

Topics of the Times

From a literary point of view it is a great pity that Victor Hugo never saw an American tornado.

Perhaps Mrs. Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt doesn't like a husband who comes in every night smelling horsey.

You can't always tell. Sometimes a man who boasts that he never worries is being supported by his wife or her relatives.

The Cornell co-ed who won the college oratorical prize spoke on "Men, Women and Human Beliefs." This hits the most of us.

According to the Atlanta Georgian, 700 churches have been found with inadequate fire escapes. Still, that may not be the reason why so many men stay away from the services.

The discovery that "tired feeling" is hereditary leaves very little that has not been charged up to our dead and gone ancestors who have no chance to say a word in self-defense.

Mr. Bryan predicts that Ireland will regain her freedom. The London Times will at once decide that Emperor William has been egging Mr. Bryan on to try to make trouble for England.

The mandate having issued that women must wear flower hats this year, the lady milliners will now show Dame Nature a few of the opportunities she overlooked in creating the floral kingdom.

A number of young men in Kentucky have formed a club to abjure smoking, swearing, chewing and drinking. If, in addition, they cut out night riding, they may become models for their fellow citizens.

"Uncle Sam's armada is a success," says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "and all the more because its mission is friendly to all other nations." Sure. Also because its target practice at Magdalena Bay shows how we behave when we get angry.

It is alleged that the Illinois Central Railroad Company has cheated the State of Illinois out of \$15,000,000. If the charge is true the outrage can never be forgiven. Illinois might wish that money had bought dukes for five or six of her daughters.

So many persons have patronized the free public library in the Jewish district of Brooklyn, New York, that work on the new building for it has been stopped, and architects are drawing plans for a much larger building than was originally designed. On Washington's birthday when the men have a holiday, the temporary library was crowded all day, and a waiting line was formed outside. So long as immigrants are so eager for learning as this indicates, they will not endanger American institutions.

News items from various parts of the country must lead the thoughtful parent to wonder what has become of the sort of discipline he was used to in his own youth. Because of the exclusion of a student from a theater in a Western town, the other students of the State university wrecked the place of amusement, and defied both police and faculty. A few days later the students of the New York University organized a strike because a member of one of the upper classes was suspended for ducking a freshman. About the same time ten students of a Massachusetts high school defied the school committee by holding an entertainment which they had been expressly forbidden to hold. The interest of parents in such acts lies in the fact that no organized rebellion of this sort can succeed without either the open or tacit approval of the parents. Those who have the real welfare of their sons and daughters at heart will ask themselves whether it is wise to encourage the tendency to revolt against law and order whenever it conflicts with personal desire.

Juliet's contemptuous exclamation, "What's in a name?" does not apply to the Christian name of the new baby. The family councils over the choice of it may well be serious ones. Eccentricity must be avoided. Whoever will "make up" a name should remember the tribulations of Rose Terry Cooke's little hero, who was named "Amandar" by his grief-stricken father, in an attempt to enshrine the memory of the boy's dead mother, Amanda. The Bible is no longer the one safe source from which names may be drawn. David and John and Mary and Benjamin and Anna have still a firm hold on the memory and the imagination of good folk the world over. But the mother who should to-day name her daughter Keren-happuch or Keturah, or her son Bezaleel or Merodach-Baladan, would be a strange survival of the taste of former times. The romantic names of the eighteenth century have fortunately gone out of use. But the old-fashioned ones suggestive of virtues still remain inspiring. Constance and Hope and Ernest, and even Faith and Patience, sound a call to noble living. If the wisest negative counsel in regard to the baby's name is that it shall not be eccentric, perhaps the best positive advice is that the generation of to-day

shall, so far as may be, give to their children the family names worthy borne by the men and women of yesterday. A respected name gathers about it unnumbered associations. "Grandmother was the best woman I ever knew," said a young mother to her husband. "I want baby named after her, and then we will try to pass on grandmother's virtues in another woman, as well as on a tombstone."

