### TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Perityphlitis appears to be the thirty-second degree of appendicitis.

Presently Illinois will advertise for bids for a puncture-proof anti-trust

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

People who try to be elegant by calling them "knee trousers" might as well save energy by referring to them as "pants."

That Massachusetts lady who murdered thirty-one people isn't likely to be used as an evidence of woman's refining influence upon man.

The scientists are all mixed up over the causes for the Pelee eruption. But as long as they can't prevent an eruption what's the use of worrying over the class it belongs in?

A Chicago judge thinks \$15 a week isn't enough for a man who has a wife and two children to support. It is likely, however, that Hetty Green and Russell Sage would regard that as sufficient to provide riotous luxury.

One difference between a home and an institution-that is, most institutions—was indirectly brought out at a recent meeting of the ministerial league in a New England city. The league was addressed by the president of a woman's union which has founded a home for working girls. That wise woman told the assembled ministers that one room in the new house is set apart for "sessions of courting," where the girls are permitted to receive calls from men friends. She reported that the "courting room" is often engaged for weeks shead. The ministers laughed, but they also applauded this triumph of human nature over old-fashioned institution rule and routine.

A recent novel represents a sweet and gracious girl as concealing the existence of a will, in order that she may herself inherit an estate, and thus provide for a sick and dependent mother. The author expects us to agree that the girl is a good girl, and that the generous impulse justifies itself in spite of the crime. It is a testimony to the healthy change of public sentiment in the last hundred years that reviewers and readers refuse to accept the author's dictum in the matter. When a man does that sort of thing, we call him a scoundrel. Why not a woman? The defaulting bank cashier, who gave the proceeds of his first theft to the support of foreign missons, went, and deserved to go, to State prison, in spite of his religious impulse. Education is doing a notable work for women in inducing them to assume certain burdens which hitherto many of them have not deemed obligatory. That which men call business honor is one of these burdens. It is a responsible possession. It requires eternal vigilance. But it is worth having and keeping, for women as for men.

There is a hopeful movement among

American churches for concerted action regarding divorce and remarriage. The Episcopal Church took the lead, and invited the Presbyterians to act with it. The Presbyterian General As sembly, at its meeting in New York, appointed a committee to confer and co-operate with the Episcopal committee, and with such committees as might be appointed by other churches. The special end in view is so to affect public opinion as to secure more strict divorce laws, and, if possible, uniform laws in the various States. Were the churches of this country to act together with real earnestness to accomplish this reform, they would probably succeed. The sacredness of marriage and the preservation of the family are religious and moral, as well as social, questions. Success would probably follow a united demand for better laws from the moral and religious forces of the community. It must be remembered, too, that the scandal of easy divorces and swift remarriages is not wholly a matter of legislation. The churches and the clergy are not free from blame. Divorce for trivial causes or through collusion ought to carry with it a social and moral stigma. Parties to such divorces should be unable to find a reputable clergyman to remarry them, yet often they have experienced little difficulty. In order to produce the effect which is desired upon public opinion and upon legislation, the churches must themselves maintain a high standard.

One of the marked tendencies of the times in juvenile literature is the decrease in books written distinctively for girls. Of books for the young there is a never-increasing number, but the expansion is confined solely to boys' books or to volumes meant for both boys and girls. Stories of the "Robinson Crusoe" type are multiplying from year to year, while those of the "Little Women" type are becoming almost extinct. There are at least five books for boys to one for girls in every new season's list. Yet girls probably do more reading than boys. Why this ungallant discrimination? The publishers explain it by saying that they have better success with books meant for both sexes, that books for boys come next in demand, and that volames labeled as girls' literature are not good sellers. The truth is that the American girl spurns the tame and namby-pamby stories usually written pany they are unable to get into.

for her. She would rather read her brother's books than her own. Stories of daring, fighting and adventure are veins as the American boy. There is the act. no such marked difference in the of distinctively feminine stories were elders do, and there is no reason why deny the truth of recitals therein. the girls should not have it as much as the boys. For wholesome and interesting books like Miss Alcott's there will always be a demand, but girls' books as a separate class seem about ter for regret. The present demand of the publishers for juvenile books written for both boys and girls afford at least one instance in which commercial motives are in accord with what is normal and wholesome.

