

The Dominion Presbyterian

WOMEN IN CHINA.

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30 1909.

Prince Henry of Prussia recently stated at a meeting of the Navy League in Berlin that Germany needed a powerful navy to secure peace. A curious way to preserve peace—by shaking your fist in the other person's face.

The Dominion Government is to be commended for having issued orders that intoxicating liquors should be excluded from the militia camps this year. The order applies to the officers' mess as well as the canteen. And the order has been strictly carried out. Nor has anyone suffered. The camps are reported so far to be the most orderly ever held.

The annual reports to the General Assembly on Life and Work deplore the decadence of family worship, and rightly so. There is occasion therefore for such an organization as the Family Altar League, which exists in the United States, and might well be extended into Canada. Its object is to establish family worship in every Christian home. The Society of the Holy Name, organized under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church, to discourage profanity, and the Family Altar League deserve every encouragement. There is a wide field for their operations.

These are the days of large capitalization. When great things have been achieved, the desire grows to achieve still greater. "I will pull down my barns and build greater in which to bestow my goods," said one of old. The modern departmental store is not big enough to suit modern ideas, and so one is to be organized in New York with a capital of \$51,000,000. It will be formed by a union of thirty or more dry goods and department stores in New York and other cities. The nucleus seems to be the H. B. Clafin Co., which controls numerous stores throughout the country. It is questionable whether the public are any better served by such gigantic organizations, and the principle of combination is bad.

The awakening in China is having its influence on the status of women in that country, where they have long been regarded as inferiors. An Imperial edict has been issued forbidding the binding of the feet of female children, and another makes the education of girls compulsory. Many associations of girls have been formed who pledge themselves, if they marry, to choose their own husbands instead of accepting those selected by their parents. Women are taking a more active part in the discussion and determination of political and industrial questions. It is not long since railways were completely ostracised in China, but recently the young women of a certain province opposed the proposal to borrow money in England for an important railway and invested \$100,000 in the stock of a Chinese company which undertook the enterprise. These changes are the natural result of the education of girls, long strenuously resisted, but now rendered compulsory by law.

The Presbyterian Church has been sending women medical missionaries into China, but it looks as if that would not much longer be necessary. Seven young Chinese women recently graduated at the medical college of the Presbyterian Board at Canton. The Taotai, or mayor of the city, delivered an address closing with the wish, "May you female students all pluck up your courage." The fact that they were there showed that they had done so, and they will do it all over China. When Chinese women physicians, trained in Christian missionary institutions, are sent forth to their professional work with the official approval of their rulers it shows that a new day has dawned in that land.

How much reason there is for those who have been doing missionary work in China to thank God and take courage.

The United States Steel Corporation, one of the largest industrial organizations in the world, has taken a stand with reference to Sunday labor which does them credit. An order has been issued abolishing Sunday labor in all their mills. The reason given is that "it has been figured out that to give the mills one day of absolute rest in seven will SAVE TIME AND MONEY IN THE LONG RUN." The National Tube Works, under the same management, has put a similar order into effect. It is sometimes said that corporations have no souls. These seem to have, and to consider them worthy of trying to save.

In "How to Identify the Stars," which The Macmillan Company is bringing out this week (June 23), Professor Willis I. Milham has provided exactly the information which amateur astronomers wish to find at hand. With the aid of the charts and plans at the back of the books, the identification of the constellations becomes a simple undertaking, and in the text is to be found much compact information. One very valuable feature is the inclusion of the recently completed work of the Harvard Observatory in determining the magnitude of the stars. These figures, representing the latest results of astronomical research, have not hitherto been readily obtainable. Altogether, the book provides a convenient and agreeable introduction to knowledge of the heavens.

(Contributed.)

Protestants of all nationalities and denominations the world over are preparing to celebrate in July the fourth centenary of the birth of John Calvin. It is gratifying to see how wide and deep spread the veneration of that great character. Theologians are re-editing in every language his immortal works; historians are retelling his thrilling story; literary men are praising the genius of the man who was one of the creators of modern French; politicians admire the iron will which built up Geneva, the Protestant home.

The centre of the Calvin celebrations will be in Geneva, Switzerland. The diverse festivities will spread over a whole week.

The National Church of Geneva is to be responsible for the first two days, July 3rd and 4th. Her Presbytery is organizing lectures, receptions and solemn ceremonies in the cathedral of St. Pierre, with sermons and specially composed choral services.

The Boys' college (high school) is to celebrate on the following day the 350th anniversary of its foundation by John Calvin. Hundreds of "Old Boys" will take part in a great meeting, a procession and a colossal banquet in the playgrounds, each table graded according to classes as far back as a few grey heads which are left represent them.

The Tuesday, 6th July, will perhaps be the most brilliant day of that memorable week. The first stone of the Reformation Monument will be laid with due solemnity amid a great concourse of citizens and deputations. The day will close with garden parties in the stately mansions, whose lawns and oaks descend like waves of green to the shores of the lovely lake, which will be brilliantly illuminated.

The monument is to be erected at the base of the old city walls, in the University gardens. Post tenebras lux, the proud Genevan motto, will be engraved in bold letters on the background, and the statues of Calvin, Farel, Beza and Knox will form the central group. Busts or figures of Zwingli and Luther, of William of Orange, of Cromwell, of Roger Williams, of Stephen Baskal and of William of Brandenburg will complete the monument, which may be termed an international tribute to the founders and defenders of the Protestant faith.

The president of the committee is Professor Lucien Gautier, a patrician and a reputed Hebrew scholar. Any reasonable applications for invitations ought to be addressed to him. The guests of the committee will be taken a trip around the lake in special steamers and another "Fete de Nuit" will close the first part of the celebration.

On Thursday will begin the Jubilee of the University with diverse academic ceremonies, receptions and banquets. The whole commemoration will be crowned on Saturday by a procession and a "Fete" organized by the students.

Any Canadian in Switzerland this summer ought to make a point of seeing some of these celebrations, which will be interesting both from a historic point of view and as a characteristic symptom of the world-wide sympathies, learning, hospitality, and organized genius of the Genevan people. It is hoped that Principal Peterson will