It was said of the ancient Jews that one generation stoned the prophets and the next generation built monuments in their memory. Something like this might be said of the American people and their forests. The last generation wantonly wasted and almost destroyed the virgin forests of the country, and the present generation atones for it by trying to replace them. At one time it really looked as if these forests were so extensive that deforestation was impossible. But the time has already come when white pine and the hard woods have almost disappeared and when the barren hillsides, instead of absorbing and holding the rains, have turned the water courses into alternate floods and dry beds, thereby destroying the water power and inflicting loss instead of producing wealth. Almost every newspaper and magazine that is now issued contains an alarming article or item in regard to the ruined forests. The best the present generation can do is to check deforestation and plant more trees. Happily both the United States government and many of the State governments are now doing all they can to accomplish these ends. In 1895 the Legislature of Illinois enacted the following law: "The Governor shall annually, in the spring, designate by official proclamation a day to be designated 'Arbor Day,' to be observed throughout the State as a day for planting trees, shrubs and vines about the homes and along highways and about public grounds within this State, thus contributing to the wealth, comforts and attractions of our State." This law, albeit it does not appear to have been drafted by any professor of English literature, is one of the most salutary statutes in the State code. From the day when it was instituted, Arbor Day has been duly observed, and with great enthusiasm. Tree planting is an act of philanthropy. For the man who plants a tree hardly expects to enjoy the benefit of it. His thought is, or should be, that almost every good thing that he enjoys is the result of the labors and forethought of previous generations, and that, therefore, the least he can do is to provide in some little way for the generation that is to follow him. The cynic who says, "Posterity never did anything for me and I do not mean to do anything for posterity" ought to be made to feel mean.

When we yield to an emotion our sentiment always transforms itself into a movement. Joy, fear, love, anger are expressed in unconscious gestures, in a perfectly clear manner. The strong man is master of his emotions and his unconscious movements. In order to expend our strength to the best advantage it is needful to give out as little as possible under that base form of energy known as our emotions. All our emotions should be under control. The choleric man, violent, exuberant, is a feeble fellow, at the mercy of his environments. With him the nerves dominate or even abolish individual initiative. He is a creature of impulse, no matter where it originates. He is a moral and a social slave. The man that is too lively, too petulant, dispenses his forces as quickly as they are produced. He never has but a small amount of energy to concentrate on something really useful, although he attacks his problems with vim and even with violence. A man who wishes to have strength for the right occasions must husband his resources and hold careful watch over his daily movements.

Such a man has the advantage in that by his victory of will power over his emotional tendencies, over his animal centers and human instincts, he has purified his judgment, reinforced his mental powers, and given himself the capacity for discrimination in many other matters between the important and the insignificant, the useful and the idle.

SHOOTING WITH MORTARS.

Hitting the Target Is Simply a Matter of Mathematics. How do we hit with the mortars? An observer near the shore who sees the target communicates the horizontal and vertical angle at which to lay the mortar and the instant of time at which to fire, and the gun does the rest. If you were standing at the center of a large clock dial laid flat on the ground and wanted to hit with a baseball a man walking around on the outside, you would notice how long it took the man to get from I to II and again from II to III. Then you would decide whether if the ball were thrown over a point halfway between III and V just as he arrived opposite III the man and the ball would reach the same spot at the same time, it being understood, of course, that he maintained uniform speed and direction and that the ball was thrown with proper force. Instruments give us the range and observations, and mechanical devices give us the range differences, increasing or decreasing by certain short intervals of time, too short for a ship of any size to escape by attempting to change direction or speed. Our observer's circle has 36,000 divisions.—Captain Howell in Scientific American.

South American Inns. A traveler who recently returned to Philadelphia was narrating some of his experiences in South America at a banquet of globe trotters the other evening. He had skirted the entire coast of South America and had found the inns or hotels in most sections very poor. So bad were they in Peru, he said, that one American, who had been thrown into jail pending some dispute over his papers and after his release had sought the hotel of the town, returned the next day to the jail and begged that he might be taken in.

The most curious sign he had seen was in the window of a restaurant in Buenos Aires, which read: "American cafe—champagne and fried potatoes."—Philadelphia Record.

