

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LX.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,
VOLUME XLIX.

Vol. XIII

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1897.

No. 33.

Contents.

EDITORIAL.	THE STORY PAGE.
Paragraphs.	John Parnell Explains.
Success.	THE YOUNG PEOPLE.
Love Supreme.	Daily Readings.
Rev. Alexander Grant.	Prayer Meeting Topic.
Editorial Notes.	FOREIGN MISSION.
Question and Answer.	W. H. M. V.
CONTRIBUTORS.	F. M. Board.
The Wisdom of Winning	THE PAIN.
Souls (H. F. W.).	THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.
How Long Was Jesus in the	Lesson 7.—Aug. 23. Acts
Grave? (H. S. C.).	19: 21-31.
Have We the Clue to the	From the Churches.
Maze? (J. H. D.).	Marriages and Deaths.
Our Forces.	THE HOME.
State of the Denomination.	News Summary.
SELECTED.	Notices.
Protestants in Spain.	Ordination.

Canovas and the Anarchists. Senor Canovas del Castillo, the murdered Prime Minister of Spain was a man of great force of character and probably the ablest of Spain's public men. Though of humble birth he was in feeling and ambition a thorough-going aristocrat and conservative. The prominent position which he gained and held in public affairs he owed to his eminent ability and masterful character. Born in 1828, he pursued the study of law and philosophy at the University of Madrid, and he at first devoted himself to journalism and literature, but naturally was drawn into the political arena for which his tastes and ability especially fitted him. He espoused the cause of constitutional monarchy and made such concessions to the liberalism of the age as seemed necessary to avoid revolution, but in spirit he was strongly conservative and it is said that he would have liked to restore to monarchy the prerogatives it enjoyed in the eighteenth century. The influence which Canovas exercised in the nation does not appear to have been due in any large measure to affectionate regard for him on the part of either the classes or the masses. He ruled by reason of his eminent ability and his dominating force of character. Senor Canovas was a special object of hatred to the Anarchists, whom he had fought energetically for the last twenty years whenever he was called to the head of the Government. The Anarchists have been particularly active in Spain, and their revolutionary ideas have prevailed especially along the Mediterranean coast. Barcelona, it is said, may be considered as headquarters of Anarchy in the Peninsula, especially since many partisans of the Paris Commune took refuge there in 1871. Their outrages in that part of the country, especially in Barcelona, have been frequent, but the latest and most horrible exploit of the Anarchists, and the one which it is believed has resulted indirectly in the assassination of Canovas, was the throwing of bombs at a religious procession in Barcelona about a year ago. The murderers had intended to throw the bombs at the Captain-general and the clerical, political and military dignitaries who formed the head of the procession; but they miscalculated and their dynamite killed and maimed only the poor civilians who had joined the procession. The Government of Canovas displayed great activity in ferreting out the authors or instigators of the Barcelona crime. Scores of Anarchists were imprisoned in the fortress of Montjuich, and their trial ended two or three months ago, to be followed by the shooting of six Anarchists in the Montjuich jail. More than fifty were sent to prison for life, and about one hundred were expelled from Spain. To their stories of the torture that they said they had to endure before making avowals of their crime and giving the names of their accomplices can be traced directly the assassination of Canovas. The slayer of Senor Canovas is a Neapolitan, named Colli or Golli, who was formerly an Italian soldier with a bad record. It is said he was sentenced in

1895 to eighteen months imprisonment in jail at Lucerne, but escaped to Marseilles. He avows himself an Anarchist, and says he was not actuated by any personal feeling toward Canovas, but was simply obeying orders received from his superiors.

Secretary Sherman. It seemed proper to take with a good deal of allowance the reports which, for some time past, have been in circulation respecting the mental condition of the Hon. John Sherman, since in the United States as well as in Canada public men are likely to have said about them a good many things which have little foundation in fact. But with the lapse of weeks the reports as to Mr. Sherman's health appear to grow more serious and explicit, and if his condition is really such as that indicated in a Washington despatch published the other day in a leading New York paper, the matter is a serious one and it becomes difficult to understand how President McKinley could have chosen a man in so feeble mental condition as Mr. Sherman must have been to discharge the delicate and highly important duties of Secretary of State. In explanation of this, we are told that Mr. McKinley's agreement with Mark Hanna, the Ohio Republican "boss," involved a position in the U. S. Senate for the latter, and this made it necessary that Senator Sherman should be taken into the Cabinet. The despatch to the New York Times says: "An effort is in progress by influential friends of Secretary Sherman to induce him to leave Washington and go to some quiet retreat where he can rest until fall, and it is the belief in administration circles that he will go out of the cabinet soon after the November elections. The Secretary's sad condition of health and mind is no longer concealed even by his friends. It was the hope, in fact the understanding, when he went to Long Island that he would remain there until the President returned to Washington. His sudden return to Washington was wholly unexpected and the result to the diplomatic relations of the United States has been embarrassing. This morning Secretary Sherman made an absolute denial of all the interviews concerning the Canovas assassination that appeared in the newspapers on Monday morning and startled the diplomatic world. He seems to remember none of the occurrences of Sunday night when he brought his chair out on the front step and the newspaper men gathered around him and he gave out a variety of interviews. The Secretary's condition is painful to his friends. A physical collapse may at any time occur and would create no surprise."

