

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

...ing of football it is on the grid-iron that many a goose is cooked.

...nearly every man who has a fad to see it made a study in the public-school.

...Wolf Hopper has accomplished the advertisement of the matrimonial nature.

...Chicago man shot his wife in order to keep her from going away from him. How glorious it must be to be like that!

...That mule stampede at Ladysmith proved the unwisdom of taking him from his born vocation. He can't stampede on canals.

...When there can be a trade combine it unquestionably looks as if the trusts were disposed to have a go with the people.

...It certainly would seem strange if Sam took any of John Chinaman's possession. Time was when he'd wear him his last shirt.

...Having money to burn in a party conference and boys having barrels to burn on election night are related. But the latter are apt to make more light of it.

...A woman in Texas has taken her life because her husband smelled of beer, and she would have done if he had had brilliantine on his whiskers must be a mystery.

...A girl laughed five hours over a joke that took two doctors to persuade her to stop. Editors as a rule have a great number of such jokes sent them, but they are always afraid to print them.

...The 311,715 emigrants who came here last year brought \$5,500,000 into the country. Yet this expresses but a small fraction of what the honest and faithful element among them is worth to the country.

...Some arithmeticians have figured out that young Vanderbilt paid about \$43,000 for his wife. A high price, but there are some men who will assert that they know of some wives worth more than that.

...With a wife, a house and lot, a piano, a sword, a watch, a pet lion, a title and a fat salary already provided, and a big pot of prize money in sight, Admiral Dewey is naturally pretty well satisfied with the way the world is going him.

...As dieting is now considered one of the most efficacious aids in modern medical practice, German doctors are training how to cook. This is good news. The time may come when we will send for the doctor in case the diet girl refuses to operate.

...L. Kayatayama, the imperial architect of Japan, has recently placed an order in Pittsburg for 3,000 tons of structural iron to be used in building a palace for the crown prince at Tokyo. Although covering a large area, this building will be only three stories in height, and will be constructed with particular reference to withstanding earthquakes. This architect has been here for some time, studying our building methods, and especially their adaptation to Japan's needs.

...What we inherit from England is really language, literature and certain political aspirations. These are largely bequests, but they do not, nevertheless, entitle England to be considered the mother country any more than the possession of French language and literature entitles Hayti to claim the lineage of France. The truth is that the pure Anglo-Saxon strain among us is nearly extinct and has been replaced by a better one. It is time for our statesmen to recognize, on a fitting occasion, to proclaim the end and put an end to the after-dinner chatter which makes out that Americanism are something else and worse.

...Will the coming woman marry? She will not unless the coming man studies grammar, so that he can make the cultured woman understand a proposal of marriage."—Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, in a sermon at Plymouth church. Dr. Hillis know of a woman rejecting a man for no other reason except that the proposal was contradictory to the science which treats of the principles of language? Does Dr. Hillis know a man who made a proposal of marriage repeating word for word the language that he had prepared with careful exactness and was accepted? Does he is in possession of information of which the world in general is ignorant. The woman who would reject a man because he erred in the construction of his sentence in asking her to marry deserves to be an old maid all the days of her life. The man who would deliver a well prepared proposal and sacrifice sincerely to artificiality unless he had extraordinary self-

control, and the sincere man makes a far better husband than the artificial one. And the woman who could not understand a proposal of marriage, grammatical or otherwise, should be unfeignedly pitied for her dullness of comprehension.

There are some who believe that in the matter of dressmaking women are still in the dark ages, though their recently expressed deference to the man tailor shows that they are emerging into the light. Woman now demands that her ways and manners shall be subject to the same standards as those applied to man, but on the question of clothes she must still suffer a little by the comparison. For a man does not go into retirement and deny himself to his kind while the tailor is at his house. He does not pore over pattern books, and on the subject of "findings" he is blissfully ignorant. One can hardly fancy a man going about choosing the lining for his coat, the buttons for his vest and all the innumerable elements that go to cover the human form divine. Of course, women have the object of beauty as well as utility in their minds, and in their zeal for the former they will give soul and strength in the search for becomingness. This is well, but it is encouraging to note that it is now possible for a woman to be well dressed without devoting her days to the task. In former times it was almost impossible to buy women's garments ready made, and it was necessary for a woman either to make them herself or employ dressmakers more or less skilled. But now she is no longer under the tyranny of the thimble. She can buy her clothes ready made, and when she dons these she is not to be distinguished from the wearer of the made-to-order gowns, while she feels far superior to her who wears the home-made dress.

