

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LX.

Vol. XIV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1898.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME XLIX.

No. 16.

Military Expedition to the Yukon. The Dominion Government has determined to send a military expedition to the Yukon country.

The force, which will be under the command of Lieut. Colonel Evans, will enter the country by the Stickeen river. At the head of Lake Teslyn scows will be constructed, by means of which the journey will be made to Fort Selkirk which is the expedition's objective point. Provision for a year will follow later with the winter outfit. Winter uniform for the men will consist of Mackinaw-cloth tunics and trousers, heavy woollen lined canvas jackets and trousers to keep out the wind and canvas hoods lined with flannel. The expedition, it is stated, will take, in the way of artillery, two Maxim guns, with a large quantity of ammunition, including specially made soft bullets for the shooting of game. The expedition is expected to leave Ottawa for Vancouver on the 25th of this month, picking up fifteen members of the Canadian dragoons in Winnipeg. The force will number about 200 men, of whom fifteen will be from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, fifteen from the R. C. Artillery of B. battery, Kingston; thirty from the R. C. Artillery of the garrison battery of Quebec, and one hundred and forty infantry from the schools of Toronto, London, St. Johns and Fredericton. Four members of the Victorian order of nurses will accompany the expedition. The force is to have its head-quarters at Fort Selkirk, where the Lemon River joins the Yukon, and there barracks will be erected. The men may be divided into several detachments, but the idea of the Government is said to be to have a strong reserve force at a central position in the Yukon country in case of trouble. The police now there will not be withdrawn.

The United States and Cuba. The past week has been one of great excitement in the United States in reference to international affairs.

On Monday, President McKinley submitted to Congress his message on Cuban affairs, which for some time had been awaited with painful suspense. The message reviewed at considerable length the history of the Cuban troubles and the influence of the war upon the interests of the United States. The President declares that Spain's efforts to subdue the colony have ended in hopeless failure, and the only hope of relief and repose from a condition which can no longer be endured lies in the enforced pacification of Cuba. "In the name of humanity," Mr. McKinley concludes, "in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests, which give us the right and the duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop." The message, therefore, asked Congress to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full and final termination of hostilities between the government of Spain and the people of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government, capable of maintaining order, observing its international obligations and insuring peace and tranquillity. And to secure these ends, the message asked that the President be empowered to use the military and naval forces of the United States. Both houses of Congress proceeded without delay to report resolutions in reply to the recommendations of the President. The House resolution, authorizing and directing the President to intervene in the affairs of Cuba to bring about a permanent condition of peace, and authorizing him to employ to that end the land and naval forces of the nation, was passed with but little discussion and by almost a unanimous vote. The resolutions reported to the Senate were of a little more belligerent character. They declared the people of Cuba independent, commanded the government of Spain at once to relinquish its authority in Cuba and withdraw its land and naval

forces from the island and from Cuban waters, and empowered the President to employ the entire land and naval forces of the United States to carry these declarations and commands into effect.

In addition to the resolutions noted above from the Senates' Committee on Foreign Affairs, there was a minority report which added a clause declaring the present revolutionary Government of Cuba entitled to recognition. In the course of the ensuing debate a compromise resolution was offered by Senator Hale covering essentially the same ground as the House resolution. The Senate spent the remainder of the week in discussion of the subject. Some of the oratory was brilliant and most of it was of a bellicose character. A few voices were raised for peace, but the discussion for the most part had reference to a more or less radical kind of intervention in Cuban affairs. Finally on Saturday night the Senate adopted the resolutions reported by its committee with an amendment recognizing the independence of the present Cuban Government. This action of the Senate makes possible prolonged negotiations between the two branches of Congress in the effort to reach a basis of common action. It is possible that another week will thus be spent in discussion and negotiation. The President does not approve of the proposed recognition of the present Cuban Government, and on party grounds, if no other, a majority of the Republicans in Congress are inclined to support him. The matter has therefore taken on somewhat of the character of a party question. The general impression during the past week, among those best qualified to estimate the contingencies of the situation, has been that war is inevitable, and probably this opinion still prevails. But the delay of the United States to act affords a gleam of hope that war may yet be averted. For, whatever result Congress may reach, the delay would seem to be in the interest of peace. It gives Spain opportunity for further consideration and makes it possible for her to receive and act upon advice which may lead to conditions that in the opinion of President McKinley will render intervention on the part of the United States unnecessary. It is quite possible too that the more opportunity is given for the expression of the sober common sense of the American people on the Cuban situation, the more it will appear that the people of the United States are disposed to hesitate before assuming such responsibilities as must be incurred by a war with Spain and a recognition of Cuban independence. It will be more clearly perceived that the fact that the condition of things in Cuba is bad and that Spain has misgoverned her colony, do not afford a sufficient reason for armed intervention. If the United States goes to war with Spain, it makes itself responsible for establishing a far better condition of things in Cuba.

