

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Cheep sugar may be "in sight," but it is not within tasting distance.

They say that every genius has an empty spot somewhere. Generally it is his pocket.

The Molineux poisoning case is to be put on the stage now. Why not trot out Lucrezia Borgia?

Fame is a glorious thing, but a small regular income is much more satisfactory to the average man.

There is more trouble in store for the Sultan. There is going to be an exodus of Donkubors to Turkey.

When a woman wants to say anything mean pertaining to men in general she says they are all alike.

If one-half of the world knew how the other half lives it would be surprised that there are not more divorce cases.

One might imagine, from reading the dispatches from Venezuela, that the various brands of cigars had gone to war with one another.

One of the scientists declares that laziness is a disease due to the presence of a microbe. Now at last we know which microbe has the largest circulation on earth.

"Shall we encourage football?" Inquires an educational expert. If the matter be left to the surgeons and undertakers the answer will undoubtedly be in the affirmative.

A great grandson of Commodore Vanderbilt has just succeeded in getting out of an asylum in which he had been confined upon the supposition that he was insane because he insisted on paying his debts. The outlying connections of wealthy families can hardly be too careful about these things.

Recent developments may make the word "strike" a source of confusion to foreigners when they try to learn our language. They will hear that a strike of oil in the Southwest relieves somewhat the fuel stringency occasioned by the coal strike. They will also read in the school readers the famous line of Halleck's "Marco Bozzaris": "Strike—for your altars and your fires!"

The duel is a barbaric survival. It is as barren of common sense as was, and among some only partially developed peoples still is, the ordeal of fire. It never yet established one man's honor or another's dishonor except as engaging in it at all was a dishonor. In these days of enlightened humanity and law no man or woman can resort to this arbitrament without incurring the reproach of dishonor. The best marksman or the best swordsman is the one whose "honor" is usually vindicated in these encounters.

As a rule the office-holder works more hours for less money than almost any other private in the great army of the employed. For every hour that he spends in the performance of his public duties he must spend at least an other hour in keeping his fences in repair. If he is elected by the people he must begin his work for a re-nomination as soon as he is elected. If he holds a subordinate position he must retain his influence in his precinct or his services will not be in demand at headquarters. It is hard work and expensive work and the glory of it all is sadly tarnished.

The school savings bank is not everywhere a familiar institution. Yet in one hundred and eighteen towns and cities in twenty-four States and two Canadian provinces there are nearly fifteen hundred schools where the system of school savings is practised. The depositors number over one hundred and sixty-six thousand. According to statistics brought up to January, 1902, the total deposits had exceeded a million and a quarter dollars, of which more than four hundred thousand dollars still remained to the credit of depositors. These figures mean something. They mean that in many places the pupils of the public schools, under wise teachers, are learning one of the most important lessons of life—the lesson of thrift. The method of teaching it is practical. On Monday mornings the teacher collects such savings—in pennies, nickels or dimes—as the pupils wish to lay aside. The depositors have learned that their money is safe, and that it can be drawn out at any time of need. This work, as yet without official organization, has been going on in America for about seventeen years. In various countries of Europe it takes its definite place in the curriculum of government schools, and is regarded as having the highest educational value and importance. Sooner or later, in some form or other, the system will be made a part of the American scheme of education. We are a peculiarly practical people. We wish our young people taught, beyond anything they may learn from books, the elements of common sense. The first of these is the realization that for nearly everybody the proverbial rainy day is bound to come. A system of school savings is one of the best educational means yet devised to prepare for it.

A New York newspaper discusses the passing of the professional burglar. Come to think of it, the artist in crime

or in that particular class of crime which bends its efforts toward robbery, is almost extinct. There are crooks a-plenty, but they no longer appeal to that peculiar trait in humanity which admires skill and nerve, even though they be misdirected. Our bank robbers are men who have gone wrong, trusted employees who were tempted and fell. Our train bandits are mostly bunglers; our forgers anything but artists in crime. When you face a thug in the dark, and dimly see the gleam of a revolver, the chances are that he is as frightened as you are, and is an amateur at the business. Years ago "Jimmy" and "Johnny" Hope planned the robbery of the Manhattan Savings Bank, in New York, and the job netted \$2,747,000. Langdon Moore and Harry Howard walked out of the Concord (N. H.) National Bank with \$300,000 in a carpet sack, and John Larney, "Mollie Matches," made \$150,000 by robbery. Those fellows were knights of the profession. The boy with wildness in his blood read about their achievements, and longed to be a bank burglar. They made crime attractive and seemingly successful. The harm they did morally dwarfed their direct crimes. They advertised the business of dishonesty, and added to it a stage glitter that was surely alluring. They couldn't last. Millions were opposed to a few. Society was against them. Night and day the law was in pursuit, and there was a taint on the dollars they stole. As a rule, crooks—even the kings of the profession—die poor—and miserably. Every day inventors made it more difficult for dishonesty to achieve success. The skill of the burglar did not keep pace with the brains of honest men. To-day the robber is an outcast, bloodhounds are on his trail and the world refuses to admire crime or the bungling thieves who have followed in the footsteps of the almost extinct "high-class" professional. It is as if it should be.

