

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Advice to heroes and statesmen: When about to write a letter, don't.

Don't talk at random. Make everything you say hit the mark or save your ammunition.

Some men use Sunday as a sort of sponge to wipe out the sins they committed during the previous six days.

Among other things, has Mrs. Nation smashed that old proverb about its being dangerous to fool with edged tools?

In the last hundred years Turkey has lost about half of its territory. This looks as if somebody had been using the Ottoman to walk on.

The powers want to make progress in the Flowery Kingdom, and this decapitation business is supposed to be one way of getting a head.

"Kidnapers are bound to be caught in the long run," says the Boston Herald. Let's see—when were the kidnapers of Charley Ross caught?

Manila harbor is to be improved, though it is admitted that it is much less dangerous than when Admiral Dewey sailed into it the first time.

As to the lash for a wife beater, why not tie him up securely and let the injured wife give him a good tongue lashing in the presence of all the neighbors?

A woman has brought suit for divorce on the ground that her husband refuses to eat her pies. Still, she would rather be a real widow by the pie route.

Only 6,356 new books were published in the United States last year. However, people vainly looking for something new to read can always fall back on the magazines and newspapers.

Emperor William may import the American hen to Germany, but will the time ever come when the politics of that country will permit of our election roosters appearing in the public prints there?

A Vanderbilt descendant has proved capable of something more than spending ancestral money. It may yet be fashionable for hereditary American wealth to have brains and disposition to use them.

A woman whose husband beat her regularly once a day for forty years has at last appealed to the police. It seems that there was a point where even a patient, loving woman could stand it no longer and the head of the household tried it once too often when he started to take his daily exercise on the first day of the forty-first year.

A cooking school for doctors has been established in Berlin, and among the numerous attendants are physicians from several countries besides Germany. Branch schools are to be opened in other European capitals. The medical man needs to be a good nurse. He ought to be able to apply the principles of wholesome cooking likewise, if need be, in preparing delicacies for the sick room. A supervision by the doctor, himself competent to cook what he orders for the patient, would turn many a kitchen into a serviceable addition to his equipment.

"I am no longer young," said an Alaska pioneer the other day, "but I expect to live to see a continuous line of railway from New York to St. Petersburg by way of Bering Strait. In fact, work on one of the connecting links will be begun within a year." The line he referred to will extend from Fort Valdez on the sea to the Yukon river at the mouth of the Tanana. From this point another road is projected to Nome, and if that should be built, a railway across the strait to Siberia might become at least a possibility. If expanding trade should demand such a road, neither the engineering nor the financial difficulties would be insurmountable. It is an interesting thing to speculate about, at any rate.

It is not only the rural resident from up the creek that buys gold bricks. Sometimes important sales of this sort of merchandise are made to wise ones who dwell in cities. A certain "professor" of fortune telling appears to have done a particularly neat piece of gold-brick work in an Eastern city. He has been telling some of the social lights of that town that his insight into the future would be wonderfully sharpened if he were allowed to sleep over night on jewelry belonging to his clients. He intimated that the larger the quantity of precious metal he had to sleep on, the better he could forecast future events. One of his clients was the wife of a well-known manufacturer, who willingly gave up her jewelry and what gold coin she had in the house. The next day the professor had left town. His inspection of the future was perfectly satisfactory to him.

"I would joyfully, many a time," said a famous singer the other day, "exchange all my public ovations for my mother's knowledge how to prepare a palatable meal." Nevertheless, so fashionable have culinary and household subjects become, that "my moth-

er's pies" have formidable rivals in "my daughter's doughnuts." Even collegiate straws show which way the wind blows. Themes recently chosen for senior theses in several leading women's colleges include "The Servant Problem," "Household Economics" and "Foods in Relation to Intellect and Sanity," and stand in marked contrast with the poetic and plattitudinous graduating essays of only a generation ago. To be "a good housekeeper," said Shakespeare, "goes as fairly as to say . . . a great scholar." To-day, as never before, the two accomplishments walk hand in hand.

The mollifying influence of death, which is so often felt in private family remonstrances has been manifested on a large scale, internationally, since the death of Queen Victoria. The English people have been often irritated by the German Kaiser. His commercial and naval schemes have seemed to them to be aimed against England. His message of sympathy to President Kruger, after the Jameson raid, still rankles in their memory, and more than once they have taken offense at some impulsive thing which he has said or done. But when, as soon as he knew that the Queen was seriously ill, he left the scene of the festivities with which the Prussian bicentenary had just been celebrated, and hurried to the death-chamber at Osborne, they were profoundly moved; all the more so because he waived official formalities, and joined the waiting family group simply as the grandson of the Queen. The same influence was felt elsewhere. There was no discordant note in the world-wide expression of sympathy. The French and Russian journals, which are apt to be critical, if not hostile, toward England, joined in the tributes to the Queen. American journals were as cordial as if there never had been any Alabama claims or Venezuela difficulty or Alaskan boundary or other vexatious question between the two countries. Under the reciprocal kindness thus induced, English journals began to suggest that perhaps too much had been made of annoying amendments to the Hay-Panchofote treaty, and that it might be well to concede to the United States the disputed points. So it came to pass that the good Queen, who has all her life striven for peace, in her death exerted a strong influence in the same direction.

It would be a misfortune if the passion for "getting on" should narrow our educational ideals and substitute the man of facility in affairs and the expert for the man of broad culture and the man of freed imagination. The movement in colleges and universities to introduce "practical" courses may sometimes appear to be tending in that direction, but it is rather to be regarded as an effort to give young men and women a better introduction to certain typical phases of actual life, says a Chicago Tribune editorial, and to afford them in certain lines that specialized preparation for particular occupations which, to a degree at least, can be more economically attained in an institution than otherwise. The School of Economics and Political Science in the University of Wisconsin has recently announced certain modified and enlarged courses, including one on "Public Service and Diplomacy" and another in "Preparation for Journalism." One of this country's greatest editors once expressed the opinion that no one could be "prepared" out of hand for journalism; and yet it is evident that not only general culture but familiarity with certain lines of information and thought furnish the journalist an invaluable background for his work. Training for public administration and for diplomacy is even more obviously a great present need in this country. Our easy theory that the duties of public life can, under our simple system, be met by the ordinary citizen, is largely chargeable with our pernicious practice of "rotation in office" and with the lack of vigor and efficiency in much of our public life. The action of Madison University is a part of a general movement during the last ten years among American institutions of higher learning, though not conspicuous as yet, are bound to be increasingly felt as time goes on.



When Thomas sings his nightly lays, His hearers know the pain it brings To hearts as dead—for fulsome praise He cares not nor whose soul he wrings.

Beneath the moon's bewitching rays, His voice it soars, as it had wings, And many a list'ner querdon pays, When Thomas sings!

Yes, as the cadence loudly swings From off the woodshed, windows raise And neighbors hurl all sorts of things Unheeded—bootjacks are bouquets When Thomas sings!

Small Horseshoes. Horseshoes weighing an ounce each and just a trifle larger than a silver dollar were turned out in a California shop recently. They were made for a Shetland pony 6 months old, and small for its age.

It is far better to have large feet than a small understanding.

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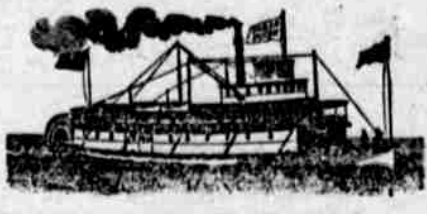
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