

Topics of the Times

Never tell a man that his boy looks like his mother if he owes you money.

Women have a lot to say about model husbands, but they all want a different model.

All an Englishman has to do to become famous is to suggest some foolish thing for Americans to do.

Despite the report of our special naval board the Japanese are going right along buying submarines.

An English journal discourses of the "great American question." The great American question is "How are you?"

Henceforth it will be Marie Corelli's endeavor to see that Andrew Carnegie does not lack the disgrace, whether he dies rich or not.

H. H. Rogers is in a position to prove that it is a mistake to suppose that a man who has \$75,000,000 can do as he pleases.

A New York paper has just moved into its own thirty-one-story office building. This ought to insure fifteen editions daily, at least.

However, recommending a revival of the whipping post does not mean that the ban should be removed from sending abusive postal cards.

If that society woman in New York had been poor and unknown would she have been sent to an insane asylum or a police cell for shoplifting?

General Stoeness promised the czar that he would never surrender Fort Arthur. But there are times when the deliberate violation of a promise is a virtue.

As an abstract proposition, is the whipping post for a wife-beater any more demoralizing in its effect upon the public mind than the gallows for a wife murderer?

Objection to the marriage of King Alfonso of Spain and Princess Victoria of England has been raised in some high places. This being the case, he is pretty sure to marry her if she will have him.

The sum of 6 cents has been awarded by a jury to a New York woman who sued for damages done to her heart by a man who said he would and then decided that he wouldn't. Oh, but she must be homely.

Uncle Sam's experiments in the matter of world's fair postage stamps have convinced him that a busy people does not take kindly to the idea of licking an unnecessary area of mucilage when about to mail a letter.

Commodore Dyer, who runs the island of Guam, says the people there need a lower tariff; but for a long time they will have to do the best they can with what they have. To be an "outlying possession" is good enough for them.

Judging from her published photographs, Mrs. Chadwick is a handsome, young brunette with an ugly face and flaxen hair. She seems to be about 19 years of age and has the appearance of a woman of 60. Her face is fresh and youthful, crow's feet giving her a look of old age. She is tall and graceful with a dumpy, shapeless figure. Her smile is winsome and reminds one of a grinning death's head.

An English weekly paper reports the case of an army officer who, while stationed for two years at Cairo, did not take the trouble to go out and look at the Pyramids, because, as he explained, "What with polo and parties and bridge and cricket, I never had a minute to myself." Foolish? Surely. Yet the thoughtful reader will not receive it with scorn and laughter. He knows that nothing he did during 1904 will be likely to cause him so much annoyance in the future as the things he left undone—for equally frivolous reasons.

It seems to us that, in spite of the wide dominion of Russia and Great Britain, the day of world empires has gone by. Despotisms are ill fitted to bear universal sway, because by their very nature they provoke rebellion, and rebellion against despotism is the necessary result of the growth of liberty. Nor are democracies adapted to this work, for they are the products of the free spirit, and they can not, without fatal consequences to themselves, go into the business of enslaving people. In the old days despotisms could do this work, but that was before there was such a thing as the people. We are more likely to see some disintegration rather than further consolidation. The British empire exists at the present time only by the tolerance of the people inhabiting its various parts—because they believe they are better off within it. The Russian empire rests almost wholly on force. People are likely to insist more and more on their right to govern themselves.

It is said there is nothing distinctive about the American face as there is about all the rest of the groups of Caucasian faces. It has no individuality. Nevertheless the American physiognomy is decidedly marked. It is said that an American is recognized at a glance in any part of the world. The thing indubitably written on the American face is "hustle." Every American looks as if his eyes were glaring into the far west and the far future. He has a serious look that portends business. French imagination sparkles in wit as brilliant as the diamond; the American imagination flashes its sheet lightning over half a world. This terrible intensity of purpose and activity is very fine in many respects, but it is at the bottom of the ill-health which is so serious a curse to the life of this country. The American works himself to death. We have

too little recreation, too little regard for the refreshing and invigorating influences of social intercourse. Our devotion to business of every kind is too long continued and too absorbing. We rise early and sit up late and eat this bread of carefulness, and eat it hastily, that we may lose no time from work. Constant care and anxious thought write their deep traces on the brow and their corroding influences consume not only the elasticity of mind and body, but the better feelings of the heart.

