

HOME JOURNAL

A Department for the Family

People and Things the World Over

The Canadian Women's Press Club holds its fifth annual meeting in Toronto on June 16-17.

* * *

Charles Egerton Ryerson, only son of Dr. Ryerson, the founder of the Ontario school system, died in Toronto. He was assistant librarian of the Toronto public library.

* * *

Missionary money of the Methodist Church in Canada, Dr. Chown charged in the Montreal Conference, is being wasted in competition with the Presbyterian Church. The remedy, he considers, is to withdraw men from small circuits where the Presbyterians have also a man, and put the money where it may be used with splendid results in the rapidly growing West.

* * *

One of the most interesting structures at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition will be the forestry building. In making it 126 fir logs have been used as main columns. These pieces of fir timber are no ordinary logs. The longest, twenty-six of them, are each 54 feet long and all the rest are 42 feet long. The average diameter at the top is 6 feet 6 inches. Each of the largest of the columns contains about 13,000 feet of lumber. The building will be 312 feet long, 128 feet wide and 90 feet high.

* * *

The Australasian Commonwealth Government Old-age Pension Trust Fund now has to its credit £543,621, and, by the end of the current financial year, will reach the total of nearly £750,000, sufficient to enable the treasurer to inaugurate the national pensions system. The first year's payments are expected to absorb £1,500,000. When the invalid's pensions are made operative by proclamation, it is estimated the taxpayer will be required to provide £2,000,000 a year for the veterans of industry, and those who have been permanently injured while in pursuit of an honest calling.

* * *

Pilai Osorio, a baby pianist who plays Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Mozart at three years old and has already made a musical reputation in Berlin, her native city, made her debut in London a week or two ago. The little girl prattles in Spanish and German, the latter being the language of her father, a German doctor at Charlottenburg. Pepito Arriola, the boy pianist who has been hailed as a "reincarnation of Mozart," is her half brother. At a signal from her mother the little girl left her Teddy bear and toddled to the piano. She has an extraordinary ear for music, and her baby hands flitted across the piano with amazing rapidity. With her eyes fixed on the instrument she played through Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," Haydn's Gipsy Ronda, and the Concertstuck of Espinoza. The signing of her photograph proved a more formidable task to the child than playing the "Spring Song" from beginning to end, for she has only just begun to learn her letters.

* * *

Burial in Westminster Abbey is rightly guarded jealously in these days, although in past times, as anybody who inspects the monuments can discover, the test of worthiness was not a very high one. It is remarkable that the Dukes of Northumberland are the only persons who can claim burial there as a right, and naturally the privilege is used. The exacting test that is now applied to claim for burial is wholly a modern growth. Even in the early part of the nineteenth century the idea of a national Valhalla had not taken firm root. As Westminster Abbey

is the burial place of the statesmen and the writers, so St. Paul's gains distinction from the soldiers, sailors, and painters who sleep there the long sleep. Burial in St. Paul's in these days is almost as difficult a thing as burial at Westminster. The obstacle, however, is not so much overcrowding as the fact that St. Paul's stands on a thick bed of concrete, which has to be broken through for each interment, and in days when the stability of the whole structure has been in question interference with the foundations is naturally a matter of jealous scrutiny.

The Nameless Dead

We only know they fought and died, and o'er their graves the wind has sighed, for many a long slow-footed year; and winter's snow has drifted here; and in the dawning warmth of spring the joyous birds came here to sing; we only know that rest is sweet to weary hearts and toiling feet, and they who sleep beneath the sod gave all they had to give to God. And in the radiance of the Throne, their names are known—their names are known! We know not what from homes they came; we can but guess their dreams of fame; but lamps for them did vainly burn, and mothers waited their return, and listened, at some cottage door, for steps that sounded never more; and loving eyes grew dim with tears, and hearts grew old with grief of years. And here they sleep, as they have slept, since legions o'er the country swept; where mothers wait before the Throne, their names are known—their names are known!

—WALT MASON.

Progress of Panama Canal

As time goes on, interest in the construction of the Panama Canal, the gigantic project which baffled De Lesseps a score of years ago, increases. So far, the work progresses apace, and promises a brilliant triumph for twentieth century enterprise. The plan is to lift the canal by a system of high locks, capable of taking the largest ships to a height of 85 feet above sea-level for a considerable part of its course. In order to obviate digging for a part of the way, an immense dam, the Gatun, is being constructed to dam back the Chagres River, which flows into the Atlantic, and thereby form a lake, twenty-three miles in length, along the malarial flats of the Chagres. By doing this, two objects will be accomplished—the forming of a considerable waterway, and the stamping out of disease over a large extent of country. On the Western side of this lake, a channel fed by it, on the same level will extend for nine miles, the remainder of the total fifty miles being covered by locks, as on the eastern side of the waterway.

At present, sixty huge steam shovels are at work, and an army of 31,815 employees, made up of Spaniards, Italians, Americans, British and negroes. Most of these men would rather be "back in God's country," as they say, yet the wages, which average from 40 to 80 per cent. more than in the United States, hold them to the work. As may be imagined, a very complete system of government and of commissariat has been found necessary, and, for the protection of the workmen, an indefatigable war has been kept in progress against the species of mosquitoes which carry the germs of yellow fever and malaria. Thanks to the measures taken, especially the use of petroleum on stagnant pools and marshes, this danger has been greatly reduced.

