

# Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LXI.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,  
VOLUME I.

Vol. XV.

ST JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1899.

No. 52.

**Agriculture and Horticulture.** A contribution to the discussion of the proposition for the establishment of a Maritime School of Technology has been made by Mr. Ralph S. Eaton, of Cornwallis, N. S., in an article recently published in some of the daily papers. Mr. Eaton is a practical orchardist, a leading member of the N. S. Fruit-growers' Association, and one who takes a deep interest in the promotion of the agricultural and horticultural interests of the country. As might be expected, therefore, he strongly favors the establishment of such an institution as has been proposed for the better encouragement of those industries in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Eaton's particular purpose in the article mentioned is evidently to set forth the claims of Kings County, N. S. and the vicinity of the town of Kentville as the place for the location of the proposed institution. This question of location is one upon which difference of opinion may be expected, and diverse influences may operate. If the proposed scheme shall take shape, the location of the school must necessarily be in one or other of the three Provinces, and it would seem that the general interests would best be served by seeking the place where conditions are most favorable, without reference to provincial lines. So far as the general interests of agriculture are concerned—the growing of grains, grasses, vegetables, etc., and the raising of stock—there are no doubt many places which might compete for the location of the school on favorable terms with Kings County, N. S. But considering the interests of horticulture, there can be no doubt that Mr. Eaton's county possesses very important advantages. The soil has a natural adaptability for the culture of all kinds of fruit—unsurpassed and probably unequalled in the Maritime Provinces. Fruit culture is in a much more advanced state there than elsewhere. The evidence of what can be done in horticulture under favorable conditions in this country are abundant there, and this practical illustration, constantly before the student's eye, would be scarcely less educative than the instruction given in the school. The study of horticulture, and especially in its reference to the growing of apples, would be of great importance to this Maritime country, and to no part of it more than to New Brunswick. There are, of course, large parts of the country which are not adapted to apple culture and in which the expectation of such results as are obtained in the Cornwallis and Annapolis valleys would prove futile. But there are in New Brunswick very considerable tracts of country where the conditions for apple culture are excellent. In some parts of the country, especially in Carleton County, considerable quantities of apples are now raised. These are of excellent quality, but are generally soft fruit which must be marketed at once, and, generally speaking, the results of apple culture in the Province have so far been insignificant because of lack of knowledge and lack of interest in the subject. When the people of New Brunswick shall come to understand the capabilities of the Province for fruit-growing, and when a practical knowledge of horticulture shall be applied to the production of apples for the English market, the results we believe will be surprising. If many of our young men should turn their attention to the study and practice of horticulture here in New Brunswick, it would yield them better returns than the search for fortune in other lands.

**The Philippines** The United States forces have so far succeeded in the conquest of Luzon, the principal island of the Philippine group, that Aguinaldo's army and government have dis-

appeared. This, however, does not mean that resistance on the part of the natives to United States authority is at an end. On the contrary the country is full of armed bands, which are keeping up a vigorous guerilla warfare against the Americans. A despatch from Manila states that these bands for the most part succeed in dodging the American troops. They devote their energies to ambushing commissary wagons and to picking up soldiers who leave their companies. Every day some wagon train is fired on or some soldier disappears. Frequently towns are raided and looted by these guerilla bands. Their policy is to make the county uninhabitable for the Americans and to frighten the natives into refraining from giving them any assistance. It is published from Hong Kong that the Filipino army is being split up into small bands, the troops taking an oath before separating that they will fight until their country's rights are recognized.

**Canada's Second Contingent.** The prospect that the war in South Africa must be prolonged and the necessity of strongly reinforcing the British forces there have led the Imperial Government to accept Canada's offer of a second contingent, which is to be recruited and sent forward as soon as practicable. The first contingent sent consisted entirely of infantry. It was understood that this was the preference of the Imperial authorities. Besides, such a force could be more speedily recruited and more easily forwarded than cavalry and could be made more generally representative of the whole Dominion, a point which was considered to be of importance. The progress of the war has, however, made evident the need of an increased force of mounted troops and artillery, and in accordance with the desire of the Imperial Government, the force now to be forwarded by Canada will be of that character. It is stated that the contingent will comprise 1,044 men. There will be three squadrons of mounted rifles numbering 530, of which one half will be from the Northwest Mounted Police, or of men who have served in that body, and the other half will be recruited from the cavalry corps and dragoons throughout the Dominion, and from good shots and riders wherever they are to be found. Of the artillery there will be three field batteries, the strength of each being 171 men—513 in all with 393 horses. The artillery is to be taken from the field batteries all over the Dominion. The training which the men of the Mounted Police have had should fit them well for the South African service, and it is expected that they will be able to furnish horses well trained and fitted for the work required of them. It is understood that preparations are being pushed forward with the utmost diligence, and it is expected that Canada's second contingent will be ready to sail by the middle of January. Two steamers will be required to convey the men with their horses and artillery to their destination.

