

The Tragedy of Greatness

O'er the horizon of earth's common souls,
A great man rises;
Some cry, "A genius; Favorite of the gods!"
Ah, vain surmises!

They little know the tender truth that lies
'Neath his bright name;
A mother's sacrifice, a father's toil
Have made his fame.

The lonely homestead and the quiet farm
Have made sublime
Love's sacrifice, upon the shrine of Hope,
To Life and Time.

VERNE DEWITT ROWELL,
London, Ont.

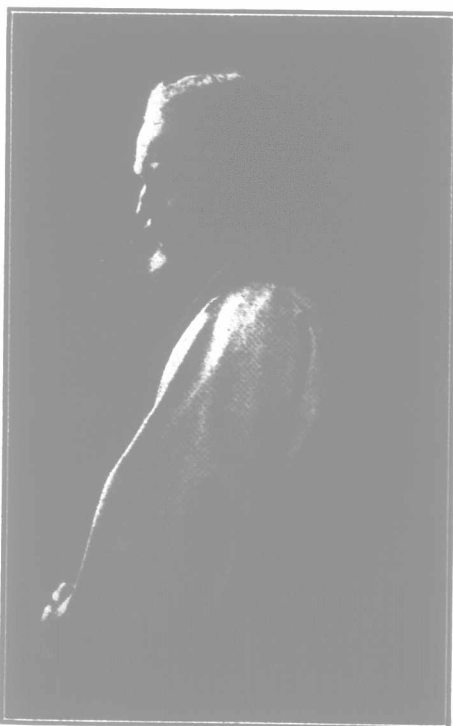
Dr. Goldwin Smith, although a man of purely academic education, was remarkably interested in agriculture; yet it was, perhaps, a coincidence that in Cornell, the University to which he bequeathed the greater portion of his wealth, the leading department is that of agriculture. "Cornell," says Edwin Slosson, "has more graduate students in the single department of agriculture than some universities have either in their entire graduate schools, or in their undergraduate colleges of agriculture. Of more significance than their number is the high quality of the young men now being attracted by agricultural research. This is due, as I have said before, not so much to the practical demands of the industry or to the heavy subsidizing of such work by the Government . . . but rather to the new field of discovery which has suddenly been opened in this direction. One of the most interesting examinations that I attended in my rounds of the universities was one in Cornell on the methods of manufacture of new kinds of fruit. Even an outsider could catch something of the fascination there must be in the modeling of plants and animals according to a pre-existent concept."

All farmers, it is true, cannot devote time to such abstruse problems as the creation of new species, but any farmer who chooses can conduct the ordinary operations of farming according to scientific bases. He must study to do so, but the study will yield a rich harvest of interest and gain. According as farming becomes scientific it is raised from the plane of mere drudgery for a living to that of a fascinating profession.

General Yin Chang, Minister of War for China, who has been travelling in Europe, recently let fall some observations which are regarded as significant of signal changes in the organization of the Celestial Empire. China has, he stated, already in hand plans for the formation of a strong army, to be composed of Chinese exclusively, all Japanese who are at present serving in the Chinese army to be removed. China, he declared, only lacks capable instructors, and with the object of providing such instructors, all Chinese officers at present attached to European armies, and many students studying abroad, will be recalled. As a preliminary, the military establishments of France, Germany, Austria, etc., will be inspected by eminent men of the Empire.

China's aversion to war has long been pointed to as proof that the Chinese army could never loom large among offensive and defensive forces. New times, however, bring new man-

ners. It is now well known that the once sleeping Empire is forging ahead industrially at a rate that must make her ere long a formidable, commercial rival of western nations, and it is only reasonable to expect that, recognizing the necessity, in the present stage of the earth's morals, of a protective force to every rich country, in order that the rights of "mine and thine" be respected, she should set about actively to provide that force. What the Oriental does



Anton Lang.

As "Christus," in the Oberammergau Passion Play.

he does well, and there is no doubt a great future ahead of this greatest Oriental nation.

During the present summer the majority of tourists in Europe are taking advantage of the opportunity to see, at Oberammergau, a little village 2,745 feet up among the Bavarian highlands, the famous Passion Play, given there once in every ten years by the peasants of the district.

The story of the strange presentation is as follows: After the visitation of the plague in 1663, the people of this village made a solemn vow to represent the passion tragedy every ten years, and the records state that "from this time on not a single man died of plague." In 1664, then, the play was given for the first time, and in 1820 it was enriched by music, composed by Rochus Dedler, an Oberammergau schoolmaster. Ever since then, regularly, at the end of the prescribed time, the play is given, and by degrees costumes of finest and most durable quality have been procured for the actors. As no wigs or make-ups of any kind are allowed, a few months before the presentation of the drama the men and boys allow their hair to grow.

