

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

The average man doesn't amount to much when measured by his neighbor's standard.

Marriage is a raffle instead of a lottery. One man gets the prize while the others get the shake.

Men who mind their own business are usually successful because they have very little competition.

The people of Cuba are now sadly wrestling with the problem. What is freedom without cockfights?

Uncle Sam has millions for the upholding of the Monroe doctrine, but not one cent for paying other people's debts.

Joaquin Miller, the poet, has made a fortune in Texas oil lands. There will probably be few more socialistic poems from Joaquin.

Prosperous America. A Minnesota Swede, who came over in sturgeon a few years ago, has gone back in the best steamer on the ship.

And now medical authorities announce that baldness is contagious. This is the hardest blow that has been administered to the front row in many a day.

James J. Hill has discharged his son for not attending to business. Other clerks in Mr. Hill's office are probably spending little time with their heels on the desks just now.

Venezuela has had 104 wars in seventy years. The number would undoubtedly have been larger if it had not been for rain and darkness and other circumstances that were beyond human control.

The Mikado of Japan purposes to use the X-rays to detect swallowed coins in the Internals of employes in the Imperial mint. Thus does science once more become a Sherlock Holmes in the interest of sordid commercialism.

The growing number of poisoning cases indicates that the laws regulating pharmacy are rather loosely regarded by many druggists. Here is a chance for State authorities to make an investigation to some purpose. It should not be possible for the public to obtain poisonous substances so easily.

A pleasant incident of municipal courtesy comes to light in the gift by Chicago to St. Louis of the Olympic games of 1904. It is estimated that the games, to secure which private citizens of Chicago had contributed large sums of money, would have brought to that city millions of dollars and great international fame. The best thing about having rights, George Macdonald used to say, is the ability to give them up. Chicago in surrendering her rights not only contributes greatly to the success of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, but shows once more the generous spirit of the great West.

"What would you do if you had a million dollars?" is a common question. Many people like to amuse themselves by answering it, and the answers are as varied as human nature. The prize offered by a newspaper for the best reply was awarded to the man who said he would have a pair of suspenders for every pair of trousers he owned. The desire for personal comfort, more luxuries, wider opportunities for pleasure, is almost always uppermost in the minds of those who thus spend their imaginary wealth. Seldom or never is one heard to express the wish to employ himself at anything of the nature of a regular business or occupation. In reality, no man knows what he would do if he were possessed of riches, and that fact ought to make one charitable—at all events just toward those who are indeed millionaires. The follies of young men of wealth get all the publicity they deserve. It is often another matter with the industry, the energy, the faithful performance of duty by those who are matching exceptional opportunities with exceptional efforts. The Russian prince who lately visited this country expressed, on his return to Europe, his surprise at the large number of rich young men here who work—actually work every day—in offices, banks or factories. And yet no one showed him the improvements which Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt has made in the locomotive, or the steam-turbine which Mr. John Jacob Astor has invented, or Mr. Peter Cooper Hewitt's lamp. He had not even a glimpse of the amount of work Mr. George Gould does in a day, or the multitudinous details of the charities to which Miss Helen Gould gives her time and her personal service, as well as her money. What would you do if you had a million dollars? The man who criticises the "idle rich" should first be sure that it is not alone the lack of money which keeps him out of the category.

### COPPER JEWELS IN VOGUE.

People Now Prefer Them to Those of Either Gold or Silver.

Copper is the latest of the common metals to become the object of the jeweler's work. It is the most fashionable as well as the newest of the metals so employed, and all the smartest things in the way of sleeve links, card and cigarette cases, belt buckles, vases and the like show it. It is highly ornamental so used and remarkably beautiful. It holds the same relation to silver and gold as do gun metal, which is essentially steel, and kaiserling, which has black tin for its basis. It is made up in combination with silver, is reddish in hue, highly polished, and it costs just about the same as would a similar article of solid silver. It affords a relief from the sponder gun metal and the shiny silver, and some people think it is prettier than either. Many of the new articles shown are delightfully artistic. Sleeve links of the royal copper with silver rims and silver imposed heads and the like were much admired. Silver vases with copper holders and especially silver and copper card and smokers' cases are among those most in demand. The metal is also used for flasks, brushes, whisks and toilet articles generally. It is scarce at present, but will become more plentiful as the makers are better equipped for turning it out.—Kansas City Times.

