

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

French anglophobia is somewhat complicated with Fashodita.

The American mule now has a chance to make a new military reputation for himself in South Africa.

There are people who admire a cheerful liar, but a cheap liar has neither admiration nor constituents.

There's something in a name. The physician who gives his patient's disease old-fashioned names will fall.

Now the mattress trust has decided to advance prices. Feathers are down, however—at least a few feathers are.

An important difference between the Boer and the Spaniard as an enemy is that the Boer can hit what he shoots at.

A father who tries to kill himself because his daughter marries a cyclist may be assumed to have the wrong sort of wheel.

In the brave old days the crown prince used to lead the troops to war. Think of the Prince of Wales in that capacity!

The English writer who is expatiating on the "Delirium of Dress" evidently has a feverish anxiety about the habits of other people.

That Oklahoma town which put itself on wheels and moved to a railway line certainly displayed true American-git-up-and-gitativeness.

While diamonds may be advancing even more in price the right sort of a lover will be satisfied if the girl only gets dearer and dearer.

A contemporary mentions the farmers as the country's best stockholders. As connected with the plow how about their being shareholders?

If any other hero wants a home, a sword, a silver service, or even so much as a napkin ring, he ought to speak at once. Pretty soon there won't be anything left but glory.

Zola says what impressed him most in London was the number of hairpins on the sidewalks. London must have adopted a measure of some sort to compel the women to throw away their concealed weapons.

A stage-struck woman is suing a dramatic instructor because he failed to make her a star for \$1,500. Some people couldn't be made stars for 1,500 times that amount. No amount of money will accomplish the impossible.

A bigamist in New York complains that he has been sentenced for marrying five women when in fact he only married three. It is astonishing how recklessly the courts will sometimes deal with facts. The delicate shades of difference between triple and quintuple bigamy should be held sacred.

The death rate in Cuba has this year been far lower than the average, and the death rate from the island's greatest scourge, yellow fever, has been only about half as high as the lowest ever before recorded. Such facts are not one whit less creditable to our army and administration than the most gallant conduct on the battle-field.

It is too often the case that college athletics are carried on almost solely for the purpose of achieving victory in intercollegiate contests. Training is often governed by the desires or prospects of victory rather than for the development and recreation it brings to the student. The victory and not the benefits of preparing for a contest is the incentive. This is evident not only in the manner of training but in the manner of accepting victory or defeat. Our victors are frantically jubilant and our vanquished are hopelessly despondent.

It is unquestionably true that up to a decade ago a great deal of advertising was characterized by bluster and exaggeration. The two essential features—reliability and instructiveness—which have rendered the present-day plan of advertising in a popular newspaper so successful were in a great degree lacking. The merchant seemed to simply want to yell to the public through the speaking trumpet of his advertisements. On the other hand, modern trade announcements engender in the public mind a confidence in the advertiser which is always certain to have a profitable effect upon his business.

The little State of Rhode Island appears to be in an extraordinary situation so far as its constitution is concerned. That instrument declares that "the basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and alter their constitutions of government." The General Assembly three years ago passed a resolution for the revision of the constitution, and the Governor appointed a committee of fifteen to do the work. The people in convention are the proper parties to do this work, as provided by the constitution, but the Supreme Court has decided no convention can be called for that purpose, as the General Assembly has no power to call it. This would seem to be a predicament with no way out of it.

A lumber journal reports that 35,000 men are engaged in cutting logs for the

market in what is left of the pine forests of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The bulk of this forest denudation is in Minnesota. Wisconsin and Michigan's lumber supply is so nearly exhausted that it now counts for but little. At the present rate of destruction Minnesota's supply will be exhausted within ten years, and that will practically be the end of our white pine product. The days of the Southern pine are also numbered. If it is the intention of the lumber trust to destroy the forests entirely to satisfy its greed it is a little remarkable it has not put 70,000 men to work, or twice that number, so as to make an end of them at once. The entire denudation of the forests might be easily accomplished, as forest fires are now raging in various parts of the country. If the tree cutters, hunters and campers would only combine their energies and act promptly they could quickly secure the destruction of the timber supply and leave our wooded districts a howling waste.

One of the questions agitating those who concern themselves with the good of the race is the alleged remarkable falling off in the number of marriages. Many acute minds have sought an explanation for this state of affairs, and while suggestions as to the reason are sufficiently numerous an adequate solution of the problem is so far still wanting. Perhaps the most plausible theory is that emanating from a large class of philosophers who make sensuality the root of all human action. Building on this foundation, they allege that the desires of the modern wife as to those surroundings of her social position for the supplying of which a big income is indispensable, have become so exacting that it is impossible for the modern husband, unless particularly fortunate in a financial way, to supply them. Under these circumstances, it is said, the raw material from which husbands are made, the bachelors, prefer to endure the unquestioned discomforts and lack of perfect life harmonies in their solitary isolation, rather than suffer such sacrifices as might be implied in their entering wedlock. This theory no doubt fairly elucidates the situation from its point of view, but there is still another phase of the question that is well worth consideration. Its possible influence on the declination of the marriage rate is not so obvious as the former may be, but it may exist for all that. Whether justly founded or not, there are certain beliefs current among men, usually, it is true, referred to in a jocose way, that at a greater or less period after marriage the wife becomes exacting as to a husband's hours, habits, companions and expenditures, and that where argument fails she sometimes resorts to such force as she is capable of to enforce her views. In the old days, in spite of these beliefs, woman was so generally accepted as the weaker sex that it apparently had no deterrent effect on men inclined to marry. But what of the present? If investigated it may be found this lamentable marital defection is contemporaneous with the advent of the athletic female. Every day we hear of her exploits in some new field of endeavor associated with such courage, muscle and miscellaneous ability to take care of herself, that the most careless observer must take heed. Of course, it is not to be asserted positively that the development of athletic females has had any positive effect on the marriage decrease, but the idea is given for what it is worth.

For Young Men. Cultivate a pleasing address. It is a great essential to success and one thing necessary to it is the ability to express your idea in good, plain, smooth English. When you speak let your language be the exact expression of your meaning. Don't muddle up what you have to say, nor abbreviate nor tell the same thing over twice. Formulate your idea. That is, get a clear conception of your meaning yourself. Then say what you think in the plainest way you can. Avoid the use of large words the meaning of which some of your hearers may not understand. Speak so concisely and clearly that if what you say were written it would express your idea exactly. Then besides clearness there is in conversation an elegance that marks the good conversationalist. To acquire this you should make a careful study of the dialogue in good books. Listen to good speakers and try to catch their style. Get into a way of putting what you have to say in a smooth, pleasing way. This requires study and careful observation of others and constant vigilance to avoid awkward phrases and sentences, but you can improve yourself in this way if you are willing to undertake it.

Clocks for Queer Uses. One of the latest developments of the common domestic clock is worthy of serious attention. It comes from Switzerland, and takes the form of a photographic attachment to an ordinary clock, which at any desired hour of the morning will shout, "It is (7) o'clock; get up! Now, don't go to sleep again!" The possibilities of an extension of this principle are immense. There might be clocks for the boxing ring, saying, "Time, gentlemen," and clocks for the parliamentary bore, with a cry of "Vide! vide!" Church congregations which have suffered many things at the hands of long-winded preachers might subscribe for a clock which should utter a sonorous "Amen" at the end of a suitable period. Equally valuable would be a timepiece which should convey a gentle hint to the unwanted caller; indeed, this particular development is so attractive that I am thinking of enlisting its aid for the purpose of shortening editorial interviews at Truth office.—London Truth.

The faster a man's gait the sooner misfortune overtakes him.

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