

Messenger and Visitor.

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Russia and its Students. From the manner in which Russian Government is dealing with the students of its Universities, it appears evident that its autocratic spirit is not less pronounced than of old. Naturally the radical element of the country influences especially the minds of the students, and the Universities become, as they were last winter, scenes of disturbance and centres of revolutionary influence. With a view to directing the exuberant intellectual forces of the students into non-political channels, it is stated that the Russian Minister of Education has recommended the employment of the students in practical and useful matters under the direction of the professors, the erection of residential quarters under the special auspices of the Government and the establishment of literary and scientific clubs for the students. So much in the way of encouragement to the students to exercise their minds upon questions other than those of politics and government. But if they persist in concerning themselves with such matters, so that disorders are created or instigated, then the iron hand of the autoeracy will take hold upon them and such students will be forcibly drafted into the army for a period of service from one to three years, as may be determined by the authorities of the University or College, assisted by a delegation from the departments of War, Justice and the Interior. In this case no "benefit of clergy" is to be recognized. The privileges ordinarily exempting men of high class education from service in the army will not be considered. Even those students who have left the universities, if it appear that there is on their part a concerted purpose not to pursue their studies, are to be made subject to the law of conscription.

Dreyfus and France. In the light of the reports of the progress of the Dreyfus trial, which during its progress were furnished daily by the cabled despatches, and on the supposition that the judges were actuated by a desire to do justice, the verdict reached seems remarkable indeed. In one sense, however, it can hardly be called surprising, since the despatches had indicated that it was a foregone conclusion that the verdict must be unfavorable to the prisoner. It is to be considered certainly that the reports furnished in the despatches which have come to this country cover a comparatively small part of the proceedings connected with the trial. These reports were sent out by correspondents prejudiced in favor of Dreyfus and in order to catch the ear of people who had a similar prepossession. It is quite possible, therefore, that the whole evidence, if it were before us as it was before the court-martial at Rennes, would place the matter in quite a different light from that in which we have seen it through the medium of the despatches. The responsible and able correspondent of the 'London Daily Mail' is quoted as stating that the members of the court-martial have been thoroughly impartial in their bearing and conduct in the case, and that the evidence has seemed to him to be such as to make a verdict either way possible. If such is the case, and the opinion of such a correspondent must be allowed to have much weight, then the prevailing anti-Dreyfus feeling among the people of France is more easily understood. Some things, however, have occurred in connection with the case—such as the confessed forgeries and suicide of Colonel Henry, and the attempted assassination of Maitre Labori—which seem to make the conclusion inevitable that, whether or not Dreyfus was innocent of the charge of having betrayed the military secrets of the nation, there were some in high places in the army who

were not innocent. The guilt of others might not indeed mean the innocence of Dreyfus, but from this distance it does not appear that his being declared guilty relieves certain of Dreyfus' superiors of the strong suspicion of having trafficked upon the honor of the nation. It is not strange, under the circumstances, that men who have been guilty of the basest treachery should wish to make the hated Jew a scape-goat for their own sins, but it is strange indeed if the Government and the people of France are willing to accept such an atonement. The English pulpit has rung with denunciations of the verdict against Dreyfus and the English press appears to be almost unanimous in the same view. 'The Times' does not hesitate to pronounce it the grossest and the most appalling prostitution of justice the world has witnessed in modern times. A London despatch says: "With the exception of Jesuit organs and some anti-semitic, the press of the world is ringing with execrations. Even the Russian press joins in the chorus. The judges are everywhere described as criminals and gloomy speculations are indulged in as to what the future has in store for France. The German press is especially indignant. The National Zeitung remarks that 'even the worst enemy of France could not have wished what has happened.'"

Cornelius Vanderbilt. Great wealth enables a man to build a lordly mansion for himself and to do many other things which secure for him consideration and respect in the eyes of his fellowmen. But wealth will not purchase exemption from disease and death; and so it has come to pass, during the past week, that to a palatial residence in New York City, said to be the finest house in all the country, that pale messenger which with equal foot visits hut and palace has come with an imperative summons to the man of many millions to go and stand where the rich and the poor come together on terms of strict equality. Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, who died on Tuesday morning last at his Fifth Avenue home, was born in 1843. At that time his father, Wm. H. Vanderbilt, was a farmer living at New Dorp, and his grandfather, Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, had hardly done more than lay the foundations of his great fortune. As a young man Cornelius Vanderbilt manifested a spirit of self-reliance and so much energy and ability that his grandfather, the Commodore, was glad to give him a position in connection with his increasing railroad business. At twenty-two he was made treasurer of the New York and Harlem Railway. In 1877 he became vice-president of the New York Central. In 1883, at the retirement of his father, he became chairman of the Board of Directors of the New York Central and Michigan Central Railways, and since then had stood at the head of the great Vanderbilt system. Mr. Vanderbilt added largely to the fortune inherited from his father and grandfather, his wealth is vaguely estimated at from one hundred to two hundred million dollars. He was a religious man, a devout member of St. Bartholomews' (Episcopal) church. He is said to have been a liberal supporter of religious and charitable enterprises, and also generously aided educational institutions, especially in the line of Art and Natural History. A director in more than thirty railway corporations, Mr. Vanderbilt was necessarily a very busy man. His mind worked rapidly and with precision, and he dealt with important matters with wonderful celerity and keenness of judgment. He is spoken of as a considerate man whose sympathies were easily won by worthy philanthropic enterprises. Although liberal in his giving, he gave judiciously and only through recognized and well organized channels. Mr. Vanderbilt devoted much time and a share of his wealth to the advancement of the interests of his employees, by whom, it is said, he was held in the greatest affection.

