

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

My boy, can you bound Venezuela without once looking at the map?

Many a man is considered a hopeless fool on account of his hopefulness.

Watch for another outbreak of lawlessness if Virginia enacts an anti-kissing law.

There are plenty of actors who act like actors, too few who act like real human beings.

A bee trust has been formed by California bees. This is the most stinging cut of all.

There are only a few who stick up out of the great common herd, but they usually bear the brunt of the battle.

A man who has four wives has been placed in jail. We should think he would prefer to remain there permanently.

There was a time when European nations didn't consider it necessary to come in bunches when they had a crow to pick with an American country.

In view of the quality and quantity of gratitude shown by Cuba we will not be in a hurry to go to the assistance of small nations that get into trouble.

New York is to have a thirty-story hotel. The bridal chambers should be located on the top floor in order to lend realism to the state of the loving couples who think they are in heaven.

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.

"It seems a pity," said Archbishop Ryan, recently, in private conversation, "that religion, religion, should ever separate Protestants and Catholics in their works of great reforms or philanthropy." A pity, indeed, and quite unnecessary!

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, who died in London recently, was one of the few preachers with an international fame. Those who seek the bubble reputation in the cannon's mouth are usually more widely known than those who proclaim the gospel of peace.

The Osage Indians have invested \$8,000,000 in the State bank and own 1,500,000 acres of land. Each brave, squaw and papoose in the tribe possesses land to the value of \$4,000, and the interest on their money in the bank affords an annual income of \$800 to each member. That's great. Henceforth better call them O'Sages.

Cable-makers have to apply practically the principle involved in the line, "The shallow murmur, but the deep are dumb." They make a submarine telegraphic cable two or three times as large near the shore, where it is subject to wave-action, as the part which is to lie on the bottom of the deep sea. They have also learned from experience that the way to make a cable wear well is to give it the support of the ocean bed, instead of festooning it from peak to peak of the submarine mountains.

Americans will hardly be able to repress a smile at the naive comment of an English tailor—one of the men who came over with Alfred Mosely to study American labor conditions. "We did not find as much shoddy as we expected," he says. "The tailoring establishments in this country are up to date and the material is good, as is also the workmanship." All the best woolsens used to come from abroad, but that time is past. In the manufacture of certain kinds of cloth, Great Britain and Germany still lead; but as a whole, American woolsens of to-day are as attractive in design, as honestly made and as durable as those which are imported.

The deaf-adder of St. Augustine who stopped one ear with his tail and pressed the other into the dust might take notes in tactics from his up-to-date namesake. Eleven men recently made a three hours' trip in the new submarine torpedo boat; they traveled fifteen miles an hour, eighteen feet under the water, without once coming to the surface. The captain steered by the compass and timed the turns of the boat by his watch. The adder was deaf to all noise but its own electric motor, and blind to objects ten feet away in the green water. It could come to the surface, however, at any moment, to hear, see, and do deadly work with its arms. Two of the seven submarine torpedo boats, nearing completion, will probably be assigned for the defense of Washington, Annapolis, Baltimore and neighboring seaports.

The American farmer is known the world over. Our farm lands are the best and so are our farmers. For about a decade before the civil war, about three-quarters of the American people supported themselves directly by agriculture. Statistics show that now only one-half of the population of the United States earns its livelihood by this method. The Buffalo Times remarks further: Fifty years ago there were not a million wage-earners employed by American manufacturers.

To-day, six times that number are so employed, while the 15,000,000 farmers of 1850 have increased to 40,000,000. This is a great increase, but it is not in proportion with the increase in other callings. The increase in farm products in the last half century has about kept pace with the increase of farmers—less than three-fold. In 1850 the value of the farm products of the country was estimated at \$1,000,000,000, as against \$4,740,000,000 last year. The increase in manufacturing products has been far greater in proportion—from one billion to thirteen billion dollars. For all that, it is the American farmer who is the mainstay of the nation. While supporting one-half the people he supplies two-thirds of our exports, which, in the last four years, were valued at \$3,700,000,000, more than \$4,250,000,000 of which was contributed by the farms of the country. And yet there are hundreds and thousands of gaunt, idle men who continue to hang around the industrial centers, adding to the army of the unemployed, and deliberately ignoring the most healthy, the most prosperous and the most independent calling of all—that of the American farmer.

