

## Topics of the Times

Some men strive for fame and others are satisfied with notoriety.

There is always a chance that undesirable children will outgrow it.

The spring of 1910 will long be remembered for the stability of its backbone.

Chicago telephone girls must be over five feet high. Don't talk back to a Chicago telephone girl.

A day's outing in an airship in Germany is going to be reasonably cheap. Still, the trip will come high.

One Frenchman recently killed another in a duel, which shows that the unexpected sometimes happens.

About all that is necessary to start a new religious sect is to predict the end of the world and take up a collection.

When the pocket wireless really comes into use a man no longer will be able to forget to mail his wife's letters.

Messages from Africa are to the effect that Colonel Roosevelt is as hard as nails. This explains why the tsetse fly was stung.

What is sometimes paraded as a heart-warming international romance generally proves to be nothing more than a sordid commercial affair.

If it is necessary to photograph an ugly dog the blow is appreciably lessened by grouping the brute close to his beautiful young mistress.

A New York man who was run down by a baby carriage is suffering from a broken shoulder. New York men should never go on the street without their nursemaids.

Weston, the pedestrian, walked into a banquet somewhere in the East and was laid up for a day. More men eat themselves to death than walk themselves to death, that's sure.

Count Komura says that a war between this country and Japan is inconceivable. Little does he realize the strength of the imaginations of some of our after-dinner speakers.

A North Carolina historian has dug up records to prove that Patrick Henry was born in his State. Next thing on the program will be the introduction of testimony to prove that Patrick was a victim of the hookworm.

Capt. Amundsen says that his next polar venture contemplates that he and his companions be imprisoned in the ice for seven years. Still, with a chess board along, this should not prove such a very long time. It would enable the contestants to finish the game, and quarrel about how it should have been played.

Representatives of the government of Australia are in this country with a view to studying the West Point Military Academy, having in mind the creation of a similar institution at home. The famous training school for generals stands high in the estimation of the world, and even the occasional antics of the hazers are not sufficient to lessen the admiration in which it is held.

Pocahontas is the latest candidate for admission to the Hall of Fame connected with the University of New York. A petition signed by several Indians has been presented to the electors who decide the matter, requesting that for the sake of the proper understanding of the nature of American Indians this honor be done to an Indian woman. The chancellor of the university thinks she is eligible. The only other women thus far honored in the women's hall are Mary Lyon, Emma Willard and Maria Mitchell, all teachers.

Death by violence, death by cold, death by starvation—these are the normal endings of the stately and beautiful creatures of the wilderness. The sentimentalists who prattle about the peaceful life of nature do not realize its utter mercilessness; although all they would have to do would be to look at the birds in the winter woods, or even at the insects on a cold morning or a cold evening, writes Theodore Roosevelt in Scribner's. Life is hard and cruel for all the lower creatures and for man also in what the sentimentalists call a "state of nature." The savage of to-day shows us what the fancied age of gold of our ancestors was really like; it was an age when hunger, cold, violence and iron cruelty were the ordinary accompaniments of life. If Matthew Arnold, when he expressed the wish to know the thoughts of earth's "vigorous, primitive" tribes of the past, had really desired an answer to his question, he would have done well to visit the homes of the existing representatives of his "vigorous, primitive" ancestors, and to watch them feasting on blood and guts; while as for the "pellucid and pure" feelings of his imaginary primitive maiden, they were those of any meek, cowl-like creature who accepted marriage by purchase or of convenience, as a matter of course.

If there is one art that should not be cried down, scorned silently, hunted or pursued, even in these hurried days

or practical things, it is the leisurely art of letter-writing, the "gentlest art," as it has been fitly called. Without the ability to linger pleasantly along the byways of life, to gossip by post without unseemly haste, letter-writing becomes merely correspondence, a formal thing of businesslike proclivities, a brief cold evidencing of necessity a curt acknowledgment that questions asked must be answered, and answered in the quickest possible manner, a manner that covers a niggardly space of paper. Not that questions should remain unanswered, nor information left for blind fate to disclose. One can readily understand the domestic exasperation chronicled by the wife of the stately rector in "Cranford;" "Hebrew verses sent me by my honored husband. I thought to have had a letter about killing the pig, but must wait." This is the remedy. Regard a letter as a pleasure; write to fewer friends, and write in a way worthy of their friendship. "Embroider your themes!" Even practical, ponderous Dr. Johnson begged Mrs. Thrale to continue her piquant bantering, her making pleasantly much of the small things of life. Such were the letters of the imaginative Madame de Sevigne, of frankly gossiping Walpole, of quaint Lamb, of gentle Fanny Burney, and such are the letters which will, for all time, remain the world's models. It is a gift bestowed directly upon a few chosen mortals only. But it can be cultivated by desire and time and patient care, and lucky is the woman numbering among her friends one who possesses the enviable art of "writing endlessly upon nothing."

