

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A lady typewriter has become a lion tamer. Probably got tired of being dictated to.

Adam was lucky in another way. He had no friends to come around telling him how he ought to bring up his boys.

King Edward has distributed 400 more coronation honors without noticing the raised finger of William Waldorf Astor.

The surgeon who operated on King Edward says appendicitis is really a good thing. He speaks from the surgeon's standpoint.

The man who killed his wife because she talked too much set an example which, if generally followed, would soon exterminate the human race.

Another time-honored proverb exploded. Jabinski, the giant, is said to be the longest Pole in the world, and he never knocked a persimmon in his life.

Some of the independent steel companies are getting ready to fight the big trust. Or it may be that they desire to be absorbed at profitable figures.

France wants an easier divorce law. According to reports, an easier marriage law might obviate some of the evils. It is so much trouble to get married that some people neglect to do it.

The luminous and pregnant notion that the motor vehicle is a convenience, like a cab, not a medium of sport, like a race horse, is gradually penetrating the intellects of faddists devoted to rapid motion. In the nature of things it ought to take root and bear fruits meet for latter-day civilization.

The continued unhealthy condition along the Amhejemackomas, Eskweskwawajo and Moskaskesechuck rivers in Maine have induced the State Board of Health to decree that no further use of the waters from these streams for domestic purposes shall be made until their names have been boiled down.

Queen Alexandra has revived the use of the word "lady," which has been tabooed by the polite society of England in favor of "woman" during the last decade, but reported proceedings of female members of the London "swag set" lead to the belief that her majesty is premature in the revival.

Modern economy permits less and less to go to waste. It gathers up the fragments, saves odds and ends, finds a use for what once was called worthless. The saving may take a philanthropic turn, as in the case of a large factory in Jena, Germany, which utilizes its surplus hot water in such a way as to give the laborers nearly a thousand baths a week.

When the eruption of Mont Pelee wiped out the city of St. Pierre and destroyed more than thirty thousand lives, the world was aghast. Papers were crowded with details of the catastrophe, and every line was eagerly read. Since the middle of July almost as many lives have been destroyed by the cholera in Egypt, yet the only news of that loss which has reached the world at large has been a few lines in the London papers. A curious commentary on the power of the spectacular and unusual, even in death!

Impoliteness or unpleasantness on the part of salesgirls is often attributed to the ill manners of the women who face them on the other side of the counter. Often it is, for salesgirls are only human, but the Dry-Goods Economist thinks there is another cause. It says of one store with which it is familiar, "Every employe in it seems to be good-natured. Why should there be any difference in this respect between this establishment and the average store? Is not human nature about the same the world over? True; but there is a difference. The proprietor of this store is not only a merchant, but a gentleman. He treats his employes with marked courtesy and consideration. As a consequence, they feel so kindly disposed toward him and his business that their good-will is reflected in their treatment of his customers." Some storekeepers never find out why it is that so few of their casual customers become regulars.

If an Italian wants to praise a woman most highly, he does not tell you she is beautiful, or that she is witty, or learned, but he sums up her virtues by saying she is simpatica. What praise this really is, and how much happier the world would be if only a larger number of us deserved it! Sympathy is a great power as a maker of sunshine. Think of the most sympathetic man or woman you know, and think how great and cheering an influence that person exercised over you in some time of trouble and anxiety. Very likely you may have felt at the very time that had you been alone you could not have borne the weight of care or sorrow, but with the friend's sympathy were able both to bear it, and even to spare thought and sympathy for other people. Sympathy, like mercy, "blesseth him that gives and him that takes," and those who, as it were, padlock up their powers of sympathy, lose a great deal of the joy of life. Among the poor, perhaps, the quality is more common than among the rich, for certainly

wealth, especially that which has been hardly gained, seems to cause the growth of a crust of selfishness round former kindly hearts and renders them hard, when poverty and sorrow would have made them tender.

