

**TOPICS OF THE TIMES.**

As to the fiery, untamed automobile, where there is so much scorching there ought to be some firing.

Later on our inhumanity will probably take the form of introducing football among the Filipinos.

It would be interesting to know what the observers on Mars thought of the pyrotechnic display down in the West Indies.

Being divorced will make no particular difference to Mr. Lease. He has had to support himself for several years now.

Mr. Carnegie says he finds it hard work to give money away. Uncle Russell has had similar experience. In fact, Uncle Russ finds it impossible.

People who have investigated the matter say that the swearing-habit is becoming more common than it was a few years ago. So are automobiles.

A German aeronaut is training a team of eagles to steer his balloon. Some ambitious high-flyer may yet attempt to "hitch his chariot to a star."

King Alfonso says bull fighting is cruel and he much prefers horse racing. This remark is probably the corner stone of an early Spanish revolution.

Up to the hour of going to press Hety Green had not forwarded a reply to the British nobleman who advises that he wants to marry a rich American woman.

"Om" Paul and King Edward are prominently mentioned in connection with the settlement of the South African war, in spite of the fact that neither of them seems to have had anything to do with it.

Young John D. Rockefeller says: "The man who is poor, with only just enough money for the necessities of life, may use his life for the good of others, and that man is a true success." Yes, but where does his fun come in?

The accession of the boy king in Madrid was in some ways a demonstration that Spain is still Spain. The occasion was seized upon as an opportunity for having close under the eyes of the assembled foreigners an unusual number of bull fights, and each on an unusually large scale. It was old Spain that inspired the bombastic address of the young king to the army. The barbaric nature of bull fighting seems unable to penetrate the obtuse minds of the Spanish nobility.

Newfoundland dogs, bought by the Lift Saving Service of the Seine to assist rescuing work, have aroused no end of comment in Paris. The canine savant came near to becoming a political issue. Ridicule and abuse were heaped upon them. They were said to be expensive, stupid, inefficient. At last a newspaper man devised and executed a test. Taking a number of his associates as witnesses, he drove to one of the bridges and leaped into the stream. The dogs showed no interest in the proceeding. The keepers could not make the Newfoundlands plunge into the river. A man with a boat-hook rescued the journalist. Parisian wits are inclined to exculpate the dogs, who, they suggest, evidently take the view that there ought to be no interference with any act which promised to reduce the number of Parisian journalists.

"Whoa!" said the man to his horse, and the animal stopped. "Get up!" and the animal jogged along again. "Lie down!" said the man to the dog, and the canine passively obeyed. You should not treat children that way. Don't you? O, yes, many of you do. It's done without thinking, perhaps, but it is nevertheless done by the majority of parents every day in the year. "Close that door, Jim." "Don't touch that cake, Harry." "No, you can't go out, Helen." These are mandates just as the "Whoa!" and the "Get up!" Mind is given to man that he may reason. Keep this in memory when speaking to a child. Instead of the order to Jim, say, "Close the door, my son, for a draught is blowing on the baby, and she may take cold." To Harry explain, "I don't wish you to eat any more cake, for it may cause you illness, and I know you don't want to be in bed to-morrow." Give Helen your reason for not wishing her to go outside—too hot, or cold or damp. Try this method with your children and notice the difference in their demeanor. Explain why you wish something done or something left undone, and the probability is that the child will not require a second admonition on the same subject. Does a mother say, "I cannot think of arguing with my children?" It is not argument, madam. You are simply making a declaration and explaining why it should have force. Try this plan and note the effect.