Sum up all there is in the world, and among it all can be found nothing that bespeaks better for a boy than the kiss he gives his mother. A Chicago judge is somewhat of this same opinion. He judged two boys less from the evidence given by witnesses than from the evidence presented by themselves in their treatment of their mothers in court. One boy whom the judge decided must go to the reformatory, tenderly kissed his mother goodbye, sinking his own misfortune in sympathy with the sorrow of his mother. The judge looked on and instantly decided that there was enough good in that boy to enable him and his mother to work out his salvation. At the same moment, another boy, whom the same judge had announced would probably go free, glanced meanly at his mother, who sat weeping, and started to walk out. That boy will go to the reformatory. We hear much of the redeeming virtue of a boy's love for his mother. No one doubts it. It is recognized everywhere in principle, but seldom heeded in practice. This judge has only applied common sense in interpretation of the law. Perhaps few judges take the trouble to do it. But it is worth while. The boy against whom the evidence seemed conclusive but in his extremity thought first of his mother's sorrow, has good stuff in him. In sending him back home with that mother the judge sent him to the best reformatory in the world. It was no chance kiss. People do not do things by chance at crucial moments. It was then that all the elements in one's character become stimulated to the highest tension and the resultant act indicates the real character. The kiss of his mother had become one of the most important things in that boy's life. When the crisis came he turned to it instinctively. The mother love, perhaps never fully realized before, opened to him as his first refuge. Memories of lullabies, of midnight vigils, of toll and worry and sacrifice and unwavering devotion came upon that boy's mind and heart and soul in a flood. He could no more resist that inclination to kiss his mother than he could at that moment remould his character. Such a boy may yield to temptations. Bad companionship may lead him into trouble. He may commit crimes and the evidence against him be conclusive. But so long as the love of mother remains his strongest emotional force there can be little pollution in his heart and must be much hope for his complete redemption.

PRACTICES LAW THOUGH BLIND

Sightless Lawyer Represents Uncle Sam in Iowa Judicial District.

The northern United States judicial district in Iowa, with headquarters at Dubuque, is the only one in the country in which the assistant district attorney is a blind man. Maj. Cram, who holds this position, has a State-wide reputation as a vigorous prosecutor and his counsel is frequently sought by many of the most eminent lawyers in the district. With the exception of four years, Maj. Cram has been the assistant United States district attorney continuously since 1882, and during all of that time has not missed attendance at a term of court. He became totally blind about 15 years ago, but this did not necessitate his giving up the practice of law. The secret of his success is his wonderful memory. He keeps posted on the latest decisions of the courts and has the faculty of remembering any section of the statute when once read to him. He appears for the government in nearly all of the cases before the United States courts. During a trial he frequently manifests his familiarity with previous decisions bearing on the case by quoting them in full. He is a very clever examiner of witnesses. During the last year he has appeared for the government in over 30 cases.

Seeing Through a Telephone. A French inventor has communicated to the Academie des Sciences a process by which, he asserts, the features of a person telephoning can be conveyed through the instrument to the person with whom he is in communication.

Stealing a march is not larceny any more than firing a servant is arson.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY SINCE ITS DAWN SIXTY YEARS AGO.

- 1842—Professor Morse sent signals across the Susquehanna River without metallic connections of any sort by means of wires stretched along the banks.
- 1850—September, James Lindsay, of Dundee, read a paper before the British Association, stating that if wires were run along the coast of America and Britain and charged by batteries he could send messages from Britain to America.
- 1864—Dec. 8, Clerk Maxwell defined at the Royal Society the ether waves to a certain extent and showed that wireless telegraphy would be possible by means of the electro-magnetic waves, the velocity of which he concluded was the same as that of light, a conclusion which has subsequently been proved correct.
- 1879—Professor D. Hughes found that a microphone in connection with the telephone produced sounds in the latter when the microphone was at a distance of several feet from coils through which a current was passing.
- 1885—Sir William Preece, of the general postoffice, London, sent currents between two insulated squares of wire, each side measuring 440 yards, and the squares were a quarter of a mile apart.
- 1886—Sir William Preece sent signals between two parallel telegraph wires four and a half miles apart.
- 1887—Professor Hertz discovered that when a discharge was made from a Leyden jar across an air gap, sparks would pass across a gap in a circle or square of wire held away from the jar. The discovery showed that the ether waves streamed out from the spark gap in every direction.
- 1889—Sir Oliver Lodge obtained his first successful signaling results carried out with what he termed the syntonic circuits, the coherer principle forming a part of the experiment.
- 1890—Nov. 24, The first notice of the coherer invented by Professor Branly appeared in Comptes Rendus, the coherer consisting of metal filings.
- 1892—Sir William Preece established regular communication between Flat-holm, an island for in the Bristol channel, and Lavernock, on the Welsh coast, three and a third miles distant.
- 1894—Dr. Rathenau and Professor Reubens signaled across the Wannsee at Potsdam, a distance of three miles, using a base line 550 feet long. The message was passed by means of earth currents.
- 1897—Mr. Marconi sent signals from Lavernock to Flat-holm and introduced the high wire or aerial.
- 1898—Mr. Marconi's wireless system having been reported on favorably by Sir William Preece, it was established between the royal yacht Osborne and Osborne House.
- 1899—Professor Braun took out patents abroad in connection with wireless telegraphy.
- 1899—Professor Chunder Bhose read a paper before the British Royal Society on the action of coherers.
- 1901—December, "S" signals received by Mr. Marconi at Hospital Point, Newfoundland, from Cornwall.
- 1902—February, The Philadelphia remained in communication with the Marconi station at Poldhu for a distance of 1,550 miles.
- 1902—December, Actual wireless telegraphy communication established between Cape Breton, Canada, and Cornwall, England; dispatches being sent by the Governor-General of Canada to King Edward, to the King of Italy and to the London Times.