### THE POINT OF VIEW.

No man's opinions can be free from some kind of prejudice, conscious or unconscious. Two rich men, says a writer in the Philadelphia Ledger, were conversing. Both had retired from active business, and both, as befitted their stations in life, were commiserating over the things that money would not buy, and seeking a remedy for the evils which seemed to threaten their hard-earned assets and their serene enjoyment of their declining years.

"It seems to me that something or other will have to be done some time," said one.

"I believe you are right," said the other. "I have been thinking of writing a magazine article or two, setting forth my views on the subject."

"What a coincidence! So have I. What are you going to write about?"

"The unequal distribution of wealth and how to remedy it. Do you think that is a good subject?"

"Capital! What attitude are you going to take?"

"I am going to take the attitude that a more equitable distribution of wealth would not come amiss, and I think I know how to remedy it."

"Good! What is your remedy?"

"Well, in the first place, it would never do to disturb a man of wealth during his lifetime."

"Of course not!"

"On the other hand, however, I think it is a bad thing for young people to have large fortunes left them. Money not earned is not appreciated."

"That's true."

"Accordingly, I am going to take the stand that all property should revert to the state at the death of the man who amassed it. What do you think of that?"

"Won't do at all."

"Why not?"

"Um—ah—well—you see, I have children."

### LITTLE TIN SOLDIERS.

How Scrap Tin from Seattle Is Utilized in Germany.

The shipment from Seattle to Hamburg of a cargo of 120,000 bales of scrap tin from the Puget Sound canneries furnishes an example of industrial thrift in the utilization of mill and factory waste in which Germany remains pre-eminent. This once-rejected refuse will return in due time in the form of little tin soldiers for the delectation of the nation's "Little Boy Blues." To Germany also go bales of discarded American stockings for remanufacture into cloth.

We have ourselves made great progress in the conservation of waste since the first experiments with cottonseed, the New York World says. A cow's hoof is now a source of income to the packer, and in the by-products of the oil as well as of other industries lies a considerable margin of profit. There is no dross or rubbish in the modern world; even the street refuse of the city has its potential value.

The intelligence displayed in the commercial utilization of waste and the conservation of such minor sources of wealth makes all the more inexcusable the long delay in conserving the nation's natural resources. In this also we have a lesson to learn from Germany.

### Sure of Himself.

"I'll give you a position as clerk to start with," said the merchant, "and pay you what you are worth. Is that satisfactory?"

"Oh, perfectly," replied the college graduate. "But—er—do you think the firm can afford it?"—Lippincott's.

### Mistaken.

"Little boy, haven't I seen you in my Bible class?"

"Not unless I walks in me sleep, lady."

How proud army officers are! If they could, they would crow as much as roosters.

Never judge a woman's intellect by the number of rings she wears.

## FASHION HINTS



There's lots of character to this suit of plain and striped pongee. The stripe is sort of an old blue, the same as the deep cuffs, and it tones so well with the natural color pongee. The knife pleated collar of net is a new feature.

### ODD GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS.

Unique Points About the United States Worth Remembering.

Among the many geographical peculiarities in the United States there are some especially interesting.

The two largest counties in the United States are Custer County, Montana, and San Bernardino County, California. Each of these is a little more than 20,000 square miles in extent, and the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware and New Jersey could be put inside the boundaries of either of them. The smallest county in the Union is Bristol County, Rhode Island, which has only 25 square miles.

The county in the United States having the largest population is New York, which has 2,000,000 people in it. At the time of the last census Bailey County, Texas, which is about the size of the State of Rhode Island, had only four inhabitants.

