

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Nikola Tesla has invented some more talk about an invention.

Electricity is now generated by the waves of the sea to light buoys. This is a wonderful generation.

They have christened the youngest Vanderbilt baby Muriel. Wouldn't that have jarred the old commodore?

King Edward will doubtless justify his three-score years. It's said he used to go it like sixty before he was fifty.

Rumor now has it that W. Waldorf Astor will remove to Paris. Why does Waldorf not buy a country and remodel it to suit?

If the bicycle is falling into comparative disuse instead of being used in pneumatic tires there will be all the more air for the airship when it comes.

A contemporary asks whether one bonnet in nine years indicates insanity. No, but nine bonnets in one year often does—in the husband who has to pay for them.

They are going to stock the woods of Massachusetts with wild Belgian hares. It is to be hoped that they have made arrangements to enlarge the woods right away.

The truth or falsity of the stories about the Prince of Wales that have been circulated in the past forty years are now a matter of great importance to the whole civilized world.

Princess Victoria Louise, the only daughter of the Emperor of Germany, though she may one day wear a crown, is being taught the duties of a good housekeeper, quite as if she were to marry a plain workman. It is enough to shock some American society.

The recent Vanderbilt and Rockefeller weddings, wherein two great heiresses married countrymen of their own, are said to have greatly disturbed certain circles of Europe, and led to the formation of an organization with headquarters at Paris, whose aim is to conduct such a "campaign of education" among American girls of wealth as shall demonstrate to them the impropriety of bestowing their fortunes and themselves upon Americans while titled foreigners are still abundantly available.

Horace Greeley, speaking of the big trees of California, said that some of them have been "serenely growing ever since Jesus was on the earth." But on the island of Kos, off the coast of Asia Minor, stands an oak twenty-five feet in diameter, which a German scientist believes to be two thousand nine hundred years old. In that case, it must have been a vigorous sapling in the days when King Solomon "spoke of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall."

Wherever capital punishment exists there is talk about its ineffectiveness as a deterrent from crime and the consequent propriety of abolishing it. But in most, if not all, States and countries where no death penalty is now inflicted there is quite as much talk about the necessity of reviving it. The general tendency of the times, however, is beyond question against the infliction of the death penalty. It has often been stated that there would be less opposition to this tendency if a sentence of imprisonment for life did not so often fail to be carried out—if, that is, the prisoner condemned to perpetual confinement did not have the hope, amounting to a probability, of ultimate pardon.

Kidnaping is a crime so viciously unreasonable and so much resembling murder in its effects upon the friends of the victim and so likely in many instances to result in that crime that legislative bills providing for the death penalty in case of conviction find very general approval. Certainly as between the death penalty and a term of imprisonment shorter than that provided for second degree murder, the general sentiment would approve the former. Out of the legislative discussion of the subject, which has been so quickened by recent events, some satisfactory conclusion as to the punishment for the crime should be reached, and it should be severe enough to make the offense a terror to the would-be perpetrators.

In the time of Claudius, King of Denmark, there may have been a divinity hedging kings, though the suddenness with which Claudius himself shuffled off this mortal coil indicates that the divinity didn't hedge him to any great extent. But in the present age it is quite evident that though princes continue to maintain the assumption of divine right—which necessarily implies divine protection—they are particularly careful to supplement that protection with carnal and temporal measures against anarchists, nihilists and other forcible critics of royalty. The elaborate police precautions taken to prevent the blowing up of half the royalties of Europe at Victoria's funeral show very clearly that the royalties themselves use the divine right idea for publication only. For practical purposes they prefer to have a squad of detectives close at hand and troops within easy hail.

James J. Hill, the railroad magnate, is one of the remarkable men of his

times, and it is well to understand some of the reasons for his success. What is the secret of Mr. Hill's success? was asked the other day of a number of New York bankers by a Herald interviewer. "Common honesty," I should say," replied one man. "His stockholders know and believe in him. They know that they will get as much out of the property as he gets. Everything goes to the stockholders of the Great Northern road. It owns its own telegraph lines, its own express company, its own sleeping and parlor car service, its own dining car service, its own steamship line; everything that contributes to its earnings is owned by the company. There is no milking along the way." "Attention to detail, I believe, is the dominant quality in Mr. Hill," replied another banking friend to the same question. "Singleness of purpose and a complete mastery of detail of everything connected with his property. Why," he continued, "he knows the number of ties on every bridge along the line from St. Paul and Minneapolis to Seattle and Vancouver. And there is not a figure relative to the cost of anything that he cannot give you off-hand." In these days when David Hiram's theorem of the Golden Rule is taken by so many people as the key to "shrewd business methods" it is pleasing to note that the men who have achieved notable success have believed that honesty is the best policy.

The attention of the young men of the time is called to the fact that character is cash capital, and that it passes at times and places for the financial benefit of the owner when money would be of little avail. This is not taking into consideration the better part of the proposition that good character alone is sufficient to promote personal satisfaction and secure for the owner a degree of happiness and pleasure. There was a time when the boy was supposed to "sow his wild oats." If he plants such a crop at this time those who deal with him now and who will deal with him in the future will demand a proof that the seed of the wild oats has been extirpated. The young man who is engaging in business at this time finds that the possession of wealth is not the principal thing. He must have character and being in possession of that a measurable amount of wealth may come to him. Reputation is everything. It may be well for the people to talk of the time when honesty and sobriety were in better esteem than now, but there never was a time in history when these qualities were so nearly compulsory. There never was a time when more attention was paid to self-control for the good of the individual and for the effect on society. If the young men could only know of the volume of business transacted annually on the word of the interested parties they would know the meaning of honor. If they could also know that the loss in this class of transactions is less than in the class where the signatures are demanded and oaths are recorded they would appreciate the qualifications that must be obtained by the one who would succeed. If they knew of the number of men who refuse to transact business with those they cannot implicitly trust, aside from all financial guarantees they would have some idea of the circles that will be barred to them in case their reputations should be allowed to suffer. Employers of labor are demanding that their men shall have good habits. In this time of competition they cannot afford to have their trade suffer through the shortcomings of those into whose hands it is given. Employees are coming to demand that the men alongside them at their work be upright, sober and abstemious, for they will not bear the blame of failures for which others are responsible and that may be charged to their account. In short the men who do not cause their families to suffer through their own habits will not allow that their families should suffer through the habits of others, and the lines are being drawn closer all the time. The young man has the chance to succeed in business if he has the ability and the right kind of character. He has the assurance of failure if he has the capital and lacks in character. The possession of money will not add to the credibility of any man, for employers know that there is great chance of loss by the employment of those who lack the intention to deal fairly with them. Integrity, care for reputation, ability and the desire to lead the proper sort of life are the things that will win in the future.

UNLUCKY MEN ARE ALL ALIKE. Go Groping and Dreaming Through Life but Never Find Success. "The unlucky men all are kin; they all have certain qualities alike," says "An American Mother" in the Ladies' Home Journal. "They have eyes keen to look into the root of things, but which also dream dreams and see visions; they have hot human blood, they love or hate in no half-way measure. To each of them, too, comes at times—no matter what the business or pursuit may be by which they strive to push their way among men and to grow rich—a sudden disgust of it, heartfelt and real, a contempt for the work and for its success. They dream of something better than money or office, and they try to clutch at it. So they go through life, groping for success with one hand and for their dream with the other, and—they lose both. We must choose either God or Mammon as master and keep faith with him if we mean to succeed."

It is told of a miser that he eats his meals in front of a mirror because it doubles the dishes.

An ounce of reality is worth a pound of romance.

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