

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Denver has enacted a new and liberal boxing ordinance, and still the women vote there.

While tolerated by law virtually a corner in eggs is no more honest than any other shell game.

Not that slang is to be encouraged, but that man might be called a lobster when he faces trouble backs away from it.

The former telephone girl who has returned from the Klondike with \$400,000 will find plenty of people eager to say "Hullo" to her.

The American Federation of Labor declines to tackle the servant girl question, thereby showing a proper appreciation of its own strength. No single organization can handle the subject.

Terradelphia, the utopia for tramps in Trenton, N. J., was foredoomed to failure. The scheme of Tom Terradel to found a self-supporting institution for those who will not support themselves was but a dream from which he has at last awakened.

What stands in the way of a French invasion of England would be the deadly fire of the British warships upon a fleet of vessels transporting hostile troops, even under the escort of men-of-war. It would involve panic and slaughter of the most terrible description. One heavily armed warship dashing through a fleet of transports would be awful.

It is not absolutely necessary to the suppression of hazing that the cadets who hazed the young Pennsylvanian should be discovered and punished. The practice itself should be stopped right now, whether those boys are reached or not. It is not necessary to the making of good soldiers. Indeed, men of the true soldierly spirit are not given to the torturing of the helpless. A fair fight in the open is more to their liking in the line of rough play.

One of the curious facts revealed by the census for 1900 is that for the first time since 1790 has the center of population not only ceased to move westward but actually has receded a little, and is now on the Miami River, just north of Cincinnati and a short distance east of where it was ten years ago. This is generally ascribed to the greater increase of city population as compared with that of the country. Whatever the reason, however, Ohio is again the pivot State as to population, and the Buckeye is ready, as usual, to sit down on the pivot and gather in the offices as they come along.

There are certain families in this country the members of which deem public office their own prescriptive and peculiar right. Having had fathers and grandfathers in office, they feel that office-holding is their inalienable privilege. Hence Uncle George is a Federal Judge, Uncle Tom is a Commissioner to Revise the Fish Laws, Grandfather is Consul to Timbuctoo, and Aunt Jane is his clerk. Willie and Harry and John, having grown too big for Senatorial paces, will be put somewhere in the Treasury Department. The national government is especially infected with generation after generation of these parasites. The only power equal to a suppression of the plague is Congress. And Congress spreads it.

A Chicago doctor who wants to pose as a health faddist says that "exercise is detrimental for men past middle life." This is really a wonderful discovery—if true. Exercise is merely the use of the muscular system. Whatever beneficial effects it has consist in the stimulation of the circulation of the blood and the consequent consumption of waste and renewal of tissue in the muscles and organs. It also, if it be of the proper kind, keeps the muscles flexible and the joints in good condition. If a man past middle life ought not to exercise he ought not to use his muscles. Nor ought he to think, because thinking exercises his brain, and that might be detrimental; in fact, he ought not to breathe, for that is exercising his lungs, and he ought to give all his organs a complete rest. If our Chicago man is right the man past middle age ought not to live—it may be detrimental. The mummy seems to be the ideal man-past-middle-life, according to the no-exercise-past-middle-life faddist.

Every once in a while a man, disgusted with the battles over the dollars left by dead men, decides to dispose of his property during his lifetime. He wants to be a benefactor, to make glad those who need the wealth he possesses, to bestow charity and feel the good of giving. The world doesn't seem ripe for that kind of philanthropy. Many have tried it and died poor and neglected. The man who has robbed himself to benefit others isn't always sure of kindness and consideration, more's the pity. Alexander Jackson, 75, of Camden, Del., allowed the fact to become public that he proposed to distribute his wealth during life. To-day he is disgusted with humanity. He is making enemies where he hoped to do only good. He has been calojed and threatened, he gets begging letters by the wagon load, and the most of them come from people who care nothing for Alexander Jackson. The smell of money attracted a horde of vultures, who are ready to fight for spoil. Mr. Jackson

made a mistake. He admits it. Nearly every other man who has tried this particular brand of philanthropy can consistently say, "I told you so."

