

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

My boy, don't rock the boat.

It is easier to make records and will than it is to break them.

Many a man sets himself up as a hero because he has no valet.

Even the lecture bureau managers have deserted Colonel Aguilardo.

An amateur is a person who has entered the first stage of ignorance.

Mary MacLane says she has decided that she is not a genius. Now maybe she is one, after all.

Give a boy his choice of presents and he'll take the one that turns out the most noise.

Along with the nonappearance of Mr. Edison's storage battery is the two-minute trotter.

There seems to be a widespread movement among British statesmen to give the boys a chance.

Gold-brick purchasers are born often enough to keep the manufacturers from going out of business.

If every man wanted to do what the world wants him to do the whole thing would be greatly simplified.

Experience teaches. No boy who has held a cannon cracker in his hand till it exploded ever repeats the performance.

The Governor of Yucatan reports that his country has neither a war nor a revolution on hand. Well by gum! Another miracle.

Jane Toppin, the Massachusetts murderess, declares that she wishes to be known as the greatest criminal that ever lived. Did Jane ever hear of a Lucretia Borgia?

Japan has made a greater appropriation for her exhibit at the St. Louis World's Fair than was made by any one of the United States, which is another sign of Japan's progressiveness.

Professor Small must not be too hard on the sons of the rich. In his lecture at the Chicago University on "Rents and Interest" he denounced wealthy young men who lean back in their sea-green automobiles and live on the interest of their fortunes. It is not to be denied that the young man might spend his time and money to better advantage. But if the son of the rich man still prefers his sea-green automobile, who shall say that he is doing nothing for the community? He is dispensing his money in a legitimate way instead of cornering other people's privileges. He may withhold from the poor, but in his way he is giving activity to business and employment to honest labor. He may come to grief by squandering his millions, but that is his own matter. The community cannot suffer by a spendthrift as it can and does suffer from the miser and the monopolist. Professor Small must give the rich young man some credit for benefiting the community, even when the youth is sitting in his sea-green automobile and merely enjoying the landscape.

Albert Audet was recently in jail in Chicago for house breaking. The statement brings up a mental picture of a low-browed character with furtive manner and restless eyes. But Albert Audet who robbed boarding houses is not that kind of a man. Albert dresses in the mode and when arrested eight complete suits, none of which cost less than \$200, were found in his trunk. He is a fine-looking, soft speaking young gent with marks of birth and breeding. And he is well educated. He holds a diploma for bachelor of arts in a Montreal university and is a graduate of a medical college. Maurice Grau paid him good money also for the use of his voice. He sang in the opening east of "Florodora." What link did Fate neglect when it forged the chain of this gentlemanly burglar's make-up? Birth, breeding, bearing, refinement, physical and mental gifts—but somewhere there was a weak spot. Here it is: His principal complaint, after confessing to his crimes, was that he couldn't lie down on his wooden jail bench without wrinkling his clothes! Vaulity. It has been pointed out again and again that ostentation and shallow pride in her clothes has ruined many a girl. But it is also true, though less remarked, that conceit in raiment has spoiled many a boy. The youth who thinks more of his clothes than he thinks of his character is in danger.

The London Times asks if nothing can be done to stop the continuous wholesale exportation of rare and early printed books and illuminated manuscripts to the United States. If something is not done speedily all the treasures referred to with the exception of those in public libraries will be shipped across the Atlantic. Whoever wishes to see the best collection of the handwork of the first English printer will have to visit the United States. It is difficult to see what can be done except for Englishmen to outbid Americans when rare books come on the market. In Italy there are laws which forbid the sale to foreigners by the Italians who own them of certain classes of paintings and statues. England is not ready for such legislation,

which would be looked on as an invasion of private rights. Of course, if Englishmen were so patriotic as to accept a lower offer from a countryman for an illuminated manuscript in order that it might remain in England there would be no occasion for complaints like those of the Times, but because of his love of art and antiquity the American makes the higher bid and the English owner, because of his commercial instincts, accepts it. The Times might lead in the organization of a national defense fund for the purchase of rare books and manuscripts which otherwise Mr. Morgan or some other American will carry off with him whenever offered for sale.

