

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Mr. Balfour never reads newspapers. Well, well, that is discouraging.

Solomon's temple has been found, but the plumbing is reported to be in bad condition.

A revolver is such a useful thing to carry around with you! No fool should be without one.

The meanest burglar on earth has been found. He robbed a child's bank of its few pennies.

Mr. Schwab is overworked. Well, it must keep him pretty busy shoveling the money back from the spout.

The Santo Stefano tower in Venice is threatening to tumble. It seems to be high time for Venice to brace up.

The more money a man saves when young the more he will have to spend on patent medicines when he gets old.

Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, but the majority do not trouble themselves very much about it.

It is hard to satisfy the western farmer. He grumbles when his corn is burned up, and he grumbles when it is drowned out.

"America has the best guns," says a German annual. It is lucky for the editor of the annual that Herr Krupp is not empowered to punish people for leze majesty.

Russell Sage fell from the platform of a New York street car and narrowly escaped being run over. He wasn't hurt, but will probably insist on having his nickel returned anyway.

The doctor who attended Christopher L. Magee, of Pittsburg, during his last illness has been awarded a fee of \$29,250.25. He wanted \$200,000, but the jury evidently took into consideration the fact that Mr. Magee died.

A Missouri paper tells of a man who was cured of a case of rheumatism of sixteen years' standing by being thrown from a horse. The physician who signed the death certificate pronounced the cure permanent.

The recent session of Congress may be remembered in history as the "Ditch Congress." The national system of irrigation which Congress authorized will be a network of ditches, and the canal across the isthmus will certainly be facetiously described as "the great ditch" between the two "big ponds."

No place is exempt from the advertising sign nuisance, it would seem. He has invaded the cemeteries in some towns and tacked his disgusting signs on the trees there. Why don't advertisers stick to the newspapers, where they get some returns for their money and avoid disgusting the landscape and violating the proprieties, as in this case.

A visitor from Scotland to the Toronto conference said a great many people in his country regarded Canada as "the icing on the American plum-cake." Less poetic than the characterization, "Our Lady of Sorrows," the description of the Dominion yet appeals to the imagination of the epicure. The visitor added the significant remark that he believed Canadians themselves had a great share of the cake.

One of the most sensible moves in connection with the army is the proposed change in uniforms. Kahki has been found by British experience in South Africa to be too light, so the proposition is to dress our soldiers in a working garb of olive-drab that is hard to distinguish at a distance from their environment of trees, haze and earth. The change proposed is practical and businesslike, but, alas! what becomes of "the boys in blue?"

The art of retracting without taking anything back—if the bull may be allowed—seems to be understood in Japan. A young orator at a political meeting called a public official a thief. A policeman on duty gravely rose and addressed a remark in a low tone to the speaker, who thereupon said: "The chief of police requests me to retract the word which I have just spoken. Although the word of a sage should never re-enter, let us make a concession; let us take back the word and keep the idea." Great applause and cries of "Bravo!" greeted the orator's escape from his dilemma.

Women of the present generation have not lost all the characteristics of their grandmothers. No colonial housewife could have done better in an emergency than the New Jersey woman who fell into a well the other day. As there was no one within call, she had to save herself or drown, so she climbed up the rope. When she got out she discovered that the kitchen had caught fire from an overheated stove. She instantly pulled a bucket of water up from the well, and rushed to the house with it and put out the fire. Then she got some dry clothes on and went about her work as usual.

In spite of all that can be done to eradicate the sectional issue, it persists in obtruding itself. Its latest manifestation appears in the disagreement between the Eastern and Western man-

gers of the Pennsylvania Railway. The Eastern manager has issued an order forbidding passengers to exchange kisses with their friends in the Jersey City station. They must give such greetings and farewells where they will not obstruct traffic. The Western manager says this order will not be enforced on his side of the Allegheny Mountains. And there you have it—the broad, expansive osculatory freedom of the West pitted against the exclusiveness of the East. If this issue should get into politics, no man could tell what the outcome would be.