Topics of the Times

The United Irish League claims to have 1,326 branches.

Norfolk's population includes 9,150 widowers and 19,812 widows.

Litter for horses and cows is to be made from spent hops at Dublin.

One of the new engines for the Cape railway is to be christened "De Wet."

Madame Patti, it is said, preserves as a talisman the boots she wore at her debut over forty years ago.

Tolstoy believes that the best time for literary work is between 9 a. m. and 3 p. m., and he seldom writes at other times.

The authorities of British Columbia have established traveling libraries for the benefit of the numerous lumber and mining camps in that western Canadian province.

Dr. Winkler, a lawyer, of Lucerne, Switzerland, has just settled one of the longest lawsuits in the history of any country. It was a boundary dispute which has been going since 1370.

George R. Stuntz, who first discovered iron in northern Minnesota, died at Duluth recently in extreme poverty, although his discovery resulted in making millions out of a score of other men.

Fannie Vanzel, the noted Italian novelist, is in California gathering material for a novel dealing with life and social conditions in that region. She is the wife of one of the most eminent journalists in Italy.

From 1890 to 1900 the capital invested in the silk industry in the United States was increased from \$51,000,000 to \$81,000,000, and the value of the finished product increased from \$57,000,000 to \$107,000,000.

It is reported that the new German ambassador, Charlemagne Tower, intends purchasing the Bleichroder palace, which, with its picture gallery and luxurious furnishings, is one of the finest houses in Berlin.

Dr. Samuel Willard, a venerable school teacher, of Chicago, though now in his eighty-first year, is about to start on a trip to the Mediterranean, expecting to "do" Greece especially in a very thorough and satisfactory manner.

Until the appointment of Mrs. Jack Leslie to the post of lady-in-waiting to the Duchess of Connaught no American woman has ever been admitted to this degree of intimacy by British royalty or at any of the courts of the world.

For the year 1901 the mineral products of the Southwest were valued at \$70,000,000. It is estimated by the Southwest Miners' Association that various businesses connected with the mining industry have grown 300 per cent during the past two years.

The three highest mountains in the United States, not including Alaska, are Mount Whitney, California, 14,980 feet; Blanca peak, Colorado, 14,464 feet; and Cerro Blanco, New Mexico, 14,289 feet. It is claimed that Mount Rainier, Washington, is 14,500 feet high.

Felipe Guasp Vergara, of San Juan, is the first Porto Rican to receive an appointment in the government service at Washington. He was educated at the National University in Madrid, and in the civil service examination made the remarkably high average of 98.

The weather bureau of the United States issued a bulletin in 1900 from

which one may learn that the number of lightning strokes in 1899 causing damage in the United States was 5,527; value of property destroyed, \$3,016,520; number of deaths, 563; persons injured, 820; number of live stock killed in fields, 4,251; value, \$129,155.

Sir Francis Jeune, the London dignitary who presides over the divorce court there, is considerably over six feet tall, and is the only English judge of prominence who wears a beard. A burlesque writer recently called him "the greatest friend some people have at one period of their lives." He sometimes gets through as many as twenty suits in a day.

It is the declared experience of all Arctic and Antarctic travelers that which is commonly called in temperate regions "raw weather" is much more trying than the rigors of extreme high or low altitudes. This view is emphatically shown by Lieutenant Peary, whom a Chicagoan saw in Washington. It was rather a chilly afternoon, and the man of Arctic fame was closely wrapped in a heavy overcoat, the collar turned up over his ears. He sat just over a heater in a street car, and the Chicagoan, who felt quite comfortable on the platform, was much surprised.

