

No. 3.

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Foreign News.

The Venezuela trouble is still unsettled. Our readers will remember that at the outset the matter was referred to President Roosevelt for adjustment. On his declining to arbitrate President Castro signified his willingness to submit the matter to the Hague Tribunal. This was likely to delay settlement for too long a time and so finally the U. S. minister at Venezuela offered his services in settling the troubles that had arisen. But his suggestion that the several European powers concerned be treated alike met with so little favor, Germany and England insisting that their claims should be first met, that practically the whole question remains as at the beginning. We believe however that some agreement satisfactory to all parties will soon be proposed and accepted.

Mr. Chamberlain is making a very successful tour in South Africa. While travelling about the country he made several speeches which reflect great credit on his good sense and willingness to help the conquered. In no instance has he yielded anything that was unnecessary while everywhere he has assured his hearers that England would not be indifferent to their grievances, nor would unduly tax them for the expenses of the War. In fact the conciliatory spirit that he has shown will go far towards disarming the people of any prejudices that they may have formed, and tend to heal the wounds that have been made by the conflict. In the words of *The Spectator*, "Mr. Chamberlain took his attack firmly on the terms of peace, while showing a readiness to meet any complaint in a conciliatory spirit. That attitude, we are convinced, is the only way to inspire confidence and respect in the Boers."

The Delhi Durbar seems to have made a great sensation in India especially among Europeans. The grandeur displayed was something astonishing though this was not the only feature. The evident loyalty to the crown so freely and gladly expressed was as surprising as it was unexpected. India has no desire to change governments, though it would undoubtedly like a greater share in the control of affairs than it now possesses. A more fitting time than the present for trying the experiment of self government within English constitutional limits of course, is hardly like to occur again soon. The King-Emperor would secure the lasting gratitude of his subjects in this vast Empire, by making some concessions by which the people would find themselves more directly represented in their own government.

Bible Society Centenary.

How are we going to Celebrate?

The question which serves for a title demands all the earnest and attentive consideration that can be given it. If the Society's achievements in the past hundred years are noteworthy, their celebration must be noteworthy to correspond. Has God owned and blessed the origin at conception beyond expectation, as the founders of the Society would be the first to confess? Then there must be, on the part of those who have entered into their labours, no lack of readiness to give, and to act to commemorate God's gracious dealings with His servants.

How are we going to celebrate? By putting on record the story of the past. At the base of the statue which honours the great General, there is inscribed a list of the battles which he fought and won. So in celebrating a hundred years of Bible work, there must be a history of its efforts, its ventures, and its successes. Like Israel of old, those of to-day have a tale to tell to them who come after—a tale of obstacles overcome, of encouragement granted, a story of vicissitude, difficulty, and deliverance.

Two avenues of experience carry the mind back into the past. The development of the Society's operations forms one part of the story; the genesis of the versions which it has helped to bring into being provides the materials for the other. Both these historical undertakings are in hand. As part of the Celebration there will be published a History of the Society, by Mr. William Canton, and a History of Versions, under the superintendence of the Rev. John Sharp.

The one book will describe how, little by little, the fane of the great enterprise of to-day has been built up; and the other will enable the reader to grasp the plan which the Spirit of God has enabled the translator to give, as he grappled with languages unworthy of the truths which they were to be the vehicle, poor in thought, difficult in structure, faulty in diction. The perusal of these volumes will make thanksgiving not only hearty, but intelligent.

How are we going to celebrate? By striving to educate the Christian public in Bible Society affairs. A slight knowledge of the Auxiliary Societies discovers the narrowness of the circle of real friends. It reveals how widespread is the misconception of the Society's aims, principles, and achievements; how poor is the appreciation of its services as the handmaid of all missionary agencies. Some regard it as a mere commercial enterprise. Others distrust its policy of a worldwide distribution of the Book. Others affect to dislike its Catholic bias. The attention which the Centenary will focus on its affairs supplies a unique opportunity for removing misunderstanding and dissipating ignorance. During the year 1903-4, will be issued monthly popular pamphlets whose distribution, of judicious purpose and with liberal hand, will educate many in the details of a work which has been characterized by the Bishop of Worcester as "both scientific and generous." These pamphlets are being written by experts, who will tell the story of the Bible in different countries, and of the Society's work under varied circumstances. Thus,

"The Bible in Uganda" will come from the pen of a missionary, who has had long personal experience of the vital place of the Bible and the Bible Society in establishing Christianity in Central Africa; and "The Homes of Eastern Women and how we enter them," will illustrate how the Society, by its simple, patient, tactics of sending out "the sower" at the same time as it provides "the seed" gives important help to almost every Foreign Mission. To circulate these books widely, wisely, and well must be an essential part of the Celebration.