The life of the tramp in the West is full of horrible possibilities. One was about to receive sentence for drunkenness the other day when the farmer who had him arrested said: "Don't send him to jail, judge; let me have him." "All right," said the judge; "I will sentence him to you for thirty days." The farmer had to sit on his prisoner all the way home to keep him in the wagon, but his neighbors envied him because he had secured a harvest hand. On a freight train which was wrecked in Kansas fifty or sixty tramps were making their way to Colorado "for their health." The farmers promptly offered them two dollars a day and good food and lodging, but they declined, thinking to "bum" their living. The farmers thought otherwise. They "rounded up" the hoboes with shot-guns and set them at work in the fields, where the women, armed with guns, guarded them. Some amateur photographers who thought the chance too good to miss are said to have had difficulty in getting their subjects to look pleasant.

It is reported from Washington that General Crozier, chief of the ordnance department of the navy, has perfected a time fuse which is to revolutionize the fighting industry. Equip a shell with this device, thick walls and a high explosive, and it may be made to penetrate fourteen inches of Krupp armor before the detonation. As the heaviest armor used on ships of war is only twelve inches thick the shell could reach the interior of any ship without exploding, and then deal destruction in every direction. Exclusive possession of such a power would make a combatant irresistible under the present conditions of defense. Moreover, it is pointed out that there is a limit to the weight of armor which a ship can carry. If it is too heavily loaded a sacrifice of speed and carrying capacity would be necessary. Such inventions should be hailed with greater joy by the unwavering friends of peace than by the enthusiastic exponents of war. The certainty that they will increase the carnage of war is bound to act as a deterrent on military powers, and it may be said with confidence that they have had that effect already. There has not been a war between nations of the first class since the struggle between France and Germany, though international jealousy and hatred have been very pronounced upon occasion, and in Europe at the present time the disposition seems to be to wait for accessions of strength, both from alliances and from these new inventions. Meanwhile the progress of invention is so nearly even that no government maintains an advantage for any great length of time, and all governments count the probable cost of modern battles. The whole situation is summed up in the phrase, "one is afraid and the other dares not." It is only when provocation comes from weak and half-civilized people that martial ardor is encouraged to the fighting point by responsible statesmen. Undoubtedly another cause of restraint among civilized communities is a growing aversion for war, but the inventors have had their influence. They are unwittingly among the greatest benefactors of mankind.

A Penny Photograph.
A familiar automatic machine in England is an automatic photographer. Drop a penny in the slot and get a tintype! The person who wishes to be photographed stands in front of the machine, at a distance of about two and a half feet, and looks steadily into the lens for the space of five seconds. The sound of a gong informs him when the operation is over. The interior machinery then passes the tintype on which the likeness is taken through a chemical bath in order to develop the picture, and another to secure its permanence, and finally through a water bath where it is washed. In less than fifty seconds the finished portrait is ejected, and if you are in a spendthrift mood you can for another penny obtain a gilt frame.

Simp's, Indeed.
It seems as if the acme of frugality had been reached by a French officer who explained, with many appropriate gestures, his system of sustaining life on a pension of five francs a week. "It is simple, veree, veree simple," he said to the friend who had expressed amazement at his feat. "Sunday I go to ze house of a good friend, and zere I dine so extraordinary, and eat so veree much, zat I need no more till Wednesday. "On zat day I have at my restaurant one large, veree large, dish of tripe and some onions. I abhor ze tripe, yes, and ze onion also, and together zey make me so seek as I have no more any appetite till Sunday. You see, it is veree simple."

It is usually said of nearly every woman who is ailing: "She would be all right if she would take care of herself."

It's easier to pick a fuss with your neighbor than it is to pick music out of a banjo.

FAINTING LESS COMMON.