It is unfashionable to use the word "sin" nowadays. Aawkish sentimentality has substituted longer and higher-sounding terms. The preacher of the olden time thundered into the ears of his parishioners, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." That was plain and easily understood. No one could sin and hope to escape the consequences. But the times have changed and the word sin as descriptive of wickedness is obsolete. If a man with above a thousand a year steals he is a "kleptomaniac." If he makes a big steal he is a "financier." He may be guilty of "moral delinquency," but he is not a thief. Forbid the suggestion. The man who kills his neighbor in these days of scientific nomenclature is afflicted with "homicidal mania." His lawyer can demonstrate the fact to a jury beyond the suggestion of a doubt. Sin in the twentieth century is a sort of ethical mumps or whooping cough, temporary and having a predisposition to moral disease. The sinners couldn't help it. Heredity and environment has done the thing. It is disease, not wickedness. Wrong-doing, say modern-day philosophers, is nothing more than misdirected energy. Therefore we have an emasculated gospel—the soul that sinneth, it was mistaken, misguided, bent wrong. Give it bromide and science. Humanitarianism and science is all right. Let us have more of it. But let us also have the preaching of the eternal law of sin and death. There's plenty of sin in the world, horrid, hideous, black, unspeakable. The heart of man is desperately wicked. It is also phenomenally good. It is a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde combination. Which shall predominate? If you tell it the Mr. Hyde part of it is no fault of its doing, that it is the mere following of its natural destiny, you but confirm the Mr. Hyde nature. Let it be preached that sin puts its stamp on the soul, that it means moral death, that the mind is a free moral agent to choose. Put the responsibility where it belongs. Call things by their right names. A sermon? There are those upon whom "woe is me if I preach not the gospel" outside of the pulpits.

Monkey Policemen.
Although monkeys are amusing as well as intelligent, it is not the custom to consider them as particularly useful. In this country the organ-grinder's assistant is about the only monkey earning a living, but, according to a traveler in Hindustan, there are places where they are made useful.

In Hindustan they do police duty, after a fashion, and often really assist the police in quelling disturbances or suppressing riots. Sometimes these four-handed policemen act as protectors to the weak and helpless, as this incident will show:

At Agra, on the platform of a public warehouse, a little street arab had spread his rug in the shade of a stack of country produce, and had just dropped asleep when one of the wealthy residents strolled up with a pet leopard that had learned to accompany him in all his rambles.

A troop of monkeys had taken post on the opposite side of the shed, but at sight of the spotted intruder the whole gang charged along the platform, and instantly forming a semi-circle about the little sleeper, faced the leopard with bristling manes, evidently resolved to defeat the suspected purpose of his visit.

Reasonably Satisfactory.
Mrs. Dick—"Did you and Joe have good sport?"
Dick—"Well, we didn't get any game, but we didn't shoot each other."—Detroit Free Press.

When a woman has watched a husband thirty-five years, and raised a family of children, she has a right to be nervous.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

IMPOSSIBILITY OF SOCIALISM.

By Rev. Dr. Hillis, of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn.



REV. DR. HILLIS.

Massing individuals into a compact body will never better our country. If we want a great State we must have great individuals. We can never get a great republic out of a company of vagrants, rowdies, people who are willing that others should work for them. That is why socialism is one of the great evils threatening our nation to-day. Its growing strength is not to be despised. It has elected four Mayors in New England and unless a check is put upon it it will elect forty in the near future. It is a trust which paralyzes the individual far more than the other trusts which weigh against the country's interests. It divides up until what is parcelled out is unsatisfactory to all who have a share in the division.

Suppose there are forty houses in a block, and instead of each man owning one for himself and keeping it in order each man owns one-fortieth of the house he lives in and one-fortieth of each of the others. Will he care as much if the stoops are swept off on a snowy morning, and will he keep the back yards in as good order as if it was his own house? Every man's home is his castle. He has given his promise to one woman and she has sworn fealty to him. But suppose socialism steps into plan this home according to its rules. Do you believe that their children will be better if reared by nurses appointed by the State, as socialism decrees? Socialism in other domains would be just as objectionable.