How are we going to celebrate? By Thanksgiving and Thank-offering. The day which completes the hundred years, March 7th, 1904, will naturally be marked by special gatherings for commemoration and praise. All who rejoice to realise that the Versions of Scripture which exist in 1804, have been multiplied tenfold, all who delight to look back across those barriers now overthrown which once hindered the free course of the Word of the Lord, will unite in singing "Non nobis, Domine." There should not be even a village in England which does not join in the chorus of praise, March 6, 1904, the eve of the Society's birthday, falls on a Sunday. In the services of that Lord's Day, special place should be found to thank God for "the most valuable thing that this world affords," for its influence upon English life and character for its wonderful diffusion at home and abroad; and especially for the inspiring and inspired idea from which has sprung the great British and Foreign Bible Society. Arrangements are to be made for celebrating the day, March 7-12 commemorative gatherings will be held in London. The larger provincial centres will follow in the week March 14-19; and smaller towns and villages in the week March 21-26. But it is hoped that EVERYWHERE SUNDAY, March 6, 1904, WILL BE OBSERVED AS BIBLE SUNDAY.

Thanksgiving is incomplete without Thank-offering. The gift of the hand must accompany the praise of the lips, as evidence of the praise of the heart. The song of the Lord is the accompaniment to the sacrifice of the Lord. What cost nothing may not be offered to God. Thank-offerings will accompany Centenary offerings. The gifts of gratitude will be made for the sacrifices for the future. A Centenary Fund is therefore to be opened, and the aim is to collect at least 250,000 guineas. By means of this Fund additional Colporteurs and women will be employed; new Versions will be undertaken; old Versions will be completed and revised; further provision, in many languages, will be made for the blind; efforts to interest afresh the young people in the study of God's Word and its diffusion in the world, will have a prominent place; and generally the work of Bible propagation and circulation will be promoted in all possible ways. This sum of 250,000 guineas, though in itself a large sum, is not too much to expect, when it is remembered that the Bible Society has a claim upon all sections of Christian people, analogous to the place which the Book itself occupies in Christian faith and practice. This sum of money will be raised if all who love the Bible do their part richly according to their wealth, the poor out of their riches or their poverty.

THE TAMIL SEAT IN COUNCIL.

In response to a notice issued by Messrs. J. P. Cooke, Head master, Batticocha English High School, V. V. V. Chelliah, Maniagar, Islands, A. Mallavanam, Landred prietor, A. Sivasithamparappillai, Notary Public, A. Valupillai, Surveyor, K. Modir. A. C. Curtis, Physician, Managay Hospital, T. P. Hudson B.A. Professor, Jaffna College, and J. V. Chelliah B.A. Professor, Jaffna College, and I. L. Modir. Kanapathipillai, Registrar of Births and Deaths, a large number of influential residents from all parts of the peninsula gathered together in the Batticocha English High School Hall on the 24th January at 2 P.M.

At the invitation of Mr. J. P. Cooke, Head master of the Araly English school, A. Valupillai Esq. (a brother of the late well known Maniagar, A. I. Iragunatha Modir) was voted to the Chair. A. S. Sillanarath Esq. Commission Agent was elected Secretary.

Then the chairman in short but fitting speech explained to the audience the purport of the meeting and spoke from his own knowledge and experience about the many various qualities of head and heart which the many wise, valiant M.D.s possessed and which entitled him to be a worthy representative of the Tamil community in the Council.

Then came the principal resolution of the meeting. "That in the opinion of this meeting, Dr. V. Saravanamuttu M. A. is a fit and proper person to represent the Tamils in the Legislative Council of the Island of Ceylon and that signatures be obtained from the people and a memorial sent to His Excellency the Governor to nominate him to the council seat which is to fall vacant in March next." The resolution was moved by Dr. K. Modir. A. C. Curtis of the social position of Dr. Saravanamuttu, he said, Jaffna. He again referred to the ample means possessed by him which consisted not only of his own earnings, but of large paternal property. As to intellectual qualifications, every one knew that he was one of a few who have attained the highest professional distinctions and was one characterised by public spirit, devotion to his duty and intelligent understanding of the needs of the people. The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. V. Chelliah M. A. who refuted two wrong notions prevalent among a certain section of the community in regard to the nomination of a candidate for the council. He said that it was wrong to suppose that the Governor could be expected to pay regard to the wishes of the people as His Excellency himself had recently said that he would be guided by the views of the council. Secondly, it was absurd to suppose that the representative should necessarily be a resident of Jaffna. There were men of ability who were residents of other parts, and other purposes, were residing in Colombo but whose interests and sympathy were wholly centred in Jaffna. Instead of there being any objection to such gentlemen, pre-ference should be given to them for they would naturally possess the advantages to be derived by a life in the metropolis. As to the qualifications of Dr. Saravanamuttu, he said it was well known that he had ample property and a large and lucrative practice in Colombo. Further, he

had always moved in the best circles in Colombo and had been looked upon as one of the leaders of the said community. As to his intellectual qualifications, he said that in Great Britain, the highest medical degree of a University, Further, he was known to be a man of sound judgment, breadth of thought, high principles and public spirit, and his long residence in Colombo and his association with eminent men there and in Great Britain had developed these qualities to a great extent. One more quality—an indispensable one—that Dr. Saravanamuttu possessed in an eminent degree. He was one who was sure to be in thorough sympathy with the aspirations and needs of the Tamil community of all classes.

