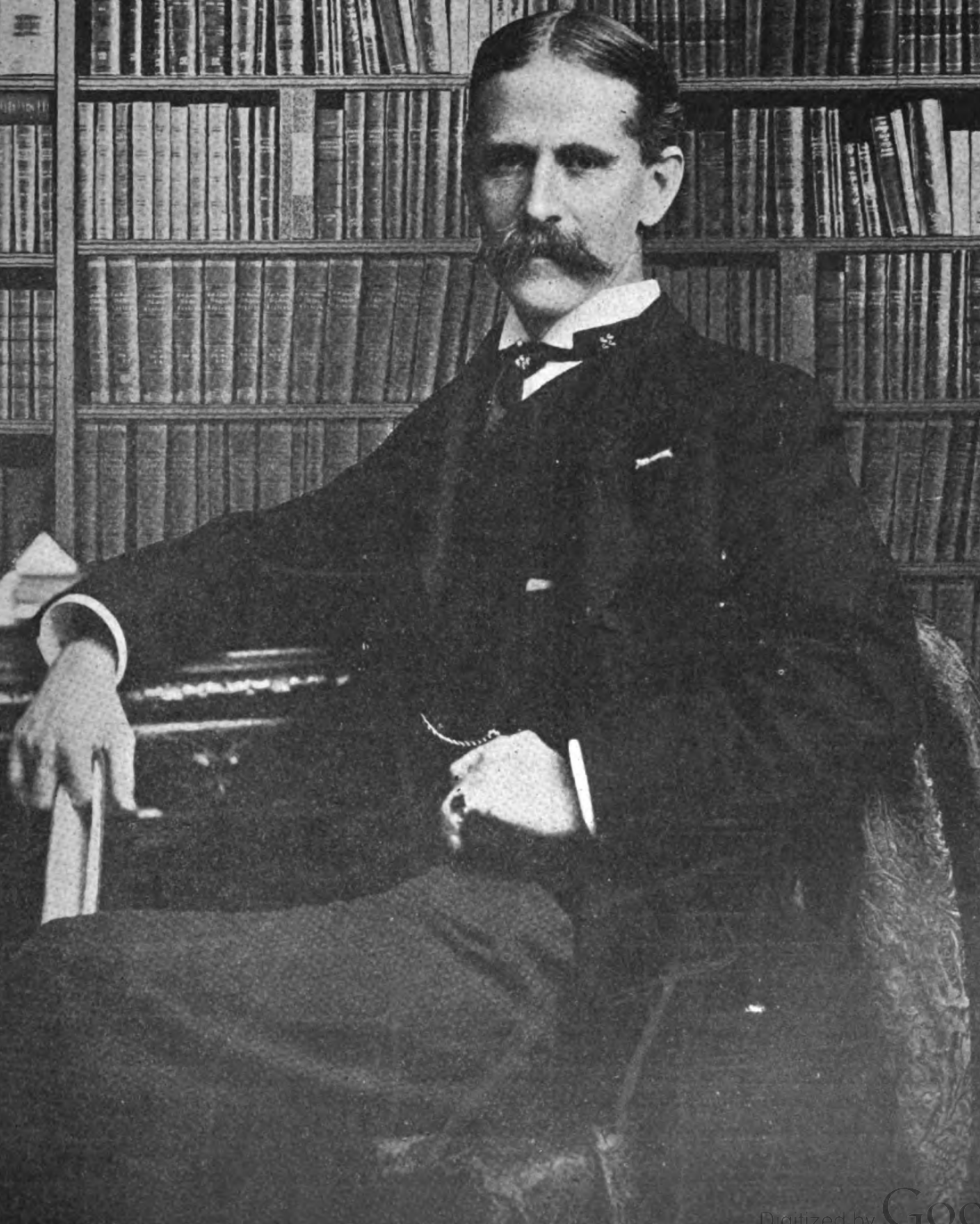


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PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

Vol. XCVI.

PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1909.

No. 25.

The World
of
To-Day

Chronicle and Comment

A Weekly
Record and Review
By the Editor

Richard Watson Gilder. In the death of Richard Watson Gilder America lost one of its foremost editors and poets, while New York lost one of its most public-spirited citizens. For twenty-eight years Mr. Gilder was editor of the Century Magazine, and during that time he stood sponsor for many of the leading writers of to-day. Mr. Gilder had published six books of his own verse, among which are sonnets and lyrics which have found a place in American anthology and have received a high rating among critics. Of them the late Edmund Clarence Stedman once said: "Each is a cluster of flawless poems. His aim is choice and high, as should be that of one who decides on the claims of others." Among his works are "The Celestial Passion," "Lyrics," "Two Worlds," "The Great Remembrance," "In Palestine," "Poems and Inscriptions," "A Christmas Wreath" and "A Book of Music."