How long should the school hours of children last? There is a discussion of this question in New York which seems to be conducted with a view to the saving of public money as well as to the educational problem that is involved. Reduce the hours from five to three and one-half and you get economy in the use of classrooms and a chance to cut the yearly budget. These are matters of some importance in a city where 80,000 pupils are already on part time because of the lack of sufficient room and where a reduction of expenses is said to be imperative. But educators who are not influenced primarily by the financial argument advocate the shorter hours, and a symposium in the New York Tribune shows that there is a pronounced division of opinion on purely educational grounds. This is partly determined by the attitude of the contributors toward the subject of essentials and non-essentials in the school course. William H. Maxwell, superintendent of schools in New York, holds that all things now taught in the schools are essential. He thinks that nature study, drawing, sewing and music have as good a claim to recognition as reading, spelling and arithmetic. On the other hand, President Northrop, of the University of Minnesota, whose opinion was sought, makes a distinction between essentials and non-essentials, and gives reading and spelling as examples of the former. His idea of the apportionment of time is as follows: "The best number of hours for the first five years in a public school is three hours a day for the first two years and four for the next three years. As far as possible the studies taught, even at this young period, should be essentials, and non-essentials should be put in only when the children cannot be occupied with essentials." The common objection to the longer hours is that they put too great a strain upon the child. It is said that after three hours he is incapable of giving attention, and the rest of the time is wasted. But C. H. Ingalls, a banker, who is a member of the New York school board and who rates the non-essentials above the essentials, declares that "an examination and test of the standing of pupils who have been put on part time, as compared to those on full time, show that the full-time pupil is far ahead of the other, and that part time is a real loss to the pupil." The comment suggested by the discussion is that if there is safety in the multitude of counselors, there is also much perplexity.

THE KING OSCAR, WHO HAS PASSED HIS 76TH BIRTHDAY.

Oscar II., King of Sweden and Norway, who the other day celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday, is probably the most popular monarch in Europe. The third son of King Oscar I. and Queen Josephine, he was born Sept. 21, 1829, and succeeded to the throne Sept. 18, 1872, upon the death of his brother, Carl XV. His spouse, Queen Sophia, to whom he was married June 6, 1857, is a daughter of the late Duke Wilhelm of Nassau. The royal couple have four sons, the eldest, Crown Prince Gustaf, Duke of Wermland, having been born June 16, 1858. A short time ago it was falsely reported that King Oscar was ill. He is enjoying excellent health.

On Obtaining Success. Thomas W. Lawson, the Boston millionaire, believes that it is rather through enterprise and originality than through economy that financial success may be attained.

"The time is past," he said the other day, "for such economy as used to be practiced by an old Boston restaurateur, who recently died."

"The old fellow was economical to excess, but while he pottered about his kitchen, trying to make one egg do the work of two, his neighbor across the way was introducing a roof garden and a mandolin orchestra, and the economist, I understand, hardly left enough on his demise to pay his debts. "He was, beyond any doubt, an economist. A couple of plumbers were working one day in his cellar. It was too dark there to see, and the men asked for some light. "Well, said the old fellow, 'here's a candle. Make it go as far as you can.' "One candle won't do," said the plumbers. "It won't give us sufficient light. We must have two." "The old man knit his brows and thought. "How long, boys, will you be working down here?" he said. "About fifteen minutes," said the plumbers. "Then," said the restaurateur, 'cut the candle in two.'"—Boston Post.

He Didn't Know It. Tommy—Pa, what is an "agnostic?" Pa—An agnostic, my son, is a person who claims he doesn't know anything.

Tommy—That's what I thought, when teacher asked me to recite my lesson in history to-day I just told her I was an agnostic, but she just laughed.—Philadelphia Press.

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THE TRAIL OF LEWIS AND CLARK Was the pioneer American trail west of the Missouri river and the results of that exploration of 1804-5 were of tremendous importance to the United States and they were never more apparent than now. A publication relating to the Lewis and Clark expedition, just issued by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, stands peculiarly alone. This edition is a two volume, 8vo one called "The Trail of Lewis and Clark, 1804-1805". The author, Mr. Otis D. Wheeler, is the well known writer of the popular "Wonderland series of the Northern Pacific Railway, in connection with which he made his studies and researches for this work. Mr. Wheeler has traveled several thousand miles over the route of Lewis and Clark. He has camped out, climbed mountains, followed old Indian trails, and visited remote points made memorable by those explorers. Their route across the Bitterroot mountains has been followed, identified and mapped. "The Trail of Lewis and Clark" is illustrated in color and half tone from paintings, drawings and maps, by Paxson, DeCamp, and Russell, made under Mr. Wheeler's direction, and from photographs taken specially for the purpose. The writer tells his own story and supplements it with pertinent extracts from Lewis and Clark, and a host of other historical and narrative writers that connect the past with the present. Exact excerpts and photographic reproductions, in half tone, from the Original Manuscript Journals of Lewis and Clark are given. A chapter is devoted to the Louisiana Purchase, another to the preparatory measures for the expedition, and another to the history of each man of the expedition so far as known, including a discussion of the death of Captain Lewis. The Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, and the Lewis and Clark Centennial to be held at Portland, Oregon, in 1905, make this work peculiarly timely because written from the standpoint of actual knowledge of past and present conditions of the old trail and country. "The Trail of Lewis and Clark" should be found in every public and private library in the land and the general reader will find in reading through its pages of large, clear type that truth is, indeed, stranger than fiction. The book can be ordered through any bookseller or news stand or direct from the publishers.