Outdoor Exercises Regarded as in a Large Measure Responsible.
It is a curious fact, of general remark and observed not by physicians only, that fainting is less common than it used to be. It is rare that one sees a woman carried out of church or the theater, yet forty years ago it was a matter of such common occurrence as barely to excite remark. This is due in very great measure to the outdoor life young women lead in these days of tennis and golf and other sports. The heart and the circulation are strengthened by exercise in the open air, and it takes a greater shock to disorder the blood balance in the body of the modern woman than it did in that of her grandmother. The habit of fainting is not so much a sign of weak heart as it is of an excitable circulation. It is caused by anemia of the brain resulting from a dilatation of the blood vessels of the body and the consequent flow into them of the entire mass of blood. This absence of blood from the brain arrests the action of the heart and produces loss of consciousness. It is probable that the heart does not stop beating entirely, but it acts so feebly that no pulse can be felt.

Alarming as a fainting spell may be, it is very seldom indeed when the heart is not actually diseased that a person dies in one. Women are more liable to faint than men, but there are few even of the latter who have not at some time during their lives experienced at least a faint feeling, if not an actual loss of consciousness.

In the case of a fainting fit, the first thing to do is to lay the person flat on the back, if possible with the head lower than the feet, and then to loosen all the clothing. Vigorous fanning and sprinkling the face with cold water will help to equalize the circulation. Burning a feather under the nose is sometimes of service. Smelling salts may also be used, but ammonia water is unadvisable, for the person may suddenly take a deep breath and inhale a powerful dose of the pungent gas. Brandy and all other alcoholic stimulants will do more harm than good.

Persons who are subject to fainting spells should avoid hot rooms and hot baths, stimulants of all kinds—strong tea and coffee as well as alcohol—and food of an indigestible nature.—Youth's Companion.

What a Barber sees.
"In the good old days," said a West End barber to P. W. the other day, "nobody was in a hurry. A man took all day for a bath and a haircut, and expected entertainment thrown in with the towels and the lather. In those days the barber talked to kill time, but nowadays time kills all talk. "Smooth faces are on the increase. A man cannot keep his secrets behind a smooth face, and it is a mystery to me, therefore, why nearly everybody is shaving, seeing that half the world is laying itself out to cheat the other half. A beard covers unpleasant looking facial lines, an agreeable fact which ought to fit in with the tastes of the majority of business men, but it doesn't, somehow."

A clean-shaven man is usually good and handsome. That has always been my experience. But the man who has the right to a smooth face is he with a fine, strong chin and clean-cut lips and good teeth and honest eyes; on the other hand, men with receding chins and weak upper lips and projecting teeth and ugly lines at the corner of the mouth ought to be required by law to grow either a mustache or a beard, or both. A few years ago it was only actors and waiters, coachmen and footmen, who affected the shaven face, but the present universal fashion no doubt took root some years ago when barristers first commenced to shave.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

A Cause of Grief.
Major John Burke, avant-courier of Buffalo Bill's Wild West exhibition and one of the picturesque appurtenances of that venture, told a party of Philadelphians during the recent local visit of the show an anecdote concerning two doughty old Indian chiefs who were present at the officers' dinner in one of the frontier forts. Both chiefs had ugly records, but possessed the respect of the officers as brave fighters, and were known as men of influence on the reservation. One of the pair was attracted by the bright yellow of a pot of freshly mixed English mustard, and motioned to the waiter to pass it. He took a tablespoonful and put it into his mouth. Then his face set, his teeth were clenched in agony, and the tears welled from his eyes and down his cheeks in a torrent. Without a word he passed the pot to his fellow red man, nodding approvingly to indicate that it was good to the taste. "Why does the chief cry?" he was asked by his friend, who noted the tears suffusing his cheeks. "I cry," he replied, "because my grandfather is not here to enjoy the feast."

A second spoonful went into the mouth of the other red man, and with similar effect. "And why do you cry?" asked the first, as he noted the tears with vengeful satisfaction. "I cry," said his friend, "for that you did not die when your brave grandfather died!"—Philadelphia Times.

To Cure Seasickness.
A simple preventive of seasickness is to draw a long and vigorous breath at frequent intervals. The explanation is that the extra oxygen added to the blood lessens the sensitiveness of the lobe of the brain that produces seasickness by reacting on the stomach. A man's word in business is better than his word in a love affair.

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