TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Every genius needs a manager, and his wife is seldom fitted for the job.

Millionaires are common these days. The New York World gives a list of 4,-

There are a number of Presidential booms on the market that are not worth traveling expenses.

Joey Chamberlain intimates very clearly that it is not the German vote he is trying to catch.

By carrying a Marconi mast the polar explorer will be able to wireless home for a relief expedition.

It is adding insult to injury to tell a bald-headed man that he is the victin of pigmetophagus, but science says so.

There is an alleged druggist trust to keep medicines up. It has sometimes been rather difficult to keep them down.

talks in his sleep she can trust him implicitly. Italy's commercial invasion of America, now that we think of it, may be reckoned among the successful affairs

If a man doesn't look frightened

when his wife informs him that he

A woman may be a friend to a man she has never loved, but she will always be an enemy of the man she has loved in vain.

of that kind.

The trade reviews estimate that the cost of living has increased during the past five years 40 per cent. However, most of us are yet alive.

A Chicago man has invented a street car telephone which enables a business man to keep within call of worry and the typewriter lady at all times.

Laurente Austin has written some of his justly celebrated jingles urging the Eagle and the Lion to get closer together. He tried 'em on the Eagle this time.

Dr. J. P. Wood of Coffeyville, Kansas, who is a hundred years old, candidly admits that his longevity is due to the fact that he has not taken much of his own medicine.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene the dark, unfathomed caves of ocean bear, because no giant sort of dredge machine has yet been dipped by Pierpont Morgan there.

The richest man of the Vanderbilt family pays taxes on \$500,000 worth of personal property. It looks as if the Rev. Dr. Nichols had put some pretty cheap people in his list.

A public office holder in Chicago has refused to accept his salary for five months because he was away during that time. Other public office holders will now regard him with suspicion or pity or both.

It is noted by a Minnesota paper that Mr. Groufsguffski went out in the country to get a wife, but that "for some unaccountable reason he returned without her." The reason was probably concealed somewhere in the rectangles of the name.

Bancroft, Blaine and Hay have been the orators selected by Congress to deliver the official eulogies over the three martyred Presidents respectively, Lincoin, Garfield and McKinley. Let us hope that this group of American orations, great as they are, will never be extended.

Mr. Carnegie, who began life as a poor boy and who is now called upon to bewall an income of something like \$25,000,000 a year, is certainly well qualified to testify to the value of money. It follows that when he gives it as his judgment that there is nothing in riches beyond having a competence this opinion ought to be accepted as being in the nature of expert testimony. It will be noted that your simonpure, blown-in-the-bottle philosopher on the question of riches is the man who has a great deal more wealth than he knows what to do with.

The author of an address to California fruit-growers on birds in their relation to agriculture and horticulture leclared that a barn-owl will kill more rats and mice than ten cats. It is pleasant to have the ability of our anclent and blinking friend set forth. When he steps out of literature and actively engages in an important work of destruction, he loses some of the air of reserved wisdom, and his solemn dignity is less obvious; but it is well to have the fact illustrated that the contemplative life may have an intensely practical side when occasion demands. The moping owl complaining to the moon is all well enough, but he is more useful when he ceases to mope and complain. Moreover, there are mice enough to go round, and there is work still left for the cats.

After electricity and inventive genius have done their best to supply automatic signaling devices the safety of railway travel depends upon the man in the switch tower. The engineer may be ever so watchful and faithful and the signal devices ever so ingenious and efficient, but if the man who

operates the switches and signals makes a mistake a disaster of some sort is inevitable. This is the consensus of pinion of the men who handle the switches and signals on the big rallroads centering in Chicago, as ascertained through interviews. All agree that double-tracked roads equipped with block signals present the greatest immunity from accidents and collisions. There is no disposition on the part of switchmen to depreciate the value of automatic devices or to discredit their good work in averting accident. In fact it is pointed out that all of the recent railway disasters can be traced to carelessness on the part of some railroad man. But after all mechanical safeguards have been provided the safety of travel rests ultimately with the employes who manipulate signals and switches and execute train orders. Attention is called by the Chicago Record-Herald to the fact that about 5,000 engines and trains must pass the signal tower near the tunnel under the Lake Shore at Clark and 16th streets every twenty-four .. M. hours, and vet so carefully are the switches and signals handled that there has not been a serious accident at this point since track lowering was completed four years ago. The demand is, therefore, for safe men as well as safety signaling devices. The man in the signal tower should be clear-brained, clear-sighted, alert, watchful and faithful. Men who are considered for these positions should be subjected to rigid mental and physteal examination. They should then be required to work reasonable hours and should be given the rest that is necessary to insure the highest effi-

There may be cynical persons upon whom Mr. Carnegle's buoyancy of spirits and optimism will act like black bile. And 'f such there be they will say that it is easy to be cheerful with an income of millions a year, and that laughing while others work is an employment that would not be ungrateful to most men. But to laugh during one's work, as Mr. Carnegie advises, is certainly much better than to weep or to grumble. A sunny temper helps in the immediate task; it helps to preferment. work, as Mr. Carnegie advises, is cer-If it is combined with industry and fair ability it counts for good work and for success every moment. Its influence is always beneficial, and the circumstances of the rich ironmaster do not affect the soundness of his doctrine. Rich and poor should subscribe to that doctrine with equal heartiness and recognize that the way toward which this joyous teacher points is the way of health, strength and happiness. At the same time it might be urged that he should have been a little more definite when he came to the question of a competence. While we are all agreed that superfluous wealth is superfluous, there must be a considerable variety of opinion as to the exact sum that should be laid aside for the rainy day and the days of life's decline. Mr. Carnegle lets in just a glimmer light on his personal convictions concerning the subject when he says that he himself is loaded with somewhat more than a competence. But we should like a more accurate weighing of the load. The modest word "some what" suggests that perhaps it was only the last million that made itself felt as a burden. Yet it is possible that the strain began with the last ten million or the second hundred million. In any case, a competence can hardly mean the same thing to him that it does to the day laborer, and though he advises well it is doubtful if he would be content with the smaller competence which he approves. There is the castle in Scotland which he would have to resign, and those frequent and pleasant trips abroad. They are not strictly necessary, and yet when one had formed the habit of castles and long journeys some pent-up suburb of small homes in the vicinity of Pittsburg might leave something to be desired. But a competence that has been won through years of toil with the help of a wife who has been a good manager sometimes goes no further than the humblest of homes and the slenderest of incomes, and it happens occasionally that the hardest of struggles does not bring even such a competence. The promise is never certain, and yet in spite of all this there is wisdom in Mr. Carnegie's philosophy. Laughter is a tonic, worry is a poison. No sentence of the Scriptures conveys a more wholesome lesson than the injunction: "Fret not thyself; it tendeth only to evil."

Johnny on the Giraffe.

The giraffe is a tall, spotted animal that kind of slopes down from his shoulders to his tail and has a neck that looks like a broomstick had been run up through it. The giraffe is the tallest of the animal specie, and is found in Africa and in shows, where it grows to a height of sixteen feet and is very fond of onlons and carrots, though its customary food is hay. which it eats with gusto. Oft have I hand. gazed at the giraffe and thought to myself wonderful are the ways of Providence, how does he hold his head up? The other name of the giraffe is camelopard, but giraffe is easier to say, Sometimes I have to look through large books to find out these things, but I don't mind it. We ought to hunt out all the knowledge we can while we are still young. There was a man once that trained a giraffe to pick peaches from the top of the tree. He kept it from eating them by putting a ring around its neck so it could not swallow. The giraffe is active, but runs like an JOHNNY. old cow.

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