

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

The flying machine is a good deal in the air, although invisible to the eye. All aboard for Utopia!

The successful pugilist of the future will put in less time training himself and more time training his wife.

Labor day was the conception of an American. It is as fully an American institution as the Fourth of July.

It is really better for rich young men like Vanderbilt to go into politics of their own volition than to be taken in.

A political prophet differs from an ordinary politician in that he does not know either, but lets others know that he does not know.

There is no degree of devotion to party which demands that a man shall strangle and excite himself by discussing politics at his meals.

The Sultan of Turkey has reigned twenty-five years, and has recently had to arrest a large number of his subjects, who think that is long enough.

The divorced wife of a wealthy New York man took thirty-eight trunks with her when she departed. It is apparent that she has no intention of retiring to a convent.

The forty or fifty men who are in the train that is held up by the one lone bandit probably accede to his request merely because they think he needs the money.

Now the dancing masters have taken up arms against rag-time, and propose to make it unfashionable. It looks as if the music of skips and jerks was "up against the real thing."

Hall Caine's confession that he did reject one of Marie Corelli's novels when he was a publisher's reader fifteen or twenty years ago speaks well for his literary judgment then.

Somewhere is found the mandate: "Except ye work neither shall ye eat!" Some men of pretty full stomachs would have pretty hard work to account for themselves on this basis.

Andrew Lang says the people who are booming Omar Khayyam make him tired. Andrew should be patient. These same people may discover, after he is safely dead, that he, too, could write some.

George Gould put up \$1,000,000 to pay Count Boni de Castellane's debts, just as a matter of pride. It is apparent that George doesn't take after Jay very hard. The latter's pride would never have carried him to such an extreme.

A persistent part of the daily newspaper record is the story of failures through reckless speculation. The tale of woe would be cut short were such financial ventures avoided by two classes in the community, namely, those who can afford to lose and those who cannot.

There are many who never darken a church door nor contribute a cent toward this great civilizing factor of our country, yet would not for a moment think of living in a community where the church and its influence did not exist. Every one should be supporters of the churches as well as the public schools; they go hand in hand.

A woman will yank up the gay ropes of her corset until she almost squeezes her immortal soul out of place and put a dead bird on her hat and go strutting around over town, selling tickets for an entertainment to raise money to help send missionaries to China for the purpose of teaching civilization to the poor heathen who have never known what it is to wear a corset, and who have been struggling on in ignorant belief that birds were created to sing instead of to wear on a hat.

The annual reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic is always an impressive occasion, and the warmth of the welcome which greets the line of sent figures and whitehead heads is proof of the place these men hold in the heart of the nation. It is all the more pity, then, that their wishes in regard to Memorial day are not more generally heeded. At the recent reunion in Chicago, the veterans felt obliged to call attention again to the neglect and abuse of the day on the part of the public, and even to suggest the changing of the date from May 30 to the last Sunday in May. It was the Grand Army which created Memorial day, and its members have always observed the occasion with dignity and respect. They cannot be blamed, therefore, if they object to seeing it made a season of base-ball games, bicycle races and golf.

Let no facetious person comment with levity on the reported organization of a trust for the control of the market in prunes. The humble prune, however much it may be reviled, is yet a nutritious and palatable article of food, its great virtue is a high kind of adaptability. It is equal to all occasions, either breakfast, luncheon or dinner. It can be eaten with steak or with pickles; it can consort on equal terms with the cake dish or the milk pitcher. Thousands of men who have treated it with focular contempt have been glad to get it at times when the dull monotony of roast beef and potatoes was becoming oppressive. If a grasping mon-

opoly of the unpretentious but useful prune is to be formed the public will have occasion for regret. Many even among those who have ridiculed the fruit the most, would rather be sufficed with prunes—be filled with them, so to speak—than be forced to go without them entirely.

That the tendency toward suicide is increasing must be apparent to all newspaper readers. The causes assigned are numerous, and in the majority of cases they are trivial, considered from the standpoint of any person who has a sane comprehension of the perplexities involved in the problem of life. Physical and mental disease play an important part in driving people of sensitive temperament to self-destruction. Failure in business, domestic trouble, lack of employment, disappointment, the heat, etc., are assigned as causes for recent suicides. The impulse that impels a man to desert his wife and children in the midst of the battle of life cannot be a worthy one. The husband who seeks relief in suicide from real or fancied grievances and leaves his wife and children to continue the contest, handicapped by the sorrow and disgrace his act places upon their shoulders, is a coward. The man or woman who shrinks from the performance of a duty, who flies before the first appearance of disease or misfortune, who cannot bear his or her allotted share of adversity, is a coward. Cowardice and nothing else is behind nine-tenths of all the suicides committed—generally the most selfish, craven, contemptible cowardice. Many suicides are traceable, doubtless, to causes over which the victims had no control, but these are easily distinguishable from the others, and there is little danger that the purely unfortunate victims of circumstances may be confounded with the persons who are prompted by pure selfishness and pure cowardice to end their existence.

The Italian Prince, the Duke d'Abruzzi, has returned to civilization after an absence of fifteen months in the north polar seas, and announces that he succeeded in reaching a latitude of 86 degrees 33 minute north. Nansen's "farthest north" was 86 degrees 14 minutes. This gives the young Italian the honor of having come nineteen miles nearer the pole than the noted Norwegian, leaving only 241 miles of arctic mystery still to be penetrated before some daring explorer can claim the frigid honor of having reached the long sought for spot. The Duke d'Abruzzi has maintained his reputation for daring and executive ability. His vessel, the Stella Polare, suffered more than did Nansen's ice-resisting Fram, and the expedition lost three members by death, but the enterprise seems to have been conducted on the whole with remarkable ability. For the present, rugged Norway has been outdone by sunny Italy in the long arctic quest. In due time some other nationality—perhaps the United States in the person of Peary—will press on still closer to the pole, only to be surpassed by some other, until the pole is reached. Then, perhaps, there will be an end of the long line of more or less disastrous expeditions that have followed each other so persistently for over three centuries. It is the mystery of the unknown, combined with the desire for adventure, that now makes the north pole such a magnetic pole. When the mystery is cleared away and when everybody knows whether there is land or open sea, or rugged ice at latitude 90 degrees north the Pearys and Nansens and D'Abruzzis will seek excitement and glory in other quarters. At the present rate it is not likely to be many years before this comes to pass.

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Trade of Palestine.
The exports of Palestine for the last year amounted to a value of \$1,580,000, the imports being \$1,950,000. The whole trade of Palestine in 1899 exceeded the trade of 1898 by a little over \$325,000, and exceeded the trade of 1897 by almost \$500,000.

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