Submerge the individual in the State, as socialism ordains, and you destroy domestic institutions—still the life blood of the nation. Better let every man bear his burden and in his purpose to succeed he will do far more for the world than if he were a mere atom in a great industrial creation.

COMMERCIALIZED MARRIAGE.

By Mita Tupper Maynard.



"If a man has got enough ahead to go to a hospital when he is sick he is a fool to get married," said a man who had learned wisdom from experience. Most men would, without being sure of the hospital, leave themselves even in sickness to the mercy of the landlady rather than marry, if they believed that the woman was taking account of stock in this business like fashion. It is a marvelous thing that sentiment holds its own at all in the face of the tremendous pressure put upon it to surrender to financial expediency. Yet it does hold its own to an extent which makes this cold-blooded slander largely uncalculated for. Commercial marriages exist, they are not a matter of course. Among the parasite class of women, the idle, helpless daughters of wealthy or burdened daughters of wealthy or burdened men, only good fortune can save a woman from thinking of marriage as a change of bankers which must be prudently considered.

Thank heaven all women are not parasites. The majority of husbands are poor men on an income so small that the women who marry them will not be unduly tempted by dazzling perquisites. The "home" may tempt, but it will be the sentiment of home and not its upholstery. The opportunity to work hard for board and clothes would be available without selling oneself for the privilege.

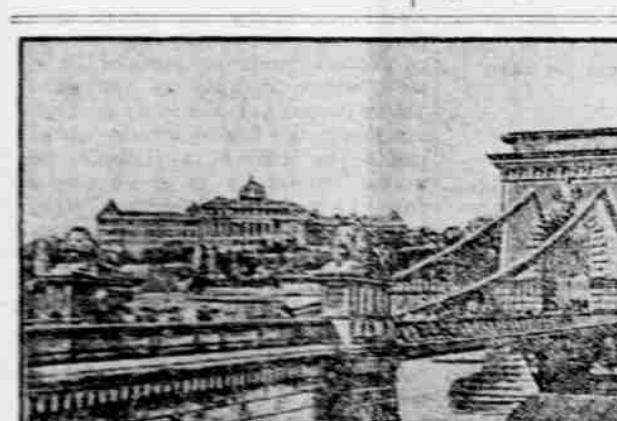
The shoe of existing industry pinches chiefly for the poor in the uncertainty of continued employment, and hence among the more prudent sentiment and marriage sometimes are denied for conscience sake. Whatever the station in life, the commercial side of marriage sooner or later makes its appearance, no matter how the individual may seek to free himself or herself from it.

The independent working woman is the greatest safeguard against the mercenary marriage. If woman's modern

GREAT BUDA-PESTH BRIDGE.

Classed as One of the Handsomest Viaducts in the World.

Some engineers think the Ketten suspension bridge at Buda-Pesth is the finest viaduct in existence. It does not begin to be as big as the Brooklyn bridge, but in symmetry, in massiveness, in artistic adornment, the one linking Buda and Pesth is a beauty. It cost \$3,000,000 and was completed in 1844. That for Brooklyn was modeled from this one and was built twenty years afterward. A cantilever viaduct is the latest thing to make another



THE KETTEN SUSPENSION BRIDGE AT BUDA-PESTH.

roadway above the water between the cities. The calculations of the engineers did not come out correctly and when it was thought the huge framework was ready for traffic a serious mistake was discovered and new levels for supporting the crossing are now being made to right matters. Several millions have been expended in this noble passageway of steel which embodies the latest ideas in the bracket principle of bridge support. The superstructure is painted red and looks very impressive, as the top is 150 feet above the water.

EXPLOITS OF WORKMEN.

Franks of a Foolhardy Employee at the Building of Niagara Bridge.

"I remember," said a bridge contractor some time ago while on the subject of workmen's dare-devilries, "when working at the big bridge across the Niagara. When the two cantilever arms had approached within fifty feet of each other, a keen rivalry as to who should be the first to cross sprang up among the men. A long plank connected the two arms, leaving about two and a half feet of support at each end,

which they rested. He saw the end in front of him do this, hesitated and looked back to see how the other end was. I thought he was going to turn. He stopped, grasped both ends of the plank with his hands and, throwing his feet up, stood on his head, kicking his legs in the air, cracking his heels together and yelling to the terrified onlookers. This he did for about a minute—it seemed to me like forty. Then he let his feet drop down, stood up, waved his hat and trotted along the plank to the other side, slid down one of the braces hand over hand and regained the ground. We discharged him, of course," concluded the contractor, according to Cassier's Magazine, "but what did he care? He got all the glory, his fellows envied him, and he could command work anywhere."

