TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

As a man's idea that he was cut out for a great career decreases his usetulness increases.

The trouble with most of the inventors of airships is that they leave needy families behind them.

In addition to his other manly accomplishments the King of Spain is now able to eat without a bib.

Our humorists are going too fast. We can better spare some of our philosophers—they are easier replaced,

"Jefferson's Bible" may be all right. Until it is printed, however, the King James version will be found very help-

Books are desirable companions; when they bore you it is an easy matter to shut them up without giving offense.

Some people live in the vicinity of slumbering volcanoes. Others thaw out frozen dynamite and get there just the

Some of the people in those other southern republics are probably surprised at the length of time Cuba has run along without a revolution.

Many a man has made the discovery too late that he misjudged his enemyespecially after attempting to lick him and getting beautifully licked himself.

If the recording angel takes note of the doings of nations, the United States must have had a large sum put on the credit side of the ledger on May 20.

A man has been sentenced to six months in jail for stealing a bicycle. A man who would stoop so low as to steal a bicycle ought to get at least six years.

The Massachusetts Legislature has voted a medal to every man who answered Lincoln's first call in 1861. Most of those veterans have answered auother call and have gone to join that grand army in the great beyond.

The Eric Railroad issued an order a few weeks ago that henceforth bridal parties must refrain from throwing rice. As a result the bridal parties have been throwing pecks instead of quarts and the road is sorry it spoke.

Some things do not need to be said. A famous planist who played in this country last winter and cleared a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars remarked as he sailed for home, "It is with great sorrow that I leave this country, and I wish to come back as soon as possible."

"Do you play football?" asked President Roosevert in a recent letter to a boy who had written to him for some advice. "If so, here is a motto for you: 'Don't foul, don't flinch. Hit the line hard." There will be no suits for the establishment of proprietary rights if others besides football-players adopt the motto.

The Prussians are finding that the work of making good Germans of the Poles involves many difficulties. A number of children going home from school were singing Polish songs. They were arrested and tried in a police court. The prosecuting officer demanded that the children be imprisoned rather than fined. The judge had the good sense to discharge them. The extirpation of patriotism, especially as It expresses itself in music, is an unpromising undertaking.

Churches are commonly regarded as the mothers of Sunday schools, but the latest annual report of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society shows that the reverse is often the case. During the last year there has been a greater movement of emigrants to the Northwest than at any time since 1882. In the new settlements thus formed the first permanent religious institution is usually a Sunday school, which, being supplied with Bibles, Bible lessons and other reading matters grows in time into a church. Of one hundred and fourteen new churches reported last year, forty-five originated in this way.

Irrigation will seemingly be a good thing for the rivers as well as for the arid country which is primarily in view. Flood waters are always a serious menace to the lands along the lower stretches of a great stream, and any diversion of them into storage basins, no matter how slight, is to be welcomed. The levees now built for the protection of low country are not an unalloyed blessing. They tend, it is believed, to raise the level of the river-bed, so that in course of time both river and levee rise above the surrounding country. The river of the future must be put under a harness so that it may be held back at some seasons and hurried on at

It i currently stated that a committee representing a church body has experienced difficulty in securing a place to hold the sessions of the association under a pledge that the delegates will be entertained by the citizens. It seems the average church member has a disinclination to act as hostess to the visiting ministry and delegates. In these days of better salaries for ministers the church member who contrib- in it?

utes his share toward the expenses of the congregation is inclined to suggest that preachers and delegates should go to hotels or if entertained privately pay for their board and lodging. He notes that fraternal organizations pay their delegates per diem and mileage, thus providing for the expenses incident to such representation. Why should the church ask its delegates to represent it for nothing and in addition call upon other members of the church to entertain these delegates without pay? Some questions naturally arise. Is the church getting upon a commercial basis in order to conform to a commercial age? Is the good old custom of hospitality declining? Has the church mem! ership drawn the line at a money equivalent and discarde . self sacrifice and the law of service? Is Christianity resolving itself into a matter of dollars and cents?

In a recent article Prof. John Trowbridge declared that forty years ago the physical scientists were trying to solve the secrets of great things and were thinking of the large relations in the universe, but now they are generally taking "the path of human inquiry which leads into the world of the infinitely small." Instead of weighing the earth and seeking to fix the limits of the universe they are now concerned with atoms, electrons, cells and bacilli. Whatever degree of success the scientists may reach in their investigations of the infinitely small, the recent convulsions in the Caribbean Sea have demonstrated that they have made a sad mess of it with regard to the infinitely large. When Mount Pelce uttered its first unmistakable warnings of trouble of some kind, some scient ists went through their calculations and hypotheses and demonstrated that there could be no trouble of any kind. The announcement was hardly made before the volcano was dealing out death and destruction on every hand. Meanwhile none of these scientists has taken the pains to explain why Mount Pelee acted in the way it did when they had given bonds for its good be havlor. Some scientists are now busy explaining the reasons for its convulsions. One charges the disaster to the unusual stress upon the earth, because upon the 8th of May the moon and sun were at right angles to the earth with reference to the sun and earth. A government geologist has long known that the silt of the Mississippi and the Orinoco would cause this trouble by pressing down too hard on the thin crust of Dalles Laundry Co. earth under the gulf. Then came the plausible theory that there is a vast mass of fire under that section into which the waters of the gulf percolated and generated steam which caused the explosion. Another geologist says that volcanoes do not throw out flaming gases. Either the reports that Mount Pelee did throw out such gases are untrue, or that, if true, it is unwise to speculate on the capabilities of a volcano. Other scientists who made no predictions and who are not specially interested in its causes are laying out more or less startling programs for the future, some involving the disappearance of all the West dia Islands. In view of the results it would be wiser for the scientists to realize their limitations and be less dogmatic in their assertions. Mount Pelee and Mount Souffriere have demonstrated that the wisest of them know little or nothing of what is going on down in the bowels of the earth, cer-

Embarrassing Accuracy.

alone.

tainly not enough for them to declare

what a volcano, active or extinct, can

do on a given day. It will be much

A certain Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, who had a grown-up daughter, went to live in California, where they rented a small furnished house and engaged a Chinese man-of-all-work. The house was well situated and tastefully furnished, and Wing Lee proved to be a good cook, clean and respectful. As soon as the Andersons were settled the neighbors began to call, and it was then that the fact was discovered that Wing was absolutely devoid of any ideas as to the ushering in or out of guests. So one morning Mrs. Anderson and her daughter determined to instruct him. Providing him with a tray, Miss Ander son went out, rang the bell, was shown into the sitting-room, and waited while the Chinaman carried her card to Mrs. Anderson. This was repeated several times until they were quite satisfied that Wing was perfect in his role. That evening at half past 8 the bell rang. Wing stalked majestically to the door, while mother and daughter leaned over the banisters to watch the result of their teaching. They heard a gentleman's voice ask if the ladies were at home. They saw Wing present his tray and receive a card with an air which made them mentally pat each other on the back, and then they saw him draw a card from his sleeve. "Mine!" gasped the daughted. "The one we used for the lesson!" Wing compared the two carefully, and, returning the one which the caller had just handed him, he remarked bladly, Tickee no good. No can come," and calmly shut the door in the face of the astonished guest!

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