

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

As a rule politics makes more strange bedfellows than it can possibly provide sleeping accommodations for.

What's the use worrying over the situation at Cape Nome? The people who are there went because they wanted to.

The Johnsons have downed the Smiths in Chicago. In the city directory the former have a clear preponderance over the latter of 1,250.

New Jersey has a 9-year-old girl burglar. If it could only send children of this kind home early the utility of a curfew would pass unquestioned.

It is alleged that the Prince of Wales has referred to William Waldorf Astor as "that cad." The latter now has a chance to lick the hand that smote.

The French writer who has discovered that American and French women as inventors lead the world will have to admit that men are better when it comes to the invention of excuses.

Shanghai, China, is estimated to have 850,000 inhabitants, of whom 379,000 are liars and nearly 1,000 are deaf mutes. This is why the reports from Shanghai are received with caution.

Li Hung Chang says China was a republic five thousand years ago, the same as the United States is now. So, after all, it seems that there was a time when men were concerned about the Chinese vote.

Not a drunken man was seen in the streets of Havana on the recent election day, and not a single fight was recorded. The self-control implied in the statement is at least a suggestion of a qualification for political self-government.

A very good-looking young woman in a Western city was sent to a cell, the charge against her being "kissed a man willfully and without his consent having first been obtained." We but voice the sentiment of the entire sex when we say that we men must be protected if it requires the presence of the entire standing army of the United States.

Our athletes have demonstrated so conclusively their superiority over all foreigners that the surprise of European experts must have been as keen as when the American navy showed what it could do at Manila and Santiago. The American is coming to the front in these days in many lines of activity, and Europe doesn't appear to like the appearance of its lusty Western rival.

There are those who work harder in the vacation season for what they call pleasure than they do for profit and advancement in the months of the active commercial year. What all civilized humanity needs is a "let up" now and then, a period of mental and physical relaxation, and that man does the best by himself and by the community who puts hot weather to the uses for which it is intended in the great economy of nature.

The ruling of the comptroller of the treasury department at Washington that "tips" to porters of sleeping cars are legitimate expenses and may properly be charged up by government employes against the government may have far-reaching consequences. Almost infinite possibilities in the line of expenses, "constructive" and otherwise, loom up as a result of this treasury ruling. The expense accounts of persons in government service may yet yield rich resources for many a campaign fund, while giving the "tip" principle official status and recognition.

When prosperity and philanthropy go hand in hand, the progress of a country is beyond question. Germany is advancing in a business way. Her trade operations show increasing capacity for planning and fuller scope in performance. But with the development in material things is noted an increase in gifts for the benefit of schools, libraries, charitable institutions and other objects. The provision of corporations and private manufacturers in aid of employes is a further token of a keener sense of responsibility for the proper use of wealth. The world abounds with articles marked, "Made in Germany." Let not the world forget the good deeds which may be labeled—"Done in Germany."

It is to be hoped that the fact that Gov. Roosevelt has an aversion for red books will not lead to a general banishing of luridness from libraries. Red is a color that, for decorative purposes, has lately come into great favor, and the red room is quite as popular as the blue room or green room. And people who own red rooms like to preserve the harmony by having a few red books lying around and, of course, the contents of these may be of the most sober hues. Yet, just as there are some colors that suit some people, so there are covers which seem appropriate for certain authors. One would not care to have Emerson done in red and gold or Matthew Arnold appearing in yellow. Spencer's philosophy presented in pink would seem unmitigatedly robed and Walt Whitman in white would be equally out of place. On the other hand, it seems fitting that the poems of that nautique figure, Emily Dickenson, should always be clothed in gray, and that one who

loved greenness, as did Thoreau, should have that color about his books. This law of the eternal fitness of things is one that is carefully observed by the artful bookbinder.