Young man, if you want to succeed in life, beware of self-indulgence. That vice is the bane of modern times. Your forbears succeeded because they exercised the virtues of self-restraint and self-sacrifice. Those virtues sound strangely in your ears. You have little conception of what they mean. In your grandfather's youth there were no heating and cooking stoves, to say nothing of gas ranges. Your grandmother cooked the meals at the fire place or in a Dutch oven. There were no kerosene lamps, no railroads, no telegraphs, no telephones. The civilization of those times was not rich in invention, but it was rich in men and women. There were few luxuries in those early times and little temptation to self-indulgence. Life is made easy for you in one sense and hard for you in another. Mastery of self is more difficult now than it was fifty years ago. There are less difficulties to overcome and more temptations in the way. And if you are not careful of your opportunities the children of other lands will outrun you. It is the children of the foreigners who are doing the heavy work of the land and in so doing they are building up the physical, mental and moral fibre that you lack. Don't make fun of the immigrant. He comes of a large family and is glibly. The man who gets the largest salary in this country is named Schwab. Your greatest enemy is a disposition to self-indulgence, self-indulgence in drink, or passion or social dissipation. If you are to run your race with patience and poise you must deny yourself. Sounds strange? It is true.

The last official act of Judge Andrew Ellison, who died in St. Louis recently, and who for twenty-two years was a circuit judge at Macon, Mo., was to refuse a decree for a divorce. When the divorce proceedings came up for trial the judge waved aside the lawyers and took the case himself. He asked a few questions and read numerous letters written by the parties to each other. Then he said to the litigants: "I suppose that you have both been hasty at times, but you have three little children, who are not responsible for these troubles. The law of both God and man says it is your duty to rear these children, and in the face of the fact that you both come from good people and have good hearts, I will not be an instrument—the last act of my official life will not result in the severance of two young people and in the making of orphans of three little children. I will not do it." It was just before Christmas. The judge, another "Daniel come to judgment," pleaded with the couple to return home together and to-day they are living in harmony. Unhappily for society, few judges will thus exert themselves for the reconciliation of man and wife. They forget that it is the aim of the law to reform, to pacify and to conciliate. In fulfilling the letter of the law they forget the spirit of it. Moreover, this judge knew all the steps of the human organism. He knew what heart strings to touch. The weakness of the belligerent husband and wife was the children. Three little children, three tender ties between husband and wife that hatred could not disentangle. These could never be "his children" nor "her children." Always and forever they would be "our children." The little ones had done no wrong. Why should they be branded and humiliated and made forever sore of heart? That was the tender spot and the judge touched it deftly. Because it is the best thing left to us from Paradise the home lives always in the shadow of its foes. The devil would have only man and wife inside its walls. But God, knowing its needs, sends children.

The Origin of Woman.
According to Hindoo mythology at the beginning of time Twashtri created the world and man. But when he wished to create woman he found that he had exhausted all the materials at his disposal in the creation of man. There remained no solid elements. Twashtri, perplexed, sank into a profound reverie. Presently he grasped an idea and took the roundness of the moon and the undulations of the serpent, the flexible branches of plants and the tremor of grasses, the slenderness of the reed and the velvety touch of the flowers, the lightness of leaves and the glance of the roe, the evanescent glitter of a sunbeam and the tears of the clouds, the fickleness of the wind and the timidity of the hare, the vanity of the peacock and the softness of the down which trims the breast of the sparrow, the hardness of the diamond and the sweetness of honey, the cruelty of the tiger and the warmth of the fire, the coldness of the snow, the chattering of the jay, and the cooing of the turtle-dove, and out of these things woman was made.

It is easier to break a promise than it is to fracture the crust of the average boarding house pastry.
Beware of the amateur who plays poker with a winning smile.