Jerry Simpson and His Jokes. Jerry Simpson, the Kansas Congressman and distinguished exponent of populist doctrines in politics, is in poor health, and it is said he has aged

rapidly of late. A Kansas City paper says: "Simpson is a very sick man and has cancelled a number of speech-making dates to go to Washington and have an operation performed. His illness is caused, he says, by many years of drinking the alkali and gypsum waters of his native country." But Mr. Simpson is not yet past telling a good story and enjoying a joke. Some of his stories have to do with his experience in Congress, and of these the following seem to be worth repeating:

"There were several old fellows in Congress I used to like to get a joke on," he said, "and one of these was Cannon of Illinois. I had made an anti-expansion speech, and Cannon got up and said that if I had made that speech in Manila I would have been tried by a drumhead court-martial and shot. When he had finished I got up and said that I would just as soon be shot in Manila for making a speech of that kind as to be shot in Congress by an old smooth-bore, brass Cannon from Illinois. Tom Reed enjoyed that very much, and he shook all over with suppressed laughter. He came up to me afterward and said: 'That was all right, Jerry. I forgive you a lot of things for that.'"

"About that Dingley hat episode. It was not I who discovered Dingley's hat; it was a Republican member. Dingley used to wear a fine plug hat that was a regular 'cloud of smoke by day and a pillar of fire by night.' The Populists used to take a shot at it every once in a while. When he was in the House Dingley always kept it sitting on the corner of his desk. One day a Republican happened to look into it, and said to me, 'Jerry, go over and look in Dingley's hat.' I did so, but didn't find any eggs or anything, and said so. I was told to look again. Then I saw the word 'London,' and called into Dingley, the high priest of protection, for wearing a London-made hat. I was in a fuss, but Dingley took the matter very seriously, and spluttered and fumed, and said 'It's all rot.' That hat was made in Connecticut, and the London was put in it to catch the dudes." Then I said, 'Well, I caught a dude from Maine with it.' He would not speak to me for a month on that account, but one day I went up to him and said: 'See here, Dingley, how much longer are you going to sulk about that old hat business?' and he laughed and put out his hand, and we became good friends again. Reed enjoyed this joke on Dingley immensely. He knew it was a joke, and that his fellow-statesman had simply been tripped up."

Our Exhibitions. The St. John exhibition which has been in progress during the past week has compared very favorably with those of preceding years, and if the fine weather which has ruled during the first seven days shall continue to the close, the attendance will probably exceed that of any exhibition of recent years in the city. The exhibits of the main building, while presenting many attractions, are neither more numerous nor attractive than those of other years. The space in the carriage building is well occupied and the exhibits in that department appear to be fully up to the average. We observe that several of the carriages exhibited are fitted with rubber tires. In the Agricultural Hall there is much to interest. The exhibit of fruit—especially of apples—is certainly far below what might be expected, considering the products and resources of the Maritime Provinces in the fruit growing industry. There are sections of this province in which the people might with great advantage turn their attention to the raising of apples for the English market. The show of live stock, both in extent and excellence, is considered to surpass that of previous years. The leading varieties of neat stock,—Durmams, Herefords, Jerseys, Ayrshires, Polled Angus, Galloway, Holstein, etc., were well represented. There was also a good show of pigs, and the poultry show was very fine. The show of horses was also, we believe, ahead of any other year. The French Coach horses from the Sanborn stock farm, Lewiston, Me., added much to the attractions of this department and were worthy of the admiration they received. The Halifax exhibition opens on the 23rd inst., and will doubtless compare very favorably with that of the sister and rival city. As an important military and naval station, Halifax has advantages over any other Canadian city in regard to providing the spectacular features which are coming to be considered an indispensable adjunct to our exhibitions. Last year, because of unfavorable weather, the Halifax fair was not financially successful. It is to be hoped that this year the skies may be propitious, so that financially and in other respects the anticipations of its promoters may be realized.