The Crops. For a week past harvesting operations have been in progress in sections of Manitoba and the present week, it is said, will see them general throughout the province. The reports as to the crops in the prairie province are very satisfactory. In most sections it appears that both in quantity and quality the yield of wheat is a good average, while the increase of acreage will make the crop of the present year the largest in the history of the province. Barley and oats, where these have been sown, are reported to have yielded well, but the land for the most part had been sown to wheat. In Ontario, too, the wheat crop, though considerably damaged by a heavy storm about the first of the month, is apparently turning out well and surpassing expectations. There are good reports too as to the crops in British Columbia. In the eastern provinces the excessive wetness of the spring and early summer was much against farming

operations. The hay crop, however, appears to be at least an average in most sections. It is doubtful if the same can be said of grain and root crops. The apple crop is reported to be very light, and plums a failure. In the United States the corn crop will not be so large as anticipated a month ago and the yield will fall considerably below an average. The immense acreage planted brings the corn crop of the country up, however, according to a conservative estimate, to an aggregate of 1,800,000,000 bushels. The wheat crop of the United States is exceptionally large. Fall wheat is expected to yield a total of 360,000,000 bushels and spring wheat 240,000,000, or a total wheat crop of 600,000,000 bushels. In Europe and South America the crop is a partial failure and Russia is said to have prohibited the export of wheat. The prospect is therefore that the wheat growers of the United States and Canada will receive fair prices for their grain and that the carrying trade for the coming months will be unusually active.

The Kaiser's Visit to Russia. The visit of Emperor William of Germany to St. Petersburg and his meeting with the Czar has attracted a good deal of attention in Europe, since it is supposed that the royal meeting may result in a German-Russian-French understanding against Great Britain. That such a combination would be popular in Germany and in accordance with the policy of the Emperor there seems little reason to doubt, and it is not probable that England can build anything upon the good will of Russia. Alluding to this visit of the Kaiser to Russia, the London correspondent of the New York Tribune says:

"The fact that the German Emperor is accompanied to St. Petersburg by the Imperial Chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, and by the presumptive Foreign Minister, Baron von Buelow, indicates the importance which is attached to the visit. Advices from Paris, however, show there is little enthusiasm there on the subject of the suggested anti-English alliance, the impression being that France, in entering into such an arrangement, is only playing Germany's game, and it is very doubtful if France will derive material advantages therefrom. On the other hand, Great Britain, judging from the tone of the press, is absolutely indifferent and is content to continue in her position of "splendid isolation," satisfied that either the Dreubund or the Russo-French combination will receive her with open arms if she ever desires to join them, even though maps are already published showing the approaching partition of the British Empire."

Unrest in India. The recent outbreak against British rule in Northern India, while of no great importance in itself, has been a cause of considerable anxiety because it was impossible to tell how much lay back of it and how far-reaching is the chain of influence with which it is connected. If the insurrection is only an expression of local discontent and lawlessness it will amount to little and will involve the British Government in nothing more serious than the slight expenditure of military force necessary to teach the disturbers of the peace a wholesome lesson. But if back of this outbreak is the influence of the Ameer of Afghanistan, inciting Indian tribes to revolt, and back of the Ameer the secret plottings of Russia, the matter assumes a more serious aspect. The English newspapers of India have discussed the question of the Ameer's complicity in the matter and we are told that news of suspected Afghan intrigues is very seriously regarded in London. Anonymous letters have appeared in the native Indian press glorifying the Turkish victories in Thessaly as Islam's rising star and declaring that the Ameer was ready to come to rid India of the thralldom of the Christian yoke, bidding all the faithful be prepared and asserting that the riots at Chitpur were but preliminary to better organized efforts. In view of the situation generally and the particular symptoms of unrest, it is considered to be the part of wisdom for the Government to be prepared for all eventualities.