

# Messenger and Visitor.

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**Not Infectious.** Mr. Andrew Carnegie's philanthropic invasion of Great Britain has caused almost as much of a sensation as the commercial invasion by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. His munificent benefactions in the interest of the people of his native land, including an investment of \$10,000,000 to secure free tuition at college for all the young people of Scotland who are otherwise able to take a college course, have led British newspapers to compare the American Croesus with the multimillionaires of the motherland in terms that are not flattering to the latter, and they have been vainly calling upon the men of great wealth in Britain to emulate the truly edifying example of Mr. Carnegie's generosity. "Sir Henry Roscoe's article in the Monthly Review," says Mr. I. N. Ford, "giving a list of nine American Universities endowed with various large sums by single individuals, has attracted a lot of notice. In contrast it is pointed out that although the Duke of Devonshire, as Chancellor of Cambridge University not long ago asked for £500,000 to revive the work of that great institution which has been hit so hard by the agricultural depression, a good deal less than half the sum required has been obtained."

**The Phillips Brooks House.** The erection of a Phillips Brooks House in the Harvard grounds beside the old Hollis and Holywell Halls most suitably and worthily commemorates the memory of a man who in largeness of mind and in greatness of soul stands among the most eminent in the long list of Harvard's alumni. The House is used in part to furnish accommodation for undergraduate religious societies and other philanthropic associations, four such societies having permanent quarters in the building. The "Brooks Parlor" on the ground floor is used for social gatherings; the professors' wives for instance, have afternoon teas there for the undergraduates, and there the latter may receive their visitors. There is also a "Study" with books and writing tables and a little hall for formal meetings named after a man whom many generations of Harvard students revere—the late Dr. Andrew Preston Peabody. In the large vestibule of the House is placed a bust of Bishop Brooks and over it is the inscription: THIS HOUSE IS DEDICATED TO PIETY, CHARITY AND HOSPITALITY IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF PHILLIPS BROOKS. Another inscription gives in brief outline the events of the Bishop's life and a third inscription characterizes him thus: "Majestic in stature, impetuous in utterance, rejoicing in the truth, unhampered by bonds of church or station, he brought by his life and doctrine fresh faith to a people, fresh meaning to ancient creeds. To this university he gave constant love, large service, high example."

**An Improved Storage-Battery.** Mr. Thomas A. Edison has invented a new storage battery, and if the expectations of Mr. Edison and other electrical experts as to the successful working of the battery shall be realized, his invention is destined to create quite a revolution in the world of machinery and especially of locomotive machinery, since it will solve the problem of applying electricity profitably to the propelling of vehicles and boats and so revolutionize road and water traffic. The insuperable objection to the storage battery hitherto in use, as a source of power for locomotion, has been the great weight of the battery. The battery which Mr. Edison has invented is comparatively light, and is also an improvement on the old in that it does not manifest the same tendency to rapid deterioration, as well as in some other respects. The inventor considers that his experiments with the new battery have demonstrated its practicability and great value. The lightness and other advantages claimed for the new battery are said to have been secured by the use of iron and nickel-oxide plates in a solution of potash instead of the old-time lead zinc and sulphuric acid process. The Electrical Review is of opinion that Mr. Edison has produced nothing of broader utility in the electrical field since his invention of incandescent lighting. "It is hard," says the Review, "to foresee all the meaning of the improvement. But we may look a little way and see the noiseless city, the suppression

of the horse, and the automobile a factor of economic importance in general transportation. The perfected battery means the solution of many difficult traction problems, the betterment of electric lighting and the foundation of the new art of electric navigation. Electric tugboats will give new life to our canals, and with electric ferry-boats will revolutionize our harbors. Electric torpedo boats of swiftness and secrecy will make present naval armaments of doubtful protection. The invention gives electricity a new foothold in its career of industrial conquest."

**Home for a Rest.** Sir Alfred Milner upon his recent arrival in England from South Africa received a warm welcome from the municipal authorities at Southampton, where he landed, and a still more distinguished welcome when he reached London. Among those who greeted him on the railway platform were Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Balfour and other members of the Government, with Lord Roberts and other persons of distinction. The King has also recognized Sir Alfred Milner's services as High Commissioner in South Africa by raising him to the peerage. The High Commissioner declares himself to be much benefited by the sea voyage, but says that he has come home to rest and not to make speeches. His appearance is said to give evidence of overwork. He looks careworn and distinctly older than when he left England. This is easily credible, for the post which Sir Alfred Milner—or as we must now say Lord Milner—has been filling in South Africa is no sinecure. There can be few men in the Empire upon whom the burdens and responsibilities of government have rested more heavily. If he is to go back to South Africa to endeavor to complete the work of reorganization, as it seems to be understood he will, there are none of the King's ministers who will need more wisdom and who will more deserve sympathy in a statesmanlike effort to bring order and prosperity out of the sad condition of disturbance and ruin which now prevail and which, one cannot help thinking, could have been avoided if all who in the past have undertaken to serve the interests of Great Britain in South Africa had been inspired with an eminent degree of wisdom and honesty.

