

THE Big Fair OPENS AT WOODSTOCK T-O-D-A-Y!

REMEMBER THE DAYS,
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,
25th, 26th, and 27th.

Oppressed Finland.

Sympathy with the Boers in their struggle against Great Britain is strongly and constantly expressed in France, where enthusiasm is at present running high over the visit to the Czar of Russia. A great deal is said and written about the tyranny and oppression of the British in overcoming Boer resistance, but not a word is heard of Russian tyranny and oppression in Finland. Yet British policy in South Africa, which aims solely at free, constitutional government to men of all races, is not open even to comparison with the ruthless extirpation by the Czar of the constitutional freedom which had been guaranteed to Finland.

Mr. George Kenran, the journalist lately expelled from Russia, has published a pitiful account of the drastic measures employed by the Russian Government. He says that Russia's shameless betrayal of the Finnish people is a crime of the ages. Never in history has a solemn obligation been so wantonly violated. If

the government of the Czar had been capable of being bound by anything which other nations regarded as inviolable, Finland would have been spared the extinction of its liberties. So glaring an instance of Russian faithlessness should appeal, if anything could, to French sympathy for the oppressed and warn Frenchmen of the true character of the ally on whom they foolishly place their dependence. But in their increasing jealousy of Britain and blind desire for revenge on Germany, they ignore the terrible object lesson presented to their gaze in Finland, and vent all their sentimental wrath on a nation that may yet be called upon to save France from the embraces of the friend she now delights to honor. The case of Finland is worse than that of Poland, for Finland became subject to Russia by solemn compact, not by conquest, and there was not even a suspicion of revolt to justify the ukase for the extinction of the nationality, language, laws and religion of the Finnish people.

Among the many dark pages in Russian history none is darker than this.

Intemperance on the Decrease.

It is plain that the business conditions of to-day require the services of sober men. No others need apply. Great enterprises can only be carried on successfully by those who utilize fully their natural mental and physical energies. The hard drinker cannot command the confidence of business men, hence those who indulge immoderately in the use of strong intoxicants sooner or later become loafers. Ambitious men have learned that success can only come either in business life or in the professions to those who keep their wits about them all the time and preserve themselves so as to be able physically to perform great labor. This state of things has had its influence socially for apparent reasons, and hence those who at dinner and other social entertainments habitually indulge to the extent of obvious intoxication are no longer regarded with amusement, but with commiseration and as needing such tender care as is given to a sick man.

The Absent-Minded Don.

One of the finest instances of absence of mind on record is that furnished by a certain Oxford don, whose "scholarly abstraction" frequently landed him in difficulties.

Dining out one night, he suddenly became immersed in thought, and for a time sat gazing at his plate, evidently deeply engrossed in some mighty problem.

Now it happened that his left hand neighbor, a portly dame, had a habit of resting her hands on the table, palm down and fingers closed.

Suddenly the professor awoke from his brown study, seized his fork, plunged it into the plump paw reposing to the left of his plate, and, beaming genially through his glasses, remarked, "My bread, I think!"—[Tit-Bits.

Infanticide in India.

Miss Minnie F. Abrams, Superintendent of Department of Prevention of Cruelty to Children for India, of the Woman's Christian Temperance

Union, says:

"Infanticide, although no longer existing openly, is practiced to an alarming extent. In some castes girls are not prized. Nearly all the girls are destroyed in infancy, and women are so scarce that wives are taken for the sons from other castes. Pundita Ramabai tells of a woman who told her in confidence that seventeen girl babies, children of her own immediate relatives, had been disposed of. I myself during ten years' stay in India have known several cases of what I believed to be intentional infanticide. Of two of these cases the relatives openly said that they were starving the babies to death, because they believed them to have caused the death of their fathers before their birth. When they saw that we were going to give them trouble they secretly removed, and were lost to us in the labyrinth of the great city. I knew of another case where the firstborn was a girl. The mother told me she had no pleasure in the child, as her husband and father made her life bitter because the child was a girl. When the babe died a few days afterward there was no sorrow manifested, and I felt sure from all that I had observed that it had been starved to death. All are not disposed of by starvation. Some are exposed to cold, others are smothered or strangled."—Selected.

Living in a Fool's Paradise.

(August Atlantic Monthly.)

Americans are disposed to assume that no coalition could ever be formed against them. Judging by the past, nothing can be more certain than that coalition both can and will be formed against them, if they so behave as to make such coalition worth the cost and risk. Coalitions always have been made, under such conditions, and probably always will continue to be made. To be opulent, unarmed and aggressive is to put a premium upon them. A coalition of this character was, in fact, contemplated in 1898, and is generally believed to have been abandoned

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only through uncertainty as to the neutrality of England.

Supposing a coalition of two or more powers, of which France were to be one; they would possess an admirable base in the West Indies, in Martinique or Guadeloupe, and also convenient bases in Asia. No station on the whole Asiatic coast is more commanding than Port Arthur, held by Russia. Fleets, therefore, of any size could be concentrated and supplied close to the seat of war, and Europeans compute that they could be concentrated against us at the least in the ratio of two or one.

Our rivals believe that a couple of defeats secured by overwhelming numbers would settle the war; for fleets cannot be built in less than two or three years, and they calculate that two or three years of isolation, resulting from the loss or control of the sea, would produce enough domestic unrest to enforce acceptance of their terms. Those terms, they assume, would suffice to insure their future safety.

Mr. Manhattan—Are the divorced women of Chicago called widows?

Mrs. Wabash—Not for and length of time.—Town and Country.

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