The labor question in its practical phases was never before so carefully thought over as at present, both by employers and employees and also by political economists, who in recent years have dropped their straw-stuffed man for the real one, and in doing so have given a new lease of life to the "dismal science." In the practical sphere one of the best illustrations of the changed conditions brought about by what some writers on economics call the "moralized labor contract" is to be found in what the Germans call "welfare institutions," such as those now found in connection with the great Krupp steel works and a few other establishments. These "welfare institutions" embrace pension funds, model houses, restaurants, hospitals, schools, savings banks, etc., by which the good of the employes is conserved by a setting in operation for them of intelligent effort on the part of their employers. This, of course, largely depends upon the philanthropic character of the chief employers as well as upon a deeper sense of moral obligations as to the labor contract than those which usually prevail. Such institutions seem to have more of hope in them for the solution of the labor question than profit-sharing, which, notwithstanding some conspicuous successes in England, such as that of the Bourne cotton mills, in Tiverton, under Mr. Chase's management, and a few instances in this country, does not seem on the whole to have proved a success.

It is generally supposed that desperadoes—men at war with society, and with whom society is at war—make the best soldiers; but this is an error. According to the testimony of all experienced officers, men of bad character, however brave, physically, are a curse to any army. Such men are generally the prime movers of insubordination and mutiny, and if there is any treason at work, are pretty sure to be at the bottom of it. Moral courage is as essential in military as in civil life, and it is not an attribute of the depraved and vicious. He who goes into battle with a clear conscience, confident in the justice of the cause for which he risks his life, and believing that God is on his side, is the only true hero. He is not bloodthirsty, he is not under the domination of a sanguinary and brutal instinct, but he is enthusiastic where ardor is required, calm and collected in emergencies, and can bear up cheerfully against reverses, hardships and privations, under which the desperado would "wilt down," or desert. What but moral courage, born of integrity of purpose and confidence in Heaven, sustained the ragged, half-starved, ill-paid soldiers of a bankrupt republic, in their desperate struggle with the well-appointed legions of the enemy, during the darkest hours of the American Revolution? The ice-obstructed Delaware had not been crossed, the battles of Trenton and Princeton had never been fought and won, the horrors of the winter bivouac at Valley Forge had never been endured, the inestimable blessing of our national independence had never been attained, but for the moral courage and fortitude of good and true men, at peace with God and their own consciences. Rowdies and desperadoes never achieve such exploits, or submit patiently to such hardships, as have made the heroes of '76 immortal in his history. It may be set down as an axiom that bad men never make good soldiers.

Speaking of green reporters, Col. D. C. Dodge, vice president of the Rio Grande Western, upon the occasion of his last visit here told a story at the expense of the fraternity that will bear repeating. "Some time ago, after an absence from Denver," he said, "I was approached by a young man whom I had not seen before, to my recollection. 'How are you, colonel?' he said, by way of introduction. 'I have been sent down to interview you.' 'Yes,' I answered, 'what do you want to know?' 'Well, to tell you the truth, I don't know myself,' answered the reporter. 'Well, that is strange,' I said. 'The Post man has been down here, and he knew what to ask me, and I answered him.' 'Well, tell me just what you told him, and we will call it square,' said the young fellow, in a burst of confidence. 'Salt Lake Herald.' 'A Lonely Neighborhood.' The most lonely highlands of our national territory are the sparsely wooded sierras of Western New Mexico. The clank of the woodcutters' ax echoes through the steepest glens of the European Alps and southern Alleghanies, but in the Sierra Mesilla, west of El Paso, there are valleys where the moan of the wind in the branches of the rock pines is the only sound heard for days together. A kind of marmot is the only inhabitant of these solitudes and rarely leaves its burrows before noon. Birds are extremely rare, though a silent vulture now and then floats across the sky on its way to the cave labyrinth of the Gila River.

High Collars Making Longer Necks. A well-known Philadelphia artist says women's necks are growing longer. He says the high collar is responsible for it. All the life studies and portraits of women seen at students' exhibits demonstrate this. It is every woman's complaint that her husband is more willing to lend a hand to the neighbors than to lift a finger around home. Bread is the staff of life, but the roll of fame isn't always satisfactory.

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