Left-Eyed People.
The man who spends half his time trying to classify people said he never saw so many left-eyed passengers in one car.
"What do you mean by left-eyed passengers?" asked his companion.
"People who use their left eye more than their right," was the reply. "The

activity does nothing more than save many of them from marrying for a home, it has a redeeming influence. If all women had much to sacrifice or interrupt by marriage it would, in a large measure, protect men from being chosen as a kind of bargain sale endowment policy.

There is no danger that any "career" or ambition will tempt a woman to refuse the home call if she is a normal woman, and if she is not, society is the gainer and the man interested fortunate because of her refusal. Where no incentive draws toward marriage except those inherent in nature and the human soul, there will be few misfits.

There will never be ideal marriages until women, and men as well, may feel certain that work is assured for short hours at any time it is desired or all the time, at a generous wage. Then the question of home and children will become the disinterested personal question it should be, and never vitiated by sordid motives or painful, hopeless bondage.

THE HANDICAP OF WEALTH.

By Chauncey M. Depew, U. S. Senator from New York.



C. M. DEPEW.

The young man who is born rich is seriously handicapped for success in life. He hasn't the spur of necessity, and unless he is peculiarly trained and more than ordinarily organized he has little ambition. The world is too easy for him. Its temptations are about him on every side with bad habits which make him worthless, or laziness or idleness which makes him useless. Of course, there are a few sons of rich men who have succeeded in life, but they are so exceptional their cases are very marked and remarked.

By being born poor I do not mean extreme poverty. Granted that with the advantages of the public schools the boy's parents can give him a first-class education and then he has to make his own career, the spur of necessity will arouse every faculty which helps make success. With moderate success comes ambition, and as his spheres of activity enlarge he acquires a sense of power. He learns the value of temperance and character. He knows by experience that health and industry can accomplish almost anything and carry its possessor almost anywhere. As he grows in position, wealth and influence he is the more thankful every day for the condition which compelled him to do his mightiest or drop out of sight.

The vast majority of those who start under the conditions that I have mentioned live long and prosper. From their number come those who move the world and govern it, who are its masters in business enterprises, its leaders in the professions, its statesmen and rulers, its men of thought and action.

THE GUM-CHEWING HABIT.

By Rev. Dr. George F. Hall, of Chicago.



REV. DR. HALL.

When I see a woman mouthing gum in public I feel like shouting: "If those women must chew let them take to the basement!" To-day on street cars, in theaters, at ball games and races, in the parlor and everywhere it is a common sight to see girls and women of mature years chewing gum. It is a habit which has scarcely a redeeming feature, and I for one wish to use all the influence I have in discouraging the same. It distorts the face, induces excessive saliva and gives the breath a sickening, drug-store-like perfume. While I cannot say that it is particularly injurious, I can most assuredly say that in public at least gum-chewing is indecent. A bevy of waxwaxters always suggests to me insipidity in conversation and rudeness of manners.

Strict orders were issued that no one should attempt to cross the plank upon penalty of instant dismissal. At the noon hour I suddenly heard a great shout from the men, who were all starting up. Raising my eyes, I saw a man step on the end of that plank, stop a minute and look down into the whirlpool below. I knew he was going to cross and I shouted to him, but he was too high up to hear.

"Deliberately he walked out until he reached the middle of the plank. It sagged far down with his weight until I could see light between the two short supporting ends and the cantilevers on

species is not common, and of course none but a student in ocular science would be able to detect offhand the few whom we do meet. A left-handed person advertises his peculiarity at once; but not so the left-eyed man. As a rule it takes an oculist to determine which eyes has been used most, but there are certain peculiarities of the pupil and lid that may be taken as pretty sure signs by the trained observer.

"Left-eyed people are made, not born. Most of us have been blessed by nature with eyes of equal visual power, but the attitude we strike reading or writing causes us to exercise one eye more than the other, and the first thing we know we are right or left eyed. This is a one-sidedness that should always be taken into consideration when buying glasses. A right-eyed man with left-eyed spectacles, or vice versa, is at a decided disadvantage, and it is the optician's business to see that he is properly fitted."—New York Times.

Unexpected.

"I have a little surprise for you, Amy," said the enraptured young man, half an hour after the wedding, in some embarrassment. "Excuse me for a moment."

He went out of the room and returned with a stout old lady who bore a determined expression of countenance.

"My dear," he said, "this is my mother. She—er—will live with us, you know."