### Tip Giving in Paris.

When working men have a genuine grievance, they cannot be blamed for making it known. The waiters of Paris have lately been holding meetings to protest against the prevailing methods of tip-giving in the restaurants of that city. They do not object to the tips, but to the fact that they do not get them. All the tips go into a special box to be divided up at the end of the day. The complaint is that the proprietors take the giant share of these funds, and the waiters, who have to pay for the privilege of working, get barely nothing. At a mass meeting recently held 2,000 garçons demanded the abolishment of the tip system, and the payment of living wages to the men who do the work.

The scientific sharps of the country are wondering whether Dr. Charles W. Stiles, of Washington, is a discoverer or a second Joe Millhatten—a first-class liar or an explorer from away back. The doctor, you know, has discovered that laziness is a germ. He has even named the bug that gets into the human system at times and makes strong men into hoboes and panhandlers. If he is right, and he says he

is, all that is necessary to give this country an impetus that will jolt it centuries ahead is to follow uncinariasis to its lair and eradicate it from the human system. Watch your boy dress on a cold morning. It takes thirty minutes to get him out of bed unless you apply a lath, and when he comes down stairs he wants to eat breakfast clad in a shawl. The laziness does not affect appetites. After breakfast he hunts for his shoes and dawdles and asserts that he is going to hurry "in a minute," and you just succeed in getting him started to school in time to save him from a tardy mark. You have worried over that. Some mothers have tried to whip laziness out of their children and have daily wondered: "I don't know what will become of Horace when he gets big if he is as slow than as he is now." You might apologize to the boy. Dr. Stiles says he has uncinariasis. Can't blame a boy for what he can't help. Perhaps he inherited the blamed thing. Men have it. It comes in August, when the world seems content to sit in the shade and loaf and listen to the grasshoppers. It comes again in the chill days of winter, when the fire burns brightly and the biting wind howls outside. We are all lazy at times. It is good for us. It makes us work better when necessity spurs us on and the coal pile nears the bottom of the bin. In fact, laziness for boys and men, at times, is a blessed privilege, and there doesn't seem to be any pressing need for Dr. Stiles' investigations or a remedy for uncinariasis.

One of the bureaus of the Treasury Department, charged with high-grade technical work, recently found that a young man on its payroll was incompetent. He was asked to resign. A few days afterward a prominent Congressman drove up to the Treasury and visited the bureau which proposed to discharge one of his constituents. Indeed, his visit was expected, and his errand was known before he stated it. The reason was soon explained, and the Congressman did not contradict the assertion that the man was unfit for the place. "But," he asked, "how much were you paying this man?" When he was told that the salary was only seventy-five dollars a month, he put the case thus: "Now don't you think my time in Congress is worth more than that to the United States Government? I cannot do my work at the capitol until this fellow has a place. He is after me all the time, and he has influential friends in the district who are chasing me. I believe it is worth the cost to have me relieved of this interruption." The useless man was accordingly sent back to his desk, and he will continue to draw his salary indefinitely. Such an incident as this grows naturally out of the patronage theory of public office, and as in many ways typical of what is taking place in the government service wherever "political influence" controls appointments. Some politicians try to make fun of civil service reform. But nothing they can present in the way of inappropriate examination papers is so grotesque as the feature of the spoils system brought out in the foregoing true story. To pay a man a salary in an executive department to prevent his pestering a Congressman who ought to be attending to legislation is the high-water mark of absurdity. The theory that public offices are spoils for the partisan victor to distribute always means the needless multiplication of offices, and the bestowal of them on the basis of favoritism. For all such wastefulness the public pays the bills.

### ART CANNOT RIVAL THEM.

Sculptures Wrought by Nature in the Great Canyons of the West.

Famous the world over are the grand canyons of the Colorado and of the Yellowstone. In both there is a wealth of coloring. The ravines are abruptly countersunk in a plateau and both are mainly the work of water. But the Colorado's canyon is more than a thousand times larger, and as a score or two new buildings of ordinary size would not appreciably change the general view of a great city, so hundreds of Yellowstones might be eroded in the sides of the Colorado canyon without noticeably augmenting its size or the richness of its sculpture. But it is not true that the great Yosemite rocks would be thus lost or hidden. Nothing of their kind in the world, so far as I know, rivals El Capitan and Tissiack, much less dwarfs or in any way belittles them. None of the sandstone or limestone precipices of the canyon that I have seen or heard of approaches in smooth, flawless strength and grandeur the granite face of El Capitan or the Tenaya side of Cloud's Rest.

