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THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
VOLUME LIX.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME XLVIII.

Vol. XII, No. 80.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1896.

—CHICAGO aims to have the highest structure in the world. It is to be 1,500 feet in height with a base of 300 feet square. It is to be called the City Tower and is to be built by a company with a capital of \$800,000. The project is based on business principles it is said, and the projectors of it intend to equip the tower with a theatre, restaurants, search lights and a telescope.

—GREAT excitement was caused in Paris on Tuesday last week by a supposed attempt upon the life of M. Faure, President of France. As the President was entering the grounds at Long Champ for the purpose of reviewing the troops a man standing near him fired a revolver. The man was immediately seized and disarmed. He declares that he fired with only a blank cartridge and without any designs upon the life of the President. The man's story appears to be generally credited.

—THERE has been, at least, one convention in which no one's critical ear was vexed with noisy declamation. It was that of the Deaf and Dumb people, held recently in Philadelphia. Such a convention would be a nice place, too, for the deaf people to go to, who find it necessary to get together in twos and threes and discuss side issues in an undertone, for they could discuss to their hearts content wit out disturbing the meeting or putting the chairman out of temper.

—"REST in work," says the *Sunday School Times*, "is better than rest from work. Rest from work is mere inaction. There is no real gain in that. One gets tired in it, if not of it. But rest in work is refreshing. One gains strength and power as he works while thus resting. The rest which Jesus gives to those who seek it in His service is rest under His yoke, not rest away from it. Not until the believer is doing more than now can he have refreshing rest in work. A Christian's rest is found under the yoke and in the trow."

—In publishing Mr. King's article on "Church and State" we may be permitted to doubt the wisdom of reopening now a discussion of the Manitoba School question. We are not prepared to admit the validity of our correspondent's line of argument, but our views on this subject were presented somewhat fully some months ago and at present we do not propose to go into another discussion of the subject. The resolution of the Western Association is no doubt open to criticism as to its form, but Mr. King has probably got a pretty good inkling of its meaning.

—The timely rains and warm weather of the past week have caused vegetation in this part of the county to advance rapidly. There have been heavy thunder storms and some destruction of life and property are reported from this cause. On Monday evening of last week a violent rain storm, accompanied with high wind and thunder and lightning, swept over a part of New Brunswick. In the vicinity of Quispamsis station on the I. C. R., a heavy hail storm was experienced. Hailstones of an unusual size fell, breaking the windows of houses and of the railway cars and causing considerable damage to crops. Fortunately the hailstorm seems not to have extended over any wide area of country.

—A WASHINGTON despatch says that a further step was taken by Great Britain and the United States several days ago in the matter of the consideration of British claims against the latter country for seizures in previous years in Behring sea. The treaty providing for a joint commission of two to adjust these claims provides, in addition to one representative on the part of each government, for a third commissioner in the event that the two original commissioners fail to agree. The British government selected Hon. George E. King, one of the justices of the supreme court of Canada. The United States commissioner is Judge William L. Putnam. The commissioners will meet at Victoria, B. C., probably not until next autumn.

—The death of Ex-Governor Wm. E. Russell, of Massachusetts, occurred at St. Adelaide de Pabon, Province of Quebec, during the night of July 15. Mr. Russell, accompanied by his brother and another friend, had gone from Boston to St. Adelaide for a few days fishing. They were tenting, and when they retired in the evening Mr. Russell was apparently in good health, but when his companions tried to arouse him in the morning they discovered that he was dead. His death, which is supposed to have resulted from heart disease, had apparently been painless and without a struggle. Mr. Russell had seemed to be in excellent health, it is said. He had been in attendance at the Chicago Democratic Convention, but, excepting that he was fatigued by the strain of the Convention, was apparently in good physical condition.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE new Government under the leadership of Mr. Laurier, according to the official announcement, is composed as follows:

Hon. Mr. Laurier, Premier and President of Council.
Sir Oliver Mowat, Minister of Justice.
Sir Richard Cartwright, Trade and Commerce.
Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance.
Hon. Mr. Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries.
Hon. A. G. Blair—Minister of Railways and Canals.

Mr. J. I. Tarte—Minister of Public Works.
Mr. Mulock—Postmaster General.
Mr. Fisher—Minister of Agriculture.
Mr. Wm. Paterson, Controller of Customs.

Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere, Controller of Inland Revenue.
Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia.
Senator Scott, Secretary of State.
Chas. Fitzpatrick, Solicitor General.
Without portfolio, Mr. R. R. Dobbell and Mr. C. A. Geoffrion.

The portfolio of Interior will be reserved for a western man.
Mr. Laurier authorizes the statement that the controlships will be abolished and full cabinet rank returned to the heads of customs and inland revenue.

