

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES

### A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

There is but one mother's day in the year. Daughter has all the others.

The Chicago man who says eating is a habit is mistaken. Eating is hereditary.

China appears to be in earnest in her desire for progress. She wants to borrow money.

Gossip is one of the few things that doesn't lose its taste after being warmed over several times.

The value of a fish as a substitute for breakfast is likely to take some of the romance out of this summer's fishing poetry.

An Indiana novelist's father has taken to literature. Indiana may add to its achievements by showing that heredity works both ways.

Wonder if that fellow who stole the \$10,000 picture in California a few days ago, did it to satisfy the cravings of a hungry soul or an empty stomach.

The old theory that a fool and his money are soon parted should be revised. If there were no fools in the world there would be less money in circulation.

One man who thought opportunity was knocking at his door married his stepmother. Now she is dead and he finds by reading her will that he has been disinherited.

Count Boni de Castellane, having said a sudden and effectual crimp put in his political aspirations, may have to touch his revered parents for some of that good annuity to help pay expenses.

If American customs officers are going to begin apologizing for all the trouble they make for returning American tourists, how are they going to have any time left for examining the baggage?

A Belgian aeroplane carrying two men has remained in the air two hours and twenty minutes, the longest flight by forty-five minutes. The hazards of aeronautics have no effect on the nerve and enthusiasm of the daring sky pilots.

The northernmost grave of all the numberless graves of earth is the last resting place of Prof. Ross G. Marvin, who lost his life while a member of the Peary expedition. A tablet in his memory was dedicated at Cornell University recently and Commander Peary was the principal speaker.

An English novelist is in this country to study the women. The American woman just now seems to be the most interesting topic of civilized creation. Still, there is no need to be going to outside writers for a full understanding of her. It takes the native American to appreciate her full worth.

The tide of immigration is continuing and increasing. The authorities at Washington estimate that the arrivals during the present year will be not less than 1,000,000, which will come close to the record. The figures were 1,027,421 in 1905, 1,100,735 in 1906 and 1,255,549 in 1907. The rush this year shows that the effect of the "panic" of 1907 has pretty well worn off.

Pulaski and Kosciuszko, two Polish heroes whose names are particularly revered by Americans for their services in our War of Independence, are now honored by monuments at Washington. Congress voted the money for the Pulaski monument, and contributions by the Polish-American societies of this country paid for that of Kosciuszko. Since 1825 there has been a monument to Kosciuszko at West Point, where extensive fortifications, under his direction as chief engineer, were constructed during the Revolution.

The largest salmon pack ever recorded is announced on the Pacific coast, where about five and one-fourth million cases represent the output of the canneries—nearly half a million cases more than during the last previous good season, that of 1905. Only once before in the history of the business has the five-million mark been reached. The run of salmon in 1909 was the largest ever known, and those who study the conditions say that the regulations which are now enforced and the operations of the canneries are not enough to account for all of the increase. They advance the theory that the depletion of the Bering Sea seal herds has an important bearing on the increasing salmon supply. The seal herd, as it goes north to the breeding grounds, follows the run of the salmon, and the fishermen assert that the voracious seal kills his weight in salmon every day.

The fact that a business firm has had the temerity to engage in a lawsuit to resist the imposition of the "tip," and that it won its case, holds out some prospect of ultimate relief from this growing nuisance. A traveling salesman of the concern had turned in, among other items of his expense account, a charge of \$150 for tips to the waiters and other servants of a fashionable hotel. The firm repudiated the item and refused to pay any portion of the bill unless it was eliminated. The salesman sued for the entire amount of his bill, and the court allowed it all excepting the tips. It held that the regular hotel bill benefited the employer, and was necessary, also the railroad and steamship fare, but that the tips were a luxury and unnecessary. The counsel for the salesman argued that the tips were a necessity without which their client could not have lived at the high-toned hostelry with that