These colossal cliffs, types of permanence, are about 3,000 and 4,000 feet high; those of the canyon that are sheer are about half as high, and are types of fleeting change, while glorious domed Tissiack, nobles of mountain buildings, far from being overshadowed or lost in this rosy, spry canyon company, would draw every eye, and, in serene majesty "aboon them a'" she would take her place—castle, temple, palace or tower. Nevertheless, a noted writer, comparing the Grand canyon in a general way with the glacial Yosemite, says: "And the Yosemite—ah, the lovely Yosemite! Dumped down into the wilderness of gorges and mountains, it would take a guide who knew of its existence a long time to find it." This is striking and shows up well above the level of commonplace description, but it is confusing and has the fatal fault of not being true.

### IRON TOMB IN WHICH ITS INVENTOR RESTS.

In the vault which he invented and built as a safeguard against premature burial rests John M. Pursel, who died recently at Williamsport, Pa. While the widow and other mourners stood about the quaint wall of masonry the pall-bearers shoved the coffin into an iron compartment just large enough to receive it. The coffin lid was not screwed down. Immedi-

# PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

## CHARACTER IN HANDWRITING.



W. J. KINSLEY.

By W. J. Kinsley, Handwriting Expert.

In the last quarter of a century the identification of individuals by means of their handwriting has been used more and more in criminal as well as civil cases in the courts. Through the handwriting of the individual will shine his personality as in no other thing he does. It is more personal oftentimes than the person himself; as frequently—in fact, nearly always—there is less change in the handwriting from year to year than in the features of the individual. And where changes in the handwriting do occur, the main characteristics remain. A man's personality is mirrored in his writing as it is not even in his photograph.

It is in the natural, wholly unstudied writing that a person's characteristics are plainest shown, and these are the specimens sought for by the expert when called upon to make a comparison. In school and early life we try to acquire a more or less model hand and strive for a certain ideal. The exigencies of business in later life modify this ideal hand until it fits itself into our life in such a way as to serve our purpose by recording our thoughts, stamping our personality on it, and to a greater or less extent reflecting our character. Many people mix character and characteristics. By the first is meant traits of character in the individual; by the second, peculiar and personal marks in the handwriting that establish the identity of the writer. When we attempt to disguise our writing we face the following propositions: 1. We must know all of the characteristics of our handwriting. 2. We must be able to eliminate them at will. If we wish to simulate the handwriting of another person we have the added propositions: 1. We must know all the characteristics entering into his handwriting. 2. We must be able to acquire these characteristics at will. I do not believe there is an individual who lives who knows and can successfully do these things. And but few people even know the characteristics of their own handwriting.

## WHEN IS A WOMAN MOST ATTRACTIVE?



By Judith A. Armstrong.

When does a woman reach the height of her attractiveness is a question which has puzzled the opposite sex for ages, and even now male opinion is strangely diverse upon the subject. As a matter of fact, it depends as much upon the man as upon the woman. Some men think that a girl of 18 is without comparison, others that she possesses the most charms at 28, while others again aver that at 38, when she has trained herself to the world, she has greater influence over the sterner sex. Be that as it may, a woman's attractiveness is not regulated by her age, her beauty or her powers to draw admirers, for in the latter case her fascination is not long-lasting. It often happens that the plain girl is the most attractive. The most brilliantly gowned woman, however beautiful she may be, does not necessarily possess the greater attractions. She is admired as one might admire a beautiful picture, but she is not the girl who claims the affections. The clever woman is admired in the same way. She may be intellectual and clever, but she is always lonely. The man feels that he has to look up to her, and a man hates to look up to a woman.

What, then, is the magical thing that makes one woman infinitely more fascinating than another, and draws the opposite sex in whatever sphere she moves? Some might call it individuality, others might term it her personality, but it is really her attitude of mind. It is those moments when a woman is most indifferent, most independent, most herself; it is when she is making least effort to be so that she is most attractive. Some women are born with this calm

indifference, this absolute independence that draws men as the magnet draws needles.

The woman who wishes to be most fascinating, therefore, casts aside her self-consciousness, and interests herself primarily in subjects other than the study of attracting the opposite sex. Let her be domestic and useful, with an individuality of her own, a method of striking out for herself without the assistance of those about her.

## CAUSES OF AMERICAN PROGRESS.



By Dr. C. Doenges, Professor in Hanau.

Wherein lies the secret of American success? There are undoubtedly many causes which have led to the marvelous development of that country. A young and energetic race of people of strong vitality took possession of the enormous resources of a virgin continent, fifteen times the area of Germany. The people who left the old continent to find new homes in America were by no means of an inferior character. There is no country in Europe that has not given some of its best men to help in building up the American union. Many were compelled to leave Europe for political, others for religious reasons, but the majority simply emigrated to find an opportunity for remunerative occupation. Whatever the motives of the emigrants were, the latter were of a character considerably above the average of those who remained at home. The men who traveled thousands of miles to find for themselves new homes necessarily possessed more than the ordinary measure of energy and courage. The nineteen millions of people who crossed the Atlantic during the last century had confidence in themselves and in the future, and were seeking, if only in a material sense, a country better than the one in which they were born; they were masters of their own fate.