If it prove possible to construct the Gatun dam in such a way that it will resist the pressure of the proposed lake, no fears are entertained that the waterway will not be ready for use, as planned, in 1915, a date which will mark an epoch in the commercial history of the world. The entire cost will be about \$300,000,000.

Check It at the Start

After some delays the authorities have decided to send Blythe to the gallows. The crime for which he is to suffer the extreme penalty of the law is the killing of his wife by beating her. He was in the habit of chastising her severely whenever she offended him and on this occasion the discipline was so severe that she could not endure it. The defence tried to show that since he had not planned to kill her deliberately the verdict of murder should not be brought against him. Perhaps, technically, that was true, but a planned and suddenly executed death would have been kindness and mercy compared to the long years of agony, which he made her suffer, sufferings which would have continued indefinitely if death had not kindly released her from his cruelties. It looks as if the laxity of the law regarding wife-beaters would be held partially responsible for this murder. A fine or a few weeks in jail is nothing to a man who beats his wife; it provokes him to still greater cruelties in revenge. He hasn't been hurt—merely provoked to deeper wrath. What is needed is some discipline that will give physical pain to the man who has caused physical pain in another. The wife beater should be beaten. Such a punishment would have a remarkably cooling effect on a man's temper, and he would think several times before giving way to violence of whose pains he has had a taste himself, and wife beaters would not so often develop into wife murderers.

A Good Example

Among the benefits conferred by the foreign missionary on the world's civilization, the accomplishment of church union, it would appear, must be placed well up on the list. At home a tremendous amount of talking is being done and not much action, but abroad there is not much said about doctrines and creeds, and a great deal about the essentials of the gospel of Christ. John Campbell Gibson, D.D., a missionary to China, says in a recent address before the Presbyterian Synod of England:

"We have long lamented our divisions, and now are beginning to be ashamed of them. The churches planted across the seas have been won not by watchwords of division. In the days of the great persecution in China, nine years ago, when the Boxers tested the Christians there, they did not test them by the Westminster Confession, nor the Thirty-nine Articles, nor the Twenty-four, nor by the Sermons of Wesley. They chose a more universal and searching test. Drawing a rude cross upon the ground, they called on their prisoners to trample it under foot, offering life and freedom to those who did so, and death to those that refused. In that hour some fell from a scarcely grasped faith, but many thousands could not bring themselves to put a contemptuous foot on the rudest symbol of the holy passion of their Redeemer, and they died unflinching, not as Anglicans, Wesleyans or Presbyterians, but as Christians, members of the one Body, holding the one faith, inspired by the one Spirit, and so they gained the crown of life."

* * *

The Bishop of Stepney said that, as a Cockney born and bred, he believed that of all creatures in the world the London child was the most interesting and attractive. The other day, when a clergyman was passing along Bond street, a newsboy came along crying "Winner, winner"; but seeing the cleric, he thought that such news would not be welcome to the ecclesiastical ears, so he at once altered his cry to "Dreadful fire at Jerusalem."

HOPE'S

POWER WITH

By his strength he had God: yea, he had power; and prevailed: he was supplication unto him. Turn thou to thy God and judgment, and wait continually.—Hosea xii.

In the text, the prophet to that mysterious scene of Jacob when, in his wrestle a Divine Visitation And Jacob said, "I will go, except thou bless me the blessing and call of the place Peniel, saying God face to face. name was changed on that to Israel—for he was a prince he exercised power with God and with men.

People sometimes won prayers are not answer pray like that? Do it let go until they secure blessing? The great secret in any enterprise is the to win. As the prophet "Ye that make mention keep not silence, and give till He establish, and Jerusalem a praise in the.

But why should God duntunity in prayer, who anxious to hear than and more desirous to be ing than we to receive is very evident that He is ing for our sakes, because how injurious to us pray if it were a magic charm instantly give us everything. It is possible to make work of a child so easy that he misses his chance strong in mind and soul body is not braced uervating training. A gfather gives his son his learn, and rewards him gence by sending him where the lessons are.

"If ye, then, being ev to give good gifts unto how much more shall which is in Heaven, give to them that ask Him." and pray on, though He disregard your prayer. silence may be a proof in you—He sees that ye and treats you according to make you stronger. in His love, and because

"God answers prayer when hearts are w He gives the very seek."

If he is less easy with that is no reason for dis because He is wrestling order to strengthen faith Can He strengthen you way? If you wish to prevailing power—with men, then you must wrestle "until the break day." We belong to "Militant"—so fighting ness.

There is one strange Him who "went about on this earth many poor woman pleaded w agony, pleaded for her selfish love, and He at deaf to her appeal, an words which seemed ter harsh. The disciples joal to hers. Surely t more eager to hear and He was. It certainly loc often seems to-day that ready to relieve suffering And yet our Lord not that passionate praye saw she would take no He also spoke words praise: "O woman, faith: be it unto thee wilt." We may be very gain of that torturing de great to her, and it has ions of heartsick souls.

Perhaps we prayed something much desired,