

Messenger and Visitor.

Rev AC Chute
2 copies
Jan 0

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXIII.

Vol. XVII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1901.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LII.

No. 18.

Aguinaldo's Manifesto
The ex-commander-in-chief of the Filipinos—Aguinaldo—appears to be undergoing a rapid process of Americanization. His capture was effected by means that a good many Americans do not consider flattering to their nation, but Aguinaldo does not seem to have discovered anything to find fault with in the methods pursued by his captors. He has moreover taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government and has issued a manifesto to his people. In this manifesto he intimates that he has now discovered that the majority of the Filipinos desire peace on the condition of accepting the sovereignty of the United States and that he cannot refuse to heed their voice. A termination of hostilities he recognizes as absolutely essential to the welfare of the Philippine Islands. "The cause of peace," he says, "has been joyfully embraced by the majority of my fellow-countrymen who have already united around the glorious sovereign banner of the United States. In this banner they repose their trust and believe that under its protection the Filipino people will attain all those promised liberties which they are beginning to enjoy. The country has declared unmistakably in favor of peace. So be it. There has been enough blood, enough tears and enough desolation." What will be the effect of Aguinaldo's professed change of heart and his manifesto remains to be seen. It will probably be considerable, but it is likely that a troublesome guerrilla warfare against American authority will continue under other native chieftains for some time to come. It is worthy of note, however, that Aguinaldo's pro-American sentiments are not yet so fully developed as to make it unnecessary, in the opinion of the military authorities, to keep him under guard.

Mr. Bull Grumbles
The war-loan appears to be the most popular part of the policy foreshadowed in Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's budget speech. The £60,000,000 to be added to the public debt was very quickly subscribed, and according to some reports the applications have covered the amount required many times over. If the Chancellor had been willing to raise a much larger part of the deficit by means of an issue of consols, it would have saved himself and his government a good deal of difficulty, but Sir Michael was too honorable a statesman to pass on the full war bill to be settled by coming generations. There appears to be a good deal of grumbling about the additional taxation as was to have been expected. Those who are touched by the income tax of course growl over the imposition of the added twopence in the pound. The coal dealers rage loudly against the import duty on coal, which they say will very seriously hamper their business, the brewers and the jam makers denounce the tax on sugar and glucose, and the only persons who are pleased appear to be the sugar refiners who will profit to some considerable degree by the graduated tax which distinguishes in favor of the unrefined article. It was of course inevitable that John Bull should exercise his right of grumbling over the imposition of an addition of \$55,000,000 to his tax bill, but it is doubtful whether the Chancellor could have applied the blister in any way that would have made the ordeal more agreeable.

The Emperor William's Friendliness
It is quite evident that there has been a marked change in the policy, if not in the feelings, of the German Emperor toward Great Britain since the date of his congratulatory telegram to President Krüger on the failure of the Jameson raid. It could not have been predicted at that time that in the event of a war between the South African Dutch republics and Great Britain the sympathy of the

German ruler would be with the latter. But certainly the attitude which Germany has maintained toward Great Britain throughout the war has been one of friendly neutrality. In China, Germany has shown a willingness to co-operate along lines acceptable to Britain, and the Emperor has taken pains in various ways, especially in connection with the funeral of the late Queen, to show a respectful and friendly attitude toward the English people. Probably no one supposes that this change of attitude is the result of any sudden change of heart on the Emperor's part toward the British nation or to any particular regard for its interests, but rather is due to a conviction that the friendship of Britain is, or in the near future will be, of great importance to Germany. The Emperor and his astute ministers are probably much occupied with the drift of affairs in Austria, and the probability, as a certain writer puts it, that before many years more the German nation will be placed in the dilemma of either having to suffer the breaking up of Austria and the complete political and ethnological death of the ten millions of Austrians of German blood, or to interfere actively in the process, and obtain for the men and women of their own flesh and blood either annexation to the present German Empire, or some other means by which they could avoid being swallowed up in the great Slavic flood. The addition to the German empire of a population of ten millions of people of kindred race and language and the extension of its territory from the North Sea to the Adriatic may well be a matter of vastly greater importance to the German Emperor than the advancement of colonization schemes in South Africa or elsewhere. Whether under any probable circumstances such a scheme could be realized seems doubtful. It certainly would not be by the consent of Russia or of France and Germany's main hope for the attainment of her ambitions along this line must depend mainly upon the assistance that she might obtain from Great Britain.