peace and quiet of mind needed to transact his employer's business satisfactorily, but the court proved calous to this line of sympathetic reasoning. The argument, however, reveals one of the compelling reasons for the giving of tips. It is to save the equanimity and peace of mind of the giver. He would rather endure the ills of a depleted pocketbook than to brave the scorn of the arrogant waiter, the insolence of the hall boy, or the contumely of presumed meanness. This is also one basis of the extravagant living of the day. It is pride in keeping up appearances. This is not altogether an unworthy motive, but it is ruinous to those who cannot afford it. It is quite natural for one to wish to have as good a house as his neighbor, and not to have his ladies walk when those of his neighbor ride in their machines. But if such luxuries are beyond his means, only a stronger pride can come to his relief and save him from bankruptcy. That is the pride of paying one hundred cents on the dollar. The same high pride can even nerve a man to resist the insinuating demand for a tip from the superb servitor.

### EFFECTS OF NEAR-FASTING.

Six Days' "Stunt" in Which the Fastest Going Is Weighed.

Roman Miller, a young jeweler, is trying something new in the fasting line—fasting to gain flesh. The Columbus (O.) correspondent of the New York Herald says. This idea is not his own, but was suggested to him by a physician, and, strange as it may seem, he gained a pound and a half from Monday morning until Saturday night.

He abstained entirely from food for the first three days of the week, acting on the physician's advice, and while he has eaten since then, it has been but sparingly. After his breakfast Monday morning Mr. Miller ate nothing whatever until Thursday morning, and during these seventy-two hours drank but very little water. Thursday morning he ate the juice of an orange, and Thursday ate a dry crust of bread and drank some milk. Friday he ate two pieces of bread and drank more milk, and Saturday also drank milk and ate two slices of bread. He will live on this diet for a week or so longer.

Monday morning Mr. Miller weighed 129½ pounds; Thursday morning, at the end of his seventy-two hours' fast, he weighed 127, and Saturday night, after his light bread and milk diet, he weighed 131 pounds.

The bad effects of the fasting were felt the third day, Mr. Miller says. The first and second days he felt nothing more serious than hunger, but the third day was extremely nervous and restless the entire day and had a slight headache. A good night's sleep removed this nervousness and restlessness and he felt in excellent health and spirits when he awakened Thursday morning.

His idea is that from that time on, had he fasted longer, the ill effects would have disappeared and that the only thing he would have noticed would have been that he would have gradually grown weaker because of the lack of food. He broke his fast only because he was acting under the orders of the physician. From now on he will increase his allowance of milk daily until he is ready to go back to a meat and vegetable diet.

### SPLITTING A PICTURE.

One Case Where the Half Proved Greater than the Whole.

There is no painter who lends himself to "splitting" so much as Botticelli, i. e., a division of the panel into two parts so as to form separate pictures. Years ago I sold to a Mr. Buttery of London half a Botticelli, which is now owned by Herr Kaufmann of Berlin. I have myself seen the other half of the picture, as well as the picture in its entire state.

In one case I can recall the half proved greater than the whole. A certain Signor Barilli bequeathed a valuable Botticelli to his two grandsons, who were twins. But although twins, these two young men were rather quarrelsome and had no taste in common. One proposed to sell the picture, which had been painted for one of their ancestors. It is said, by Botticelli himself. The other would not consent. The first then proposed that the other should buy his share and keep the picture himself. He took me with him, and I assigned the value of the picture at 5,000 lire, saying I would give that for it. The brother declined and suggested placing the picture in the custody of an aunt pending an adjustment of the terms. "Oh, very well," cried his brother, dying into a passion, "if you won't buy and won't let me sell there's only one thing to do," and before anyone could interfere he emptied three chambers of a revolver into the panel, completely destroying one-half of the composition, including a St. John and a Joseph. The picture being sent to me to restore, I could do nothing with it, and strongly advised separating the panel. Shortly after I did so the owner died, and I disposed of the work for 6,000 lire to Adolph Kann. It is now, I believe, in Russia.—E. Panzone, in Strand Magazine.

### The Usual Sequel.

When they reached Montreal on the elopement Chicago seemed far, far away, and they were both homesick. "I will just telegraph the letter 'F' to father," said the beautiful bride. "That will mean forgiveness." "Better make it two 'F's,'" advised the young bridegroom. "Gracious, dear! And what will two 'F's' mean?" "Why, forgiveness and funds,"—Chicago News.

