

Topics of the Times

It is too late now for the czar to take a course in jiu jitsu.

When the Igorrotes returned to their native land they put on clothes. Probably they quit eating dog meat, also. Their contract had expired.

Mr. Carnegie says the wealthy man is a slave. While we are pretty busy, we are willing to take a day off and help emancipate Mr. Carnegie.

Russell Sage and Mrs. Hetty Green can point to the fact that no college or missionary board has ever rejected any of their \$100,000 donations.

Now that Ella Wheeler Wilcox has concluded her autobiography, there will be some mean folk to insinuate that she is at the chloroforming age.

No, William, there will be no official celebration in Cuba over the pension with which Spain proposes to honor General Weyler for his past services on the island.

A Princeton man recommends religion as a cure for trusts. Once start the trusts in that direction and they would soon have all the religion there is in the country.

That hen-egg-sized diamond was sent through the ordinary registered mail at a cost of 75 cents. Such things are awfully discouraging to the industrious and hard-working train robber.

King Alfonso of Spain is credited with a desire to marry an American girl. But that's nothing. There are plenty of young men right around here who are entertaining a similar desire.

Mrs. Craigie, the English novelist, says women are unfit to sit on juries because their nature does not contain the element of justice. Every man who has been caught in wickedness by his wife will indorse Mrs. Craigie's declaration.

Dr. Wiley, the government chemist, says there is no reason why the average man should not be useful until he is 90 years of age. It is not difficult to guess who would be elected if Wiley and Osler were running against each other for the presidency.

Suppose the newspaper man, every time he hears anyone criticize him or his paper, should retaliate by holding up to the public gaze all the faults and shortcomings of said faultfinder, what would be the result? The editor may not know it all, but he does not live in a community long before he knows a great sight more than he publishes.

Perhaps no species of villainy is more cruel and reprehensible than the adulteration of drugs used in disease and which may murder the invalid they were supposed to benefit. It is fortunate that the Washington authorities have taken the work in hand and have succeeded in unearthing a gang of these scoundrels in Chicago by making raids on the places where bogus drugs were made, confiscating four patrol wagon loads of "medicine" and arresting five persons for misusing the mails.

By observing the laws of health an Ohio doctor assures man that he may live to be 150 years old. That may be true, but the trouble is to find out just what are the laws of health. There are so many lawgivers on the subject that the layman is bound to be puzzled and wonder if the old methodless plan is not as good as any. While it may be of no use to the present generation, doubtless it will attract some attention from the second or third succeeding ones if some man will give a practical demonstration of his theories. When truthful persons can write, "I have used your system for 150 years and never felt better in my life," the rest of the world doubtless will begin to sit up and take notice.

When Monsieur Coppee was shouting insults at the authorities in Paris not long ago in one of the petty political crises which frequently occur in the French capital, he declared that he was ready to sacrifice his liberty and even his life in the defense of the principles which he charged the government with disregarding. At the climax of his obstreperous denunciation of the powers that be he felt a hand on his shoulder, and, turning, saw the prefect of police. Instead of arresting him and hauling him to a dungeon, deep and dark, the prefect said, with a smiling face: "Shout whatever you like and smash windows if the fancy takes you. You can even, if you like, attack the police. My men have strict orders from me never to arrest you, no matter what you may say or do." The French have evidently discovered the best way to destroy the effect of

attacks on the government is to refrain from making martyrs of the attackers. A government has to be pretty sure of itself before it has the courage to pursue this course.