At first the play was held in the village church, but as the decades passed on visitors increased in numbers, and to day it is given in a sheltered auditorium containing 1,000 seats.

Notwithstanding the money that must flow into the little place from such an attendance, the spirit in which the villagers carry out the drama is said to have no taint of

commercialism. They are deeply religious at all times. Most of them are wood-carvers, simple, godly people, who have come to look upon themselves as born for the enactment of the Passion Play. They have received repeatedly lucrative offers to present it in other places, but will act nowhere but at Oberammergau.

Anton Lang, the present "Christus," is a potter and stovemaker, described as "a gentle, earnest soul, unspoiled by a life rich in experience." There are 574 performers, 76 musicians, and 50 others connected with the play, about 700 in all.

The Windrow.

Archery is a fad for women of the United States this season.

A new book by John Burroughs, entitled, "In the Catskills," is in the hands of Houghton, Mifflin Co.

A laundry for washing, starching and ironing dirty "greenbacks" has been installed in Washington by the U. S. Government.

Mr. Joseph Thomas, who made a fortune by inventing a pliable hoop-skirt in the old days, died not long ago in Hoboken, N.J.

John D. Rockefeller has offered a gift of \$50,000 to Acadia College, Wolfville, N. S., on condition that \$150,000 shall be raised to supplement it.

Roosevelt's book of his travels, which will be published this fall, will be entitled "African Game Trails."



Albrecht Bierling.

Who is taking the part of St. John in the Oberammergau Passion Play.

and will be printed in English, French and German.

Nearly all of the women novelists of England, among them the well-known Beatrice Harraden, are Sudragettes. Mrs. Humphrey Ward is a noted and active "anti."

The City of Aberdeen, Scotland, is about to erect a statue to the memory of Lord Byron, who spent several years of his boyhood there. It will be placed on the grounds of the old Grammar School.

It costs at least \$10,000,000 to build a Dreadnought, and \$1,000,000 per annum to keep one of them afloat. It also costs about \$1,500 every time one of their 12-inch guns is fired. Yet in about ten years the ship that costs all this is so out-of-date as to be practically useless.

A short list of the more notable works of fiction to appear during the coming season includes "An Affair of Dishonor," by Mr. William de Morgan; "Rest Harrow," by Mr. Maurice Hewlett; "Lady Good-for-Nothing," by Mr. A. T. Quiller-Couch; "Clayhanger," by Mr. Arnold Bennett; "Early Victorian," by Mr. S. G. Tallentyre; "A Doctor's Christmas Eve," by James Lane Allen; "Adrian Savage," by Lucas Malet; and "Men, Women and Ghosts," by Mrs. Edith Wharton.

Canada has the largest wheat field in the world, the largest elevator and the largest mill. The largest lift-lock in the world is at Peterboro. The longest bridge span is being built at Quebec. The largest railway yard in the Empire is in Winnipeg, and the largest collieries in the world are in Nova Scotia. Canada has the most prolific and extensive sea fisheries in the world, the largest silver, nickel and copper mines, and the thickest known coal seam in the world.—[Oakville Star.]

The guillotine owes its name to the fact that, during the Revolution a Dr. Guillotin, disgusted by tortures which were inflicted on the poorer classes when they were brought up for judgment, proposed to the Constituent Assembly that all "criminals" should be treated the same, irrespective of rank, and that the least painful possible execution for all condemned to death should be fixed upon. The motion was accepted, and another physician, Dr. Antoine Louis, devised the machine, first known as the "Louisette," but afterwards as the "Guillotine," which was deemed more distinctive, because of the prevalence of the names Louis and Louise in France. The awful carnage of the guillotine, which had not been foreseen by the benevolent Dr. Guillotin, was a source of endless sorrow to him. "He could never," writes a friend, "console himself for what he called the involuntary blot on his career. His venerable features wore an expression of great sadness, his hair had been bleached by anxiety. In endeavoring to mitigate the suffering of humanity he felt that he had unwillingly been the means of destroying many lives." Dr. Guillotin died in 1814, just a few days before Napoleon abdicated at Fontainebleau for the first time.

It may not be generally known that, during excavations carried on by Dr. D. B. Spooner, of the Indian Archaeological Survey, near Peshawar, India, some time ago, a portion of the remains of the founder of Buddhism was discovered. It is a well-attested fact that on the death of Gautama Buddha his body was burned, and an immense tumuli built to preserve the relics. In time, after the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni, the site was lost, and remained so until discovered by Dr. Spooner, at the suggestion of M. Foucher, the French archaeologist. The account of the finding is as follows: "After much hard work a relic chamber was discovered. Its contents included a metal casket, and within it a reliquary of rock crystal. The contents of the casket is de-