### Gardening.

To dig and delve in nice clean dirt can do a mortal little hurt.

To live 'mongst lush and growing things is like to give the spirit wings.

Who works 'mid roses soon will find their fragrance budding in his mind.

And minds that sprout with roses free—Well, that's the sort of mind for me!

People soon forget good advice when an agent is on the other side.

## Old Favorites

### Sometimes, Somewhere.

Unanswered yet, the prayer your lips have pleaded  
In agony of heart these many years?  
Does faith begin to fail, is hope declining?  
And think you all in vain those falling tears?  
Say not the Father has not heard your prayer.  
You shall have your desire sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? But you are not unneeded;  
The promises of God forever stand;  
To Him our days and years alike are equal.  
"Have faith in God!" It is your Lord's command.  
Hold on to Jacob's angel, and your prayer  
Shall bring a blessing down, sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? Nay, do not say unanswered;  
Perhaps your part is not yet wholly done.  
The work began when your first prayer was uttered,  
And God will finish what He has begun.  
Keep incense burning at the shrine of prayer,  
And glory shall descend, sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? Nay, do not say unanswered;  
Her feet are firmly planted on the Rock,  
Amid the wildest storms she stands undaunted,  
Nor quails before the loudest thunder shock.  
She knows omnipotence has heard her prayer,  
And cries, "It shall be done, sometime, somewhere."

How to Ask and Have.  
"Oh, 'tis time I should talk to your mother," says I.  
"Sweet Mary," says I.  
"Oh, don't talk to my mother," says Mary.  
Beginning to cry:  
"For my mother says men are deceivers."  
And never, I know, will consent:  
She says girls in a hurry who marry  
At leisure repent."

Then suppose I would talk to your father,  
Sweet Mary," says I.  
"Oh, don't talk to my father," says Mary.  
Beginning to cry:  
"For my father he loves me so dearly,  
He'll never consent I should go—  
If you talk to my father," says Mary.  
"He'll surely say 'no.'"  
Then how shall I get you, my jewel,  
Sweet Mary," says I.  
"If your father and mother's so cruel,  
Most surely I'll die."  
"Oh, never say die, dear," says Mary:  
"A way to save you I see:  
Since my parents are both so contrary—  
You'd better ask me,"  
—Samuel Lover.

### SCHOOL OF BABYLOGY.

For West Approval for Dr. Edna Day's Unique M. S. U. Plan.

Only a woman would dare suggest that the care of babies—live, hungry, crying babies—be studied by the girls at a university. Yet exactly this is what Dr. Edna Day suggested, and the University of Missouri set a-going. Miss Day—long may she shine over the "variety" department of home economics—has started a course of bathing, dressing, feeding and playing with babies, and hopes to install a day nursery, and in-door and out-door playroom, and a scientific kitchen for preparing children's food properly, the Spokane Review says. The course is no mere feminine recreation, but an accredited and serious study.

Though every broad-gauged man advocates larger life and wider spheres for women, he and the wise, true woman recognize that the home is her first sphere and regard right study and rearing of children as an enriching culture and as foundation laying for the state.

For years past, however, women's colleges have been criticized as not equipping their sweet girl graduates on the practical side. The training was not accomplishing all that it was expected in making the new woman. The associations of their graduates alleged the need of a change in the courses at women's universities. It was frankly acknowledged that nine out of ten women marry and have children.

Miss Day and the University of Missouri answer the criticism and meet the need. The university is the first State-supported school to take this new step in educating women. The matter, as every person knows who is familiar with the serious preventable mortality among infants, is a vital matter. Napoleon said that what France most needed was more mothers, and he was right. America needs more of intelligent and trained motherhood. Missouri's university helps to prepare future mothers for their share in the world's vital work.

### EDUCATION FOR THE BOYS.

Why Sons of Small Farmers Develop Managerial Ability.

The education acquired on the small farm broadens citizenship because it is a many sided education and gives correct impressions of many phases of life. All over the world the small, independent farmers are staunch supporters of conservative government. They are intense lovers of home and opposed to radical changes.