A Yale professor, the statistician of the institution, has made a comparative study of student expenditures and reached results that rich and fond parents desirous of giving their sons the great advantages of a liberal education should carefully consider. After all, the most important function of the college is moral. The mere information supplied by lectures and textbooks can be obtained at home; it is the discipline, the atmosphere of culture and learning, the associations, the traditions and historic background, the personal influence of professors, that combine to give "college education" the value and utility it possesses. In the familiar phrase, the mission of the college is to encourage plain living and high thinking. But in every college there are students who tacitly reverse the formula and proceed on the assumption that the right ideal is high living and plain thinking, or no thinking at all and very little work even of the routine sort. There are not many of these, it is true, but if any course or practice on the part of parents tends to increase their number it cannot be too persistently discouraged. And the Yale statistician shows that an extravagant allowance to a student is a source of moral danger. Poverty is bad for a student; it means, of course, extra work outside and little recreation and opportunity for assimilation and reflection and beneficial associations. But luxury is even worse for the student, because it is more insidious and demoralizing. It is a truism that "as the amount of total expenditures increases the percentage spent on necessities decreases." But it is certainly disquieting to find that "the wealthiest" class of the Yale students "spend more for drinking and smoking than for their room rent and furniture," and that while "under pleasure the highest (wealthiest) class spends more than twice the proportion that the lowest does," on music and charity the order is reversed. The parent who makes too generous an allowance for his college-attending son does him a disservice and an injury. He exposes him to temptation of a kind destructive of the essential mission of the college. The Yale professor says that "the men who take time to spend \$807 a year on pleasure and tobacco and intoxicants do not have time enough left for their regular work to rank high in their class." But this is not the whole of the mischief, nor even the greater part of it. The effect on character, on mental and moral discipline, is of infinitely greater moment. At college enough is better than a feast.

A SINGULAR EXPLOSION.

An Iron Rail Twisted Around the Trunk of a Big Tree.

That an ordinary steel rail can be hurled high in the air and twisted like a piece of wire around the trunk of a big tree seems incredible, yet such a thing recently occurred at Nanaimo, B. C. The explosion from which this curious thing resulted was disastrous in



EFFECT OF AN EXPLOSION.

its general effects. Twelve men lost their lives as a result of it. Great havoc was wrought, and the big rail, which was lying on the ground fully twenty-five feet from the spot at which the explosion occurred, was lifted in the air and wrapped around the trunk of a tree twelve feet away, as if it had been mere wire.

The explosive that did this is known as "gelignite." It is one of the most powerful of the various preparations from gun cotton, composed of blasting gelatine, collodion cotton, absorbent nitrate, sodium carbonate and wood pulp.

So tightly was the rail wrapped about the tree that it cut deeply into the green wood of the trunk and caused big splinters to start out on all sides.

Wanted to Compromise.

Judge Lueders—You are charged with loitering. What have you got to say for yourself?

The Hobo—Nawthin', Jedge, only I don't want youse ter be too bad on me. Dat's all.

Judge Lueders—Well, how will thirty days and a bath strike you?

The Hobo—Say, Jedge; can't youse make it sixty days an' cut out de wash?

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

IS GOING TO CHURCH A DUTY?

By Rev. Minot Savage.



The highest and finest thing in a man is love, sympathy, tenderness, pity, helpfulness. No matter what your theological ideas may be, no matter whether you believe in God and the future life or not, so much is true. The highest and most characteristic thing in a man is this which we call spiritual. And when we say that a man ought to be a man it means that he ought to climb up and live in these ranges of his being. A creature ought to be what it can be. We buy a singing bird, and it does not sing. We feel that we are being cheated. A horse that is destined for the race course, we say, ought to be able to run. A dray horse may be simply strong and well trained. A pointer dog must point. A setter dog must set. We claim that a creature ought to be what it is called and is capable of being. A man ought to come up and live in the spiritual ranges of his being. If he does not, he is not a man, is not true to the highest and noblest conception of his being. You cannot love and sympathize and be tender and helpful all by yourself and with nobody to love, with whom to sympathize, toward whom you are to be helpful. The very fact of cultivating these things, which constitute you in the highest and truest sense of the word a man, of necessity puts you in vital and helpful relation to your fellow men.

What then? The church is the only organization on the face of the earth that has this cultivation of manhood, this development of the highest and most essential characteristics of men and women, as its one essential aim. The church exists for this. It is a place where these faculties and powers are appealed to, where they are called out and developed, where they are directed and brought into play. This is what the church is for, and there is no other organization in all the wide world the one aim and end and object of which is to make manhood and womanhood.

HANDWRITING IS PASSING.

By Elmer E. Rogers.



The unsophisticated "professor" of penmanship who up to within a few years made his perennial winter pilgrimage throughout the rural districts, clad in a long tailed coat and wearing a coachman's plug hat, has passed away.

He gave lessons in ornamental penwork. His dexterity in the doing of fancy pen-skating, that resulted in fanciful birds, chickens, and other animals of a forgotten geological age, added handsomely to his success in the business of gathering in tuition fees.

Our commercial schools, together with private and public schools alike, have relegated the flourish in handwriting to the final resting place of the obsolete. To the student seeking the practical in business the fanciful is never heard of and much less taught.