Miss Frances Power Cobbe has just passed her eightieth birthday, and is spending the winter at Clifton, England. The occasion was celebrated by the presentation of an album and an address. The album contained the signatures of 300 men and women of note, including the Duchess of Sutherland, Mark Twain, six bishops and the master of Balliol. For eighteen years Miss Cobbe was honorary secretary of the society she founded to oppose vivisection, and for the last four years she has been president of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. Her articles dealing with the better treatment of women, children and animals have been numbered by the hundred.

A LOW-DOWN PAPER.

Dropped from Twenty-two to Seventy-six Feet Below Sea Level.

The new newspaper printed below the level of the sea is said to be the Indo-Submarine, which is a little four-page weekly. The New York World is authority for the story of this interesting newspaper, which is situated in the midst of the most formidable desert in California, namely, the Colorado desert, which is in the same county as the city of San Diego. Some time ago the editor of this paper removed his plant from Indio to Coachella, and made the following explanation to his readers:

"Inducements of a flattering character having been offered the publisher, in the way of a bonus, we have removed our printing office from Indio to Coachella, a distance of three and one-half miles. We have dropped from twenty-two feet below sea level to seventy-six feet below sea level. We hit Coachella with a dull yet raucous thud. The low rumbling noise you heard last Tuesday was caused by our printing office making the drop. It may be truly said that the Submarine is the lowest down, or the low-downest paper on earth. As nearly as we can compute the distance Indio is about 212 feet just below our new office. The paper will continue to advocate the interests of all the country below sea level, and we want you to fire in all the news you know."

Equality is an illusion that makes a man imagine he is equal to his superiors and superior to his equals.

WAS A LEADER IN SPAIN.

Senor Sagasta, Premier During the Spanish-American War.

Spain's foremost statesman and a strong character who had by his prominence during the war between his country and the United States gained world-wide attention died the other day in the person of Senor Praxides Mateo Sagasta. His death occurred in Madrid and occasioned profound sorrow to the royal family and his countrymen. Sagasta was the Liberal leader in Spanish political matters and was several times premier of the Spanish cabinet, serving as such during the late war.

Senor Sagasta was born at Torresilla, Spain, in 1827. He was educated as an engineer, but early began a political career. In 1856, because of his course with the Radicals, he was obliged to flee to France, but soon returned and actively resumed politics. In 1866, he was again obliged to leave the country, but returned in 1868 after the deposition of Queen Isabella II and ever after was prominent in national affairs. From 1881 to his retirement hardly a



THE LATE SENOR SAGASTA.

month ago as leader of the Liberals, he was generally prime minister when the Conservatives met with a parliamentary reverse.

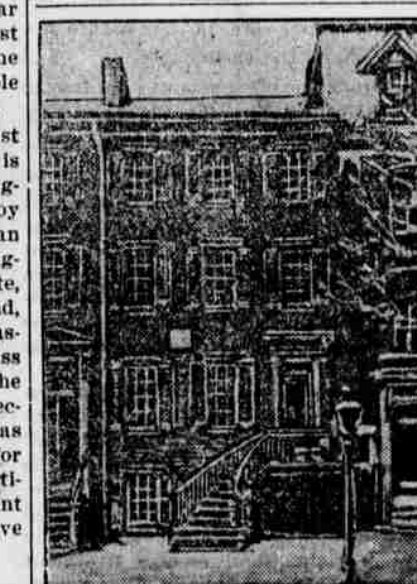
Sagasta had long been classed as a shrewd politician. He was also courageous and would follow a course he believed to be right no matter how strong the opposition. He won and retained the public confidence and had come, owing to his long public service, to be considered the one man who could still do something for Spain.

A place in Spanish history was made for Senor Sagasta when, as prime minister of Spain, he was obliged to sign away the remnant of the kingdom's colonial possessions after the war with the United States. He did his best to avert the catastrophe and after the blow fell the Spaniards honored him for preserving the national dignity.

WHERE LINCOLN DIED.

The House in Washington Is Rapidly Decaying.

After President Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theater, Washington, by Booth, he was carried to a small house on the opposite side of the street, where, surrounded by his family and the principal officers of the government, he died the following morning. Naturally this house has been one of the many interesting places in Washington and, when occupied by private tenants, fees were



WHERE LINCOLN DIED.

exact from visitors. Some years ago it was purchased by a society, and it was thought that something would be done to preserve or repair the walls and the interior. But the expectation was not realized and the house is now rapidly going to decay. Public attention has been attracted to this distressing state of affairs and it is possible that some effort will be made to save it. The house contains the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics.

Decline of the Lace Industry.