About 50 miles from Durango, Colorado, there is a point where four States meet. Here by stepping a few feet in either direction one can walk in four different commonwealths in as many seconds. These commonwealths are the States of Colorado, Utah and the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona. A nearly parallel case is at Harper's Ferry, where the train stops a few minutes to allow the passengers to alight and enjoy a view which permits them to look into three States—Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

The highest and lowest elevations in this country are in California, within 100 miles of each other. The loftiest is Mt. Whitney, 14,499 feet high, and the lowest is Death Valley, about 450 feet below the level of the sea.

Two Oceans Pass, in Yellowstone Park, is so named because whenever there is a shower in the vicinity and a certain small creek overflows, its waters spread over the edge of the continental divide and pass into tributaries of rivers which flow to the Atlantic and to the Pacific.

The longest city street in the United States is Western avenue, Chicago, which is exactly 22 miles long. Its nearest rival is Halsted street, also in Chicago, which is two-thirds of a mile shorter. Halsted street is so much more closely built up that it is usually spoken of as the longest street in the world. Interspersed by the native Americans on this one street are Germans, Italians, Russians, Jews, Bohemians, Poles and Greeks. Halsted street is crossed over and under by 20 railroads.

A novel way to demonstrate the size of the State of Texas is to spread out a map of the Union and stretch a string across Texas the longest way. Then placing one end of the measure at Chicago, one will find that the other end will extend into either the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

### The Hen's Kick.

Mrs. Hen, having performed her oviparous function, took a constitutional around the yard. Returning to her nest, she found it empty and clucked angrily.

"What's the trouble, ma'am?" asked the rooster.

"It's mighty funny," she grumbled, "that I can never find things where I lay them."—Boston Transcript.

Take warning from the peachbud: That which grows venturesome and takes off its union suit too soon never lives to be a pea.

### Near Enough.

Teacher (quoting)—"Man wants but little here below"—Tommy, can you finish the quotation?

Tommy Tucker—But he wants it when he wants it, and he wants it mighty bad.

### One Condition.

Mr. Wysun—I want you to have everything that is good for you, my dear Mrs. Wysun—O, thank you, John.

Mr. Wysun—But remember that I am to be the judge of what is good for you.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

# EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

### THE PICKPOCKET AND HIS VICTIM.

**A** MAN from whom a sum of money has been stolen and who has caused the arrest of a suspect receives an offer of the return of the money taken if he will drop the prosecution. Desiring the return of his money more than the punishment of the thief, he consents. The money is returned and he notifies the police and the court that he has no charges to make. Whereupon the judge orders the release of the man whose guilt is practically confessed by the return of the money.

What are the moral aspects of such a case as this? The victim of the thief is naturally eager to get his money back, but is he justified in letting the thief go? Is he not, in fact, compounding a felony when he agrees to such a settlement? What right has he to save the thief from imprisonment and to set him free, so that he may prey on society? Such questions often confront citizens against whom crimes are committed. The temptation to recover the valuables and the repugnance for being mixed in court proceedings frequently lead to such settlements. There can be no doubt, however, that they are against public policy and, in point of fact, indefensible.

One may go farther and question the wisdom of the judge who will let a prisoner go under such circumstances. It would seem better to secure the attendance in court of the accuser by whatever means may be necessary, so that a trial of the matter could be held. The offer and acceptance of the return of the stolen money would be strong corroborative evidence of the guilt of the accused man. Pickpockets are dangerous persons to be at large. When caught red-handed they ought to be prosecuted to the limit, whether the victim gets his money back or not.—Minneapolis Journal.

### COAL TAR PRODUCTS AND HEART FAILURE.

**S**O MANY people suffer from sleeplessness and other real or imaginary affections of what we call nerves; and so many who think they suffer also think they find relief in a certain cycle of hypnotic drugs, that the permanent effect of these drugs on health is a matter of even more popular than medical interest. The drugs in question are derived from the by-products of gas making and oil refining, coke burning and the like. Science has utilized these unpleasant mineral smells as it has utilized the animal smells of the packing houses. These compounds are grouped together for the chemist by the fact that they approach the highly complex formulas of organic chemistry and for the vulgar world of apothecaries and patients by the fact that the names of most of them end in al. They differ from the opiates or narcotics formerly used to produce sleep in their direct effect upon the brain and nerves through the circulation. This effect is produced through an influence upon heart action against excess of which medical men warn patients and which observing patients are able to detect. This effect varies in different preparations and in different patients, according to their condition and susceptibility, all the way from a slight depression of vitality

### CLIMATIC IRRITABILITY.

Why Certain Localities Are Bracing and Others Are Enervating.