The Rt. Hon, J. Bryce, member of Parliament, delivered a lecture at Oxford recently upon "The Relations of the Advanced and Backward Races of Mankind," which is provoking much interesting discussion in the English press. He described the various results of the contact of two races differing in strength. Either the weaker race died out or was absorbed into the stronger, or the two became commingled into something different from what either was before, or, finally, the two continued to dwell together unmixed, each preserving its own characteristics. By the two processes of absorption and extinction alone more than balf the tribes or peoples that existed when authentic history began have disappeared, and Mr. Bryce is of opinion that within two centuries there might be less than forty languages left and less than twenty na tionalities—that is, branches of mankind of the same stock. As to the fu ture of mankind, he doubted whether any further mixture of advanced and backward races is to be desired. Mr. Bryce dwelt with special emphasis upon the relations of the two races where institutions are democratic, as in the United States, and as may yet be the case in South Africa and the Philippines. Evidently referring to this country, he says: "As regards political rights, race and blood should by the violation of an express rule or not be made the ground of discrimination. Where the bulk of the color. race is unfit for political power a qualification based on property and education might be established, which would 610, to be within the police power of permit the upper section of the race to enjoy the suffrage." As regards social relations, Mr. Bryce goes to the root of the question when he says: takes of how its members should behave to one another. Good feeling and good manners cannot be imposed by statute." "'Tis true, and pity 'tis 'tis true," but the truth of it is illustrated almost every day in this country. Mr. Bryce is greatly puzzled when he re as to the right of plaintiff to summon members how successful Mohammedanism has been in overcoming all color difficulties and creating the sentiment of equality among its followers, while Christianity has been unsuccessful reports which have been circulating Perhaps this is because Christianity throughout the world for the last two inculcates charity towards all and re-years concerning the home life of their ligious equality, while it does not con- queen. A prominent grain importer cern itself with social and political of Holland who is at present traveling equality. If it did, all ranks would be in this country said to a group of leveled—a process for which the world American friends the other evening: is not yet ready. The questions growing out of the contact of the backward and advanced races in this country happy one. If that were true we must be left to time to settle, and this Hollanders would be the first to make is evidently Mr. Bryce's opinion, as the accusation, for surely we would he says in the close of his lecture: not defend the Prussian stranger at "When we think of the problems which the expense of our queen. The marare now being raised by the contact riage itself has never ceased to be a of races, clouds seem to hang heavy love match. on the horizon of the future, yet light | "I would like to give a little incident

WALKING ON THE DANUBE.

ald its upward movement.



The intrepld Austrian "water marube from Vienna to Linz, a distance of nearly 100 miles. He towed his wife in two of them. "And now, children." pedestrianism are five feet long and feet, "what does this story show?" are his own invention.

Edible Petroleum Oil.

Cottonseed oil, corn oil and linseed off, there is good reason to believe, will probably have a rival at a not distant day in edible petroleum oil. As a matter of fact, petroleum has been success. fully desulphurized and demineralized Certain other solids and ingredients have been extracted from it and the production of a fairly good edible oil has already resulted.

When a man sits in the shade and watches those at work in the sun, he prefers being called "critic" "loafer."

Some men are known by the com-

RECENT JUDICIAL DECISIONS.

The existence of an uncontrollable, more interesting to her than tales of insane impulse to commit a crime meek and self-sacrificing misses who known to be such is held, in State vs. act sedately and die young. The Amer. Knight (Me.), 55 L. R. A. 373. not to lean girl has as much red blood in her modify the criminal responsibility for

A municipal corporation is held, in tastes of boys and girls as the makers Independent school district vs. Rew (C. C. App. 8th C.), 55 L. R. A. 364, to GROCERIES. Free delivery to all parts of the City. 260 Larrabee St., corner Hassaio. Portland, Or. 'Phone Scott 371. wont to suppose. They both like life be estopped, in an action on its bonds and action in their books, just as their by an innocent purchaser thereof, to

The mere fact of injury to a streetcar passenger by a collision of the car with a vehicle is held, in Harrison vs. Sutter Street Railway company (Cal.), CALL AT NINTH AND GLISAN STS. 55 L. R. A. 608, to create no presumpto become extinct. Nor is this a mat- tion of negligence against both the carrier and the owner of the vehicle.