Those who have clung to the Malthusian theory and have been apprehensive that population would increase faster than food supply have occasion to banish fear for millions of years to come. Bacteria, with which name so much of an offending nature is connected, have their virtues, or rather we should say there are bacteria and bacteria. It has been found that some of the genus are important agents in the growing of crops. The prospect is that farmers will go the nearest drug store, purchase the special bacteria required, inoculate the soil and be sure of a harvest. The chief of the division of chemistry at Washington is authority for the claims made for "bottled bacteria" as a commercial product and the value of these organisms in insuring a harvest. Another hopeful outlook is the assurance that what is known as "Mendall's law" has been proved an established fact. This law relates to cross fertilization. Its discovery promises to revolutionize the hybridization of plants and to turn chance into certainty. For instance, hitherto it has been impossible to foretell what the seed from any variety of the apples of commerce would produce. Now by the hybridization of two self-sterile varieties the variety produced may be perpetuated continuously by the seed produced. When one adds to these two important discoveries the wonders effected in agriculture by the use of electricity there is little occasion to fear any failure of needed supplies. Intelligence and thrift led to themselves are easily able to ward off Malthus and his pessimistic theories.

Human life is a school. It begins in the mother's arms and ends only on the great Graduation Day when on your diploma and mine shall be written either "Well Done," or "Depart." The boy or girl who believes that education is complete when commencement day has arrived makes a big mistake. That day is a mere passage way from school life to life's school. No man or woman ever gets too old to learn something in the school of life. The first lesson that must be learned is obedience. Duty is the school master. He who fails to learn the first lesson will fail at all the others. Why? Because character is the A, B, C of successful life. Brilliance, ambition, energy—all these are worthless if the inner voice of duty is disregarded. And this is in the very nature of things. He who cannot conquer himself cannot conquer obstacles outside of himself. To successfully organize material things a man must first organize himself. He must be in harmony with himself, with the laws of his being. To become anything he must be that thing. If he achieves goodness he must be good. If he achieves greatness he must be great. The first lesson being learned, the others are easy. Character, character, character—you can build any sort of success on that firm foundation. If you build on anything less your success is ignoble success, and therefore, only successful failure. Why do men stumble, morally, all through life? Because they stumble at the first lesson. If you learn to obey the call of duty, although the other lessons may seem hard betimes and the tears may fall on the page of the book, you have only to say, "I tried to learn it, Teacher." And the greatest of all Teachers will show you the solution.

Indorsed the King's Conduct.
Readers of the Sketch will recollect that on the occasion of the recent visit of the king and queen to the Isle of Man, an illustration of the royal party, including Hall Calne, who acted as cicerone, was published. In that photograph there is a picture of a small boy wearing his hat. He is Derwent, the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Calne, and is 10 years old. Only he and the Marquis de Soveral, the Portuguese ambassador, remained covered in the presence of the king, the marquis because he does fealty to another sovereign and Master Derwent for a reason of his own, which came out when the photograph had been printed and he was looking at it with his mother. "Derwent," she said, "why didn't you take your hat off? Didn't you see that all the gentlemen did so?" "Yes, mother," he replied, "but I kept my eye on the king, because I knew whenever he did would be all right, so when he kept his hat on it would be right enough for me."—Landon Sketch.

The American Iron "Plant."
The Englishman was being properly surprised at the rapidity with which the sky scraper was going up.
"Death me!" he exclaimed, "it seems as if your buildings grow as rapidly as your maize."
"Yes," replied the Westerner, unblushingly, "and the process of raising them is much the same."
"Fawney! Won't you explain further?"
"Well, you see, we just get an iron plant, put it in the ground, have the street sprinklers water it, and in a month or six weeks the sky scraper is full grown."
And, taking another breath, the cousin from over seas managed to believe it.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

In order to simplify social affairs, it is suggested that every hostess have a printed bill of fare, so that her guests will be prepared, when asked when they get home, "What did you have to eat?"
A sure cure for insomnia is to have someone knock on the door and tell you to get up.

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