

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Kipling's "Beware of the Bear that Walks Like a Man" is also popular in Japan.

In the eyes of the government employe, no man is truly great unless his birthday is made an official holiday.

Wu Ting Fang says the American civil war was not a failure. This seems to be about the first thing American that Wu has approved of.

Brilliant remark by a New York editor: "It takes more than an ill or a hill to down a Theodore Roosevelt." The Mail and Express is the guilty sheet.

A doctor says every mouthful of food should be chewed seventy-two times before it is swallowed. He doesn't go so far, however, as to insist that a cash register should be used in order to prevent mistakes.

"One of the best parishioners" of a certain well-known clergyman used to say that there were four occasions when he made it a point to be in his place at church. "These were, when it was a stormy Sunday, when the church was without a pastor and somebody had to read a sermon, when a stranger preached, and when his own minister preached." The conclusion is irresistible. If a special collection unfortunately falls upon a stormy Sunday, any minister may confidently tell this anecdote on the following Sunday—and take the collection over again.

Typhus fever broke out some months ago on the island of Arranmore off the coast of Ireland, and a panic seized both the islanders and the residents of the adjacent mainland. One heroic doctor, William Smyth, rowed himself every day to the island, and single-handed fought the disease in the midst of poverty and filth. When conditions in the cabins became intolerable, he carried the patients to his boat and rowed them over to the mainland and his own house. He saved the little island community, but, worn out by his exertions, contracted the disease himself, and died. The people of the vicinity who refused to aid him in the time of dire need are now contemplating a memorial to his heroism.

When Victor Emmanuel succeeded his father on the throne of Italy it was freely predicted that his reign would be a short one, but the young man has managed so wisely that he is strong in the affections of his people, and were he to abdicate and stand for election as the president of republican Italy, he would probably win over all others. Of course the young king is liable to be assassinated at any time by anarchists of whom the country is full. Centuries of despotism have made these anarchists possible. In the reaction against tyrannical anarchism has been born. Victor Emmanuel is likely to go some day as did his father, King Humbert. However that may be, the king is following in the footsteps of his father in modifying some of the most objectionable features of absolutism. Republican sentiment is strong in Italy and it is with the republicans in a governmental way that the king has to deal. They have a large vote in the parliament and come near to controlling. If Victor Emmanuel had shown the impulsiveness naturally attaching to most young rulers he would have been deposed before this. But he has been wise enough to make concessions as they have been demanded by public sentiment. He has instituted reforms and reduced taxation. He has heard all grievances and disposed of all matters purely on their merit.

Somebody wants to know if long hair is an evidence of genius, and points to the shaggy-headed artists who have become famous. Long hair is mostly an evidence of eccentricity, combined with shrewd business judgment on the part of the owner of the mops. We worship imported genius in this country. Sometimes we make fools of ourselves in the presence of those who have attained a high place in the art of pleasing the eye or the ear. And Europe learned that America did not expect to see Genius appear in a business suit. The public demanded men who looked the part, men who were not like other men in appearance. The result was a few steamer loads of fellows who could fiddle and paint and sing, all needing a hair cut, and most of them willing to adopt any kind of a freak make-up in order to coax dollars out of American pockets. It is cheap advertising. Do you suppose that a bevy of excited New York women would have assailed Paderewski with kisses and tears had he looked like a fat-faced, prosperous broker or merchant? It is doubtful. There is romance in the piano-playing Pole's hair; romance and soul and all sorts of occult possibilities. It makes a fit setting for a pair of dreamy eyes, and it appeals to the audience before the great artist has dealt the piano the opening thump. Perhaps when America gets deeper into art and music it will be possible for European celebrities to shed their locks and yet maintain their hold on the hearts of the public. The time is not ripe yet, because of the popular love for the spectacular.