Before its adjournment the Presbyterian general assembly appointed a committee to meet the overtures of the Episcopal Church for the organization of a joint committee to consider the best means for securing "uniform legislation" which "will conserve the family institution and preserve the sanctity of the marriage bond." This practical step toward the consummation of more uniform marriage and divorce laws should be met by the co-operation

of all the Protestant bodies. The Roman Catholic Church has largely solved the question so far as it is concerned, though it would doubtless cooperate in securing civil provisions that would more nearly conform to its ecclesiastical rules. While upon the subject of marriage and divorce the Presbyterian assembly declared that the Presbyterian clergy should be required "to exercise due diligence before the celebration of a marriage to ascertain that there exists no impediment thereto as defined in our Confession of Faith." One direction in which all ministers might concern themselves is that of exercising more care as to hasty marriages. Ministers are in a peculiar sense the protectors of the community's well being. They should know something of the qualifications of persons entering matrimony. Hasty marriages tend to increase divorce. Ministers who give themselves no concern along this line argue, no doubt, that the parties determined to marry will find some one to unite them whether they are fitted or not, which is unfortunately true, but this fact cannot be held to absolve the conscientious clergyman from his obligation in this particular.

The Chicago Record-Herald deplors that the annual increase of the population of that city embraces several thousand young men from the farms who are the victims of the notion that opportunity awaits them in the cities alone. It is true that this opinion on the part of so many young men is a delusion, but the young men themselves are not responsible for it. They read of this or that man who has risen to some distinction in commercial, professional or political life that he "was raised on the farm." This is said so frequently that, very naturally, the young man on the farm comes to believe that success awaits him in the cities. In the illusion produced by the glowing stories of the few the young man loses sight of the failure or the oblivion of the many who go to the cities and are thereafter rarely ever heard of. The nine-tenths find that they must struggle in a crowded labor market and accept wages that will not secure them the good living of the farm. If they marry they must, for the most part, live in crowded tenement houses if they go to the largest cities. If a man is more successful he cannot hope for the larger success of which he has read and which has led him to the city. So if all who go to the cities from the farm would tell the plain truth about the matter they would confess that they would be better back on the farms if they could rent and till a small piece of land. Those people who write and talk about the farm give the impression that it is a life of drudgery to be escaped. This is a mistake; the average farmer does not toil so many hours in the year as do men in most city employments. With modern machinery the farmer is very much a mechanic, and a mechanic the severity of whose labor has been greatly reduced by labor-saving and labor-lightening machinery. No man who so largely depends upon his daily employment for his bread is so much his own man as the average farmer. At the present time there are thousands of men in every one of the States who, farming intelligently, are forehanded and are making money from year to year. It was the opinion of the late Governor Mount of Indiana that no occupation afforded such opportunities for acquiring competency as does farming. While it may be that many of the brightest of those born on the farms have cast their lots in the cities, there is good reason to believe that in a comparison of all who left the farms with all who remain on them the average of the latter would be the better so far as living conditions are concerned. During the last few years the introduction of the telephone, the electric railway and the free rural delivery of the mails have changed the situation. The isolation, or the out-of-the-world life on the farm is practically a thing of the past, or will be in the course of a few years. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that in no calling are brains more needed than in managing the affairs of the farm. In the near future the farmer, above other men, must be a man of intelligence and ability if he would succeed. An evolution has begun which will change the methods of agriculture as the introduction of machinery has revolutionized the methods of production in other industries.

**The Inevitable Result.**  
"John, you were at your club last night?"  
"Yes."  
"By the way, this Martinique eruption has been going on for a week or so, hasn't it?"  
"Certainly, my dear. What's the idea?"  
"Nothing, except you came home last night weeping great gobs of fermented grief and declaring that Vesuvius had hurled fifty million of our loved ones into eternity without a moment's warning. Of course, it's all right if you want to mourn the dear departed and switch Vesuvius over into the West Indies, and of—"  
But the door was slammed viciously and he had went hence.—Baltimore News.

**Happy Retort.**  
An English sailor in Singapore was watching a Chinaman who was placing a dish of rice by a grave.  
"When do you expect your friend to come out and eat that?" the sailor asked.  
"Same time as you friend come out to smell flowers you follow put," retorted Li.

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