Ultimately the small farmer learns to keep a reserve cash against emergencies, and these aggregated accumulations become very important factors in the capital of the nation, for they are more reliable than deposits from commercial sources. The vast sums of money necessary to carry on the business of a nation are not derived from the deposits of capitalists, but from the aggregation of millions of thrifty small depositors. This is especially true in England, France, Germany and the United States.

It has been observed for years that the sons of small farmers develop managing ability. From their earliest

years they are compelled to do things and act independently. It is from this source that the greatest number of managers of the various enterprises of our country have been drawn.

The great value of educating and training youth for agriculture is so universally conceded that it does not require discussion. The necessity of presenting and impressing better types of husbandry upon adult farmers through demonstrations under their care is rapidly being accepted by the American people as a most important means of education for the rural masses and necessary to any general and rapid advancement.

If all is considered education that "leads out," develops or trains the individual, then the amount of education acquired in even the best schools is only a fraction of what the average man must know to succeed in life. It is, then, of the highest importance to the state that this greater mass of knowledge should be correct, broad, conservative and elevating. Liberal provision has been made for schools by the state, by churches and by individual gifts, but the molding of this greater knowledge to the best interests of society has been mainly left to the caprice of individual effort. The state can with propriety specially foster such conditions of society, such lines of industry or such occupations as evidently tend to mental and physical vigor, to breadth of understanding, to the best citizenship and to the stability of the state. For these ends no more potent influence has been found than an intelligent, prosperous and contented body of thrifty small farmers.

### STRUGGLE AGAINST GERMS.

Reflections of a Father, a Victim of the First Question I want to ask parents is this: What good are a thousand sterilized milk bottles going to do you when you come into the nursery and see your youngest with that heavenly look upon his face—sucking his shoe?

It all came over me like an inspiration the other day when I saw him doing it that after all, barring his technique, the little fellow was right in what he was trying to express, that is in his general idea of not being so suspicious of the Creator, a writer in Mount Tom says. I did not pull down his foot or take his shoe out of his mouth. I just stood still and envied him as he sat there in his little milk and in his little bliss, the little claimant of a whole Christendom of germs around him, letting himself have before his mother came in just one little off moment of living.

I have tried since (3 a. m. sometimes, February) when I have got up to boil, to impress this truth upon his mother; but it has done little good. She still bolts and worries. The doctor every time he calls encourages her to worry and bolt harder, and now lately she has begun a process of distilling and pasteurizing me. She is living in hourly terror before her own bacilli and before my bacilli and the children's (seven entire sets she has to attend to in all) and it is getting to be very hard to tell what to do for her. The germ theory does not seem to me to be really practicable except for infinite and omnipresent people. It is worse than the morphia habit. The moment a germ appears before her or makes a feint or rumor of beginning to appear within worrying distance of us (300 miles) she throws up her arms, utters a cry of despair and falls flat before it.

### Wit of the Youngsters

Uncle Henry—So you are going to school now, Willie. Do you love your teacher? Willie (aged 7)—I should say not. She's too old for me.

The Sunday school teacher had just explained to the juvenile class that the first parents were made from dust. "Now, Edgar," she said to a bright little fellow, "can you tell me who the first man was?" "Henry Clay," was the prompt reply.

During a few weeks spent in the country small Eva missed the fish served each Friday for dinner at home. "Grandma," she said one day, "don't you have any Fridays in the country?" "Of course we do, dear," replied the old lady. "We have one each week." "Well," said Eva, "I thought perhaps you didn't, for I haven't smelled a Friday since I've been here."

### Aluminum in Textiles.

The increased facilities for extracting aluminum from clay have brought the price of that metal, which was once \$40 a pound, down to about 20 cents. Naturally it is being used more and in more various things than it was when the price was so high, one of the latest uses to which it has been put being the warp in textiles. These are used for evening cloaks and theatrical costumes. It makes the figure of a woman look as if it had been dipped in silver. Of course, the metal is drawn into very fine threads and is used in the textile smooth or twisted.