As an example of the destiny of those who embrace "get-rich-quick" schemes and scorn the old-fashioned methods of industry and thrift one

Frank C. Andrews of Detroit cannot be said to have spent his life in vain. Mr. Andrews is a young man who arrived in Detroit a few years ago with a capital of \$1.25. By dint of nerve and quickness in taking advantage of opportunities he secured a foothold in the speculative world and from that time on made money rapidly, becoming a millionaire. Always a blatant advocate of the lucky throw as opposed to caution, sound methods and economy, says the Chicago News, he has done what he could to imperil the general prosperity of the public. Having been lucky, Andrews, like other "young Napoleons of finance," seems to have concluded that he was invincible. He invented several maxims which probably he himself believed at the time. He openly approved speculation and declared that "human life is too short for the slow processes of thrift." It was his theory that "no man should work after he is 40," and he believed that all his good fortune came as "the result of taking chances." He found success consisted "in an indomitable faith in your own proposition." Probably his philosophical view of gambling seemed correct at the time. His boastful sayings doubtless in no way overstated his faith in himself. That he should have dipped into speculation once too often and brought himself into a predicament in which not even his "indomitable faith" could save him was inevitable. He has succeeded in wiping out his fortune in a hurry. Not being an earner or a saver, but having been trained throughout his life to the idea of getting money without labor, it is not surprising that he should have embezzled funds entrusted to his keeping. From the bank of which he was vice president he took \$1,500,000, leaving absolutely no security. His fortune is gone and so is his credit. Any clerk who manages to set aside \$2 of his earnings weekly is now better off than the erstwhile rich and boastful speculator. Youths who may be tempted into speculation would do well to note his example.

For many years there has been an almost continuous discussion of what might be called the age question. It has been said that as men grow old they find it hard to secure employment, and sociological investigations have shown that the old age of the artisan or the laborer is often one of considerable hardship. For the last few weeks in particular attention has been called to the alleged discrimination of certain employers against men over 45. It was for this reason that Mr. Schilling, in addressing the Chicago Philosophical Society, said that one of the three things that the National Civic Federation should do was to find an answer to the query: How is the man over 45 to make his living? It cannot be denied that this question presents some difficulties. At the same time the hundreds of thousands of men over 45 who are still capable of their best work show clearly that no perfectly precise age limit can be set. The hero of Addison's satire in the Spectator papers died of old age at 24. The captain of the Evanston life saving crew is doing the capsize drill with great agility at an age which is so advanced as to be a subject of endless speculation among the students of the university. The vital powers last longer in some men than in others. Some men die in their boots and some after they have shifted to the slippers. One cannot say: Thus long shalt thou work and no longer. In the case of artisans, in some trades, who have ceased to be capable of as full a day's work as they once accomplished, there is still the device of piece work, which will, to some extent, relieve the situation. If a man is paid according to what he does the employer cannot complain. It is, of course, to be expected that if the employer is paying his men by the day he should want men who can do a full day's work. If, however, he is paying them by the piece, any tendency to discriminate against older men who may do less work than the young ones is largely checked. As the worker passes the period of his greatest efficiency and declines in strength and skill, he can still receive a return for his labor, and though his earnings will doubtless decrease, they will decrease only in proportion to his falling powers.

Tolstol's Honest Criticism. If the test that Count Tolstol applied on one occasion to his sons were made universal, criticism might possibly be more honest than at present, but it would not be agreeable. A lady's singing having displeased Count Tolstol's boys on one occasion, they retired to another room and showed their disapproval by making a noise. Their father stood it for a time, and then followed them into the other room. "Are you making a noise on purpose?" he asked. The question was a close one, but was presently answered by a doubtful "Yes." "Does not her singing please you?" asked the count. "Well, no. Why does she howl so?" responded one of the boys. "Do you wish to protest against her singing?" asked their father. "Yes." "Then go into the room and say so. Stand in the middle of the room and tell every one present," replied the Count. "That would be rude, but upright and honest. Your present conduct is both rude and dishonest."

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