The servant girl problem has become distracting by the diminution of supply and the exorbitant wages demanded. Young women who formerly were engaged in domestic service are now largely going into shops because of higher wages, though they do not consider the offset of longer hours, increased expenses, and physical wear and tear. A partial solution of the problem in the East is suggested by the appearance of men chambermaids and men of all work, who are not only quite as handy as chambermaids but do their work even better, quicker, and more reliably, thus justifying the famous opinion which Bartle Massey delivered to Mrs. Poyser as to the relative ability of man and woman. To what extent men can be relied upon to take the places of women in domestic service is an unknown quantity, but in the meantime the United British Women's Emigration Association has hit upon a plan for supplying competent help in housework in the colonies which seems susceptible of wider adoption. It is the system of "companion helps." A circular has recently been issued by the association in which the system is explained. "Companion helps" are educated women who have fitted themselves to undertake situations by actual domestic experience in cooking and housework. In Canada the demand for intelligence on the part of applicants is still more extended. They must have learned cooking, baking, washing, milking, dairy work, bee-keeping, poultry-raising, and cutting and making simple dresses. These conditions, however, apply to those who are going out to the colonies. But, on the other hand, these "companion helps" have advantages and privileges which no domestic servant is allowed to have. The circular asserts that a "companion help" is engaged where no servant is kept, and where the mistress undertakes some part of the work in the same way in which a married woman and her sister might divide the household duties. "Companion helps" share in the family life, and many women have been only too glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to become companions rather than servants and to have a life with the family. The salaries are not large, varying from \$120 to \$245 a year, but the privileges are such as no servant can have. Some such system as this was the vogue in New England half a century ago, when American girls went into service and became sharers in the family life. It may be impossible to revive it, because American girls now look down upon domestic service and prefer the slavery of the shops, but it might be adopted to a certain extent, for there are many competent women who would rejoice to have a home of this kind and become identified with a family, even as a helper. There does not seem to be any sufficient reason why this system should be confined to colonies. Failing this, however, or some other method of recruiting female servants, the day of the man servant would seem to be near at hand. In some parts of the East he is already coming to the front.

Spasm of Decency in Paris.
The French Society for the Suppression of Vice is going to try to prevent indecent exhibitions among the attractions at the Paris exposition, which have of late years been allowed so much license on such occasions on the plea that they illustrate the customs and amusements of other countries.

THE CULTURE OF TEA.

SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS ARE MADE IN THE SOUTH.

Gardens in South Carolina Produce a Superior Article at Twenty-five Per Cent. Profit—A New and Growing Industry for the Southland.

Some years ago a few far-seeing men of the Southern States looked far enough ahead to see that cotton would not always be king, and opened to discussion the problem of raising tea. At that time cotton was king, and there was no denying it, so the effort to create an interest in tea raising proved abortive. In less than fifteen years came a great war in which the South was swept clean as by a hurricane. One result of the war, minor perhaps, besides some of the other results, was that cotton was dethroned. Into the new South was introduced other forms of agriculture, and not only that, but manufactures which the South heretofore had despised with pride in its "splendid isolation."

And now, a generation after the war has closed, after King Cotton has been deposed, Southerners themselves have taken up the culture of tea in earnest, bound to make it contribute to the general prosperity of that section of the country. A leader among these leaders is Prof. Charles U. Shepard, of Pinehurst, Summerville, S. C., and in a publication of the agricultural department in Washington he tells of the success of his experiment.

Since he has made a profit of 25 per cent. on his venture the undertaking is entitled to be taken out of the class of experiments and put in with the solid accomplishments that will endure. It is seven years since he first reported on the operations on the Pinehurst estate. He says that it seems probable from the facts so far gathered that the

pard sold his crop of 1898, about 3,000 pounds, as also about 500 pounds of the crop of the previous year (which had been bought to maintain prices), at a profit of about 25 per cent. The Pinehurst black tea has a distinctly characteristic flavor, and, like some of the choicer Oriental teas, its liquor has more strength than its color indicates. These qualities of its introduction slow. But it has always proved a difficult matter to change the taste of tea consumers; notably so in the introduction of Ceylon tea into Great Britain, the mother country of its producers. Nevertheless there has been a steadily increasing demand for Pinehurst tea,



TEA NURSERY IN JULY.

and a great many people will drink no other.

Green tea also is made at Pinehurst, and has attracted keen interest in the trade. There is probably a greater demand in the United States for green than black tea. At present, a large amount of sophisticated green tea is consumed in this country. As it is chiefly made of inferior leaf, highly colored with Prussian blue, and faced with powdered soapstone, etc., so as to hide all natural defects, it cannot be regarded as either nutritious or healthful. But the nature of the demand indicates a decided preference for the taste and qualities of green, i. e., not oxidized, teas, and should stimulate us to supply in its stead a pure, wholesome article of the same type. Unfortunately, green teas can as yet be made by



ROSE TEA GARDEN WITH ASSAM-HYBRID

cultivation of tea can be made profitable in the warmer portions of the United States in two ways. One is by establishing a plantation on the scale of the experiment at Summerville with capital sufficient to carry the work to a point where the product can be offered on equal terms with teas holding an established place in the markets of the United States. The other is to grow tea for home use in the farm garden. In either case tea growing can be undertaken safely only where the temperature rarely goes lower than 25 degrees Fahrenheit, and never below zero, and where a liberal supply of water can be depended upon. There is probably no place in the United States where the rainfall is sufficient for the best results with the tea plant, and irrigation should where possible be provided for in growing tea.

