Carlists.** Apprehension as to what the Carlists may do or attempt, more than any other consideration probably, stands in the way of Spain making peace with the United States. The exiled pretender to the Spanish crown, Don Carlos, and the leaders of his party have all along been eagerly watching the course of events, with a view to taking advantage of any favorable juncture to incite revolution, with the hope of overthrowing the present dynasty and seating the Carlist prince upon the throne. The Carlists are supposed to have considerable

strength in the northern provinces of Spain and the agents of the pretender have been active of late throughout the kingdom, especially in the cities and large towns. Don Carlos is reported to be now at Lucerne, Switzerland, and is supposed to be eagerly watching his opportunity. A number of leading Carlists have recently left Spain, and it is stated that many of them are to be found just beyond the border, in France. But whether their leaving Spain is for the purpose of organizing revolt against the government, or whether it is to escape arrest, is uncertain. The opportunity of Don Carlos and his sympathizers will come, it is believed, if it shall come at all, when the Spanish people are squarely face to face with the humiliation of accepting such terms of peace as the United States government shall propose and which the Spanish government must accept on the alternative of continuing a ruinous and hopeless war.

**"Fed on Lies."** Many good people in the United States are gradually reaching the conclusion that they were badly deceived as to the real conditions existing in Cuba, and especially in respect to the character of the insurgent population of that island. It seemed clear enough from the first to intelligent and cool-headed students of events that self-interest, jingoism and yellow journalism were co-operating, if not combining, in the United States to force the country into a war which the calmer sober sense of the American people would have avoided. It is highly interesting, as the Boston Watchman intimates, to compare, with facts which the invasion of Cuba is bringing to light, statements made before the war in regard to the insurgents by Senators and Representatives on the strength of having spent a few days in Cuba, and in some cases at the expense of journals which were doing their best to foment a war with Spain. "The comparison makes it clear that for a long period the American public was fed on lies,—probably not intentional on the part of the American statesmen, but lies which they learned from men who must have known that they were lying. All trace of the insurgent government has vanished since the war actually commenced, and yet a majority of the United States Senate voted for its recognition. No claim made on behalf of the insurgents, as to their numbers, efficiency or character, has been verified. Even in the Santiago province where the insurgents were supposed to be strongest, they have not produced more than 8,000 men. The opinion of our troops as to these would not bear transcription. Hardly anyone now claims that the insurgents represent the majority of the inhabitants of the island. Yet Senator Proctor was certain that the great bulk of the people were in sympathy with them. Now the excuse is made that we must not expect too much of the insurgents who are ignorant and half civilized, but Senator Proctor declared that the insurgents represented the virtue and intelligence of the island. Many of the young men, he asserted, were graduates of American schools, and he implied we might look forward to the future with confidence, if in the next generation we could hope to reach the high level of civilization attained by the Cuban insurgents."

**The Accident to the Prince.** The recent accident to the Prince of Wales, resulting in a fractured knee-cap, is reported to be somewhat more serious than was at first supposed. It appears that the injury is of such a character that, to avoid a permanent lameness, a surgical operation should have been performed. But the Prince suffers from a weakness of the heart which

renders the use of anæsthetics unsafe, and the delay and jolting involved in bringing him to London so aggravated the fracture that an operation without anæsthetics would have involved a serious risk. It is also stated that the Prince's blood is in an unhealthy condition and that there would be reason to apprehend that blood-poisoning might result from the use of the surgeon's knife. His Royal Highness has of late years become increasingly popular and his affliction has called forth the general sympathy of the people. The great number of public functions at which the Prince is called upon to preside makes a disability of such a nature especially to be regretted.

**Porto Rico.** The discussion of terms of peace now proceeding at Washington is not permitted to interfere with the prosecution of war by the United States. The expedition under General Miles for the conquest of Porto Rico is being pushed with vigor and success. It is not probable that the Spaniards will be able to offer any effective resistance to the combined land and naval forces which the United States has sent against the island. The transports immediately under General Miles' command reached the southwest coast of Porto Rico July 25, and, under the protection of the war-ships, effected a landing at Guanica with little difficulty. The town of Ponce, in the neighborhood of Guanica, has been occupied by General Miles' forces with little or no resistance. This is considered a place of some importance, being connected with San Juan, the capital of the island, some 70 miles distant, by a military road. The most considerable resistance to be encountered by the Americans will no doubt be at San Juan, which is a fortified position of some strength, but is reported to be in a poor position to resist an attack. The city is to be bombarded by an American fleet while on the land side it will be attacked by the American forces led by General Miles.

**Peace Negotiations.** The most important news concerning the war this week is that there appears to be a reasonable hope that the end of it is near. Spain has made overtures for peace. On Tuesday of last week, the French Ambassador at Washington, M. Jules Cambon, by direction of the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented to President McKinley a message from the Spanish government looking to the termination of the war and the settlement of the terms of peace. It is understood that the proposition submitted on behalf of the Spanish government was quite general in terms, being simply a request that negotiations be opened for the purpose of terminating the war, but without formulating or suggesting anything as to the terms on which peace might be established. After prolonged consideration of the subject by President McKinley and his Cabinet, the United States reply to Spain's overture for peace was given to M. Cambon on Saturday afternoon for transmission to the government at Madrid. The terms of peace offered are stated to include the independence of Cuba, the cession of Porto Rico to the United States, the cession of one of the Ladrone Islands as a coaling station, the withdrawal of all Spanish forces from the West Indies and the appointment of a commission to settle the details of the government of the Philippines. There appears to be no mention of a money indemnity. Later despatches intimate that M. Cambon had succeeded in securing some amendment of the terms of peace as given above. What the amendment (if any) is, is not known, but is supposed to relate to the disposition of the Philippines. It is stated that M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, has received from the Spanish government credentials appointing him envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary with complete instructions as to the disposition of Cuba, Porto Rico, the Ladrone, the Philippines, indemnity, armistice, and other questions likely to arise in the course of the negotiations.