Then the resolution was also supported by Mr. Joel Fitch who explained and endorsed in Tamil the various arguments put forth by the previous speakers. He said that it was a great pity that Dr. Saravanamuttu had been put forward before those of some other candidates, as many who had given their signatures to these would have gladly preferred to support the worthy Doctor. The resolution was put to the vote and was carried unanimously amidst great acclamation. A committee was then appointed to draw a memorial to His Excellency the Governor praying for the appointment of Dr. V. Saravanamuttu. After a vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by Mr. A. Backus, Post-master and seconded by Mr. A. Sithamparanathapillai Notary Public, the meeting came to a close. Com.

Progress of Christianity in India.

—On Christmas day and on New Year's day several persons were baptised both in the K. D. Doctor's name had not been in the Wesleyan Mission Clapels at Bangalore. Those in the L. M. S. were some villagers; in the latter, people of Bangalore. "Christian Patriot."

—The Indian Christian Messenger notices the case of conversion of Mr. D. N. Chatterji, grandson of the late Mr. Chatterji Nath Chatterji, one of the wealthiest and most influential families in Bhawanipour. Mr. Chatterji's conversion took place during and was due to the effect of the Dussarah Meetings at Lucknow. "Christian Patriot."

—It is worthy of note that no book is better studied in India now by the Indian population of all parties than the Word of God. "Christian Patriot."

Progress of Christianity in Japan. Mr. Mott says that within the past few months one thousand students in Japan have become Christians. There are now one hundred and thirty colleges associated with the World's Student Federation. "Christian Patriot."

African News. When King Khama of Bechuanaland was summoned by the Cape Town High Commissioner, he said to the native Christians in an address which he delivered to them: "I am going down to Cape Town because the High Commissioner has sent for me. I do not know what he wants, but I have my doubts. You must obey the words of our Master Jesus Christ. Even when we do not know what His purpose is we must go in faith at His command." No better sermon can be preached than this to obey Christ. "Christian Patriot."

NOTES.

—THE QUEEN'S DINNER. At the Queen's Christmas Dinner to widows and children of soldiers who fell during the war in South Africa, there were present 1465 guests—629 widows and 836 children.

—THE FISH THEORY. Dr. Hutchinson, the great researcher into the causes of Leprosy, who is now in Ceylon, is of opinion that Leprosy is due to the eating of salted fish or badly cured fish.

—MR. KUGGER is homesick, and has asked Mr. Chamberlain for permission to return to the Transvaal. A patient statistician has found that out of 100 persons ten only are free from the two legs the same length. In at least fifty cases the left leg is smaller than the right.

—AN ENGRAVER'S FEAT. An engraver of Odessa has engraved the entire Russian National Hymn upon a grain of corn, and recently he presented the curiosity to the Emperor. His Majesty has now forwarded to him through the Civil Governor of Odessa, a gold watch and chain, with his thanks for carrying out such a laborious undertaking.

—AMERICAN CENTENARIANS. Mr. Strong, addressing the Hundred Year Club in New York, cited figures furnished by the United States Census Bureau recording 3435 centenarians, including 86 of upwards of 130.

—TO TALK ENGLISH. An egg plunged in water tends to rise with more buoyancy according to its age, owing to enlargement of the empty space at the thick end by evaporation of water from the white. Hence the egg takes a different position in the water. Fresh eggs remain horizontal, the horizon, one 8 days old makes an angle of 20° with the end of 14 days the angle is 40°. An egg 3 weeks old lies at 70°. One 3 months remains vertical.

THE TAMIL SEAT AND PUBLIC OPINION IN JAFFNA.

It is an indisputable fact that there is nothing like public opinion in Jaffna as the agitation concerning the Tamil seat in Council proves. An individual expresses a desire and his opinion forms a clique and public opinion is the outcome. Take the case of public meetings. Do they induce such as known to civilized countries? A meeting is held and immediately conflicting reports are sent to the newspapers. What is the value of a public meeting as things are in Jaffna? At present? Self interest controls the mind of the people from the manner they could read the motives of their wishes. But if the Tamils want their wishes respected, they should submit the names of only one person to the public. But instead, meetings are held in different localities and push forward several names, each locality presenting its favourite.

Personal likes or dislikes should disappear in order to gain the approbation of the Governor. There is no unity of means used are every man seeks his own, and the whom we shall act like European communities in the matter of election.

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