English Politics. All England is in a state of ferment over the political situation, the main issue being the House of Lords in its obstructive attitude to the pending Liberal budget. The Lords is expected to vote to-day on Lord Lansdowne's resolution, calling for the practical rejection of the budget. Most of the leaders in the Upper House will speak on the question. Lord Rosebery's effort for the Conservatives and that of the Earl of Halsbury for the Liberals are awaited with the most interest. Probably the largest number of Lords will be mustered for the vote since the rejection of Home Rule. About 450, many of whom practically are strangers to parliament, are likely to be assembled, and not more than one-quarter of these will support the budget. Most of the politicians predict that when the question goes before the people at the general elections in January it will be impossible to wipe out the great Liberal majority and that the Liberal government will be returned with a comparatively small majority. The Liberal leaders say that the issue is whether the hereditary chamber shall rule the country. The Conservatives argue that the House of Commons has no mandate from the people to introduce new forms of taxation and that the House of Lords is fulfilling its function as a balance on the Commons by forcing resort to a referendum. Conservative gains will be acclaimed as victories for protection.

Sugar. Sugar is again fermenting. Last spring, after the exposure of the case of the "seventeen holes" by which the government had been defrauded of a large amount of duties through fraudulent tampering with the customs weighing machines, the government settled with the American Sugar Refining Company for \$2,136,000. But there have been further exposures and the case is again opened. A large number of weighers and inspectors have been discharged, and seven former employes of the sugar company are under indictment and are to be tried this week. These include James F. Bendernagel, the former general manager and cashier of the sugar company, who received a salary of \$20,000 a year. But there is a call that the government go for the "man higher up," for on one supposes that any salaried officer was the fountain head of this gigantic system of stealing. But special prosecuting officers of the government are still investigating the affairs of the American Sugar Refining Company, and the Department of Justice is working out a plan to collect more of the evaded duties. To do this effectively it may be necessary to apply to the courts that a receiver be appointed; at all events, to ask for legal action of some kind that would enable the government to control the situation so far as the American company was concerned. The government is estopped from reopening the case of short weighing by the agreement of settlement, made in the spring, resulting in the payment of \$2,136,000. But it is stated that there have been disclosures that would enable the federal authorities to ask for heavy penalties or fines on other grounds.

Zelaya Executes Americans. The Nicaraguans last week executed two Americans, Leroy Cannon, of Harrisburg, Pa., and Leonard Grace, two adventurers who had cast in their lots with the revolutionary forces of Gen. Estrada. They were shot by order of President Zelaya, according to messages from Port Limon, which says that the United States cruiser Des Moines is now at Greytown and that the officers of the vessel are probing the affair to the bottom. The latest news from Nicaragua is to the effect that Americans are not safe in any part of that country that is controlled by Zelaya. The President has issued a proclamation posted in many parts of the country denouncing the Americans and accusing them of fomenting the revolution against Zelaya. Zelaya calls upon "all loyal Nicaraguans" to assist the President to "defeat the Gringo conspiracy." Several Americans engaged in business in Nicaragua are reported missing by passengers arriving from that country, and it is feared that they have been imprisoned. It is reported in Panama that orders have been sent for the consolidation at Panama and Colon of all the land forces in the Canal zone, to be ready to leave for Nicaraguan ports should the necessity arise there for more troops. It is reported from Washington that the United States government is taking decisive measures to demand reparation of Zelaya for his summary execution of Americans and for the protection of American lives and property in Nicaragua.

The Coal Mine Disaster. The St. Paul mine at Cherry, Ill., was sealed up for three days last week in order to extinguish the fire. The mine was then entered on Saturday and the removal of bodies began. Twenty men were found alive in a chamber where they had barricaded themselves by closing up the entrance so as to shut off the gas. Here they maintained life and their courage for a week until rescue came. The story of their sufferings and the heroism of their resourceful leaders is one of the most thrilling in the history of mining disasters. The discovery of the men was almost accidental. They had been drinking seepage and were pounding on the wall in order to make the water drip down. The noise of the pounding was heard by the rescuers and the work of reaching them was begun. Some of them had written pathetic farewell letters to their wives. William Cleland, one of the survivors, described their experience as follows: "We made the most of our situation. As soon as we discovered fire last Saturday and that there was no hope of escape, we retreated to a safe place where water could be found. Fortunately some of the timbers behind us burned out, and this let earth and rocks fall down, cutting us off from the heat and gas. How the time went we do not know. We must have been unconscious part of the time. I remember soon after we were shut in drinking great quantities of the seepage that had dripped down into the gutter and eating my lunch. After that some of us pulled off the bark and chewed it. We did not realize how serious was our position, in fact, some of the men spent the time joking. It was after we had drunk up all the water and the seepage had run dry that we began to pound on the wall to cause more to drop down. Soon after this we heard voices and one of our men said: 'At last they are coming after us.' We could hear them digging on the other side of the rock and dirt which filled up the passage, and soon a little hole was seen at the top, and the gleam of the torches came through."