Of the seventeen, seven are from Quebec province, but two of them—Messrs. Dobbell and Geoffrion—are without portfolios and the Solicitor General is not, we believe, a member of the cabinet. Five are from Ontario, two from Nova Scotia, one each from New Brunswick and P. E. Island and one to be named from the west, probably from Manitoba. Three of the Quebec representatives in the government—Messrs. Joly, Dobbell and Fisher—are Protestants. Two of the members from the province are without office, still it rather looks as if Quebec was receiving the lion's share, especially as New Brunswick has but one representative in the government and British Columbia will have none. Some reduction in the number of portfolios was perhaps to have been expected in view of the principles of economy advocated by the late opposition, and there is evidence that reform in this direction would be acceptable in Liberal quarters as well as by the country in general. Thus the *Montreal Witness* says: "We could wish that Mr. Laurier had seen his way to cut down the number of the cabinet ministers somewhat." The *St. John Globe*, while approving the proposal to bring up the Controllers of Customs and of Inland Revenue to the full dignity of cabinet ministers, says, "but it will be difficult to satisfy the country that a Minister of Finance and a Minister of Trade and Commerce, a Minister of Customs and a Minister of Inland Revenue are necessary, the four of whom deal with matters which have so near a relation to each other that one man, with a good deputy and an efficient secretary or two, might discharge them all." The men from Ontario in the new administration—Mowat, Cartwright, Paterson, Mulock and Scott,—the latter the author of that important piece of temperance legislation which bears his name—would seem to be fairly representative of the party's strength in that province. The Maritime Provinces, as was to be expected, furnish the new government with some of its best blood. Messrs. Fielding, Blair and Davies are public men of large experience and ability. As regards the filling of the cabinet positions which have fallen to Quebec, it may be said that Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere is a gentleman of recognized ability and high character, a French Protestant of Huguenot descent and a man of experience in public affairs. As regards Messrs. Fisher, Fitzpatrick, Geoffrion and Dobbell, we know of no reason why they may not be expected to fill honorably the positions assigned them in connection with the administration. Probably the instance in which Mr. Laurier's choice is most open to criticism is the selection of Mr. J. Israel Tarte for the portfolio of Public Works. This, as one of the great spending departments of the government, should be controlled by a minister in whose wisdom and honesty his party and the country generally can feel a great degree of confidence, and it will seem to many that Mr. Tarte's history has hardly been such as to justify a very strong feeling of that kind in his case. The *Montreal Witness* says of Mr. Tarte:

"Whether as an Ultramontane, a champion of his race and province, a Conservative campaign fund manager; a denouncer of administrative corruption within his own party, a pronounced Liberal and a firm though respectful opponent of ultramontanism in politics, his great influence has had to be counted with by successive governments and the great parties. His talents and influence has been thrown frankly on the side of right for some years, and great things may be expected of him."

This conclusion may be quite literally correct, though just what things are to be expected of a man of so versatile powers one might not care to predict. Considering Mr. Laurier's cabinet, however, in its entirety it is evident that it includes a large number of men of high character and eminent ability and must be regarded, we think, as giving promise of a strong administration. Mr. Laurier enters upon his new career as premier under what may be regarded as very favorable conditions. He appears to enjoy in a marked degree the good will and confidence of all elements in his own party, and, unless it be among the Ultramontanes of his own province, it cannot be said that, anywhere or by the people of any party, he is cordially disliked. Perhaps the worst thing his political opponents venture to say about him is that he has not the strength which he will need in his position of leadership to resist successfully and hold in check the baser elements in his party. That, however, remains to be seen.

THE earthquake and consequent flooding of the country in Northern Japan which occurred on June 10th, was a disaster of vast extent and tremendous in its destruction of human life. The Tokyo correspondent of the United Press, describing the destruction wrought by the seismic wave, says that at 8:30 o'clock in the evening the wave struck the north-east coast of the main island throughout a distance of about 200 miles, and in five minutes 80,000 people were killed, 7,000 injured and 12,000 houses destroyed. From the island of Kinko San, on the south to Hachinoe on the north the coast of Rikkuen and Rikkuen provinces assumes a convex shape. Throughout the whole of this bow-like area nearly every town and village was visited by the wave.

There is much difficulty in obtaining accurate statements as to the phenomenon. Some accounts are given of the noise of a creaking gate; others suppose that a huge school of sardines had reached the shore. Only a very few supposed the real significance of the sound and fled inland as the top of the great wave. Rapidly the noise increased until it assumed the volume and deafening din of a great park of artillery, and then in a moment waves from 20 to 30 feet high were thundering against the shore.

Of the three prefectures visited by the wave, Iwate had by far the largest aggregate of disasters, its list of dead amounting to 26,000. At Kaimi, a little seaside town, three avalanches of water rushed forward, and in less than two minutes the town was virtually annihilated. One of 1223 dwellings only 148 remained standing, and out of a population of 6,556, death had overtaken 4,700, and 500 lay wounded. In completeness of destruction this record was, Iwate had by far the largest aggregate of disasters, its list of dead amounting to 26,000. At Kaimi, a little seaside town, three avalanches of water rushed forward, and in less than two minutes the town was virtually annihilated. One of 1223 dwellings only 148 remained standing, and out of a population of 6,556, death had overtaken 4,700, and 500 lay wounded. In completeness of destruction this record was, Iwate had by far the largest aggregate of disasters, its list of dead amounting to 26,000. 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