Not long ago we had a "rainy Saturday," much to the grief of all those retail merchants whose trade comes largely from the families of wage earners and salaried men. It is a peculiar fact, which every merchant has noticed, that when disagreeable weather ruins the trade of one Saturday, the average trade of the month will not make up the loss. The hole thus made in his profits is never filled up, and there has been much speculation as to why this is true, especially in such lines of trade as shoes and ready-made clothing, among the commonest necessities of life. The real explanation lies in the fact that a very large percentage of the purchases of the American people are in excess of their actual necessities. The average American has more than one suit of clothing and more than one pair of shoes. When an intended purchase is passed over on account of bad weather or some other accident, the chances are that some other article—a luxury perhaps—will absorb the money before another opportunity for making the purchase turns up. It may further be said, with truth, that a very large percentage of the purchases—even of those of people of very small means—are made on the impulse of the moment or of the hour. The purchaser sees something and buys it. The need for it may have been more or less felt, but in all probability it was not pressing, and he might not have thought again of buying it had he not seen it. This impulsiveness is peculiarly true of the purchases made by women—and they are the ones that do the great bulk of the retail buying. The American people are already the most luxurious world has known, and if there shall be no great check to our national accumulation of wealth, there is no predicting to what lengths the love of luxury may go. In our travel we crowd the palace cars and are willing to pay any kind of prices, but insist that every luxury that can be conceived by the ingenuity of man shall be at our command. The maritime world knows nothing to equal the luxurious appointments of the Atlantic liner, and it is made to meet the American, not the European, demand. Our hotels surpass anything the world has known in the trappings and conveniences of luxury—and in prices. People pay the prices without a murmur, but if they cannot have hot baths and velvet carpets, their objections are loud and long. Men find it profitable to erect enormous caravansaries in out-of-the-way places and fit them up as no royal palace abroad is fitted, and keep them open but a few months in the year, because Americans will pay the highest prices for a few weeks of "rest" in them. From bottom to top and back again, the extravagance of Americans as a people is the wonder of the world.

His Master's Sober Request. The policeman had given his testimony, which was unqualifiedly to the fact of the old gentleman's intoxication. Then the old servant was called to the witness box. There was a mingled expression of indignation and determination on his countenance. He testified flatly, to the surprise of the court, that the old man was sober when he came home. The magistrate proceeded to question the witness:

"You say that Mr. — was sober when he came home?"
"Yes, sir."
"Did he get to bed alone?"
"No, sir."
"Did you put him to bed?"
"Yes, sir."
"And he was perfectly sober?"
"Yes, sir."
"What did he say when you put him to bed?"
"He said, 'Good night.'"
"Anything else?"
"Yes, sir."
"What was it? Tell us exactly what he said, every word."
"He said as how I was to wake him and call him early, for he was to be the queen of the May."
The old man was fined.—The King.

The Catch About It. The business of fire insurance seems to have been a good deal of a mystery to the middle-aged Englishwoman who, according to the Leeds Mercury, called at an agent's office and said that she wished to insure her house.
"For how much?" asked the agent.
"Oh, for about £200."
"Very well. I'll come up and investigate it."
"I don't know much about insurance," she said.
"It's very simple, ma'am."
"If I'm insured for £200 and the house is burned down, I get the money, do I?"
"Certainly."
"And they don't ask who set it afire?"
"Oh, but they do. We shall want to know all about it."
"Then you needn't come up," she said, as she rose to go. "I heard there was some catch about it somewhere, and now I see where it is."

An Extravagant Householder. The Sultan of Turkey is the most extravagant housekeeper in the world. According to a recent estimate, his domestic budget runs thus: Repairs, new furniture, mats, beds, etc., \$3,000,000; toilet requisites, including rouge and enamel for the ladies of the harem, and jewelry, \$10,000,000; extra extravagance, \$15,000,000; clothes and furniture for the Sultan personally, \$25,000,000; docuurs and wages, \$5,000,000; gold and silver plate, \$3,000,000; maintenance of carriages and horses, \$500,000.

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