

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Love looks through a window; envy through a keyhole.

The coquette is able to flirt a fan and fan a flirt simultaneously.

In politics the terms "bosses" and "henchmen" always apply to the other side.

Some people who call themselves singers should be locked up for making false notes.

Old pewter is coming into fashion as much as old brass has been. Look over the garret again.

Prof. Triggs now puts the works of Longfellow and Oliver Wendell Holmes in the doggerel class. The people are still waiting for a poem by Triggs.

Another pleasant illusion dissolved. An explorer has brought us the news that the wild men of Borneo are very child-like and tame on their native soil.

A new fad in education is "organized play." The idea of teaching "the kid" how to play is a good deal like teaching your grandmother how to fry potatoes.

Not a business house in Cuba has failed, it is said, during the American occupation. The commercial prudence of the Cubans seems to be one of their strong points.

A New Jersey minister claims to be able to cast the devil out of women. If he would open a shop and hang out his sign he would no doubt do a land office business in that line.

In a teachers' examination the question was asked: "What are the four great territorial powers?" One answer given was as follows: "Electricity, water, society and art." That teacher ought to be pensioned.

A Western farmer left \$45,000 with the hard and fast provision in his will that it should be destroyed. It would be better even than the lawyers got it than that such waste should be permitted by the courts.

A new insurance company has been formed in France that will take risks on the failure of candidates to secure the offices for which they are running. One season's business in this country would knock out such a company.

It will have to be admitted, however, that some of the men who were famous as base-ball players five or ten years ago are about as thoroughly forgotten as they could be if they had been mere heroes of the Spanish-American war.

At a recent college occasion in India, Lord Curzon, the viceroy, told the young people that "to be without education in the twentieth century would be as if a knight of the feudal ages had been stripped of helmet, spear and coat of mail."

"Future punishment? Let's not discuss the theological side of it just now," said the old clergyman, gently, to his hot-headed young parishioners. "But did you ever think of it from the domestic and family side? When these babies of yours begin to grow up, and you see them imitating your faults and hampered by your weaknesses, and know that you're to blame—ah, there's a kind of future punishment there can be no two opinions about!"

Of all the young men in the country, only five per cent are members of churches; of college young men, fifty-two per cent are members of churches, so says Dean Hulbert of the University of Chicago. College life has its peculiar temptations, of course, but it abounds in opportunities also. A young man must grow. If he aims to grow upward, his college will help grandly. But he may prefer to grow downward, and that the college cannot always hinder.

A man has been found with two hearts, but it is not stated whether his heartfelt sympathy is two-fold or whether his sentimental emotions are divided. It would interest the public to know of his domestic affairs. Instances are not wanting where a man with a single heart has found room for divers so-called affections of that organ. Science will not be fully satisfied until this double-heart development is given a more critical examination along emotional lines.

Some "soulless corporations" of the "wild West" have lately given a practical demonstration in good morals. An attempt was made in a certain city to conduct Sunday exhibitions. It came to grief because the railroads centering there refused to increase the Sunday work of their employees. It is their policy to decrease rather than increase the number of Sunday trains. The wise among even the irreligious admit that the weekly rest day is profitable both for capital and for labor.

The humor of the locomotive that "struck a cow and cut it into calves" is due to an oversight of the proof-reader. The work of elevating railway tracks above street crossings, now being pushed in half a dozen cities of the mid West, is due to a different oversight, that of "reforming" Mayors and Aldermen, who believe that pedestrians and occupants of carriages have rights which corporations are bound to respect. Even the ruminating cow may

yet find her safest promenade along the city street.

Samuel Hill, who has recently returned from Russia, states that George Kennan's thrilling and interesting narratives about the treatment of Russian exiles were gross exaggerations. Mr. Hill visited Siberian prisons and found the sleeping quarters good and the food wholesome. The Russians seem to be kindly and humane people and while they do not erect a series of Palmer houses for their convicts, it is quite certain that they treat them fully as well as they are treated anywhere. For this reason, when Mr. Kennan returned to Russia he was requested by the government of that country to leave on short notice. He knew enough to do this. The St. Petersburg Newsletter says: "Georgius Kennanovitch, a picturesque end-of-the-Century Magistrate liarov, called at our office yesterday and left his cardovitch. We telephoned the polisk and Georgius is now over the line. Call again, Georgius, when the governmentovitch is not in so great a hurryovitch."

When the Chinese government, early in June, agreed to pay the full indemnity demanded by the powers, the next question was the manner in which payment should be made. Differences among the powers over this question account for the long deadlock in the negotiations which followed. China could not borrow the money on her own credit. Precisely as an individual whose commercial rating is not good needs a strong in-laws to his notes before he can realize money on them, so the bonds of China must be guaranteed by some other nation. No one nation was willing to assume the great responsibility of guaranteeing them all; and if any one of them had offered to do so, it would have aroused the suspicion that it intended to make its risk good at a later date by obtaining special concessions from China. It was proposed that the powers should guarantee the bonds jointly. The plan was favored by the powers whose credit is poor, because it promised the best possible security with the minimum of risk. But the United States objected; it would not become involved in a transaction which might require international interference later. England objected because she saw no good reason why she should use her excellent credit to guarantee the bonds allotted to other powers. The only alternative was that each power should guarantee its own share of the bonds, and market them as it chose. But when this plan was decided on, a new difficulty arose. Japan had made its claim sufficient barely to cover its expenditures, and had put it on a cash basis. It could not market the bonds on its own guarantee except at a discount which involved a loss of three or four million dollars. It therefore asked to have its allotment increased to cover this loss, but other powers objected, and some hinted at supplementary claims of their own. Japan then withdrew its claim, choosing to suffer the loss rather than prolong the negotiations. So the long deadlock was broken. It would be interesting to know what impression these bignings among the powers have made upon the Chinese mind.

The returns of the census of the Dominion of Canada are disappointing to Canadians who have been expecting large results from the various and costly efforts which have been made to attract immigrants and to keep the people of the Dominion at home. The complete returns show an increase of only 505,644, or 10.46 per cent, during the last ten years. The increase during the next preceding decade was 11.76 per cent, and during the decade ending in 1881 18.97 per cent. The hopeful Canadians professed to believe that the returns would show a greater ratio of increase even than that of the decade 1871 to 1881, whereas it was in fact less than in the decade 1881 to 1891. Perhaps they will now begin to yield to the conviction that the attractions of the United States are greater than those of British North America. The United States census of 1900 shows an increase of about 13,500,000, or 21 1/2 per cent, during the decade ending that year. The absolute increase in this country was more than twenty-six times as great as that in Canada, while the percentage of increase was more than twice as great. Prior to 1885 our custom house returns showed an annual immigration of from 30,000 to 100,000 or more from Canada. The Canadians complained that these figures represented transients for the most part—Canadian workmen entering this country for employment during a portion of each year and then returning to Canada. Either because he believed this claim to be well founded or for some other reason, the Secretary of the Treasury directed that the reports of immigrants from Canada be discontinued, and for ten years the returns did not show any immigrants from there, though it was well known that many immigrants from Europe landed in Canada and proceeded immediately or after an interval to the United States. Evidently the Canadians have counted all these as immigrants remaining in Canada, and they seem to have adhered to the transient assumption in making their estimates. Hence their disappointment. They may now be prepared to believe that many of their people who seek employment in this country remain here. Otherwise they will hardly be able to account for the very small increase of only a little more than 2 1/2 per cent in Ontario, their most populous province. Probably the reasons for the more rapid growth of the United States are climatic and industrial rather than political.

Laughter is the sunny side of a man's existence.

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