

Topics of the Times

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow." Taft, Kansas, has a population of three.

Find a man who thinks he knows it all and he won't rest till he tells you seven-eighths of it.

They refer to the Astor affairs as a "gumshoe divorce," just because nobody got a chance to rubber.

Sometimes it takes more energy to climb out of bed in the morning than is required to do a whole day's work.

King Manuel is supposed to be looking for a wife. Can any man imagine a pleasanter occupation than "hat"?

And to think that the men who make such nice white sugar could be such dark-eyed villains as to deliberately cheat their own Uncle Sam!

A Washington dispatch proposes a "cure for panics." The only cure for panics is a level head in a time of crisis and faith in the government.

A Los Angeles man has willed \$500,000 to a woman who flitted him. Being chivalrous he did not explain that he left it as an evidence of his gratitude.

Every possible means is used to tempt this nation into imitating Europe by assuming a burden of militarism. Heaven forbid that the tempters should prevail.

King George of Greece wants to abdicate. The King business is getting to be almost as strenuous as shooting lions on the jump in Africa, and the crowned heads of Europe are not used to it.

A young man in Pennsylvania is to undergo a surgical operation for horse stealing. It is not believed the experiment will prove more dangerous than the old way of operating on horse thieves.

"Palms may be made of the greatest help in training a child and directing his education," declares a journal devoted to that "science." Since the time of Noah, if not before, parents have employed the palm for that purpose—often with striking results.

History never repeats itself precisely. The papers not long ago reported another naval battle of Salamis. The first one took place twenty-four centuries ago, and the Persians were badly defeated. This time the strife was waged with field batteries and warships against some mutinous officers on torpedo boats.

It is fitting that one feature of the present world-wide movement of disease prevention should be a campaign against the so-called hookworm, and the recent gift of a million dollars for this purpose by John D. Rockefeller will make it possible for science to carry on the desired investigation and crusade. It is only within half a dozen years that the medical authorities have recognized the existence of this hair-like parasite, which is now receiving so much attention. To its presence is ascribed a form of anaemia which is prevalent in parts of the Southern States, especially among children—a malady which not only retards the physical and mental development of its victims, but also renders them much more susceptible to other diseases, as consumption, pneumonia, typhoid fever and malaria.

It is suggested that Washington call a conference of the powers to secure some form of international protection for sealife—seals, whales, sea-lions, the fish packs. The destruction and pending extinction of the fur seals in Behring Sea is the occasion for the proposal, but such seals are not the only valuable oceanic denizens whose extermination requires some world-wide guardianship. Probably the State Department is near despair in its endeavors to protect the seal of Behring Sea, and it is a desperate hope that a conference of all the powers will exert sufficient moral coercion upon any one reluctant nation to force it into acquiescence in measures of international conservation. But the predatory hand of man that Lord Byron once described as stayed at the boundary of the deep blue ocean, is to-day so armed with weapons of destruction, and so skilled in their use, that even the abyssal depths are threatened with decimation. If not with depopulation, economic common sense, moreover, dictates interference. Mankind can do without the luxury of seal-skins, and even can afford utilitarianly to wipe out many beautiful or curious forms of sealife. But the oceans constitute great reservoirs of food, which should be properly policed in order that their stores be not fatally depleted. Professor Huxley estimated that more sustenance for human life was contained in a square mile of ocean than in a square mile of the most fertile land. When one considers the vastness of the Seven Seas, it seems impossible that a race of land animals could threaten seriously to depopulate them. But the shoals of herring, mackerel, salmon, cod, have certain habits. They disappear for periods in the watery unknown, and then at recurrent periods return to certain habitats, where they are defenseless against the rapine of men. Piscatorial science is widening, and governments should apply such knowledge as they are in forestry and mines and agriculture. As the oceans three miles of shore are international domains, only international concert can conserve their life.

The question what becomes of graduates of universities after they leave the university is one that interests