"So glad! And I have a little surprise for you too, Harry."

She left the room, and returned in a moment with five fair-haired girls, apparently ranging in age from 8 to 13.

"These are my little darlings, Harry," she whispered. "Lydia, Minerva, Penelope, Rachel and Mehitabel, kiss the gentleman. He is to be your new papa."—Tit-Bits.

Just One.

Others besides Dogberry have been ambitious to be "writ down" in character. Public Opinion says that a South African constabulary commander wrote to a local troop officer, asking if there were any donkeys in camp.

The reply came, in the troop officer's handwriting: "Yes, one—R. H. Symes, captain."

A Timely Combination.

Let not this good old world be grave, since sorrow has forsook it; The oyster's here and soon we'll have The coal with which to cook it.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS



The statute of limitations against an action on a judgment is held, in Citizens' National Bank vs. Lucas (Wash.), 56 L. R. A. 812, to begin to run from the time of its rendition, and not from the expiration of the time during which execution can be issued on it.

Property purchased by a man in the name of his wife, with proceeds from a business which he is conducting as her agent, the success of which is due largely, if not wholly, to his supervision and industry, is held, in Blackburn vs. Thompson W. & Co. (Ky.), 56 L. R. A. 938, to be subject to his debts.

An injunction against a boycott of a manufacturer by inducing merchants not to deal with him pending trouble with his employees is held, in Marx & H. Jeans Clothing Co. vs. Watson (Mo.), 56 L. R. A. 951, to be in violation of a constitutional guaranty of free speech and of the right to publish whatever one may choose, being responsible for the abuse of that right.

A surety on the bond of an officer of a corporation is held, in McMillen vs. Winfield Building and Loan Association (Kan.), 56 L. R. A. 924, to have no right to invoke the aid of the statute of limitations against liability thereon, on the ground that he was innocent of the fraud, where the statute does not begin to run in favor of the principal, because of his fraud in concealing his defalcations.

An insured building which is so injured by fire as to be insecure and a menace to life and which is condemned by the city authorities and an attempt to repair prohibited by them, is held, in Monteleone vs. Royal Insurance Company (La.), 56 L. R. A. 784, to be a constructive total loss; and the fact that the condition after the fire is due in part to causes existing before is held to make no difference.

A contract between husband and wife engaged in farming, that the husband shall work for the wife and act as her agent, and that in payment for such personal services the wife shall work for the husband, and that the product of such joint labor shall be the property of the wife, is held, in Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company vs. Bundy (Kan.), 56 L. R. A. 739, to be contrary to public policy and void.

The deducting of interest at an unlawful rate by a national bank from the amount placed to the credit of one for whom a note is discounted is held, in Citizens' National Bank vs. Gentry (Ky.), 56 L. R. A. 673, not to be a payment of unlawful interest which will sustain an action to recover double its amount under the Federal statute, but to be merely a taking, receiving or charging of such interest under a clause relating to forfeiture.

A local incorporation of a Young Women's Christian Association, affiliated with the international conference, is held, in International Committee of Young Women's Christian Association vs. Young Women's Christian Association (Ill.), 56 L. R. A. 888, to be entitled to enjoy the use, by an independent organization subsequently incorporated, of a similar name for the purpose of leading the public, from whom it expects support by way of donations, to believe that it represents the former association.

Made Matters Worse.
A devoted couple got married a little time ago and took up their abode in a dainty villa in a suburban quarter.

Everything in the house was of the latest and most tasteful kind, and the appearance of the place gave un-mixed satisfaction.

But one evening, when the husband returned from business, he found to his disgust that a water pipe had burst.

The rooms were flooded, and the carpets, which were the husband's special pride, were in danger of being spoiled.

"Well, well," said he, impatiently, to his wife, "why on earth didn't you hammer the pipe up? Here, give me a hammer, and I'll do it in a twinkling!"

He got the hammer and pounded away at a pipe down in the cellar.

When he had finished he paused to examine the result of his labor; then, to his complete chagrin, he heard the sweetly chiding voice of his wife at the top of the stairs:

"Howard!" she said, "I am sorry to say the gas has gone out!"

She Needed It.
An old colored woman who had saved up a little money went to her lawyer to consult with him about investing it profitably. When she was asked, says Harper's Magazine, what interest she expected, she answered in a very sure and emphatic manner: "Twelve per cent, Mr. Judge."

When the attorney expressed some surprise, she explained her position thus: "Well, Judge, I ain't got much money, no' yo' see I has ter git a big per cent ter make up."

Some people experience but little difficulty in making fools of themselves.