The Open Court

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE


Editor: Dr. Paul Carus. 

Associates: E. C. Hegeler, Mary Carus.

VOL. XXII. (No. 7.) JULY, 1908. NO. 626

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LAO-TZE WRITING HIS BOOK.
By Murata Tanryō.

Frontispiece to The Open Court.
A TRIBUTE TO MRS. E. C. HEGELER.

MRS. CAMILLA HEGELER, wife of Edward C. Hegeler, the founder of the Open Court Publishing Company, passed away peacefully after a short illness, at her home in La Salle, Ill., on Thursday, May 28, about seven o'clock in the morning. She was born March 12, 1835, in Freiberg, Saxony. Her father was Julius Weisbach, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Mining Academy at Freiberg, well known to engineers as the greatest authority in his line of work. He laid the foundation of his science in such a masterly way that it rests on bottom rock, and his books are still in the hands of all who are teachers of engineering.

After an engagement of six years, Camilla Weisbach was married, on April 5, 1860, to Edward C. Hegeler of Bremen, and the couple went at once to the United States, where they settled in July of the same year in La Salle, Illinois, where Mr. Hegeler, in company with Mr. F. W. Matthiessen, two years previously had started one of the first zinc works on American ground.

Mrs. Hegeler shared with her husband all the tribulations and joys of life. The first years of the zinc works were by no means easy, and the severity of the struggle for success was only intensified by the war, 1861-65; but Mrs. Hegeler stood by her husband bravely and helped him bear these times of trial with patient cheerfulness. She saw within nine days (August 7 and 16, 1868) two of her children, Helene and Meta, die in their childhood, and another one, Gisela, in the bloom of youth (June 10, 1892).

In the days of success and prosperity Mrs. Hegeler remained the same in unassuming simplicity, solely intent on fulfilling her duties as wife and mother.

Mrs. Hegeler leaves, besides her husband, seven adult children and twenty-one grandchildren to mourn her loss, and to cherish in grateful remembrance the example she set them, for indeed those
who knew her agree that she was a model woman in all the ways of life. She was a dutiful daughter to her parents, a faithful wife and trusty helpmate to her husband, and she was a devoted and dearly beloved mother and grandmother to her children and her children's children. To her many friends and acquaintances, including those who helped her in her daily work at home, she proved herself always thoughtful, kindhearted, and true. Rarely was woman so cherished, esteemed and loved, and rarely was there one so worthy of the tribute we pay her.

She has departed. We shall no longer see her kind face, no longer feel the touch of her gentle hand, no longer enjoy the benefit of her solicitous care. But the blessings of her noble example remain with us an inexhaustible source of inspiration. Her life has been rich in good thoughts, in good words, in good deeds, and it has become a priceless inheritance for the generations to come.

What is mortal of her has passed away. It has passed away with all that is transient—pain, worry, toil. But the noblest part of her, the soul of her soul, her noble endeavor, heart-core of her inmost being, stays with us a living presence, to help us in our tribulations, to be a light that will illuminate our paths, and a power that will quicken us and guide us aright.

Life finds its consummation,  
Days end in evening gloom,  
But souls with life's cessation  
Sink not into the tomb.

Our hearts for love are yearning,  
'Tis love that life controls,  
Dust is to Dust returning,  
But Soul remains with Souls.