to a teacher, lawyer, doctor or farmer. It has the right and duty to inquire whether he follows the profession for which he was trained, and if he does, whether he found the instruction profitable. The University of Illinois has attempted to collect statistics that would answer these questions, and with results that are fairly gratifying. The general impression that many young men take instruction in certain professions, and then go into something else when they reach the outside world, is not supported by the returns from Illinois. On the contrary, it is shown that there is a pretty general clinging to the profession for which the training was obtained. This is particularly gratifying in the case of the graduates from the farm school. The question here was whether, to avoid manual labor, the graduates were avoiding the farm. The answer is that out of 184 graduated between 1899 and 1909, 115 engaged directly in farming. Ninety per cent of the whole number, or 163, remained in business directly connected with farming. Forty were engaged in experiment station work, seven in the department of agriculture in Washington. Sixteen were teaching, three were in real estate and two in Y. M. C. A. work. These were not included in the 90 per cent, though one who had become editor of a farm paper was. The returns from the college of engineering were less complete. The graduates are scattered over the world. Only 63 per cent reported, but of these 90 per cent were employed in engineering work. The graduates of Illinois are thus seen to be doing the work they set out to do, and for which that university attempted to fit them. The facts are creditable to the improvement in methods of instruction in the technical colleges of the country. A few years ago it could not be said that the farm schools were giving the undergraduate anything better than an academic training with a few homilies on country life thrown in. Now they are preparing men for actual, scientific farming.

TRAPPING "BIG CATS."

Fastest Victims of Wild Animal Trapper the Most Feroctious.

Strange as it may seem, the easiest victims of the wild animal trapper are the most ferocious—those bloodthirsty, huge cats, the lion, the tiger, and those other beautiful felines, the panther, the leopard and the jaguar. With the lion, for instance, it is simply a matter of stealing the cub. A. W. Rolkner says in St. Nicholas. But kidnapping her whelps from a dangerous beast like a lioness, is, of course, an exciting problem.

In the heart of the darkest, most impenetrable thicket, in the midst of a tangle of vine and thorn and creeper, the lion mother has with her from four to six cubs—golden puffballs—tumbling over one another, scrambling over the great yellow body of the majestic creature which none on earth save these defenseless kittens may near.

Not in the wild world, it would seem, was a home better protected. Yet, out of a thicket, well to leeward, the trapper's eyes are bent upon the lion home—four, once in every twenty-four hours, nature herself renders these babies defenseless, when the mother, stirred by the pangs of hunger, ventures forth to hunt and to eat.

Wit of the Youngsters

Elmer, aged 6, was limping because of a numbness in one foot and his mother asked what was the matter. "I feel as if some of me was dead," replied the little fellow.

Small Marie was taken to church for the first time, where the choir loft was above the pulpit. Upon her return home she asked: "Mamma, why did all those who sang have to sit on the mantelpiece?"

The Redemption of David Corson

By CHARLES FREDERIC GOSS

CHAPTER XV. During several months of loneliness and sorrow a great change had been taking place in the mind of Pepeeta, of which she was only vaguely conscious. The strain which she had been under since she began at last to exhaust her physically. Her vital force became depleted, her step grew feeble, the light died out of her eyes, she drooped and crept feebly about her room. The determination which she had so resolutely maintained to live apart slowly ebbed away. She was, after all, a woman, not a disembodied spirit, and her woman's heart yearned unquenchably for the touch of her lover's hand, for the kisses of his lips, for the comfort of his presence.

This longing increased with every passing hour. Fatigue, weariness, loneliness, steadily undermined her still struggling resistance to those sinister influences which never left her, till at last, when the falling resources of her nature were at their lowest point, all her remaining strength was concentrated into a single passionate desire to look once more upon the face which she loved so dearly, and which she had so long and so vainly sought to forget.

It was a long and tedious journey from New Orleans to Cincinnati. In those days, and it is terrible to think of it, the weak constitution of the wayfarer. Her heart beat too violently in her bosom; a fierce fever began to burn in her veins; she trembled with terror lest her strength fail her before she reached her journey's end. It was not of death himself that she was afraid; but that she should overtake her before she had seen his loved one.

"Have you forgiven me?" Pepeeta asked, seizing the face in her thin hands and looking almost despairingly into the great blue eyes.

"Yes, it was a great wrong. There has sinned much, but much shall be forgiven if thee be penitent, and I think thee is. No love nor pardon should be withheld from those who mourn their sins. Our God is love! And so we are ignorant and frail. It is a sad story, as these says, but it is better to be led astray by our good passions than to be lost by our bad ones."

"My name is Pepeeta." "And mine is Dorothea." "Oh! Dorothea," Pepeeta exclaimed, "do you think we shall ever see him again?"

"I cannot tell. We had made many inquiries and given up in despair. And now when we least expected news, there has come! We will cherish hope again. We were discouraged too easily."

"Oh, may I stay a little while? It is so quiet and restful here. I feel like a tired bird that has found a refuge from a storm. But what will your husband say, when he hears this story?"