The Unfriendliness of the German People.

The friendly relations existing between the Governments of Great Britain and Germany are not an outgrowth or a reflection of the feelings existing between the two peoples. On the British side the feeling is probably negative rather than positive. The British people have no special admiration for the Germans, and though they appreciate the present friendliness of the German Government, they probably do not regard the friendship as eminently disinterested and they do not forget that in the matters of industry and trade the Germans are their principal rivals in Europe. On the German side, however, the feeling appears to be one of general and very positive antipathy. The writer of an article in a recent number of the Fortnightly Review, has expressed the opinion that the most popular act of the German Emperor in the whole course of his reign was the sending of that despatch to President Krüger which roused British resentment to the danger point, and his most unpopular act was his bestowal of a high decoration upon Lord Roberts. It is perhaps quite natural that there should be in Germany a good deal of sympathy with the Boers—a weak people of kindred race—in their struggle for independence. But apart from the South African struggle, the Germans are little disposed to fall in love with the English people. The Berlin Correspondent of the New York Evening Post says: "The strong anti-English sentiment in Germany for the past twenty years is a thing which has been growing, and it must be reckoned with in German politics. There is no other people on earth that the average German hates with such a thorough hatred as the English, no matter whether the feeling be justified by the facts or not, and the Emperor's

unpopularity is in large measure due to his complete disregard of this feeling. How general this anti-British sentiment really is in Germany, and how widespread and intense the unpopularity of the Emperor is, because of his not sharing it, few persons outside of Germany have any conception."

The Maundy Alms
It was formerly the custom in England, as well as in some other countries, for the Sovereign on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, to wash the feet of some poor persons in commemoration of our Saviour's washing the feet of his disciples. In Austria, we believe, the ceremony is still observed by the Emperor, but in England, since the days of James II, it has been discontinued. Probably the sense of the farcical character of the performance in the hands of such monarchs as the Stuarts had impressed itself on the nation, and the custom having been once discontinued was not likely to be revived under the strongly Protestant regime which followed. But the presentation of the royal alms, which was an accompaniment of the feet-washing ceremony, continues to the present and formed an interesting feature of a service held in Westminster Abbey on Maundy Thursday of the present year. We do not know on what principle the persons are selected who are to receive the gratuity, or whether it depends on any principle. It is customary to present the royal alms on these occasions to twice as many persons as the monarch has years, but King Edward's generosity disregarded the custom. Instead of measuring by his own age, he measured by his mother's in order that all the survivors of those who received Queen Victoria's last Maundy alms might be among the first recipients of his. Accordingly more than 160 persons, gathered from many parts of London, received what are called the Maundy pennies, which amounts to a substantial gratuity, the old men receiving four pounds fifteen shillings each, and the old women four pounds five shillings, in addition to "silver pennies," consisting of two-penny, three-penny and four-penny pieces. Altogether the sum distributed amounted to more than seven hundred pounds. The King had ordered that the small coins, which are always specially minted for the occasion, should bear the late Queen's image and be in other respects the same as those issued in her reign.

South Africa
The Boers are still able to capture a train and secure booty occasionally, but the reports from Lord Kitchener indicate that they are being severely harassed. Thus on the 26th the Commander in Chief telegraphed from Pretoria that since the previous day the columns reported the Boer losses to be twelve killed, twenty wounded, forty-seven captured and forty-two surrendered. In addition Lieut. Reid with twenty bushmen had captured Commandant Schoeder and forty-one Boers together with a maxim gun. Reid's men crept up, surrounded the enemy before dawn and opened fire, the Boers immediately surrendering. In a later message, forwarding advices from Gen. Kitchener, his brother, the Commander-in-Chief says: "Gen. Kitchener reports from Paarde Plat, four Boers killed, 180 taken prisoners, and 3,000 cattle, 6,000 sheep and many wagons captured." Col Plumer's force has also captured a small laager of forty five men, including the notorious Transvaal engineer, Minnick, who planned the destruction of the Johannesburg mines in the spring of last year, and his father who was formerly Landrost of Boksburg. At Cape Town the bubonic plague still maintains its hold though it does not appear to be spreading very rapidly. A despatch of April 28th says, that during the last 48 hours there have been 16 fresh cases reported and eight of these were Europeans. Since the outbreak of the disease it is stated that there have been 319 cases, of which 217 have proved fatal. From previous statements respecting the progress of the plague at Cape Town, it might be inferred that this understates the facts.