

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Some men are so mean they won't even pay back borrowed trouble.

The inventor of the steam callopie died a natural death. Hoot, mon!

A fool girl often encourages a fool man for the purpose of bouncing him.

Future historians may refer to Napoleon as "the Pierpont Morgan of war."

A married woman seldom goes on the lecture platform; she has her audience at home.

One of the differences between genius and talent is that the latter frequently enables a man to get rich.

How would you like to hear Baron Astor's opinion of the United States as a rent-producer for 'is' ighness?

The German reichstag proposes to make a fight against the Standard Oil Company. It is easy enough to see the reichstag's finish.

Sol Smith Russell will be missed, indeed, from ranks and by no means and by no means overcrowded—the ranks of natural comedians.

It isn't necessarily the unexpected that happens when a man who is six feet three inches in his socks marries the shortest girl in town.

Henry Labouchere says Morgan is putting the handwriting on the wall. But perhaps Henry is mistaken. Morgan may be reaching for the wall.

It is strange how kidnapping has gone out of fashion—especially in view of the fact that it was so seldom that any one was ever punished for the crime.

"Have We Any Real Girls?" asks a contemporary. Certainly we have. The paint and powder are only a surface coating. The girl is there, all right.

It is reported that Miss Stone gets \$10,000 for her magazine article on the brigands, not to mention what she will receive for lecturing. Perhaps she bribed them to catch her.

There is a lesson for American boys in every "boy wanted" advertising column of the city daily papers. They almost invariably specify "one who is not afraid to work." Boys who are afraid to work have but a small place in this busy age, and are not wanted.

Edward Everett Hale said at the celebration of his eightieth birthday: "I never had but one enemy, and last week, when I was trying to think of his name, I found I had forgotten who he was." This is better than keeping him in mind by making plans every day for "getting even."

British cavalry officers and members of the veterinary staffs express the opinion, based upon their experiences during the South African war, that docked horses cannot stand fatigue as well as those which have not been docked. Advocates of the practice have usually fallen back upon the negative claim that it "does no harm"—senseless and cruel mutilation though it is; but the South African report deprives them of even that poor defense.

Paderewski went back to Europe with \$125,000 as the result of a three months' encounter with the piano. This is a comfortable compensation, but is a mere bagatelle as compared with the amount obtained by Mr. Morgan, who draws a salary of over twelve million dollars as promoter of the shipping combination. Mr. Morgan was not required to give much of his time and attention to this undertaking. It was purely a side issue, something, as Colonel Sellers would say, "to occupy your mind as you are walking down to business," but it is enough to show the difference between the high art of finance and the lesser arts of music, painting and sculpture. Paderewski is as eminent in his class as is Mr. Morgan in his, but Paderewski is outclassed.

The Teachers' Institute has been embodied in our public school system, but its very familiarity has bred indifference to its value in many parts of the North. Some young ladies of Lexington happened to be camping in the Kentucky mountains last summer near a village where the Teachers' Institute was to be held. They asked permission to decorate the barren schoolroom, and sent to their homes for old magazines. The following autumn one of them stopped at a tiny schoolhouse twenty miles from the summer camp. On the table were tin cans bound with white paper and filled with growing ferns; above woodcuts of George and Martha Washington were draped a little American flag; mottoes adorned the blackboard, and the other simple decorations of the institute room had been fully copied. The children were using pages of the old magazines as reading and spelling books, and learning to draw from the illustrations. The young teacher had ridden from the institute not only with her saddle-bags filled with the precious gift of magazines, but with new inspirations to help her and her charges throughout the year.