Caught on the Run. The judge listened intently to the man's story, says a writer in the Indianapolis News. The man was the plaintiff, and had charged his wife with cruel and abusive treatment. He was a small man, and his wife—well, it was at least evident that the charge rested on a basis of possibility. After the plaintiff had finished his testimony the judge decided to ask a question. "Mr. Fronble," said he, "where did you meet your wife, who has treated you this way?" "Well, judge," returned the man, somewhat meekly, "you see it's this way. I never did meet her. She just kind of overtook me."

A well-informed physician is frequently ill-informed.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

DIVORCES ONLY FOR THE CHILDLESS.

By Prof. Alexander Graham Bell.



Throw wide the gates of marriage, and where children are produced close the doors of divorce. Every child is entitled, by nature, to a father and a mother, and no people should produce children who are not prepared to give them parental care for life.

The grand spectacle is presented to our eyes of a new people being gradually evolved in the United States by the mingling together of the different races of the world in varying proportions. It is of the greatest consequence to us that the final result should be the evolution of a higher and nobler type of man in America, and not deterioration of the nation.

To this end the process of evolution should be carefully studied and then controlled by suitable immigration laws tending to eliminate undesirable ethnic elements and to stimulate the admission of elements assimilated readily by our population and that tend to raise the standard of manhood here.

EMOTIONAL CONTROL BRINGS POWER.

By Silvain Roude.



When we yield to an emotion our sentiment always transforms itself into a movement. Joy, fear, love, anger are expressed in unconscious gestures, in a perfectly clear manner. The strong man is master of his emotions and his unconscious movements. In order to expend our strength to the best advantage it is needful to give out as little as possible under that base form of energy known as our emotions. All our emotions should be under control. The choleric man, violent, exuberant, is a feeble fellow, at the mercy of his environments. With him the nerves dominate or even abolish individual initiative. He is a creature of impulse, no matter where it originates. He is a moral and a social slave. The man that is too lively, too petulant, dispenses his forces as quickly as they are produced. He never has but a small amount of energy to concentrate on something really useful, although he attacks his problems with vim and even with violence. A man who wishes to have strength for the right occasions must husband his resources and hold careful watch over his daily movements.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDIUMS.

Perfectly Healthy People Often Possess Abnormal Powers.

"I have had a good deal of experience with mediums, and I've come to the conclusion that they all start with at least some small basis of abnormal power. Is it not rather suggestive that the number of practicing mediums does not materially increase? If it were a mere matter of deception, would there not be thousands at the trade? As a matter of fact, there are not fifty advertising mediums in New York at this moment, though, of course, the number is kept down by the feeling that it is a bit disreputable to acknowledge possession of these powers.

"There are nice ones. My own mother had this power in her youth, so my father tells me. Her people were living in Wisconsin at the time, and the settlers from many miles around came to see her perform. An uncle, when a boy of four, did automatic writing, and an aunt recently wrote to me in relation to my book, 'The Tyranny of the Dark,' that for two years (beginning when she was about 17) these powers of darkness made her life a hell. There are many recent people who are possessed by strange forces, but are shy of confessing these abnormalities. Ask your family physician. He will tell you that he always has at least one patient

who is troubled by occult powers. They call it 'hysteria,' which doesn't explain anything. Many apparently healthy people possess the more elementary of these powers—often without knowing it."—Hamlin Garland in Everybody's.

A ROTHSCHILD STORY.

The Reward that Came to a Student with a Heart.

Old Rothschild stories are popular now in Europe. "Some are true," says an English writer, "some are only clever, and many are simply inventions. But all are read with interest." Here is one from the Bystander, London:

"At a luncheon given by Empress Eugenie at the Tuilleries the head of the Paris house of Rothschild was seated opposite a great painter. Rothschild was not blessed with good looks and had, moreover, an expression of distress and resignation combined. The painter could not take his eyes off him, and this worried Rothschild not a little. After the meal he asked the painter why he had taken so great an interest in him, and to his great amazement the painter informed him that he had studied him as a model for a beggar in a picture he was then evolving. Rothschild's face brightened, and he said, 'I will sit for you.' And he did. One day when he was posing a pupil

of the painter's was so touched by the expression of woe on the face of the model that he slipped a five franc piece into the 'poor man's' hand and vanished before an explanation was possible. The next day the young man received £400 as interest on his well invested francs."