**The Spade in Chinese Turkestan.** The archaeologist is busy in these days in many places, unearthing the records and the works of long buried civilizations. With what the spade has done in bringing to light the ancient things of Greece and Rome, Egypt, Phoenicia, Arabia, Assyria and Babylonia we are more or less familiar. And now we hear that in the country known as Chinese Turkestan, in the very heart of Asia, the spade is at work rescuing from beneath the accumulated sand of centuries things of great interest in connection with archaeological studies. That country which is now a vast expanse of sand dunes, and during a great portion of the year the scene of raging sand storms, was once the site of a flourishing civilization which was overwhelmed by the sand probably eighteen or nineteen centuries ago. Under the direction and at the expense of the Government of India a systematic exploration of the cities of this now desolate land are being carried forward. The results which have been so far obtained are said to establish the belief long entertained that the old civilization of Turkestan was partly at least of Indian origin. The excavations have been chiefly among ancient Buddhist shrines, and the records and objects secured principally of a religious character. At one place wooden houses and Buddhist monasteries have been found, situated amid orchards and avenues of trees the trunks of which still remain in the ground. Here have been brought to light great numbers of documents, as well as works of art, household objects and antiquities of various kinds. A large number of inscribed wooden tablets have been recovered, the contents of which appear to be correspondence of both a private and official character, and it seems quite possible that from this source may be gained an interesting glimpse of ancient life, similar to that which the papyrus of Egypt have recently afforded. In some cases the original clay seals by which the authenticity of the documents was attested and the very string by which they were fastened have been found intact, and the art of the seals is said to bear traces of Greco-Roman influence. There can

be no doubt, the London Times thinks, that these discoveries will prove to be of the utmost interest for the early history of Central Asia. Much patient work in deciphering will have to be accomplished before their evidence is available, but there is at least a reasonable hope that, when this is done, we shall have discovered some at least of the outlines of a lost chapter in the history of mankind.

**The Mount Allison Schools.** During the past week the Mount Allison Institutions have been holding their anniversary exercises, and judging by the published reports of the proceedings the year must have been in most respects a very successful one. The work for the education of young women continues, as in the past, to occupy a large and important place in Mount Allison's educational programme. Our Methodist friends well understand the important bearing of this work upon the homes of the people for the present and the coming generations, and its consequent relation to the establishment and the development of Methodism in the country. The anniversary exercises of the Ladies' College took place on Monday evening of last week, in the presence of a large and deeply interested audience. There were five graduates in Arts and five in music. In speaking of the year's work Principal Borden said the year had been in some respects the most eventful in the history of the institution. The attendance had over-taxed the capacity of the building. The total registration for the year was 210. Of those enrolled 138 had been in residence. As to studies, 161 of the students had been engaged in literary work, 169 in Conservatory and 53 in Arts. Dr. Borden referred to the great loss sustained by the college in the death of Mrs. Archibald, and paid a feeling tribute to her worth. One of the incidents of the anniversary day was the presentation by one of the fair essayists of a promise on behalf of the class of a subscription of \$25 toward a new building. Dr. Borden expressed the hope that steps would shortly be taken to supply the urgent needs of the school in that direction. Plans which would shortly be submitted to the Board of Regents had been prepared for a new wing to the present building, which would furnish accommodation for fifty students at the cost of about \$25,000.—The attendance at the Academy and Commercial College has been much smaller than at the Seminary. The registration was 115, which is the largest for some years. Principal Palmer reports a successful year and is encouraged in reference to the work of the school, especially that of the commercial department. The Mount Allison Academy, like other institutions of its class, feels the competition of the increasing number of good high schools connected with the public school system.—The College graduates this year a class of sixteen, of whom three are ladies. The M. A. degree in course was also conferred on four candidates. President Allison was able to speak in very encouraging terms of the work of the year. The number of unusually bright young men and women among the students was above the average. There had been no serious illness. The College had been this year enjoying the fine new residence building. But Mount Allison, like every other College that is alive to its opportunities for growth, needs more money. The President alluded to the death, during the year, of four graduates of the College, one of whom, Lieut. Harold Borden, had given his life in the service of the Empire in South Africa. It was proposed, Dr. Allison said, to commemorate Lieut. Borden's death by the erection of a memorial tablet.—At a meeting of the Board of Regents, following the closing exercises, it was decided to establish on a permanent basis the Chair of New Testament Greek and Church History in connection with the Theological department of the College, and Rev. Dr. Paisley was appointed to the professorship. The generous offer of Lieut. Governor McClelan of \$5,000 toward a manual training school, conditional on an equal sum being raised from other sources, was gratefully accepted. In view of the large expenditure of recent years in building operations, it was judged expedient not to undertake for the present the erection of the proposed new wing to the Seminary building. Temporary provision will accordingly be made for the needs of the school. The retirement of Rev. Dr. Brecken from the teaching staff of the College, on account of ill health, is announced.