Certain places are said to be "bracing," while others enjoy an unenviable reputation of being enervating, though the latter quality is sometimes described as "soothing," according to the London Lancet. The very antithesis of soothing is the climate too often met with in many resorts on the Mediterranean littoral during winter, where a blend of hot and cold that is disagreeable to the healthy and very trying to the invalid may frequently be experienced.

It is common in midwinter in these places for the landscape to be quivering in the hot sun while a piercing wind from the northeast seizes every opportunity—the shade of a palm tree or a wall—to grip the unwary traveler in its fierce embrace to the detriment of his comfort, possibly of his health. The inexperienced laugh at the cautious resident who dons his overcoat in spite of what looks and feels like summer sunshine, but the wages of ignorance is often disease.

There is one curious effect of these bitter-sweet climates—namely, a certain irritability of temper that attacks people after a few weeks spent in these surroundings. Ask any one who has passed three months at Helouan or Algiers, Nice or Menton, and although he may not admit it as regards himself he will readily concede the truth of this observation on behalf of his friends.

Now, this irritability is no doubt an outward and visible manifestation of a disturbance of nervous equilibrium consequent on nervous exhaustion. The effect of these rapidly recurring alternations of heat and cold on the nervous system is strictly comparable with that of quick alterations of light and dark on the eye. The bewildered vaso-motor system does its best to respond to the kaleidoscopic indications, but falls and ultimately reacts on the nervous system as a whole.

When this symptom declares itself it is time to move on, either further south, where the variations of temperature are less marked, or to a higher altitude, where the temperature, being low, is more uniform.

The latter is the better choice of the two, because no matter how far south one goes, starting from the Mediterranean, much the same difference obtains between the temperature in the sun and that of the wind. The only advantage attending the desert air is that, being absolutely dry, the alternations are less trying than the near coast, where the relative humidity is high.

### Spiders in the Cheese.

Andre Laturbe, a young Parisian who thought he had solved the problem of living at other people's expense, has been arrested for a most ingenious

to complete heart failure and stoppage of life. Some drugs seem to affect one person in this way and some another, but few persons are immune to all of them.

It appears that medical men in the East are proceeding from individual warnings in relation to the use of drugs to an organized campaign against any resort to them except on a physician's order and under his direction. They resemble other remedies in the respect that injurious results follow their abuse. Whether these results are so uniform and certain as to make it necessary to pay a doctor's bill every time one takes a dose appears still to be a matter of dispute.—St. Paul Dispatch.

### WHY MEATS ARE HIGH.

**T**HE schemes of "civilization" to put food materials (mixed with some materials that are not food) through various complications that greatly increase the price and hence the profit to the mixers, and that capture trade by putting out a product that has a different appearance, color, odor or taste from the same thing in a less expensive form, are entirely based upon our anthropoid curiosity.

In the case of meats, for instance, the farmer takes grain worth a cent and a half a pound and feeds it to a steer who completely consumes fourteen out of fifteen pounds of it, and deposits in his carcass, together with the fifteen pounds of grain, two pounds of water. Now this steer the farmer sells to the packer at a rate high enough to pay for all his feed, labor and the loss from animals that did not thrive. Next the packer turns 40 per cent of this steer into fertilizer and fuses and fixes the rest of it up and passes it on to us through the hands of a dozen storage men, wholesalers and retailers; finally it reaches the consumer a pitifully meager share of the original food grown on the farm, and hopelessly loaded with the product of the steer's physiological economy and the packer's chemical laboratory.

When one considers the waste and folly of the whole proceeding, instead of being surprised that meats are high, he wonders that they are so low.—Physical Culture.

### BACK TO THE LAND

**O**NE HUNDRED years ago human society was essentially rural. Since then the great collective interests have developed, and the thought of the world has become largely urban. The present interest in country life is the rising of a tide. It is an unconscious expression of the sentiment lying back in the human mind that society must be neither predominantly rural nor predominantly urban. We are now beginning to see that the most fertile civilization must be the result of the attrition of the two great means by which human beings express themselves—as individuals and as collective or aggregate units. Country life typifies the individual self-acting unsyndicated means; city life typifies the associated consolidated and corporate means.—National Magazine.

fraud, a St. Louis Post-Dispatch's Paris correspondent says.