An Englishman of high rank visited last winter some friends in this country who possessed wide influence and great wealth. They took him one day

through a large establishment in which cannon are manufactured. He was surprised when one man, covered with grime and oil, separated himself from the thousands of other workmen and greeted him cordially. It was the son of his host. "Bob," said his father, as they walked on, "is learning this business. The only way to do that is to master the theory in college, and then learn the practice as an ordinary workman. It is a common custom in our great industrial works. That lad," pointing to another black and greasy workman, "is the son of a bishop, and that one the nephew of a former President." "The chief difference that I note between your people and ours," said his guest, "is that the class which is idle with us all work with you. The sons of your prominent men and millionaires are busy in professions or in amassing more millions. The few exceptions, men who idle their days in yachts or who frequent foreign courts, are, I find, looked upon with disfavor here." "Yes," said his host, "our American creed is that a man must justify his right to be alive by doing something for his fellow men. No amount of wealth will exempt him from that duty. He must give employment to others, or write books, or paint pictures, or invent something. He must take up some work that will grow and bear fruit, or he is regarded as a fungus—an unwholesome growth." It is a libel on our American life to say that the sole motive of its energy is the making of money. The instinct of mutual help and of progress prompts much of our activity. Whether the motives are wise or the abnormal energy is well directed is a question which each American boy and girl may answer for themselves.

A person of exclusively sedentary habits has become a rarity, for sedentary habits in these days is generally relieved by some kind of sportiveness. To exercise in one way or another is the fashion of the age and none is too old or too delicate to indulge in some form of out-of-door play. A modern version of the tale of Cinderella, recently published in a magazine, is entitled "Sunderella." In reference to the abused heroine's enforced duty of continually sandpapering her haughty sisters' golf sticks, and when the prince seeks the despised girl he bears in his hand, instead of a tiny ballroom slipper, a generous-sized shoe. This shows the tendency of the age, and it is further revealed in the catalogues of books on athletics and sports. In these lists one finds volumes on "Yacht Etiquette" and "Croquet Up to Date," while the teaching of the young idea how to shoot and how to climb in a literal sense forms the matter of a number of volumes. The subject of "Ropes" does not seem of much interest, yet their knots and splices as treated in a certain book make as absorbing reading as ties of a more sentimental nature. Of course, sportiveness assumes various phases in different individuals. There is the sportsman who would not choose to be a blot upon the landscape and who believes that picturesqueness in the form of becoming attire and coarseness in the presence of a near-by clubhouse are necessary features of the sporting life. Then there is the sportsman who would put off ordinary clothes and conventions and who prefers to adopt the scarecrow's ideal of dress and the savage's habits of living. Among sportsmen there are some who aspire to hit a bird on the wing with a man's unerring aim and others who find hitting the stake with a croquet ball the end and aim of their sporting existence. It matters little what form this playfulness takes, but it is the imperative duty of every individual who would wish to be abreast with the times to betake himself to the greensward or the deep blue sea in the sacred name of sport.

Napoleon's Knife.
A valuable gold-plated penknife which belonged to Napoleon I., made for him in Paris and marked with the maker's name, and beautifully engraved and embossed with the initial "N." a crown, and other emblems, containing four curiously shaped blades, has been sent to the Rev. W. Carille of the Church Army, to be sold for the benefit of the work. The blades are much worn, owing to the Emperor's habit of whittling. In "Uncle Bernac: a Memoir of the Empire," by Conan Doyle, the following passage occurs: "A raised writing desk was at the side of the table, and behind it in a green morocco chair, with curved arms, there sat the Emperor. A number of officials were standing round the walls, but he took no notice of them. In his hand he had a small penknife, with which he whittled the wooden knot at the end of the chair."

Well Preserved.
An earnest young man from a college settlement was addressing a company of fathers and mothers on the subject of "Christmas in the Home," telling them of ways in which the day might be made bright, although money was scarce. He had visited many houses in many cities, and was well informed. "I'm not talking about what other people have told me," he said; "it's what I know from my personal experience. I have seen over a hundred Christmas celebrations, and—"

Why Evening Dress is Condemned.
An editor in Ireland condemns evening dress for men because "the guest at a feast cannot be distinguished from the waiter behind his chair."

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