Other things into which it is woven are neckties, pompadours, shoes, belts, neck ties, shawls, hats, etc. Aluminum yarn is now being woven into shoe string for ladies' shoes.—The Pathfinder.

### The Only Conclusion.

The story—possibly apocryphal—is told of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, that one day a woman wished to consult him about some thefts. "My detective powers," he is reported by a writer in the Washington Star to have replied, "are at your service."

"Well," said the woman, "frequent and mysterious thefts have been occurring at my house for a long time. Thus there disappeared last week a motor horn, a broom, a box of golf balls, a left riding boot, a dictionary, and a half dozen tin tie plates."

"I see it," said the author. "The case is perfectly clear. You keep a goat."

# EDITORIALS

## Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

### TWELVE MILLION TELEPHONES.

THIS is reported that there are now in this country 12,000,000 telephones, or one for every two houses in the country. This does not mean that one-half of the residences in the country contain an instrument, since many business houses have a large number, but the figures are instructive and illuminating. Practically everybody who is anybody in the cities or towns or villages has a telephone, while those in the country districts are legion. The astonishing fact is that each of these phones is used on an average six times a day. The total number of calls in a year runs up into the billions and is not appreciable by the human mind.

This is the more remarkable when we consider that forty years ago there was no such thing as a telephone, and even twenty years ago the instrument was not common outside of business houses. Now they have become one of the necessities of life. We use the telephone not only in business, but for almost every purpose where we used to use the mails or do without. If by any catastrophe the telephones of the country should be silenced forever it would amount to a calamity of the first magnitude. We have adjusted our lives to the telephone and could not do without it unless we made new and undesirable arrangements.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

### REGULATION OF THE AIR.

AWS have been passed by Germany, France and Switzerland having to do with the traffic of the air. The city of Paris has fixed a duty for the entrance of aeroplanes in keeping with the duties collected at the gates upon automobiles and horse-drawn vehicles. It will not be long before legislation governing flying will be general. There must be laws regulating speed and the height to be flown. Lanes of traffic will have to be mapped out if there are to be many machines. Certain types may have to be kept upon one level while other patterns journey through their individual planes. The policing of the air is going to be a tough nut for the lawmakers to crack. State boundaries and the borders of nations are to become exceedingly indefinable.

The most interesting one of the difficulties so far foreseen relates to the ownership of the air. Under the common law a property holder owns all the ground beneath him and all the air above. How is he going to warn off the trespassers upon his atmosphere and how is he going to collect damages for trespass? Judge James W. Gerard of the Supreme Court of New York says a property owner can enforce an order against flying over the land so far as the law gives him that privilege, but, in case of suit, he will gain little recompense. "Such an owner," he says, "could not collect more than six cents, unless the aeroplane did damage to the property. It would be simply a case of injury without damages."

Automobile laws are a jumble of State regulations

and city ordinances. Add to them the aeroplane laws soon to be enacted, and consider the muddle of legislation for which the busy little gasoline engine must be held responsible.—Toledo Blade.

### RAISING THE "MAINE."

THE loss of no vessel, naval or other, ever made a greater sensation or was fraught with graver consequences than the mysterious destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor Feb. 15, 1898. This tragedy, which involved the deaths of 266 American sailors, made inevitable the war with Spain and the freedom of Cuba. Now, after a dozen years, Congress has passed an act appropriating money for the removal of the battered wreck.

This action is in recognition of a persistent public demand, based partly upon the sentimental consideration that the bodies of sixty-seven sailors were never removed from the sunken hull, partly upon the practical ground that the wreck is a menace to navigation, and partly upon the feeling that the raising and examination of the hull will clear up any uncertainty as to the nature of the explosion which caused the wreck.

A naval board of inquiry, after sitting twenty-three days, found that the battleship was destroyed by an external agency, presumably a mine under the bottom and somewhat on the port side. This opinion was based largely upon the reports of the divers, who found that the bottom plates over a considerable area had been bent inward and upward over thirty feet. The Spanish government made an inquiry of its own, and maintained that the explosion was from within.