That the impulse to steal is inspired by avarice or greed is held, in State vs. McCullough (Iowa), 55 L. R. A. 378, not to preclude the defense of insanity, if the will power is weakened to such an extent as to leave the afflicted one powerless to control the im-

Directors of an insolvent corporation are beld, in American Exchange National bank vs. Ward (C. C. App. 8th C.), 55 L. R. A. 356, not to be precluded from executing a chattel mortgage upon the corporate assets to secure their own just demands, if they act in absolute good faith.

The general manager of a mining 500 Williams Ave. company is held, in Spelman vs. Gold Coin Mining and Milling company THE TOTEM. (Mont.), 55 L. R. A. 640, not to be presumed to have implied authority to make the company liable for medical Headquarters for Old Kentucky Home Chib or surgical aid for its employes injured in the course of their employment without fault of the company,

An employe of a telephone company who attempts to string wires over those of an electric light company is held, in Mitchell vs. Raleigh Electric company (N. C.), 55 L. R. A. 398, to have a right to presume that the light company has complied with an ordinance requiring its wires to be insulated, and to be bound to look for patent defects only.

A statute making carriers liable for injuries to passengers except where the injury is caused by the criminal negligence of the person injured or regulation of the company actually brought to the notice of the injured passenger, is held, in C., R. I. & P. R. Co. vs. Zernecke (Neb.), 55 L. R. A. the State.

Plantiff in an action to recover money is held, in First National Bank vs. Elllott (Kan.), 55 L. R. A. 353, to have "Law can do but little save in the no right to summon or charge himself way of expressing the view the state as garnishee therein, under statutes providing that in case the garnishee falls to answer the court may render judgment against him and giving plaintiff the right to an execution in case the garnishee falls to pay. With this case is a note reviewing authorities or charge himself as garnishee.

Wilhelmina and Her Husband. The Dutch are greatly tried with the

"It is libelous nonsense to say that Wilhelmina's marriage has been an un-

streams in when we remember that of their domestic life which came to the spirit in which civilized states are me directly from a chamberlain-in-honpreparing to meet those problems is or to the royal house. One day the higher and purer than it was when. King was searching through the chamfour centuries ago, the great outward bers of the palace for Queen Wilhelmovement of the European peoples be- mina. He came to the room where the gan." The process of solution must Premier was patiently waiting for an be slow, but it will be hastened when audience. The room was dark, and the of coming forward that it will be for search, and said: 'Finde ich dich hier, the interests of the advanced race to mein liebes Thier?"

"It is a shame to translate that lyrical and human little phrase, 'Mein liebes Thier.' Solomon once spoke of his heart's love as a gazelle, and perhaps that is as near as Anglo-Saxon will come. The incident is typical of the relations of our King and Queen to each other."-New York Tribune.

What the Story Showed. A man who was called on to address a Sunday school in a Pennsylvania town took the familiar theme of children who mocked Elijah on his journey to Bethel-how the youngsters taunted vel." Captain Grossman, recently com- the poor old prophet, and how they pleted a walk on the treacherous Dan- were punished when the two she bears came out of the woods and ate fortysmall boat and accomplished the feat said the speaker, wishing to learn if without a mishap. His boots for water his talk had produced any moral ef-

"Please, sir." came from a little girl well down in front, "It shows how many children two she bears can hold!"-New York Tribune.

Quail the Farmers' Friend. Farmers are waking up to the fact that quail are among their best friends. and are inclined to stop the indiscriminate shooting of these beautiful birds by pot-hunters and sportsmen. The more quail on a farm, the fewer insects there will be, as they are great destroyers of these pests. All birds should be protected, and the quall among them. Only a reasonable number should be allowed to be killed for

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