IOWA MILLIONAIRE'S CHARITY.

Abraham Sillmer to Give Vast Fortune Away to Poor.

Millionaire, bachelor, philanthropist, Abraham Sillmer, of Waverly, Iowa, recently moved out of the \$50,000 residence in which he has lived for fifty years, took up his habitation in his woodshed and turned over his magnificent home to the Sisters of Mercy to be used as a hospital. Furthermore, this strange man says he will give away all the rest of his fortune ere he dies. His fortune is variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and Mr. Sillmer is 73 years old, so he will be giving away money pretty rapidly in the next few years.

Mr. Sillmer is no novice at the game of charity. He has already become famed about the State—in fact, throughout the United States—for his mail every day includes a great heap of prayers for money. But they are twisted into knots and tossed into his wastebasket. Abraham Sillmer gives as he chooses and not because he is asked.

Thus he knew of the Finley Hospital at Dubuque. He found it was a worthy institution. He wrote a short letter. "I will give \$50,000 if you raise a like amount," he said.

The other \$50,000 was raised and Abraham Sillmer wrote out his check. He never has been known to give to any but the Sisters of Mercy without asking the recipient to secure a like



ABRAHAM SILLMER.

amount from others. He wants this evidence of good faith, he says.

It is estimated that Mr. Sillmer's gifts have already amounted to \$300,000. He believes charity that vaunteth itself is not genuine.

"If you mention me in naming the institution I will not give you a cent," was what was told the Finley institution at Dubuque.

So no one knows just how much money he has given away. He exacts promises from those he helps not to reveal his name.

His largest contributions have been to the home for aged Jews in Chicago and are thought to have amounted to about \$100,000. The Sisters of Mercy at Cedar Rapids were given \$10,000 recently. Waterloo was offered \$25,000 for a hospital providing a like amount was raised, but the town failed and the money was not given.

Sillmer lays good claim to a position from which he may with impunity condemn philanthropists giving away money that was unjustly earned. He was born in Germany and emigrated to Illinois when 14 years old. Later he located in Waverly. It was in the city when live stock dealing was not a vocation. The profits were large, but sometimes the losses were equally great. Sillmer set to work to master the business. His native shrewdness stood him in good stead and he seldom lost. When the men of the Mississippi Valley now called lumber kings were new at the business Sillmer put his money into sawmills. Here he prospered again. For fifty years his money has been earning more money, till now he very probably is the wealthiest man in the State.

But in all this, Abraham Sillmer's business methods were scrupulously honest. He made no enemies. To-day he is the most loved citizen of Waverly. There is no man to say Sillmer took from him one dollar to which he had no title. Sillmer cares only to help those who cannot help themselves. This is why he makes such large donations to hospitals and homes for the aged.

Private Murphy's Inspection.
The commanding officer of a certain regiment was at a loss to know what to do with one of his men whose persistent untidiness was a source of great worry. Reprimand and punishment had been tried, but it was of no avail; the man was incorrigible. At last the colonel hit upon what he thought a good idea of shaming him into decency. So the company was drawn up on the parade ground, and Private Murphy was ordered to march up and down the ranks, the men having been previously told to have a good look at him. Murphy did so, and, unabashed, halted in front of the colonel, saluted, and in a voice loud enough to be heard by the whole company, "Dhirstest regiment I iver inspected, sorr!"

Siam's Cultured Monarch.
King Khouloukorn of Siam is for an Asiatic monarch unusually advanced. His palace at Bangkok has been fitted up with electric light and all the newest improvements. He has even imported a number of phonographs, which delight his ear with choice musical selections. His majesty can speak English and several continental languages with fluency.

When there is a wedding the women present are not entirely satisfied unless the groom first kisses the bride.

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4:00 P. M.	Albany Passenger...	10:10 A. M.
7:30 A. M.	Corvallis Passenger...	5:30 P. M.
4:30 P. M.	Sheridan Passenger...	8:25 A. M.

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