The typewriting machine now gnaws at the vitals of public skill in its mode of recording thought. Speed of execution and facility in reading the typewritten page are elements which bring the stenographer and her typewriter into the field of business as queen of the correspondence turf.

For the bookkeeper and clerk a handwriting, clear, accurate and brief retains its hold, and the utility of handwriting has not absolutely faded into a sentiment, nor will schools eliminate instruction in the art while penmanship retains a glimmer of its usefulness. There seems to be a unanimity of opinion among contemporary proprietors of commercial colleges and those of schools of penmanship that some type of plain writing that resembles the time honored systems affords the chief advantages.

In the meantime, may not a writing alphabet be devised which would be a happy medium between longhand and

stenography? After a century or more, such a device would be supplanted by a higher ideal. By overcoming objections urged by self-centered people, such a universal system of recording thought by pen might continue in vogue till the genius of invention should have discovered a more acceptable way.

DO THE HARD THINGS FIRST.

By A. S. Monroe.



A bank president was asked to what one thing more than all others could he attribute his success. He pointed to a small printed motto which hung above his desk; it read:

DO THE HARD THING FIRST.

If there is a requirement to success in your business for which you have an antipathy, conquer it, or it will be the rock on which your ship will founder. Overcome the idea that certain things are disagreeable in order that your life may contain no disagreeable duties. Bend before the wind that you be not broken.

able duties. Bend before the wind that you be not broken.

Every position in the world has its drawbacks, every line of work has its disagreeable side, and failure many times can be traced to this shirking from attending to the disagreeable, seemingly unimportant, or difficult task. A mother dreads to punish her child. She can't bear the scene it will cause, and she lets the small error go uncorrected until it grows great.

An employer thinks it mean and small to speak to his help about being on time; and so the few moments are lost each day, other leaks are not stopped, and his business is ruined.

If you have not met with the success you think your efforts merit, just cast about for the disagreeable portions of your work from which you have shrunk. You will find them and you may not attach any importance to them; but be assured they are just that important that they have kept you from the success you might otherwise have achieved.

SEARCH FOR IDEAS TO REACH SUCCESS.

By John A. Howland.



One great secret of success is to be always on the lookout for new ideas. Who is the successful farmer to-day? The man who is using all his own ideas, plus those of his ancestors, plus those of his rivals, plus those of the scientists and experimenters. Take the commonplace idea of rotation of crops. If a man waited to prove that he couldn't raise wheat year in and year out on the same patch of ground he would be bankrupt before he arrived at an independent conclusion. The distinguishing characteristic of Americans is their ability to assimilate new ideas. Whatever an American sees done abroad he feels equal to attempting at home, whether it is raising ostriches, olives or family trees. As soon as he "catches on" that a thing is profitable or excellent he attempts to master and possess it.

It is the sign of the successful man that he is willing to take suggestions, not necessarily to act on them, but to consider them, to digest them, and extract from them any kernel of good there may be in them. Some of our busiest men make a point of seeing, if only for a moment, everyone who wishes an interview. Such men appreciate the fact that every human brain has some tiny sprout of an idea about something. And that bit of worked out experience, even of so humble a person as a washerwoman, may exactly complete some half-born and struggling idea of their own. Such men are willing to listen to much trash in order to gain one little half of an idea, much as the book lover rummages dusty shops hour after hour in the hope of lighting on some one rare volume.

WORLD'S BIGGEST FLUME.

It Is at Niagara Falls and Will Develop 60,000 Horse Power.

The largest steel flume ever built is at Niagara Falls, on the Canadian side of the river, where the Ontario Power Company has secured rights for

Feared the Worst.

Friday Vizer, a familiar negro about town in a certain part of Mississippi, had been found dead, says Lippincott's and he being a member of no church or lodge—very unusual for a negro—there was no one to pray for his soul in the

RISKS LIFE TO SAVE GOOSE.

Man Lowered Down an Old Mine Shaft 700 Feet Deep.

From Oxford, Warren county, N. J., comes the story of Lewis Albert, an engineer at the mines, says the New York Herald, who, for the sake of a goose's life, risked his own for fully forty minutes on Friday in a daring and sensational manner.

