

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXIII.

Vol. XVII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1901.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LII.

No. 16.

Wonders never cease. Following on the heels of the demonstrated practicability of wireless telegraphy and telephony comes the announcement that an Englishman named Greene has invented a method of printing without ink. The method is thus described: Certain chemicals which are instantly decomposed by an electrical current producing an indelible mark, are mingled with the pulp during the process of manufacturing the paper which is used in the printing process. An ordinary press divested of the inking mechanism can be used. One wire of an electric circuit is attached to the type or stereotype plate and the other to the cylinder that presses the paper against the type. When the current passes through, every spot on relief on the type touching the paper prints its form indelibly on the paper, almost exactly as if the ink were used, except that there is no dampening or smearing. The current passing through an ordinary incandescent light is said to be sufficient to do all the printing on a large press. In a recent test the press was run at the rate of 100 impressions a minute and the work was declared to be perfect in every way.

Chinese Politics. In the diplomatic game which has been in progress between Li Hung Chang, supported by Russia on the one part, and the Yang Tse Viceroy, supported by Japan, Great Britain and Germany on the other, the latter appear to have won. The old and aslute Earl Li has been unable to control affairs so as to secure the signature of China to the secret treaty with Russia, whereby the latter was to be secured in the temporary (?) occupation of Manchuria, and if Russia shall remain in Manchuria she must do so on her own responsibility and at the risk of a rupture with China as well as with other powers over the matter. But whether the defeat of Li Hung Chang's policy involves a real set-back to Russia and whether the policy of Earl Li or that of the Yang Tse Viceroy is most in harmony with China's best interests are questions upon which light will likely be shed with the progress of time. Li Hung Chang's view appears to have been that, as Russia would probably in any event occupy Manchuria, it was best for China to be on friendly terms with her, thus securing a defence against Japan and perhaps also the means of training and arming the military forces of China with a view to making her secure from invasion by other powers. The Viceroy, on the other hand, evidently expect no good from Russia's friendship. They are unwilling to recognize her right to any kind of possession in Manchuria or Mongolia and, as a choice between two evils, are more inclined to cultivate the friendship of Japan and the European nations and the United States, which are pledged to the policy of the open door and the unity of the Empire. Probably the fact of China not signing the proposed treaty with Russia will make little difference with the latter's operations in Manchuria, except that Japan's assent will have to be secured by certain concessions which Russia would much prefer not to make.

A Great Work. Among the most remarkable undertakings of modern engineering is the damming of the Nile with the purpose of controlling its waters so as enlarge the area of Egypt's arable land and secure a constant supply for the irrigation of the lands along the lower course of the river. The building of the great dam at the First Cataract, of which the foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Connaught two years ago, has now reached such a stage that the waters of the river are practically under control. This great work which has been carried forward so rapidly under the

supervision of Sir John Aird and Sir Samuel Baker will add immensely to the large benefits which have come to Egypt under British rule. The total length of the dam is about a mile and a quarter. It connects the rocks which form the First Cataract and is built of granite. There are in the dam 180 openings, each 23 feet wide and seven feet high, controlled by steel sluices. The dam will raise the river about sixty-six feet above its normal level and cause an expansion in the river for a distance of 144 miles, impounding more than one billion tons of water. When the Nile is in flood it will pour through the sluices at the rate of 900,000 tons a minute. In the autumn the sluice gates will be closed until the reservoir thus formed is full and ready to be distributed by channels over the land on either side. In August and April, when the water is most needed for the crops of corn, cotton, sugar, rice, etc., the supply in the lower river will be increased from the reservoir above, and thus a fairly even supply of water will be secured during all the time that it is required for the growing crops. The interests of navigation are to be provided for by a canal with several locks by which the Nile steamers will be able to pass the dam and the rapids. Commercially the dam will be of incalculable value. According to the estimate of the Egyptian Government's engineer, its immediate effect will be to bring under cultivation some 600,000 acres of now barren land, besides vastly improving the conditions for irrigation in the lands now cultivated. An area of 5,000,000 acres now in a fair state of cultivation will, it is estimated, be so improved that the value of the annual crops over the whole area will be increased by \$30 per acre. The effect must therefore be to increase very greatly the resources of the country and to enhance its importance as a source of supply for the markets of Europe.