The agitation for raising the Maine has been continuous since 1898, and there is general satisfaction at the action of Congress. Cuba is especially pleased. It probably would have undertaken the work itself in behalf of the appearance and safety of its principal harbor had it not been deterred by lack of money and by considerations of international etiquette.—Youth's Companion.

### IS THE WORLD GOING INSANE?

SANITARIUM specialist declares that 265 years hence the entire population of the world will be insane. Anyone who follows the evidence of the medical experts in a murder case will be inclined to believe him, and to believe that the medical profession will be the first to succumb to derangement. Fortunately, however, there are many perfectly sane persons, and there is no fear of any such terrible fate as this pessimistic physician prophesies.

Medical science is constantly advancing. Presently tuberculosis will be driven from the face of the earth. Bacteriology has already defeated numerous diseases that were once deadly. Eventually disease, as we know it to-day, will no longer exist. Preventive medicine is revolutionizing civilization. There is no room for pessimism in the medical profession, to whose splendid optimism humanity looks for its greatest aid toward the ideal life which the future must develop.—Chicago Journal.

## LITERARY LITTLE BITS

The spring publishing season in London is said to have been far from successful. One commentator declares that the real cause of this condition is that so few of the books issued are of any permanent value. There's something in that.

Augusta Huiell Seaman's new book, "Jacqueline of the Carrier Pigeons," is a story woven about the historic siege of Leyden in the days of William the Silent, and its young hero, Gysbert Cornelissen, is an actual boy of whom history has given a brief glimpse.

Signor d'Annunzio has been staying quietly in Paris, studying the life of the dressmakers employed in the great fashion establishments for the purpose of his new book, "Amaranta." The heroine is a poor girl who leaves her Italian home to seek employment in Paris.

The third and last volume of General Kuropatkin's memoirs has appeared in Russia. In this he attacks the Russian press for having, as he declares, contributed to the demoralization of the Russian troops during the war with Japan; and he advises that in future wars only events calculated to raise the morale of an army should be allowed to be mentioned in the newspapers.

That unconventional book, "The Martyrdom of Man," by Winwood Reade, nephew of the novelist Charles Reade, has lately gone into an eighth edition. It was of its author that his uncle once said that he was "their considerable estate and gifted with genius; but he did not live long enough to inherit the one or to mature the other." Winwood Reade wrote many books of fiction and travel, but only the volume mentioned above has survived.

A new series of books to be called the "Harvard Studies in Comparative Literature" has just been founded by Professor Schofield of Harvard, who is to be the general editor. It is to comprise works by Harvard graduates or instructors in the field of comparative literature. Professor Santayana, the philosopher, essayist and poet, will start the series with a book on "Three Philosophical Poets—Lucretius, Dante, and Goethe." The series is to be published by the university.

H. Addington Bruce in "Daniel Boone and the Wilderness Road" has written a book which serves the double purpose of a biography of Boone and a study of the first phase of the territorial growth of the United States. As biography, the work presents a complete account of Boone's life and an estimate of his specific contribution to the progress of the nation. As history, the process of expansion in its military, political, economic and social aspects is considered.

Maxim Gorky has now married Mme. Andrieva, who caused his last visit to America to end somewhat disastrously. Mme. Andrieva was a noted actress before she married Gorky, and it is reported that Gorky has renounced socialism, has been expelled from that party as a renegade and that he is coming to America to star his wife in several of the plays he has written.

Since renouncing socialism it is said that he no longer deserves his pseudonym Gorky, which signifies "the bitter," as he has become optimistic and cheerful.

### FROM ONE WIZARD TO ANOTHER.

How Thomas A. Edison Found the Diary of Samuel F. B. Morse.

In the middle '80's Thomas A. Edison took a house in Gramercy Park, New York City, where he found himself very well situated for the letters which he always enjoys, being by nature a reprobate man and not the grinding dynamo that people so often fancy him. Few things suit better the mood of idleness than to poke aimlessly around an old house that has its legible traces and signs of human occupancy, and thus one day Edison found himself in the garret of the house, where some old furniture had been stored, a writer in the Metropolitan says. Opening one of the drawers, he saw lying within a flat oblong book labeled "Daily Journal." To his astonishment this proved to be nothing less than an original diary kept by Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the universal system of telegraphy which bears his name. The entries belonged to a brief but most interesting period of his life, the year 1848, supplemented by transcripts of important correspondence dated back as far as 1842, when the electro-magnetic telegraph system was being constructed between Washington and Baltimore.

