TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

The University of Chicago continues to be a strong favorite of the boss Santa Claus.

When a man guesses he can knock another man down he usually makes a rough estimate.

If a quarrelsome man has two ideas in his head they would probably fall out with each other.

Necessity is said to be the mother of invention—but as to the father thereof history is painfully silent.

The biggest hold-ups are the fellows who make a daylight job of it, first having stolen your confidence.

Eve complained that she had nothing to wear and her daughters have been working the same old plaint ever since.

A dispatch says that Helen Gould is annoyed by a crank who keeps sending her great bunches of American Beauty roses. Isn't it awful?

It has been said that King Edward looks perfectly at home in whatever he wears. This is a glad assurance that his crown will be quite becoming.

At a sale of relics of Edwin Booth in New York two letters to the actor from a woman who asked for "but one glance of your eye" brought good prices. Perhaps her husband was there when the blading started.

Reporting a shortage of over $3,000,000, the great Buffalo exposition cannot be said to "pan out well" financially. But the loss is distributed among so many stockholders, and the benefits of the fair have been so far-reaching, that "failure" is the last word to couple with it.

"So long as there is wood to saw in the world, I need no gymnasium," remarked a cynic, listening to a discussion as to where exercise was necessary for grown men. In the same spirit one might conclude that so long as there are intellectual problems to tackle, one needs no game of skill. Doubtless the realities should have precedence.

A Boston physician, who recently treated a street car conductor for an infectious disease contracted by holding paper money in his mouth while making change, warns people against this habit and the practice of wetting the fingers in the mouth while counting money. He remarks upon the swiftness and certainty with which paper handled by infected persons may transmit disease. "It is a matter of common experience," he says, "that the bank bill passes more rapidly out of one's possession that any other known article." Even those who scoff at sanitary precautions must admit that this is sadly, painfully true.

Hitherto it has been possible for the world-weary person to escape from the sight and sound of busy mankind by boarding a ship for anywhere. He could for six days or six months, according to his destination and his ship, be entirely free from all knowledge of the facts and rumors which trouble the ear ashore. Mr. Marconi has changed all that. Under the wireless system it is impossible to get beyond the reach of the daily interests of mankind. Eventually, perhaps, no ship will leave port without an apparatus for receiving Wall street quotations and bulletins of the events in every part of the world. Nothing will be left for the victim of nervous exhaustion but to enter a cave until some pestilent scientist shall discover an X-ray which will carry sound through opaque substances.

The dean of the women's department of one of our great universities declares that she no longer anticipates difficulties, but the unexpected helps which will remove difficulties. Timid by nature, she used to say that she could never survive the shock of finding a burglar in her room. One night recently she awoke, conscious that some one was fumbling at her desk. The room was quite dark; the clock struck one. She lay there considering what to do, not at all frightened, but very indignant at being robbed. Many minutes passed; the burglar still moved stealthily about. Meanwhile the dean had formulated a plan. Calling her youthful ventriloquistic skill into service, she said in a deep voice, seemingly at the burglar's elbow, "Bodie, light the gas." Her maid in the next room, thus called by her last name, shot out of bed and the burglar shot out of the window. Investigation proved that the man's search had not yet reached the drawer containing the valuables. "He robbed me only of what I could well spare," the dean laughed—"my fears."

Those who are wont to shake their heads over the extravagances of this age give an extra shake when they contemplate the amount of ingenuity that goes to the making of and the amount of money that goes to the purchase of modern toys. There is hardly any article that grown up people use, either in the way of work or play, that is not reproduced in the toy world. The luxuries of the ballroom, the utilities of the kitchen, and wardrobes of the wealthy are all to be had in miniature, and to visit a playroom is to see ourselves as the toymaker sees us. The child of three decades ago was content with a hairless rocking horse and a Noah's ark in which the goats were scarcely to be distinguished from the lambs; but now the modern boy demands that the horse shall have hair and a gait of its own, and that the maker of toy arks shall vie with nature in the creation of animals. As for dolls, when one remembers the creature of rags and tags which first issued out of that doll chaos, the family rag bag, and compares her with the finished wax maiden of to-day, who lacks nothing but a soul, and does not differ in this respect from human prototypes, one is convinced that this is indeed a world of progress. Of course dissolution arrives to the inhabitants of toyland more quickly than it does to those who live in the real world, and it is a question whether it is worth while spending much money on what is destined to be so speedily destroyed. But, judging from the growing variety of toys and the increasing number of buyers, this question seems to be answered in the affirmative.