An exhaustive investigation has recently been made by the Belgian ministry of industry in the various lace-making districts of Belgium from which it appears that the lace industry of that country is slowly but surely dying out. In 1875 the number of persons employed in this industry was 150,000. Now it is 47,500. The decline is due to the existence of a sweating system—the outcome of exploitation on the part of the middleman and salesman. An attempt will be made to put the trade on a sounder economic basis and thus save it to the country.

The Horrors of War.

A local band was one day playing at Dunfermline when an old weaver came up and asked the bandmaster what air they were playing. "That is 'The Death of Nelson,'" replied the bandmaster solemnly. "Ay, mon," replied the weaver, "ye has gien him an awfu' death."—London Tit-Bits.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS



A woman's subsequent marriage is held, in Kelly vs. Stevenson (Minn.), 56 L. R. A. 754, not to revoke a will made by her, the rule of the common law to the contrary having been abrogated by a statute conferring on married women testamentary capacity.

Under a statute providing that in case of the illness and discharge of a juror in a criminal case, another may be chosen and the trial commenced anew, if the illness occurs during the process of impaneling the jury, after the accused has used some of his peremptory challenges, it is held, in People vs. Zeigler (Cal.), 56 L. R. A. 882, that the number used must be restored to him.

The pollution of a stream by the discharge therein of waste from straw-board works, rendering the water unfit for domestic use or for cattle to drink, and causing the emission of noxious and offensive odors injurious to health and comfort, is held, in Weston Paper Company vs. Pope (Ind.), 56 L. R. A. 896, not to be excused by the fact that the business is conducted in a skillful manner and without negligence.

The question whether or not a person in pursuit of a cow which has escaped from his control acts as an ordinarily prudent man would act under the circumstances in not looking and listening before attempting to cross a railroad track so as not to be chargeable with contributory negligence in case he is injured by a train is held in Lorence vs. Burlington, C. R. & N. Co. (Iowa), 56 L. R. A. 752, to be for the jury.

The rule that a drawee is presumed to know his drawer's name, and hence cannot recover back money paid through a mistake of fact upon a bill to which the drawer's signature was forged, is held in Woods & Malone vs. Colony Bank (Ga.), 56 L. R. A. 929, not to be available in favor of a holder who by his own negligence contributed to the success of the fraud practiced, and whose conduct had a tendency to mislead the drawee, who was himself free from fault.

The Supreme Court of Mississippi, in the case of State vs. Simms, 31 Southern Reporter, 907, has judicially decided that a brick, when property manipulated, is a deadly weapon, in spite of the fact that it is not specifically mentioned in the code, making it an offense to carry concealed deadly weapons. The court holds further that if the instrument, whatever it is, kills, there is a strong presumption that it is deadly, and it is for the jury to finally determine this question upon the proof.

A street railway company which permits cars of another company to be run over its tracks under a mere traffic arrangement is held in Sias vs. Rochester R. Co. (N. Y.), 56 L. R. A. 850, not to be liable for the death of a passenger of the latter company caused by collision with a tree beside the track, although it has laid its tracks so close to a line of standing trees that faulty construction of a car or negligent management may bring a passenger into collision with them if by the exercise of care they can be passed in safety.

COMPETITION IN "TOUCHES."

Westerner Found It Was Life of "Trade" Among New York Beggars.

"Competition in New York is down to a pretty fine point," remarked a man from the far West, who had registered at one of the big New York hotels, "but where it impressed me most was not in legitimate business but in the 'touches' made by beggars or 'grifters,' especially along Park row, where I suppose their trade is keenest. "The first experience I had in this line was the other evening, when I was standing at the entrance to the bridge, a little undecided what like to take uptown. First came a tired-looking man, who had 4 cents but wanted to go to 125th street. That seemed a long distance to walk for the lack of a cent, so I gave it to him. Perhaps he passed the word to his fellows in alleged misfortune; perhaps they recognized in me an out-of-town type, but in the next four or five minutes over a dozen of the profession had put forward their pleas. None wanted over 2 cents, and all wanted these very startling sums for some most laudable purpose.

"The first two or three got what they asked for. Then, all of a sudden, I realized that I had struck a sort of endless chain, or, more exactly, that it had struck me. So I promptly made up my mind what line I wanted to take, and hurried from that vicinity.

"But it was all quite different from my home town," continued the Westerner, according to the New York Tribune. "On the coast if a man gave a beggar a cent the mendicant would look at it in pained amazement. There it is generally 10 cents or nothing. Some of the San Francisco beggars ought to spend a couple of weeks in New York. Then they could appreciate what strenuous life in beggariad really means."

Nothing grows faster than the habit of depending on others.