Edison put the book away carefully and took it with him when he established himself at his present country home in New Jersey. He has now placed it in the hands of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, with the remark in his accompanying letter of July 22, 1909: "As this appears to me to be a matter of great scientific and public interest, I feel that this journal should be placed where it may be accessible to others, and I therefore take much pleasure in forwarding the same herewith and in presenting it to your institute in the hope that it may be deemed worthy of receiving a place among the memories of the telegraphic art in your library."

That Edison himself, the great telegraph inventor of our age, who stands next in line to Franklin and Morse as master of the electrical forces, should have chanced thus casually on a lost relic of his predecessor is, to say the least, a notable coincidence.

### A GIRL'S ENTHUSIASM.

The first bride who ever made a honeymoon trip on a railroad in America did more by that act to expedite the building of the world's first trunk line, declares C. F. Carter, in his book, "When Railroads Were New," than the ablest statesmen, engineers and financiers of the Empire State had been able to accomplish by their united efforts in half a dozen years.

The bride who achieved so much was Mrs. Henry L. Pierson of Ramapo, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Pierson were in Charleston, S. C., early in January, 1831, on their wedding tour. When Mrs. Pierson heard that a steam locomotive was to make its first trip with a train-load of passengers from Charleston to Hamburg, six miles away, she was eager to take the ride; and her husband agreed.

The two cars were crazy "contrap-

tions" on four wheels, resembling stage coach bodies as much as they did anything else; but the train contrived to get over the entire system of six miles and back again at a fairly satisfactory speed.

The bride was delighted. She could talk of nothing else. When she returned to Ramapo she gave her brother-in-law, Eleazer Lord, and her father-in-law, Jeremiah Pierson, such glowing accounts of her railroad trip that they were fired with enthusiasm. The bridegroom had already become almost as ardent an advocate of railroads as his bride.

Young Mrs. Pierson gave it as her opinion that if a steam railroad were built it would be possible to go from New York to Buffalo in 24 hours. At first the men-folk were inclined to smile at this, but they were thoroughly impressed with the value of the locomotive as described by this ardent advocate.

Mrs. Pierson's girlish enthusiasm was the determining factor which crystallized the ideas of those men and led them to take the steps which finally resulted in the building of what is now known as the Erie road, which, by uniting the ocean with the Great Lakes, became the world's first trunk line.

No railroad had a more romantic history than this one, which had its inception in so romantic an incident. It required 20 years of toil and anxiety, sacrifice and discouragement to get the line through, but it was accomplished at last, and the bridegroom and bride were again passengers on a trip which will live in history.

This time the bride was a handsome woman of middle age, but she was just as proud of her husband as she was on that first trip, for he was vice president of the road, the longest continuous line in the world; and the trains did more at a speed that would have carried them from New York to Buffalo in 24 hours, just as she had prophesied two decades before.

### Dentist to the Mastodon.

If one were to reason wholly from appearances, the prehistoric mastodon must have had an accomplished dentist with modern appliances. This is the conclusion one might reach after reading an incident cited by John R. Spears in "Gold Diggings of Cape Horn." The story was told to the author by a South American miner, who himself found the curious deposit.

This miner, searching for gold along the coast, found in an earth bank a fossil which proved to be a part of a mastodon's lower jaw, with two teeth in place.

The bone was in such a decayed condition that the finder was about to throw it away, when his eye fell on a crack in the top and side of one of the teeth. The cavity thus formed was filled with a foreign substance, to which the miner applied his knife, and found, to his astonishment, that it was pure gold.

The explanation of the curious discovery is probably as follows: The gold, contained in broken-down quartz, was washed into the cavity by the action of water, deposited there, and the fine grains united to form a nugget. The old bone simply happened to be lying in the track of the silt.

No girl is entirely happy and satisfied with her lover if she continues to say her prayers during her engagement.