

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

Politics occasionally beats the Almighty dollar under the wire.

The Tibetans also are beginning to feel the pressure of the dark man's burden.

England has begun to give Tibet the traditional color and in the traditional way.

The evolution of the seedless apple will place even the orchardists at the mercy of the grafters.

Some one ought to be kind enough to send a full report of the Mormon investigation to the Sultan of Sulu.

Merely to emphasize their intention to keep the peace, the powers are laying in additional supplies of ammunition.

The American Indian can offer intelligent sympathy to the South African native. He also has had some experience with traders.

An Italian marquis who was unmarried has committed suicide. American heiresses will be sorry to hear that a splendid title has thus gone to waste.

Copper King Helzlsouer has been fined \$20,000 for contempt of court. But he needn't care. A man who is as rich as he ought to be able to find a technicality without much bother.

President Joseph Smith has been indorsed by a conference of the Mormon Church for his testimony at Washington. The Mormons could not take a surer way to condemn themselves.

The Russian minister of finance has offered a prize of \$25,750 to the person or persons who will invent some way of making alcohol undrinkable. Here is a chance for a cold water chemist.

The doctors simplify many things for us. Sometimes we imagine we have an attack of "the blues," when in reality we are only experiencing a form of neurasthenia due to intra-abdominal venous congestion.

Statisticians assert that the lobster will soon be as extinct as the dodo. Species of lobster not stated. The dry land or evening variety (*Homoeo ridgewayi*) will never die out while chorus girls continue to make goo-goo eyes at the easy ones in the forward rows.

A well-known actor, who has mastered German, French and Italian in his odd moments, and is now studying Spanish, remarked, as he explained his system, "They say charity begins at home. I think the same is true of education." He learns a language by employing a valet who speaks it, and allows the servant to talk nothing but his native tongue. Those farmers who employ German or Italian valets for their cattle might follow this man's example.

The fee of "a cool million" which Wall Street guesses that William Nelson Cromwell will get for his services as counsel for the Panama Canal Company may not be regarded as exorbitant. The \$400,000 received by John E. Parsons for organizing the sugar trust, deemed excessive at the time, but justified by the law-defying substantiality of the work, would not today excite comment. Crime no longer holds out such legal rewards as are offered by commerce.

It is a pleasure to record an International Incident so agreeable and so creditable to both parties as the recent sending of a memorial to Admiral Cervera at Madrid. When Lieutenant Hobson and his men escaped from the sinking Merrimack and fell into the hands of the Spaniards, Admiral Cervera not only sent, under a flag of truce, the news of their safety, but treated them with great kindness and consideration. The memorial was a set of resolutions thanking him for these acts. It was signed by forty Governors of States, and inclosed in a specially designed gold frame.

How little mere man can know of the capabilities of woman is shown by an incident described by Edward Everett Hale in a recent magazine. "I was at a dinner party in Buffalo five and twenty years ago," he says, "where we had the presence of a dozen of the first gentlemen in the world. We were talking of social adjustment, and one of these leaders said, 'There must be division of labor. We cannot expect,' said he, 'that the person who made for us this delicious soup shall interpret Beethoven for us. Each must do his part.' Then we went on with the dinner, and after three or four hours of most entertaining conversation our host rose from the table and said, 'We will come into the drawing-room, and the lady who made the soup shall interpret Beethoven for us.' If any one is a master of all trades and a bungler at none it is the modern American woman.

"The navy will always be very costly for us by comparison with the navies of Europe, and particularly those on the continent," remarked Secretary Moody to a friend not long ago. Some of the reasons for this plain fact deserve attention. To get its soldiers and sailors the United States goes into the labor market, offering wages and conditions which are expected to compete with those of farm and factory. Every great European power, except the British Empire, makes service in either army or navy for a certain number of years compulsory upon its subjects. Not to consider the value of the discipline thus acquired, the time is so much subtracted from their individual lives. The continental power, besides getting its men for wages which may be quite accurately described as "pin money," is able to prescribe more frugal rations than would be attractive here. The American service, in short, costs more because it is entered into voluntarily by persons who expect to live in something like ordinary Amer-

ican conditions. Similarly, the continental power usually gets its officers "at a bargain," but upon a system which would not accord with American theories. It makes high positions in the military and naval service an honor which the young men of rich families greatly covet, and in many cases makes the official salary so small that only persons of private means could afford to accept commissions. Our army and navy are offered by men drawn from all classes of society. Most Congressmen throw the West Point and Annapolis cadetships open to competitive examination, in which family influence cannot count. When poor boys rise to be majors and commanders, they can look only to the government for compensation suitable to their rank and station, and the government grants it. The greater cost is thus distributed over the whole tax-paying public.

