

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Few women flirt after they get married—and few men flirt before.

Burning question in France: What shall we do with our volcanic islands?

The London Lancet says the newspapers are full of bacteria. It must be granted as to some of them.

"The accumulation of money ruins the stomach," says the Washington Post. What a pity the rule doesn't work both ways.

"Oom Paul" says he will end his days in Holland. John Bull will never have the satisfaction of selling postage stamps to "Oom."

Chili is no longer a haven of refuge for American absconders. But why should they go to Chili when the door to Canada is still open?

A St. Louis preacher says the recent volcanic eruptions were the death throes of Satan. The entire country will be glad to learn that the old man is at last dead.

President Schwab of the steel trust has given his brother a job that pays \$50,000 a year. It's a nice thing to have a good, charitably disposed Schwab in the family.

While it may be that the ship combine is formed for the purpose of reducing rates, yet it is evident that the dividends it has obligated itself to pay must come from somewhere.

George and Martha Washington have just been divorced in Chicago, and Martha claims that George is a bad man. History is having some difficulty in repeating itself nowadays.

The awful discovery has been made that some of the English crown jewels are paste. Luckily, however, the public will not have a chance to get near enough to them to see which ones are spurious.

President Patton of Princeton believes that the time is not far distant when there will not be a thing that we eat, drink or wear that will not be made by a trust, and then, he says, "it will not be long until it will be a financial impossibility for the average young man to get married." The obvious moral for the young man who wants to marry is to get the girl now before it is everlastingly too late.

Incarceration in a dungeon was the proper punishment for a man who gave his divorced wife two charivaris after her second marriage. The law is explicit on this point; a man may not pester the woman from whom he is divorced; if he did not take advantage of his opportunities during his married life, that is his fault. We forget the nature of extreme punishment in such cases, but it is severe. Women have their rights and one of their privileges is that they shall be pestered only by one husband at a time.

Some time after the death of Lowell a Boston woman remarked that Bostonians had been able to make their social gatherings distinguished by the presence of Lowell, Holmes, Longfellow and others. "But now," said she, sadly, "we have to put up with the 'and others.'" The recent passing of Frank Stockton and Bret Harte has provoked similar remarks, not about society, but about American literature. Yet when the older men were in their prime Harte and Stockton were literally included among the "and others," and some of the "and others" of to-day will be the lions of the next decade, through the prestidigitations of the magician Time.

When the United States Senate desires to discuss the ratification of treaties or the confirmation of appointments a motion is made "to proceed to the consideration of executive business." Its ordinary business is legislative in character, but treaties and appointments originate in the executive department of the government. Executive business is transacted in secret session, and by a loose and incorrect use of language, the Senate is said to be in "executive session." Because of the popularity of this meaningless phrase in Washington any secret session of any committee or other gathering is still more incorrectly styled by newspaper reporters and others—an "executive session." The most careful writers and speakers never use the phrase, any more than they say "civil service" when they mean the civil service reform.

The new Russian Minister of the Interior, M. De Plehve, has received letters informing him that the central nihilist committee has decided that he must die. Similar letters have been sent in the past to other ministers and governors who have either been assassinated or upon whose lives attempts have been made. Naturally M. De Plehve is not resting as well as might be some of the members of his family could wish, but there apparently is no help for his insomnia. Of course he cannot resign. There seems to be a law, either written or unwritten, in Russia which prevents a minister from relinquishing his office when the people begin to threaten him. There is nothing for him but to go ahead with his objectionable policy until he is blown up or stabbed or driven to death.

through fear. Office holding in Russia gives one prestige in society, and it probably is profitable from a pecuniary standpoint; but the business has its disadvantages, for while the nihilists may be credited with a certain degree of courtesy in notifying the official who has been marked for death, they never go so far as to tell him when, where and how he is to be operated on. Thus he is left in doubt that must often be troublesome, especially to one who is in any wise inclined to be nervous.

President Cyrus Northrop of the University of Minnesota says that we are in an era of sensationalism in education. "The paradoxical is taking the place of the true. Rockefeller shares the throne of intellect with Shakespeare, and ragtime music hushes the melody of the hymns our fathers and mothers loved to sing." After this squint Chicagoard the comment proceeds as follows: "Professors attract notice to themselves and their institutions by utterances that ought to consign them to the investigation of a commission de lunatico inquirendo. Something new is wanted and wanted all the time. It need not be true. It need not be valuable, but it must be astounding, and must attract general attention. To be unknown and unnoticed is death, but to be notorious, even as a literary or educational crank or lunatic, is fame." Dr. Northrop has a turn for the satirical and the caustic, but there is no denying the essential truth of this indictment. There have been numerous examples during the last year of a striving after effect in the classroom, of an originality due to bad judgment, which might properly be called sensational even if there had been no resulting newspaper notoriety. Such teaching is merely freakish, while conservatism and sobriety are by no means a sign of a depleted vitality. There may, in fact, be the greatest enthusiasm where there is no purpose to set up as an iconoclast and to overrule the verdict of centuries, and upon the whole it is much wiser to trust the centuries than the little man, the very poor player—

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage

And then is heard no more.

When will the iconoclasts of history have done? They have destroyed the story of William Tell and the apple, George Washington and the cherry tree and Lincoln's saying at the Hampton Roads conference. Now comes Henry Vignaud, first secretary of the United States embassy at Paris, to prove that Christopher Columbus was not a daring venturer on unknown seas but an impostor who stole another man's knowledge. Vignaud demonstrates, to his own satisfaction at least, by means of a letter and a chart which has been discovered by him, that Columbus learned from an Andalusian sailor the existence of lands to the westward. The sailor, dying, told Columbus that he and some companions were driven westward by adverse winds for twenty-nine days and landed at last in a country where there were naked savages. According to this latest destroyer of historic annals, the knowledge gained from the sailor made the task of Columbus an easy one. Using the charts of the sailor, he and his shrewd pilot, Pulzon, took no risk. They sailed westward and happened on the island of San Domingo. Thus is Columbus proven a fraud and it was well that this continent was named for Amerigo rather than for Christopher. Doubtless in four hundred years from this time higher critics of history will be able to declare the life of Abraham Lincoln a myth. It will be an easy task to show that General Grant could neither read nor write and that Mark Hanna was a common miner who earned his daily bread by the sweat of his brow. Or it may be proven conclusively that Theodore Roosevelt rode ruthlessly through the streets of Washington trampling men, women and children under his horses' hoofs.

All Cannot Get Rich. We are only rich in comparison with those who are poor, and we are poor in comparison with those who are rich, hence if we all became rich we would all be alike poor. While it is true that we cannot all become rich, it is equally true that all those who will intelligently take advantage of circumstances as they present themselves along the pathway of life, will materially improve their condition and make their future years more comfortable to say the least; and among this number there will be many who will become independently rich, by having nerve enough to back up their judgment when these circumstances present themselves. There are but two sources of primary wealth, farming and mining. These include the enhanced value from the settlement and cultivation of the land and the enhanced value from the discovery and development of the mines. Back of all this is the strong arm of labor, human energy intelligently applied.

A Plantation Financier. "Farming this year?" some one asked a Georgia dandy. "Oh, yes, sah!" "Well what's the outlook?" "De'y'll be co'n enough ter feed de chillun." "That's good." "Cotton enough ter clothe 'em." "Excellent!" "An' 'twixt de two, dey'll be sold work enough ter make de white man think I gwine ter live a long time en gwine credit enough ter foreclose me wid a mortgage."—Atlanta Constitution. Fortunate is the girl who loses her temper and never finds it again.

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