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Preparing for Encampment.

GETTYSBURG, Pa., July 17.—A hospital corps of sixty men from the Washington barracks, in charge of Lieutenants Gilchrist and Reynolds, which left the national capital on Thursday, arrived here to-day and will remain during the encampment of the division of the Pennsylvania National Guard, which begins next Saturday. The men were on foot, and walked twenty-two miles from Silver Run this morning. During the past week a force of men has been at work preparing the ground for the encampment, and the site is now ready for the soldier.

Hebrew history. She is another Irene of Constantinople, or Catharine de Medicis of France, or Shakespearean Lady Macbeth. She is the inventor of priestly inquisition and first supporter of religious persecution. She was masterful, indomitable, and implacable. Her father had killed his brother in order to get the Zidonian throne. Such was the fierce and fanatical blood that flowed in her veins.

It was an evil day for both Israel and Judah when Ahab took the woman to be his wife. The pains and penalties of that choice perpetrated themselves for a thousand years. It was under her malignant influence that positive idolatry was established. Calf-worship, had, it is true, been previously established and was unauthoritative and corrupt. The calf was, however, everywhere recognized as a symbol of Jehovah, and under this sign he was still worshipped. But with the advent of Jezebel, the Baals supplanted Jehovah. A great Baalite temple was built in Samaria with the evident purpose of surpassing that of Jerusalem. Eight hundred priests in gorgeous regalia served at the altars. The pomp of a sensuous cult was substituted for the simple and speaking rites of an elevated theistic religion. The essence of the faith of Israel found its expression in the simple creed "Jehovah, Israel's God; Israel, Jehovah's people." But in place of the revered name of Jehovah it was deliberately proposed to substitute the name of the Baals. It was a blow at monotheism. In the place of the one God were to be substituted "gods many," namely, all the local deities of fertility—with all their shameful and murderous rites, including the burning of children. To such a foul depth had Israel fallen: The cumulative nature of sin has a startling illustration in that the same superlative terms are used to describe the sin of son as well as of father. Each did worse than all before him.

THE TEACHER'S LANTERN.

With Ahab a new and vivid section of Hebrew history begins. It closes with the destruction of the house of Omri by Jehu. Its importance is indicated by the fact that its incidents are recorded at length. The advent of Elijah makes it an epoch of absorbing interest. It is the description of one of the decisive battles of the world—the battle between Jehovah and Baal. It is both the glory and the shame of the nation.

Ahab's foolish choice of a wife resulted in lasting dishonor. Companionship stamps character. "A companion of fools shall be destroyed." There was a general law against marriage with a heathen. For a king to violate that law was all the more reprehensible because of the exemplary power of his high position. Yet Ahab considered it a light thing. He was unwarned by all previous visitations— which were in vain as far as he was concerned.

Jezebel is odious in the last degree, but she must be treated with historic fairness. She was a vigorous woman of a vigorous race. Her name is linked with the classic names of Belus, Pygmalion, and Dido.

Samaria was a name destined to become familiar and significant. Its origin, as here given, is exceedingly interesting. Omri's removal of his capital from Tirzah to Samaria was like Constantine's removal from Rome to Constantinople. The new site was exceedingly advantageous—for

strength and beauty. The name is derived from that of the owner of the hill. Shemer, from whom it was purchased at a price which is curiously a matter of record to this day.

A stone cries out in witness to the accuracy of Scripture. Thirty-six years ago a missionary in Syria found what is now known as the Moabite Stone, and which is said to read like a new chapter in the Book of Kings. It was made 850 B. C., bears the name of Jehovah and Omri, and confirms Bible history and geography.

The inscription on the Moabite stone is in ancient Phoenician, and covers thirty-four lines. It is an interesting incident that when the Arabs found this stone, they became suspicious and broke it up into small pieces, to be used as amulets. Not understanding its historical value, they thought the reason it was wanted was that it possessed some magic spell. The infinite patience of the archeologist (a class of workmen not generally understood or appreciated) is illustrated in the recovery of the fragments, the restoration of the stone and its translation. It is in the Louvre in Paris.

Two golden calves seemed an incident so small that it might be winked at. They were only graven reminders of the true God. They were far apart. One was at the northern and the other at the southern boundary. Their setting up was an insignificant affair, not worth making a fuss over. But no! That was the crux in the dike. Through that small orifice came all the putrid flood of idolism. The beginnings of evil should be resisted.

Farmers Institutes in Pennsylvania.

The report of the United States Department of Agriculture on farmers' institute work, recently published under the signature of John Hamilton, specialist in that Department, shows the following progress as having been made in Pennsylvania: Population 6,302,115. Total number of homes 1,320,025. Number of farm homes 225,565. Per cent of farm homes 17.1. Approximate population in farm homes 1,077,661.

Director of institutes.—A. L. Martin, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Harrisburg.

Under the Pennsylvania law the deputy Secretary of Agriculture, who is appointed by the Governor for a term of four years, is also director of farmers' institutes. He is required to "arrange them in such manner as to time and places of holding the same as to secure the greatest economy and efficiency of service, and to this end he shall, in each county where such institutes are to be held, confer and advise with the local member of the State Board of Agriculture, together with representatives duly appointed by each county agricultural, horticultural, and other like organizations, with reference to the appointment of speakers and other local arrangements."

The institutes are supported by biennial appropriations by the Legislature to the Department of Agriculture. The number of institutes held last year were 327, consisting of 631 sessions. Forty-nine of these institutes were one day, 277 two-day, and 1 three-day. There were 58 lecturers upon the state force. The amount appropriated for the support of the institutes was \$15,000. Partial reports are published in the annual report of the Department.

Thirty-one thousand six hundred copies of this report are published and distributed annually. The Pennsylvania State College and the Agricultural Experiment Station were represented on the institute lecture force by four members, who contributed in the aggregate 108 days of their time and attended 58 institutes. The local organization consists of a county chairman, who is usually the member of the State Board of Agriculture elected by the county agricultural society, and one representative from each of the other county agricultural organizations. All of the expenses of the institute work, including the local expenses in the several counties, are paid out of the state appropriation. The state director fixes the dates and the county committees select the places and prepare the programmes. About 75 independent institutes were held last year by farmers' clubs, granges, and county agricultural societies. The State is divided into five sections for institute purposes, and the institute purposes, and the institute director furnishes three lecturers for each section.

A feature of the work in this State has been the prescribing of one or two important topics, requiring them to be placed upon every program for discussion throughout the State. The training of institute lecturers so as to increase the number of efficient instructors in the institute work is made an important feature by the state director.

Two Firemen Killed in Head-on Collision.

The fast Buffalo flyer, westbound, collided head-on Saturday morning near Shippen, a small station between Emporium Junction and Keating Summit. The passenger train was being drawn up the hill by two engines and both firemen were killed. The engineers escaped from the crash by jumping. A baggage man was fatally injured and about 18 of the passengers were more or less injured, but none seriously, while all on the train were badly shaken up.

By a blunder on the part of some one, the freight train took the wrong track and while coming down the hill met the flyer head-on.

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