CHAPTER XVI. In due time the vessel upon which David had embarked arrived at her destination, the city of New York, and the lonely traveler stepped forth unnoted and unknown into the metropolis of the New World.

rank of the devotees of the gambling rooms. He did his best to enter into this new life with enthusiasm, but it had no power to banish or even to allay his grief. He therefore spent most of his time in wandering about among the wonders of the swiftly-growing city, observing her busy streets, her crowded wharfs, her libraries, museums and parks.

"David!" she exclaimed, "David! Tell me if you know, for it seems to me I shall die if I do not hear."

"I do not know, my love. It is a long time since we have heard from David. But there must lie down. There is not strong enough to talk."

LET THE WEAKLINGS DIE

Theory of an English Socialist Seemingly Indorsed by Figures. G. C. Hill, an English "sociologist," announces that it is mathematically a mistake to suppose that human life is lengthening. He thinks that in the British islands at least it can be proved mathematically that everything done to prevent sickly children from dying soon, cuts down the length of the "average lifetime" after 40.

Others who have minds as mathematical as that of Mr. Hill are now working out calculations showing that as the people of Europe get more to eat from the United States and South America they are growing taller and living longer for the same reason that natives of Missouri, Kansas and Texas measure half a foot taller than natives of Japan and China.

His argument agrees with that of a considerable school of "sociologists," who agree with the sociology of the American Indians. By putting their babies in the cold water of the nearest stream, the Indians learned easily which were too weak to make a success in life as fighters and hunters.

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PREPARING FOR THE SABBATH.

Influence on Children of Customs in Orthodox Jewish Households. The Sabbath, including its complicated preparations, is rich and impressive material for a child's imagination, the American Hebrew says. On Thursday evening the mother already prepares dough, goes to market, cleans the fish, etc.

"In the morning the baking of 'chales' (bread). How bewitching for a child to watch the mother making different shapes of dough, smearing it with egg and decorating it with braids of different shapes and forms. A Jewish child gets the first lesson in what we call modelling by making make-believe 'chales.'"

Resting Land. Many farmers believe that cultivated land should be given a "rest" every few years in order to recuperate from its exhaustion in the production of crops.

Stable for the Dairy. The dairy stable should be constructed with cement floor, tight ceiling, deep gutter, driveway for hauling out manure and should have an abundance of light, ventilation openings and absence of dust-collecting crevices.

Unrepentant. Mike McGinnis was being examined for jury duty in a murder trial. "Mr. McGinnis," asked the judge, "have you formed or expressed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoner at the bar?"

Not in this case, your honor," Mike replied, "because."

FARM NOTES

Short Cornstalks. Every farmer who feeds corn fodder knows how difficult it is to pitch the manure from the stables in which the stalks have been used for bedding.

Notwithstanding its present importance and great value in irrigation farming, the profits on the area now in alfalfa can be greatly increased if more care and skill are exercised in growing it.

Perhaps the most essential conditions for the production of alfalfa are abundant sunshine, a high summer temperature, sufficient moisture, and a rich, deep, well drained soil. All of these essentials, save moisture, exist naturally in the arid region of the United States, and when water is supplied it makes the conditions ideal.

Education and the Soil. One of the popular fallacies that is rapidly losing ground is the idea that any one with no previous training or experience can be a successful farmer, and one of the chief agencies of enlightenment is the Government Bureau of Soils.

Three Ladders in One. Not every family has a long and short ladder about the house and it often happens that where one of these will not suit the other will.

Small Hog Cot. The hog cot illustrated here is 6 ft. wide, 8 ft. long and 6 ft. 2 in. high in front and 3 ft. high in the rear. The floor is built with 2 in. x 4 in.

There are great differences in the qualifications of the hired man. One is worth all and more than he receives, while another, who is apparently equally as intelligent, is not worth anything, and the employer is a loser in the long run by having him around.

Conditioner for Hogs. This is the government's conditioner for hogs, excellent for "corn cholera," or other digestive derangement. It consists of: sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), 2 pounds; Glauber salts, 1 pound; sodium chloride (common salt), 2 pounds; or Epsom salts, 2 pounds; antimony sulphide, 1 pound.

Hemp as a Weed Extirpator. Experiments at the Wisconsin experiment station show that hemp is a great weed eradicator. Land that is badly infested with quack grass, Canada thistle and wild mustard and other types of weeds was cleaned up by a crop of hemp, which grew to a height of ten or twelve feet.

Some Wisconsin farmers manage to get a profit of about \$40 an acre from the hemp crop.

A cubic foot of solid gold weighs 1,210 pounds; of silver only 680 pounds.

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