New Tax Revenue. It is the belief of Treasury officials that the corporation tax provision of the Payne law will bring to the government an annual revenue of approximately \$27,500,000. None of this money will be available for expenditure in the present fiscal year, but it is understood that in the estimates for the next fiscal year the corporation tax will be listed as a producer of income exceeding \$27,000,000. In the course of a week or ten days Secretary MacVeagh will make public the regulations for the administration of this tax. He devoted the greater part of his summer vacation

"For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia."

GREATEST COLPORTAGE AGENCY.

By Rev. Charles E. Edwards.

This year the greatest colportage agency on earth issued its 105th Report—the British and Foreign Bible Society. Last year its colportage sales reached the unprecedented total of 2,600,000 books. A Bulgarian priest said to a colporteur, "My son, you have a blessed lot in being privileged to distribute the Word of Life." Then turning to the bystanders the priest said, "Every household which does not possess this book and read it every day is not worthy to be called a Christian household." The number of complete Bibles on the society's list is 105—of New Testaments 102—and it has portions in 211 other languages, or a total of 418 dif-

ferent languages in which it has promoted the distribution of Holy Scripture. Its editorial list mentions 152 versions which it is revising or completing. In India it has circulated the Bible in 78 languages, which are current among 225,000,000 people; and yet in India there are 75 other languages spoken by 70,000,000 souls, for whom no part of the Scriptures has yet been issued. Most of the versions used by foreigners in America have been the work of this society, but colportage here is less hindered than in Europe.

Besides this full report with maps and valuable statistics, a volume of eight hundred pages, there is a popular illustrated report of over a hundred pages, very attractive in appearance and literary style, entitled, for 1909, "The Word Among the Nations."

NOTICES.

Presbytery of Chicago will hold a stated meeting at 328 Wabash avenue, Monday, Dec. 6, at 10 a. m. S. C.

Presbytery of Wheeling meets at Wellsburg, W. Va., on Monday, Dec. 13, at 2 p. m. S. C.

Presbytery of Dayton meets in the Third Street church, Dayton, Monday, Dec. 13, at 10 a. m. S. C.

Presbytery of Marion meets in the Lee Street church, Marion, Ohio, Monday, Dec. 6, at 1 p. m. Evangelistic rally at 7 in the evening. S. C.

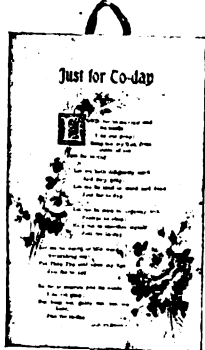
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Series B Size, 5 1/4 x 8 1/4 inches. Hand Painted. 15 cents each, or \$1.25 a dozen (assorted), postpaid.

A dainty series of Verse Cards with new white embossed ornamental floral designs on fine ivory cardboard with hand painted flowers.

- 7. For the New Year. J. R. Miller. 8. The Love of God. Saxe Holm. 9. Just for To-day. Canon Wilberforce. 10. My Symphony. William Henry Channing. 11. Looking to God. Brother Lawrence. 12. Richness of Life. Phillips Brooks.

Series C Size, 4 1/2 x 7 1/4 inches. Lithographed in Colors. 10 cents each, or \$1.00 a dozen (assorted), postpaid. A very pretty series of Verse Cards with gold bevel edge and with fine landscapes reproduced in colors.

- 13. To the Boys of America. Theodore Roosevelt. 14. Work that Endures. Daniel Webster. 15. Do not Worry. Charles F. Deems. 16. Stronger Men. Phillips Brooks. 17. Be Strong. Maltbie D. Babcock. 18. Our Watchword. Psalm 37: 3, 4, 5.

Two Celluloid Top Blotters.

No. 1. There are three pieces of blotting paper in red, white and blue colors attached to each top by a celluloid (Santa Claus) button which is removable. Price, 15 cents each; 2 for 25 cents, or \$1.25 a dozen, postpaid.



No. 2. With a beautiful spray of Lillies of the Valley lithographed in colors, and Dr. Henry van Dyke's Footpath to Peace. Price, 15 cents each; 2 for 25 cents, or \$1.25 a dozen, postpaid.

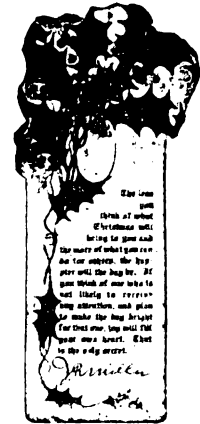
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