**Roberts and Kitchener.** The appointment of General Lord Roberts as Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in South Africa is as strong an assurance as the Government could give of its determination to place the direction of the campaign in the most competent hands possible. General Roberts is about sixty-eight years of age and has seen nearly fifty years of service in the army. As a young man he fought bravely in the war of the Indian Mutiny, and his experience and reputation as a soldier and commander have been won through long and faithful service in Indian and Afghan campaigns. Early in his career his personal bravery won him the Victoria Cross. General Roberts' famous march in 1880, with a picked force of 9,000 men, from Cabul to Candahar, in 20 days, and his defeat of Ayoob Khan, won for him enduring fame and high honors. In 1892 he was created a peer under the title of Lord Roberts, Baron Candahar and Waterford. It must be with a sad heart that the old warrior at the call of his country now sets out for South Africa,

for his only son, Lieut. F. H. S. Roberts, fell mortally wounded in the disastrous battle of Tugela River on the 15th inst. Baron Roberts' chief of staff will be Lord Kitchener, whose successful conduct of the late war in the Sudan has given evidence of strong generalship and administrative ability. Sir Redvers Buller will still command in Natal, and the recent appointments are not necessarily construed as a want of confidence in his leadership. It would be most ungracious to condemn a tried leader like General Buller for one mistake, which perhaps was not his mistake at all. The presence of Roberts and Kitchener in South Africa will mean, however, that Britain is putting her very best into the war.

**The War** The military authorities in South Africa have maintained so rigorous a censorship of despatches during the past week, that very little news has been permitted to leak through. Reports of the losses suffered by General Buller's army in the battle of Tugela River, make the number of killed 144; wounded 743, and 221 missing, a total of 1108. According to a statement which the London Daily Mail has published, General White is well provided with ammunition and food, and is able to hold out at Ladysmith for some weeks longer. There is scarcely any news respecting General Buller. He seems to have fallen back to the position he occupied before the battle of the 15th inst. If he has been preparing for any offensive movement, he has prudently refrained from advertising the matter. There was a report that General Methuen's communication had been cut, but this seems to have been incorrect, or if true, communication has been again restored. It appears from latest reports received that General Methuen remains in his position north of the Modder river and in communication with Kimberly by search-light signals. It appears however that he is confronted by a very large force of Boers who have so strengthened their position as to make it well nigh impregnable. It is thought that one chief cause of the lack of success on the part of the British generals has been the lack of any adequate transport system. This, it is said, has made it necessary for them to keep close to the railroads and they have been unable to take the enemy at a disadvantage by turning movements, but have been compelled to attack in front where the enemy was best prepared to meet them. Lord Roberts, lately appointed to the chief command of the forces, took his departure for South Africa on Saturday amid scenes of the wildest enthusiasm. Lord Kitchener is likewise making all possible speed to the scene of conflict. In a statement given to the press in connection with his acceptance of the appointment to the chief command in South Africa, General Roberts expressed warm admiration for the feeling prevailing in the colonies and said, "The action of Canada will always be a glorious page in the history of the sons of the Empire. I look for great things from the men she has sent and is sending to the front." General Hutton at Ottawa received on Saturday from Colonel Otter, commander of the Canadian regiment in South Africa, a despatch dated the same day at Belmont, saying, "All well. Regiment sends greetings to all." The news was very gratifying and very opportune. No doubt it served to brighten Christmas for many an anxious heart in Canada.

The latest news as we go to press indicates that the general situation remains unchanged. No fighting is reported, a Christmas truce having been tacitly agreed upon it would seem. The most serious feature of the situation is the increasing hostility to British authority of the Dutch colonists of Natal and Cape Colony. Some accounts represent that the whole Dutch population of South Africa is now practically combined against Great Britain. The British forces have been strengthened by the arrival of the fifth army division, and the sixth division will begin to arrive early in January. Reports indicate that Boer agents in Europe and the United States are making strenuous efforts to secure peace on favorable terms. The British nation is in no mood to tolerate intervention or to talk of peace under present conditions, but it is evident that a tremendous effort will be required for the firm establishment of British power in South Africa.