The experiment at Summerville, on the growth and manufacture of tea, began about ten years ago. At the beginning it was wisely on a small scale, but has gradually been increased until now over fifty acres have been planted in tea. When the plants arrive at full bearing the yield should be at least 10,000 pounds of high-grade tea; and this should suffice for the object in view, viz., to determine whether commercial tea may be profitably grown under the local conditions of soil, climate and labor.

One of the most productive of the Summerville gardens is that called the Rose garden. The output of green leaf from it has been: Crop of 1892, 56 pounds; crop of 1893, 81 pounds; crop of 1894, 151 pounds; crop of 1895, 333 pounds; crop of 1896, 600 pounds; crop of 1897, 648 pounds; crop of 1898, nearly 1,200 pounds. One thousand two hundred and sixty pounds of green leaf will afford 300 pounds of standard Pinehurst black tea. But the "Rose Garden" is not to be regarded as an exceptional result, nor of difficult imitation. Two larger gardens, also formerly piney-woods ponds, planted with Darjeeling seedlings, promise successful rivalry within a few years, and yet others appear to be awakening to a more vigorous productiveness.

Without undue endeavor, Prof. Shep-

ard only; the mental labor, the dining grades manufacture Black teas in almost every of the leaf in

The cost of country is but a few cents met by a green field, by the



ROLLING AND DRYING ROOM.

which, from inherent chemical causes, cannot be brought from the Orient.

Filling Out Garden Corners.
There is a large class of people who might profitably add the cultivation of tea to that of flowers and vegetables, filling out the corners of their gardens and home fields with tea bushes, as they do in China, or substituting useful as well as ornamental evergreen hedges of that plant for the present unsightly and costly and frequently unreliable fences. Cultivated in this way, the outlay of time, labor and money could hardly prove burdensome; and, as one result, the household should be able to supply its own tea—pure, strong and invigorating, instead of the wishy-washy, often far from cheap, stuff generally sold throughout the country.

As these little tea gardens are extended and multiply factories will be established in each neighborhood for the larger manufacture of commercial tea, whither the products of the gardens surrounding may be brought and sold, precisely as canning factories and

dairies consume the surplus product of fruit and milk.

One feature in the cultivation of tea has only to be stated to appeal to every one who plants, namely, that the season for gathering the leaf lasts in this climate for six months. Thus a crop is not dependent for at least partial success upon the weather of any one or two months, as is so apt to be the case with most of the objects of the husbandman's labor and solicitude.

For the present it will be wiser to limit the production of tea in the South to the better grades, such as retail at from 50 cents to \$1 per pound. The greater cost of unskilled labor in this country than in the Orient should constitute a smaller fraction of the total expense if the product commands a higher price. Other things being equal, the quality of any tea depends on the "fineness" of the leaf plucked. If only the tiny, tender, youngest leaf be plucked, the quantity of the crop must be comparatively small; but its quality will be decidedly superior to that obtained by "coarse" plucking, which also embraces the older, larger and necessarily tougher leaves.

Problem of Cheap Labor.

Leaf-plucking demands the careful attention of the tea grower. It is a light employment, suitable for women and children, but they must be taught patiently and their work must be scrutinized strictly. At Pinehurst colored children do the picking, and very satisfactorily. A free school is maintained for them; every pupil of suitable age and size is required to pick; others are excluded from the gardens. Regular attendance and better discipline are thus secured. But, otherwise, there would be no difficulty in securing an ample force, as the wages earned prove in themselves a sufficient attraction. The older children earn from 30 to 50 cents a day; the younger one in proportion. The tea gardens are picked twenty times a season, or once every ten days, and it takes three days for the average force of twenty children to make the

gardens. The more careful pick from the leaf a

in large establishments the cooks are invariably men. Half a dozen coolies will squat round a bucket of steaming rice and from four to six small savory dishes of stewed cabbage, onions, scraps of fat pork, cheap fish, etc. They fill their bowls at discretion from the bucket; they help themselves discreetly with their chop-sticks from the various relishes provided. On ordinary occasions even a wealthy Chinaman will sit down to some such simple fare, served indeed on a table instead of on the ground, but in almost equally simple style. It is only when a banquet is substituted for the usual meal that eating is treated seriously as a fine art, in a manner worthy its importance to the human race. Then the guests will assemble between 2 and 4 in the afternoon and will remain steadily at the table until any hour from 10 to midnight.

A Natural Weather Bureau.

An enchanted ravine of the Ulloa Valley, Honduras, is described as a regular weather bureau, with the peculiarity that it is always reliable. The tumbling of a catarract down the side of a mountain gives the ravine its voice, which can be heard for many miles, and this indicates by its volume the approach of rain and whether the coming storm is to be light or heavy. Tradition says that the ravine is the home of a dragon who controls the clouds and winds.

It is a sign of weakness to venomously hate people.

Every poor man has a favorite joke which he tells on some rich man.