The United States may be compared with a crucible of continental dimensions. By the melting and fusing together of elements of different nationalities the American nation was formed. The fundamental character of the Americans remained specifically English. This new race had at its command the entire marvelous abundance of natural resources of the new country. Free from all prejudices, traditions, and hereditary institutions, which have been an obstacle in the development of the European nations, the new country freely grew and developed. The first aim of the people was to accumulate wealth. That is still the aim of the Americans, toward which they are striving with all their might and energy, and for that reason they easily overtake their competitors, whose strength and energy is used up in various other pursuits.

## THIS A DAY OF SPECIALISTS.

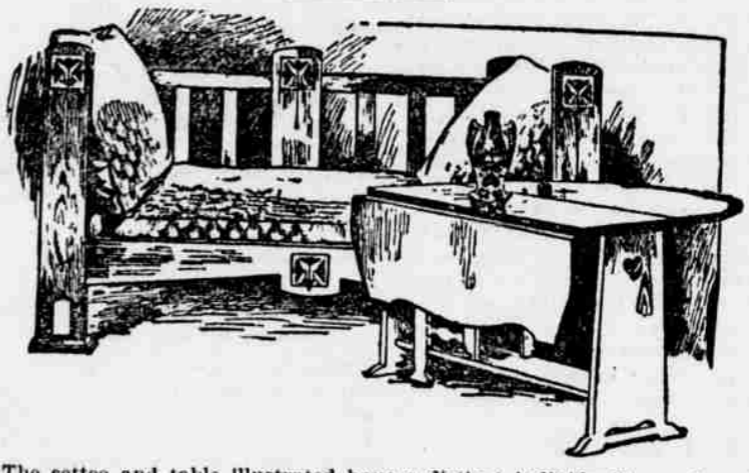


By Arthur J. Balfour, English Premier.

I think we all sometimes envy the lot of those happy people who lived at a time when it was within the capacity of any single individual to master without any undue effort the whole compass of human learning and of human knowledge.

That day has now passed. What will it be in some generations hence? I am almost glad that I shall not live to see that day—a day at which I suppose the specialist will have an enormous and almost unutterable contempt for the generalizer—for the philosopher or the generalizer who attempts to bring within the compass of one survey and one view the general results of human knowledge and where the generalizer will himself feel lost in the mass of knowledge, the mass of detail which will meet the student in every branch of knowledge who really intends to master its secrets.

## QUAINT FURNISHING FOR A HALL.



The settee and table illustrated have a distinct individuality, and would find fitting place in the hall sitting-room of some old farmhouse. The settee has an inviting-looking mattress cushion covered with blue-green tapestry (or, of course, any other color or material that may be preferred), and the large square pillows have an air of substantial comfort well in keeping with its simple yet pleasing construction. The gate leg table forms an appropriate accompaniment, fulfilling the fundamental principle of suitability to its purpose, while it is at the same time pleasant to the eye. One can picture the two with, for background, some quaintly decorative "Voysey" paper, such as the "Squire's Garden," with its characteristic peacocks and formal trees, helping to make up a room artistically striking and yet with a quiet homely charm rendering it essentially liveable. The effectively shaped vase on the table, soft green in color with oxidized silver mount, is a harmonious detail in the group which must not be overlooked.

ately craftsman commenced to place a covering of steel over the opening. This was bolted and cemented in such a manner that it could be removed from the outside only by means of violent force. Should the inmate re-



JOHN M. PURSEL AND HIS WORK.

live, however, he can unfasten the door by manipulating a combination lock on the inner side.

For years Mr. Pursel was haunted by the dread of being buried alive. He made an exhaustive collection of newspaper clippings on the subject and devoted years of his life to personal in-

vestigation. His family objected to cremation. Then he conceived the idea of building a vault which would permit of egress in case of the resuscitation of a supposed corpse.

With the aid of his son, Thomas, he built such a tomb in Grandview cemetery, at Williamsport. The body of it is of solid masonry and it fits into the side of a hill. Five compartments of cast iron were inserted horizontally, one for each member of Mr. Pursel's family. Each chamber is shaped similar to a coffin and is open at the outer end.