His method was to go to a fashionable restaurant and dine well. When he got to the cheese stage he produced from his pocket a little tin box full of spiders. To introduce a couple of spiders on the plate from which he was eating his cheese was the work of a moment. Then he called the waiter and protested loudly against the filthiness of supplying food with spiders in it.

On the arrival of the manager he protested still more loudly and the ruse invariably ended by the distracted manager hushing the thing up by inviting the outraged customer to take a glass of old brandy and tendering profuse apologies. Of course the waiter was instructed to present no bill.

But finally Laturbe, in choosing a restaurant where he has not been before, happened to choose one that employed a waiter who had seen his trick at another establishment. This man quietly sent for the police and when Laturbe had been arrested and searched the box of spiders was found in his pocket.

### NEWS OF RECENT BOOKS

Ian Hay, who comes before the American public for the first time with his new novel, "The Right Stuff," is a young Scotch writer. "The Right Stuff" has been compared with Barrie's "When a Man's Single." It deals with London life of to-day.

Maurice Hewlett has lately been appearing as the bellwether of Thomas Hardy's admirers. Mr. Hewlett belongs to a family that has lived in Somerset and Dorset for generations. The members of the family were always Whigs and Puritans. Mr. Hewlett has some French Huguenot blood. His early reading was Mallory, the Bible, "Don Quixote" in English, Sir Thomas Browne.

William Allen White recently entertained Governor Stubbs of Kansas, Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan and Miss Morgan at his home in Emporia. In an interview the next day the Governor characterized Miss Morgan as an "insurgent." This is perhaps significant in view of the fact that Victor Murock, who, it is believed, is the original of one of the characters in Mr. White's novel, "A Certain Rich Man," is an intimate friend of Mr. White's—and a leading insurgent.

H. G. Wells tells a story of a business man next to whom he once sat at a public dinner. The conversation had turned upon one of his own books, and Mr. Wells had said something to the effect that "were there no self-seekers

the world would be a Utopia." This neighbor promptly observed: "I maintain that all water used for drinking and culinary purposes should be boiled at least an hour." "You are a physician, I presume?" suggested the novelist. "No, sir," was the reply, "I am in the coal line."

It is well known that at one stage of his career Mark Twain was in serious financial difficulties. He was interested in the publishing firm of C. L. Webster & Co., and when that company failed he insisted upon undertaking their liabilities. The figures are now being recalled. "The assets of the company were realized upon as far as possible, which enabled the firm to pay about 40 cents on the dollar. As the entire debts amounted to \$100,000, this left \$60,000 of unpaid and unsecured debts. When this became known Mark Twain announced that he would assume personally the responsibility of paying the \$60,000. His phrase was: 'I'll pay this if I live.' No one believed him, but he immediately went on a lecture tour, wrote 'Following the Equator,' and kept at work until he had paid every dollar of the Webster indebtedness."

### Aged Man Sings Six Hours.

What is believed to be the most prolonged singing performance on record has just been achieved by Alexander R. Porter, a magistrate living in the Liverpool suburb of Waterloo, who before retiring from business was chief accountant in Liverpool of the North and South Wales bank, the London Express says.

Mr. Porter has sung a hundred songs in one evening by way of demonstrating his vigor at the age of 72. The veteran magistrate is sprightly in his bearing and has a ruddy and cheerful face. He believes that vigorous and frequent singing tends to longevity and good health and attributes his own mental and physical well-being to vocal exercise. Since he was a lad he has always begun the day by a vigorous bout of singing before breakfast and closed it with a liberal exercise of his vocal cords in the evening.

The more he has sung the more he has found himself able to sing, and he contends that the singing has invigorated his heart and brain, expanded his lungs, and so largely contributed to his enjoyment of good health.

Mr. Porter on his 72d birthday gave a party to relatives and friends, and during the evening sang 72 songs, one for each year of his life. The songs included modern light opera, old ballads and sacred selections, and were rendered in a rich and powerful baritone, accompanied by a pianoforte. The feat took six hours, with necessary intervals.

When a girl goes out of town on a visit, and her hostess cries when she departs for home, she thinks her visit was successful.