

Interesting floral decorations may be seen in the British Museum, and in the Museum at Kew Gardens.

Some of the flowers discovered in the mummy cases are no longer to be found growing



FIG. IV.—MUMMY WITH FLORAL DECORATIONS RESTORED AS THEY WERE ORIGINALLY.

in Egypt. A few of these are occasionally seen in other places, while others seem to have become extinct. A Western civilization has now changed the face of the land, as well as peopled the old country with many new faces and fresh races.

### Sample Copies.

Any subscriber who would like to have specimen copies of the 'Northern Messenger' sent to friends can send the names with addresses and we will be pleased to supply them, free of cost. Sample copies of the 'Witness' and 'World Wide' will also be sent free on application.

## Misguided Zeal.

Charity requires to be tempered with discretion. This was exemplified by an incident told me the other day by a friend of an acquaintance of hers who goes in ardently for philanthropic work. This lady, when district visiting, was rather vexed to feel she had no sick poor to attend to, and was really quite delighted to discover an apparently bed-ridden man whom she went to see daily, carrying fruit and delicacies to him, and reading to him for an hour or two at a time. The man seemed grateful for her kindness, and she went on, without losing zeal, for some weeks, till one day a neighbor let the cat out of the bag. The supposed bedridden invalid was a perfectly hale and healthy 'night-watchman'!

## Polycarp — The Martyr of Smyrna.

(Carrie Joanna Blood, in 'Michigan Advocate'.)

Polycarp lived in the latter part of the first century, being contemporaneous with the apostles. He was instructed in the doctrine of Christianity by St. John and by him appointed bishop of Smyrna. In a most remarkable manner his saintly character exemplified the teachings of the Saviour and untiring zeal led him out into regions beyond. Eusebius relates his martyrdom which exhibits Polycarp's marvellous faith and fortitude. He was calmly sleeping when his inquisitors found him. He arose, greeted them kindly, and ordered refreshments to be set before them and asked them to grant him one hour for prayer. The soldiers were so impressed by his venerable appearance and kindly spirit that they could not refuse his request. When he was led into the city many of the pagans who had long known Polycarp and who appreciated the nobleness of his character, entreated him to simply say, 'Lord Caesar,' offer sacrifice to the idols and be saved.' He meekly replied: 'I cannot follow your advice.' Polycarp was then brought before the pro-consul, who wanted to spare his life. He said to Polycarp, 'If you will only swear by Caesar and reproach Christ, I will immediately release you.'

Polycarp replied: 'Eighty and six years I have served Christ and he hath never wronged me. How can I now blaspheme my King who hath saved me? I am a Christian. If you desire to learn the Christian doctrine, assign me a day and I will declare it unto you.'

The pro-consul said: 'I have the beasts and will expose you to them if you do not yield.'

Polycarp replied, 'Let them come. I cannot change from good to bad; but it is well to pass from these sufferings to the realms of justice.'

'If you have no fear of the beasts I will bind you to the stake and consume you with fire unless you yield.'

'You threaten me,' said Polycarp, 'with fire which burns for a time, and is soon extinguished; but you are ignorant of the future judgment, and of the fire eternal which is reserved for the impious.'

While the funeral-pile was being reared he turned with smiles to the few friends who had gathered about him and gave them his benediction. When they were preparing to fasten him to the stake, he said: 'Leave me as I am. He who gives me fortitude to endure the fire will enable me to remain in the midst of the flames without being bound.' Then raising his eyes to heaven he breathed aloud the following prayer:

'Lord God all powerful, Father of Jesus Christ, thy blessed and well beloved Son, through whom we have received grace to know thee, I thank thee that thou hast led me to this day and to this hour, in which I am to take part in the number of martyrs. May I this day be admitted into thy presence with them as an acceptable sacrifice, in accordance with that thou hast prepared, predicted and fulfilled. Therefore I praise thee for all these things. I bless thee, I glorify thee, through the eternal and celestial High Priest, Jesus Christ, thy dear Son; to whom be rendered glory, with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and through all ages. Amen.'

The church in Smyrna wrote an account of the martyrdom of Polycarp, which is still extant and attests the following event which was witnessed at his death: 'When Polycarp had finished his prayer, the officers

lighted the fire, and a great flame bursting out, we to whom it was given to see, saw a great wonder; who also were reserved to relate to others that which had happened. For the flame forming the appearance of an arch, as the sail of a vessel filled with wind, was a wall round about the body of the martyr; and it was in the midst, not as burning flesh, but as gold and silver, refined in a furnace. At length the impious judges, observing that his body could not be consumed by fire, ordered the executioner to approach, and to plunge his sword into his body. Upon this a quantity gushed out, so that the fire was extinguished, and all the multitude was astonished.'

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

## Strike While the Iron is Hot.

Our Maple Leaf Campaign is going rapidly forward. Scholars are delighted with the small Union Jacks and provincial badges that we are giving as extras with the brooches and pins. Now is the time, while enthusiasm runs high, to secure a good school flag. The month's free trial subscription gives a good chance for all to appreciate the worth of our papers, two of them, anyway. The additional samples we will send on application will introduce them to 'World Wide,' and the subscription list needed to get a fine FLAG FREE, can be easily made up. Get to work at once and secure one by Dominion Day, if not sooner.

Nithburg, Ont., April 26.

John Dougall & Son,—Dear Sirs,—I received my pins and brooches in fine order, and am pleased with them. They all think the leaves are beautiful. Thanking you very much for them. Yours truly,

JOHN A. THOMPSON.

## CANADIAN FLAGS FOR THE SCHOOLS.

### OUR PREMIUM FLAGS.

It would be hard to find finer Canadian flags than those we have imported from our manufacturers, one of the largest flag firms in Britain.

The quality of the bunting, the richness of the colors, the good workmanship shown in their make-up—all call for the highest praise from everyone who has seen them. They are of uniform style and make, with canvas heading, rope and toggle, the larger sizes suitably strengthened at the corners, altogether a thoroughly first-class article.

The three yard and four yard flags are particularly attractive, the large sizes adding very much to the effect, as can be readily appreciated, when it is considered that the four yard flag is exactly four times as large as the two yard flag, the width of the flag being always half the length. Besides its effectiveness for outdoor use, the four yard flag is specially fine for interior decoration.

The question on every hand is, 'How can you give away these splendid flags as premiums?' The only answer is that this is no mere money making scheme. Our Diamond Jubilee offer of flags is made to encourage the expression of an ever growing patriotism in the schools of the country, and as one of the ways in which we mark our sixtieth year as publishers. It is made that there need be no school in the length and breadth of the Dominion without a Canadian flag, the emblem which goes so far towards promoting a strong and national sentiment, fostering loyalty and devotion to our King, our Empire and our own fair Dominion of Canada.

These flags were planned first and foremost for the schools, but realizing there was a recognized need for them also in Sunday-schools, clubs, lodges and societies, we have left our offer open to these, even to individuals, all on the same terms.

See our flag advertisement on another page.

## Acknowledgments.

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