All of the steel heads which are to cover the compartments are fitted with combination locks of Mr. Pursel's invention. Should he or the occupant of any of the other chambers return to life the working of the combination from within would loosen the head and give freedom.

Some young men are prejudiced against work because they imagine that being hired lowers them.

Love may be blind, but the average mother-in-law isn't.

## RAISIN GROWING IN CALIFORNIA

Its Rapid Development Is One of the Marvels of the West.

The rapid growth of the raisin industry in California is one of the wonders of the West. From a few scant acres of raisin vineyards in the San Joaquin valley in 1873, the industry grew in twenty years to an average of over 102,000 acres in 1895. Twenty years ago less than \$15,000 was invested in producing raisins in California. Today the capital invested in land in the industry—that is, in irrigation systems and devices for raisin vineyards, in raisin packing houses, and general vineyard improvements, is roughly estimated at about \$34,000,000.

The raisin crop of the State in 1898 was estimated at 3,150,000 boxes, or \$4,500,000 pounds. But for severe frosts in the budding vineyards last spring and a long dry summer last year, the product would have been over 4,500,000 boxes.

The first raisin grape vines were brought to the coast in about 1790 by the Franciscan priests, who came from the cloisters and universities of Spain on missions of Christianity and civilization among the Indians. The priests, who came to Upper California, or the California of the Union, in 1790, brought the seeds for the first vines from the vineyards of Castile, and planted them in the gardens about the adobe missions at San Juan Capistrano and Santa Barbara.

The growing of raisins as a recognized industry dates from 1873. It was several seasons before the California raisin men found how to cure and pack their crops so as to sell equally well as the foreign raisins in the same eastern markets. About 1887 and 1888 the California raisin came into demand all over the Eastern States, and in 1892 the United States Agricultural Department report said that California raisins were reducing the imports of raisins by 20 per cent a year. Those were the palmy days for the California raisin growers. There was good profit in the business, thousands of acres were transformed from raw grazing land into luxuriant vineyards. Several thousand men left other pursuits and became raisin growers and vineyard laborers, new towns grew up like mushrooms in what had been known as desert wastes a decade previous, railroad branches were built in the fast-growing raisin districts, and immigration was pouring in there every month.

The most important raisin growing district in the United States—if not in the world—is that about Fresno, in the upper San Joaquin valley. There are 40,700 acres of raisin vineyards in full bearing in that locality, and the largest quantity of raisins ever marketed from there has been 1,887,000 boxes of 20 pounds each.

## SPECTACULAR FUNERALS.

A Band Plays Comic Opera Selections—Other Fantastic Features.

One of the most striking things to be seen on the streets of Manila is a Filipino funeral. If the deceased was wealthy and had hosts of friends, the funeral will be headed by a band playing the Runaway Girl or selections from other comic operas. The body of the deceased follows in a hearse covered with black cloth arranged in a gruesome design and drawn by six black ponies, each bedecked with headgear of long black feathers. The hearse will be followed by men on foot wearing knickerbockers and cocked hats, and after them follow innumerable vehicles of every description. If the body is to be interred, the grave diggers will precede the band, with their tools over their shoulders.

Most Filipino funerals, however, are more pathetic. The father of a few weeks' old baby will trot out to the cemetery entirely alone, with the little white coffin balanced well on his head, and if a man had not the price of a vehicle his remains will be carried out on bamboo poles by four Chinamen, and the coffin will be one that has seen service before. The natives have different ways of burial. Some bodies are put into the ground, while the larger majority are placed in niches in the wall of the cemetery. A slab, cemented into the opening of the niche, contains a brief biography of the deceased.

## Find Substitutes to Die for Them.

In China it is nothing out of the way for a criminal under sentence of death to secure, at a price, a substitute to die for him at the hands of the executioner. Money, of course, comes mainly into play, the price going to the substitute's relations. A remarkable case of such a substitution is reported from Foo-Chow. The particulars to hand show that, when a certain childless criminal there was adjudged to death, his family met to see what should be done. The superstition of the land ran counter to a man dying without leaving a son, at least, to worship him after death. The criminal had a brother who had so many sons that he had no fear of being left without worshippers. The family decided to put him in as substitute for the childless one, so that the latter could live on and get a son. The military mandarin concerned was bought over, the criminal was set free and his guiltless brother's head was cut off. The family, the mandarin and the public were satisfied. But the mandarin's superiors did not see it in that light, and informed the prefect at the city. He ordered the mandarin to be scourged like a common coolie.

When the heroine drops her eyes the novelist always forgets to have her pick them up.

Ask the devil to dine with you once and you can count on him as a regular boarder.