Story of a War Trophy.

Bose Garth, of Clinton, probably made the first corn sheller used in Missouri. Fifty years ago, in 1858, he devised one from water oak plank and tennepenny nails. He used it on his farm until 1861, when Price's men came through there, saw it was a good thing and took it down to Jackson's mill, where it was used to shell the corn which was ground into meal for Confederate soldiers. The old corn sheller was lost track of for a number of years by its maker, but afterward he was informed that it was being preserved at Washington among other curious trophies captured from the South.—Clinton Democrat.

In Guarded Tones.

Richm.—Money talks, you know. Poorum—Yes, I know; but when it converses with me it never speaks out above a whisper.—Illustrated Bits.

Sometimes there is trouble brewing in a brewery.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1494—Jamaica discovered by Columbus and named St. Jago by him.
- 1682—Queen Mary II, of England born.
- 1670—The Hudson's Bay Company formed in England.
- 1707—Legislative union of England and Scotland put into effect.
- 1775—The Quebec Act became law, providing for the government of Canada by Governor and Council.
- 1776—Adoption of the Pine Tree flag by great and general court of Massachusetts.
- 1788—Maryland ratified the Constitution of the United States.
- 1808—Spanish organized a revolt against Napoleon... Charles IV, of Spain abdicated in favor of Bonaparte... Union Temperance Society formed in Saratoga county, New York, this being the beginning of the Prohibition movement in the United States.
- 1827—French National Guard disbanded.
- 1854—First railroad opened in Brazil.
- 1856—Montgomery bridge fell.
- 1859—Colorado river expedition ended.
- 1865—Sir Samuel Cunard, founder of the Cunard steamship line, died.
- 1877—Occupation of Bayazid by the Russians.
- 1878—First elevated trains run on Third Avenue in New York City.
- 1881—First sod turned in the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway.
- 1882—Charles S. Parnell, the Irish leader, released from Kilmainham jail.
- 1885—Col. Otter attacked the Canadian rebels at Cut Knife Creek.
- 1888—Henry M. Stanley found Emin Pasha on the shores of Albert Nyanza.
- 1894—Many lives lost by earthquakes in Venezuela... International bimetallic conference met in London.
- 1898—Spanish fleet destroyed in battle of Manila Bay.
- 1903—Landslide at Frank, B. C., with the loss of seventy-five lives.
- 1906—A score of lives lost in a tornado at Laredo, Texas... Steamer Falk wrecked off Laredo, with loss of nearly 100 lives.
- 1907—Attempted assassination of President Cabrera of Guatemala.



Construction work on the line of the Erie and Jersey road and the Genesee River road is being pushed rapidly.

The South Dakota railroad and warehouse commission has decided to order freight rates reduced west of the Missouri river. A new tariff is now being worked out.

The balancing of the books of the Pennsylvania railroad for 1907 shows that, while the system earned \$30,000,000 more than in 1906, it paid \$19,500,000 more for labor, or 65 per cent on the increased earnings.

Those opposed to closing the Red river to navigation had a majority at the hearing before Major Schunk of the United States engineer corps at Fargo, and they are confident that the plan to close the river below Belmont will be rejected by the federal government.