Atbara.

The victory which General Kitchener, with his Anglo-Egyptian army, has recently won over the Dervishes near the Atbara River, some 200 miles below Khartoum, is regarded as highly important and has caused much satisfaction in England. Up to the middle of March, General Kitchener's army was encamped at Berber, forty or fifty miles below the Atbara. Hearing of the approach of the Dervishes, the General who was waiting for that chance to get a blow at the enemy, instead of painfully hunting him in the desert, broke up his encampment and marched to meet the Dervishes at the Atbara fords. About 13,000 men were engaged on the Anglo-Egyptian side. The battle is thought to have completely broken the power of the Khalifa of the Soudan, but no immediate advance on Khartoum and the dervish capital opposite it on the Nile,

Omdurman, is thought likely until after the summer months. The trouble is the transport of food for the British and Egyptian army. The Anglo-Egyptian force consumes not less than 40 tons of food and forage a day, the whole of which has to be brought up from Egypt. A railway has been building behind the army, and brings the supplies most of the way, but it has not yet reached Berber, and the expectation is that no further advance now will be made by General Kitchener until the railway reaches the Atbara, which will take a couple of months yet. After that the intense heat of the summer months will prevent operations, so that Khartoum and Omdurman are not likely to be taken until October.

New Books.

The Christian Gentleman: A Series of Addresses to Young Men, by Louis Albert Banks, D. D. Cloth, 12mo, Price 75 cents. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

Dr. Banks is a preacher and writer who combines vigor with originality, and a new book by him has come to be anticipated with pleasure by a large number of readers. He is master of a clear, forceful, and interesting style, and his method treating Scripture subjects is especially instructive and helpful. The title of the present volume suggests its timely and practical character. It contains a series of addresses delivered to young men in the Association Hall, Cleveland, Ohio, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. The addresses were listened to at the time of their delivery by large and enthusiastic audiences, and evidently had in them messages which gave inspiration and courage to many young men in their attempts to live genuine Christian lives in the midst of the temptations of modern cities. This fact was abundantly testified to by personal word and written letter, and numerous requests were made for the publication of the addresses in permanent form. The addresses are brief, pointed, and eminently practical, on such subjects as the following: "The Christian Gentleman in the Temple of the Human Body," "The Christian Gentleman in the Secret Chambers of His Imagination," "The Christian Gentleman as One of the World's Workers," "The Christian Gentleman in the Pursuit of Ideals," "The Christian Gentleman in His Relation to Women," "The Christian Gentleman with His Friends," "The Christian Gentleman in the Treatment of His Enemies," "The Christian Gentleman in Prosperity," "The Christian Gentleman in Adversity," etc. The addresses abound in incidents and illustrations, and can not fail to prove helpful to all whose work brings them into contact with young men. The book is neatly bound in cloth, and sells for the moderate price of 75 cents.

Arrows for the King's Archers. Analytic Outline Addresses upon Religious, Temperance and Social Topics. By the Rev. Henry W. Little, D. D., author of "What Shall I Say?" 12mo, cloth, \$1.00. Published by Thomas Whittaker, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York.

The title of this book is suggestive of its contents. It is a series of analytic outline addresses upon religious, temperance and social topics, with several courses of addresses for special sessions. The volume is designed for the use of busy and overworked ministers, lay-readers, teachers and other Christian workers. The author has published a somewhat similar volume under the title, "What Shall I Say?" of which, we are told, three large editions have been sold. The purpose of the book is to suggest ideas on subjects for short sermons and addresses in the smallest compass, and in the simplest form possible.

The author holds that it is the duty of every speaker to be plain—to be thoroughly understood; that, in imparting religious instruction in any form, whether in the pulpit, on the platform or in the class room, the three great departments of the work of the church in the world—(1) the defence of the faith; (2) the exposition of the faith; (3) the maintenance of the moral purity and rectitude of society—are best helped by direct, robust and plain teachings upon the fundamental doctrines of the Gospels. There is an appendix containing seventy-eight facts and anecdotes to illustrate the addresses.

If any minister wants this kind of book, this is probably about the kind of book he will want. We are inclined to think, however, that he would better invest his money in another kind of book. A man who is worthy to be a public teacher of truth will hardly regard it as a compliment or a kindness when one offers to save him the trouble of thinking for himself.