A few weeks ago dispatches from New Zealand brought reports of the return of the British steamship Discovery from the prolonged exploration of the Antarctic continent, on which so much of the attention of geographers has been centered in recent years. This interest is very slightly shared by the world at large. Antarctic exploration never has appealed to the popular imagination as have the search for the Northwest Passage and the attempts to reach the North Pole. Theoretically, the location of the South Pole should be as interesting as that of the other hypothetical extremity of the earth's axis, but the whole matter is one of abstract science merely. In the north we have always before us the original conception that some daring voyager may find a way across from ocean to ocean, but an Antarctic expedition would lead nowhere. This barren, frozen continent lies in nobody's way. You must sail far out of all beaten paths to reach it, and all that can be done when you get there is to make a few additions to the map as drawn by those who were there before. Nevertheless, the present interest of scientific men in Antarctic exploration is very genuine, and Captain Scott appears to have added not a little to what is known of the geology of the region. He has materially enlarged the sum of knowledge upon its zoology and botany. His meteorological observations promise much of value. There is much of the earth's history to be learned from this most forlorn spot upon its surface that may not so well be learned in a more hospitable clime. Year by year spaces left blank upon our maps—the "unexplored regions" of the earlier geographers—grow less and less. They have almost disappeared from the tropics, and remain only in the frozen zones. But even here the outlines of continents and islands, the distinction of mountains and of glaciers, are each year more precisely marked, and till there shall remain no smallest spot of obscure exploration will go on, and brave men will cheerfully endure long exile, privations and suffering for the cause of human knowledge.

REAL LOVE-SICKNESS THIS.

The Actual Cause of Disease Is a Thing to Be Greatly Dreaded.

"Did you ever see a fellow actually love-sick?" asked the commercial traveler. "Yes, I know I used to think that such a thing was only the result of an overworked imagination on the part of our fiction and love-story writers, but I saw one last summer. 'The fellow was handsome and sensible, but it went hard with him. He was madly infatuated with a young girl, and she was equally daffy over him. Parental consent could not be secured, but all the arrangements were made for an elopement. The hour came, but the bride-to-be came not. Soon a note came from the girl. She loved the fellow, and all that would surely marry him, but could not elope. She could not so disobey and abuse her parents, who had always been so good to her. 'Well, the fellow grew pale, staggered across the room, and fell. A doctor was called in, and the diagnosis was 'love-sickness in its most malignant form.' The man had a fine position, but for two weeks he could not go to the office. He had dizzy spells; he was unable to sleep; he ate nothing; just sat around and moped, and looked well—well, he looked fierce. He had a doctor regularly, and may still have one, for all I know, as it got so bad I decided to get out of the town for fear it might become contagious. 'A mighty weak fellow, no force of character or power,' you say. The doctor doesn't agree with you. He says such cases happen frequently—a susceptible constitution or something of that sort. But, at any rate, don't get love-sick. If you have your choice, take the smallpox.'—Washington Post.

A Good Cat.

A good cat—the kind you want to have in the house, if any—will have a round, stubby pug nose, full, fat cheeks and upper lip, and a well-developed bump on the top of the head, between the ears, betokening good nature. A sleepy cat that purrs a good deal is apt to be playful and good-natured.

By all means to be avoided is a cat with thin, sharp nose and twitching ears. It must be remembered, also, that a good mouse is not necessarily a gentle or desirable pet, although any good cat will catch mice if she is not overfed; quick, full, expressive eyes generally betoken a good mouse.

The greatest mistake—and probably the most common one—in the care of domestic cats is overfeeding; particularly, too much meat. In wild life the cat has exercise which enables her to digest her food. In the lazy house life she has no exercise, and she will gain weight and become fat. It is the business of seven men out of ten to "fool" the people. Look out; the book agent is not the only man who makes a living by fooling people.

Sorry He Spoke.

"At least," said the young man who was getting ready to spring a proposal, "I'm sure your heart is in the right place." "I'm so glad you are sure," replied the fair blanch of feminine sweetness, "for I gave it to your cousin Fred last night." It is the business of seven men out of ten to "fool" the people. Look out; the book agent is not the only man who makes a living by fooling people.

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