The Casuistry of War.

Aguinaldo the ex-leader of the Filipinos, who a few weeks ago was captured by General Funston of the United States army, is receiving good treatment at the hands of his captors, and from all reports is not unhappy in his new circumstances. The capture of Aguinaldo was highly important to the United States, as it will probably have the effect of making the pacification of the Philippines a much easier task. The end achieved in the capture of the Filipino Chief being so desirable in the view of the people of the United States, it is not likely that there will be any very strong or general disposition to inquire minutely into the character of the means by which the end was effected. The fact is however, as some American papers have shown, that the means employed were such as could be justified only on the principle that everything is fair in war. General Funston's capture of Aguinaldo was effected by means of forged letters, purporting to come from one of the Filipino leaders to his commander-in-chief, Aguinaldo, and by the assumption of the Filipino uniform by the United States soldiers engaged in the capture. The New York Evening Post discusses the morality of these actions, and concludes that they are to be condemned according to principles recognized by the United States and other civilized nations. The general principle is that in war stratagems intended to deceive the enemy are permissible, but only such stratagems as do not involve perfidy. Just where to draw the line between justifiable deception and that which must be regarded as perfidious is not an easy problem in casuistry. The Evening Post however, perhaps throws some light on the matter in the following: "There are some things in which enemies in war may safely trust. General De Wett must keep a sharp lookout when he takes a prisoner bearing a letter from the British commander to a British gen-

eral in regard to a certain movement lest it be a ruse de guerre, but if General De Wett gets a letter from General Botha, authenticated by his signature and seal, to the effect, that he has sent him one of his best companies, he need not fear that Lord Kitchener may have got hold of Botha's seal and some of his correspondence and perpetrated a forgery for the purpose of entrapping him. Or suppose that General Longstreet's seal and some of his letters had fallen into General Grant's hands, when he was anxious to capture General Lee, can we conceive of him as using or allowing any of his officers (say General Thomas or General Howard) to use these materials for the forgery of a letter from General Longstreet to General Lee, informing him that he might expect the arrival of some picked men for a body guard, and then disguising them as Confederates to capture or kill him? * * * Aguinaldo was bound to look out for himself, but was under no duty and had no right to suspect for a moment that officers of the United States army would forge a letter from one of his subordinates, and make a treacherous use of his captured seal for the purpose of putting him off his guard and making it almost certain that he would be captured or killed by a troop of his enemies disguised as his friends."

A Misfit.

When the first Doukhobor colonies came to this country from Russia, a few years ago, they were received with much sympathy as a people seeking an asylum from persecution and because they appeared to be not only a modest and well-behaved people, moral and religious in character, but also a people of sturdy physique and thrifty habits, who would readily adapt themselves to the conditions to be found in our Northwest country and soon become valuable citizens. It appears, however, that the Doukhobors are not so well pleased with the country and its laws as it was hoped they would be, and that, on the other hand, these people hold some peculiar views, especially in regard to marriage and the occupation of land, that, to say the least, make it questionable whether they are to be regarded as a desirable kind of immigrants for Canada. The Doukhobors, it appears, have lately issued "an appeal to the nations" in which they plead the rights of conscience and ask for an asylum where their consciences shall not be coerced. British institutions and laws are not supposed to ignore such rights, but the evolution of the Doukhobor conscience appears to be peculiar. They are said to declare private ownership of land to be a sin, and therefore they object very strenuously to the Canadian method of making out land grants to the individual settler and not to the community. Their community life is of course quite foreign to British laws and customs and stands in the way of the assimilation of the immigrants with the population of the country. This constitutes a serious objection to the Doukhobors. But their views as to the relation of the sexes and their opposition to the marriage and divorce laws of the country are still more serious. They find the real legality of marriage according to the law of God in "a pure feeling of love," and they hold that where such a "pure feeling of love" is found not to exist (of which it would appear the parties to the union are the only judges) the marriage is nullified. Separation and remarriage are permissible. The persons concerned are responsible only to God in the matter, and no human authority, civil or otherwise, has any right to interfere in the matter. If this is the sort of conscience with which the Doukhobors are furnished, it would seem as if some kind of an asylum should be found for them, where also they might be joined by all the people who think that "the delirious passion" is subject to no law human or divine.