The goose got over the fence of its coop, flapped its wings, flew over the opening of the shaft, which is 700 feet deep, fell into the black hole and disappeared.

On the following day persons passing the shaft heard sepulchral cries proceeding from some subterranean source. Kemple heard sounds and learned of the goose's plight.

The old hoisting apparatus was examined and found to be useless and the problem arose as to how the bird was to be rescued. One man lowered a hook and line, to which was attached a worm, but the goose would not bite.

Then Albert took a long rope and, selecting a group of miners, he bade them lower him into the mine.

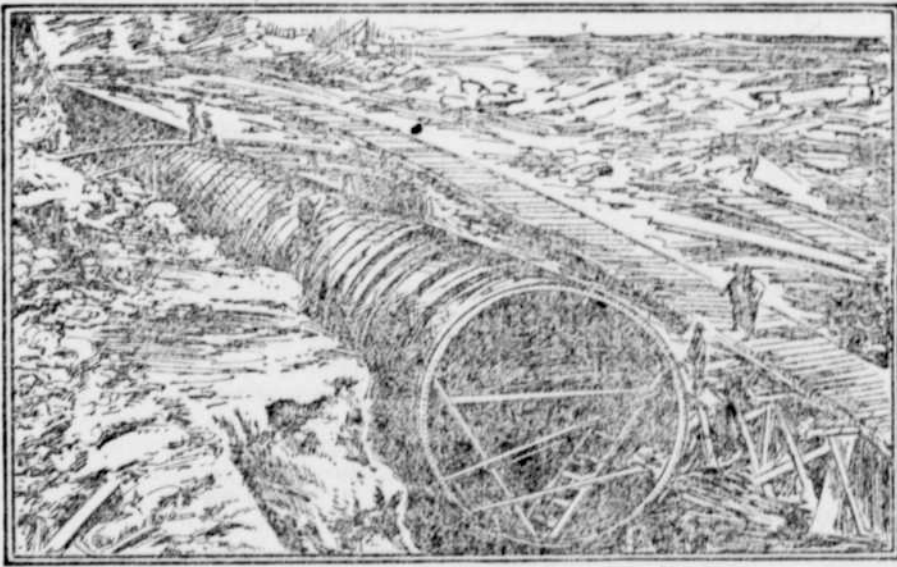
Albert got down about 200 feet and a minute later there was a fierce honking, followed by a signal to pull up quickly. Albert soon appeared with the struggling bird in his arms.

Violence of Tropical Storms.

The violence of tropical rainstorms is proverbial, yet never before has one been scientifically registered in which so much water fell in so short a time as at Santiago de Cuba recently. An English engineer who gauged the rainfall found that it was at the rate of over four inches an hour and that between 7 and 10 o'clock in the evening more than a foot of water reached the ground. The storm covered nearly 300 square miles and in places was heavier than at Santiago.

Great Hand to Draw.

"How does Dick draw at college?" "Mighty well," replied the old man, "drawn on me yesterday for \$100 an' I'm expectin' another draw by the next mail."—Atlanta Constitution.



LARGEST STEEL FLUME IN THE WORLD.

the development of 180,000 horsepower. The flume has a length of 5,810 feet. Its inside diameter is 18 feet, and it will divert 3,900 cubic feet of water from the river above the Horseshoe falls every second. This flume is so large that it was necessary to establish a temporary shop on the grounds for its construction. It runs through Victoria Park and is laid in a trench. In order that it may not mar the beauty of the park lands, the great pipe is covered with earth, but before being so concealed was given a jacket of concrete, so that there would be no unequal pressure of the earth. The flume is protected against electrolysis. From the water that will flow through this pipe it is expected to develop 60,000 electrical horse-power. Three such flumes will be constructed.

No boy ever lets a day pass without boiling.

great beyond. A few old intimates, however, carried the body to the cemetery in a rude pine coffin, and Bob McRaven, one of the number, an old "be-fo'-de-wah dorky," was called upon for a few remarks. Bob removed his hat and stepped reverently and sadly towards the open grave, and in solemn, funeral tones said:

"Friday Vizer, you is gone. We hopes you is goine whar we specks you ain't!"

The Difference.

"In the city we always dress for dinner."

"Must be lazy. In the country we have been dressed about seven hours by the time the dinner bell rings."—Illinois State Journal.

Inventing bad habits in others, and neglecting your own faults, is not Reform.