Much is being said these days of "manifest destiny." One authority on destiny is seldom heard now-adays. Josh Billings is in his grave but in his time he had something to say about this matter, as note the following: "Manifest destiny is the science ov going tew bust, or enny other place, before yu git thare. I may be rong in this sentiment, but that iz the way it strikes me. The tru way that manifess destiny had better be sot down iz, the exact distance that a frog kan jump down hill with a striped snake after him. I don't kno but I may be rong onst more; but, if the frog don't git ketched, the destiny iz just what he iz looking for. When a man falls into the bottom ov a well, and makes up hiz mind tew stay thare, that ain't manifess destiny enny more than having yure hair cut short iz; but, if he almost gits out, and then falls down agin sixteen foot deeper, and brakes off his neck twice in the same plase, and dies and iz buried thare at low water, that iz manifess destiny on the square. Mi dear reader, don't beleave in manifess destiny until you see it. Thare is such a thing as manifess destiny; but when it occurs it iz like the number ov rings on the rakoon's tale—ov no great consequence onla for ornament. Man w'au't made for a machine; if he waz, it waz a locomotiff machine, and manifess destiny must git oph from the trak when the bell rings, or git knocked higher than the price ov gold. Manifess destiny iz a disseaze, but it iz easy tew heal; i have seen it in its wust tages cured bi sawing a cord ov dri hickory wood."

POOR HEN WORKED OVERTIME.

But All Her Efforts to Hatch the Eggs Were in Vain.

A group of suburbanites congregated in the reading terminal, awaiting the opening of the train gate, a few days ago, were indulging in small talk, when a remark made by one of them caused a fellow-suburbanite to say:

"That just reminds me. Speaking of jokes, I think I am as good-natured as any one when I get caught, but a little more than a month ago some of the men at the office played one on me that gives me just cause for exasperation, especially as I discovered only last week that the jokers had me for their victim.

"One of my hens had gone 'broody' and a chicken fancier whom I knew well presented me with thirteen eggs from one of his prize hens, all done up neatly in a box. At lunch time while I was out the deed was perpetrated. Innocently I gave those eggs to my boy, with special instructions for setting the hen. That fowl worked faithfully with those eggs, even putting in overtime on some days. Finally when the three weeks were up she began to grow impatient and would cluck about that nest in a most disturbed fashion, eying the eggs suspiciously. She would, however, get on the nest again and patiently await results.

"Several days ago I went to the hen house to investigate," continued the suburbanite, according to the Philadelphia Record, "and a more bewildered fowl than that hen was I never did see. She had as a last resort, and probably in anger, pecked every one of those thirteen eggs. The whole lot had been hard-boiled by my fresh office associates, which fact immediately made clear to me why they were all so much interested in that particular hatching."

Diplomacy of the President.

The velvety-voiced politicians who go to the White House get some jolts from President Roosevelt. When the executive meets the callers in the morning he has them rounded up in the reception-room, and sometimes there are a score in the room at once. Mr. Roosevelt bustles in and ropes at the first shorthorn he sees, finishes with him in short order and goes down the line in the same brisk manner. No confidences are exchanged. The sly politician grasps the President by the lapel, puts his lips close to the executive ear and whispers his little tale. The President replies in a voice audible throughout the room, gives the whole snap away, not only revealing the object of the visitor's call but disclosing his action. In the case of a "turn-down" this is very painful.—Washington Star.

First Street Railway.

The first street railroad was laid in New York in 1832, between the City Hall and 14th street.

Warning to professional visitors: When a woman discovers a bedbug she traces it to the last guest who slept at her house.

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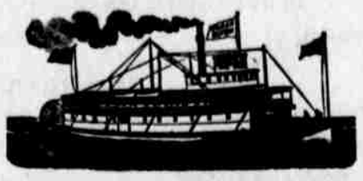

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