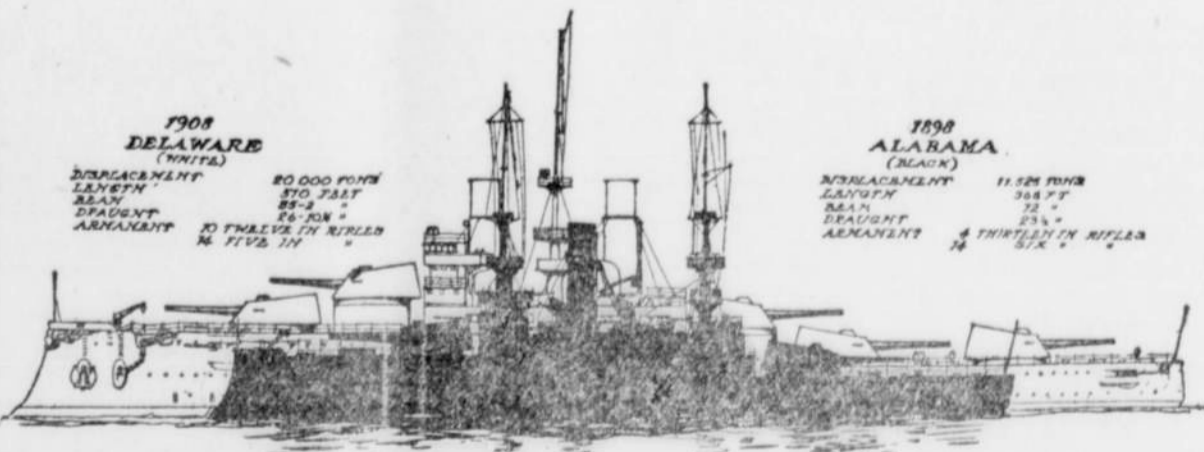
Roads running east from Chicago seem to be all at sea regarding the policy to be adopted on the testing of the constitutionality of the 2-cent maximum rate laws passed by many of the States. The matter was taken out of the hands of the passenger officials by their executive officers some time ago.

The usual cut-and-dried proceedings at meetings of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada were varied at the semi-annual gathering of the directors of the road in London, by heated charges of mismanagement, and the report of the board was only adopted after earnest appeals for unity of interest for the company's credit had been made.

An order for 200 refrigerator cars was placed recently by the Northern Pacific as an addition to its equipment in order to be fully prepared to handle the annual fruit crop of the Northwest. It is expected that the demands on the roads this year will be heavier than ever, and for that reason those reaching the fruit district are all providing extra equipment. One road which began in 1899 by handling 118 cars, expects to haul 3,500 this year.

Some of the eastern roads are said to be working out a system whereby the National Educational Association not only will be given a rate of 1 1/2 cents a mile for the round trip for its annual convention, which is to be held this year at Cleveland, but will continue to receive the \$2 membership fee which the roads in past years collected for it, without getting into conflict with the ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission that it is illegal for the roads to collect this fee in connection with the sale of tickets and then turn over the amount thus collected in a gross sum to the association.

SIZES OF TYPICAL BATTLESHIPS OF 1898 AND 1903 CONTRASTED.



Rear Admiral Coghlan, whose vessel, the Raleigh, rendered such conspicuous service at the battle of Manila Bay, tells the Philadelphia Ledger of the important changes which have taken place in the navy since that memorable battle of ten years ago.

"The greatest change," said the Admiral, "has, of course, been the great increase in the strength of our navy. Never in the history of the world has a nation increased its sea power within any period of ten years as we have since the war with Spain. We had then four battleships. We now have 25, nearly all of which are in commission. The four others which are under construction should soon be ready for service. You might emphasize this: that any one of these newer battleships which we have built since the battle of Manila would have been more than a match for the entire fleet which Admiral Dewey commanded.

"The other advances. They have been notable and many. There is the increase in the rapidity of fire. We now have actual rapid fire. But in those days such appliances as we were introducing might be described as tending to, well, say, decrease slowness of fire; that

would be the best way to express what we were doing then. Then the minimum of time required between shots of the heavy pieces was two and a half minutes. Now the maximum is about 40 seconds.

"The improved gun mechanism permitted of a vastly increased rapidity in firing. The telescope sight brought about a vast improvement in accuracy, especially when firing at long range. One observer had become so much impressed with this accuracy that he sought to tell about it in this wise: The captain peering through his binoculars at a ship just above the horizon, says to the captain of a six-inch gun: 'Hit that fellow on the bridge in the eye.' 'Aye, aye,' says the gun captain, 'which eye?'

Among the numerous other improvements the Admiral noted the advance in armor construction, a progress so great that the 11 inches which the new Connecticut carries has greater resisting power than the 18 inches which the Oregon and her class carried. Still another important advance is the smokeless powder with which our magazines are now supplied, this being vastly superior to the old smoking, brown hexagonal with which we fought out the war with Spain.