

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Observe the promotion of Wu Ting-fang and never make fun of the man who asks questions.

Along comes the ax trust. It will be followed by the hammer trust. Then what will the knockers do?

There is a rumor in Vienna that Leopold "is suffering from a mental aberration." Austria is catching up to the news.

The defunct peanut trust might have known that it couldn't corner the product, with so many peanut politicians in active competition.

The English name Phtholopyrrrh is pronounced Turner. Yet we wonder that England is falling behind in the mad race for wealth!

It has been found that antitoxin will cure rattlesnake bites. It isn't likely, however, that the new cure will make much headway in Kentucky.

What does it matter if the Missouri Valley Homeopathic Association did pass a resolution condemning the kiss? Who cares for kissing in homeopathic doses, anyway?

The superintendent of the public schools says good spellers are born and not made. Still, most of them have to learn more or less before they get along very far.

Only a few playmates of Queen Victoria are living now. According to the number of them that have died recently she must have had a large circle of acquaintances as a little girl.

Porto Rico had a lively campaign. At least half a dozen men were killed in election rows. After this who can doubt the fervor of the Porto Ricans in their desire to be thoroughly American?

The succession of patriots does not fail. As Secretary Hay said to the Grand Army men in Washington, "The men of to-day are as good Americans as the men of yesterday, and the men of to-morrow, with God's blessing, will be the same."

Our compliments to that German prince who has made an offer for Miss Goelet, and we beg to say that our girls never marry unless they think they love, although, in the case of titled foreigners, they sometimes act on insufficient evidence.

The wear and tear on the tires of a heavy automobile is reckoned by one expert to be equal to four or five cents a mile, which is more than the cost of fuel. When fines for exceeding the speed limit and damages for accidents caused by frightened horses are added to the cost of the sport, it will be seen that the ordinary citizen must still content himself with a special train.

"A beautiful building," Bishop Potter once said of a modern but medieval-looking church he had been asked to dedicate. "With only three faults: you cannot see in it, you cannot hear in it, you cannot breathe in it." When the question for debate is why church-going is on the decline, let the disputants not forget to look into the matters of church lighting, acoustics and ventilation.

The Indian should have been taught to do something. He should have been trained along practical lines even while he was making a scholar of himself. If he developed a peculiar aptitude for languages, some particular science or high art, then it might have been well enough to encourage him in every possible manner to broaden and fill himself. He, like many others, has been taught to make a show and scatter, and in this day and time the last state of such graduate is worse than the first.

Captain Otto Sverdrup, the Swedish Arctic explorer, who returned from the polar regions about the same time as Robert E. Peary, has been invested by King Oscar of Sweden with the grand cross of St. Olaf, and by Emperor William with the Prussian Order of the Crown of the first class. In addition, a pension of \$810 a year has been settled upon him in Sweden. This is the way they recognize achievement in Europe. When Peary receives the honors and rewards he deserves we will make note thereof.

One thing that the census tells us is that the Indians are not only not disappearing, but that they actually have increased 30,000 since 1890. Those who juggle with figures say, also, that there are quite as many Indians in the country to-day as there were when it was discovered. Taking this into consideration with the wars they have gone through, not only with the white men, but between themselves, we shall have to readjust our previous opinions and acknowledge that after all they are a pretty tough, enduring nation.

Tourists in Switzerland will soon have a choice of sensational experiences. If they do not care to climb Mount Blanc, they may make a "submerged excursion" in a submarine boat in Lake Geneva. The boat will travel twenty-five miles under water and a mile and a half on the surface, tickets for the trip will cost twenty-five dollars, and each passenger will receive a life insurance policy for twenty-five hundred dollars. The guaranty of insurance is not, perhaps, so reasonable as it was meant to be; but as a whole the proposition conveys a pleasing suggestion that submarine voyages are ceasing to be experimental and becoming safe.

President Patton of Princeton declared before his recent resignation that our national conscience is in imminent danger on account of the great desire for luxury and wealth which is pervading this country to the detriment of all other ambitions. It cannot be denied that prosperity has its perils and that a dulling of the conscience as to the means and methods of gaining wealth is not the least among them. It is doubtless true that the mere published statements of the vast sums of money accumulated by certain individuals in these days and the still vaster amounts represented in the capitalization of certain trusts and "combinations," have the effect upon some minds of arousing discontent, inordinate desire, and reckless ambition. The corollary of all this would seem to be not to make an end of prosperity or even of large accumulations of wealth, since these things, on the whole, work for good rather than evil, but to press forward more strenuously than ever in the development of higher ideals among men, in the enforcement of sound morals and pure religion, by which men are taught that the highest and most enduring happiness comes not through riches, but through right living. If we are to fortify ourselves as a nation and a people against the insidious workings of that spirit of greed, selfishness and sordid commercialism, springing out of the possession of wealth and its luxuries, it can only be by a still greater insistence upon those forms of education making for the development of the spiritual nature.—Leslie's Weekly.

A correspondent of the Bookman calls attention to the remarkable improvement in the mechanical and artistic makeup of American books in the last decade or two, especially in juvenile works. The illustrations in the children's books of twenty years ago were indeed "something fearful and wonderful to behold" as compared with the average juvenile volume of the present year. In spite of the enormous increase in the number and variety of children's books, the illustrations in most of them are highly creditable. Many of the best artists in the country are devoting their talents to this kind of work. The fact is one of happy augury for the artistic sense of the rising generation. Even the improvement in illustrations and binding, however, is not so remarkable as the increase in the number of juvenile books annually put upon the market. An examination of the publishers' announcements shows that the list of new juvenile books is considerably larger than that of new fiction for adults. Most of these volumes find a profitable market, for the publishing of children's books has proved to be a profitable branch of the trade. The next generation will be a generation of omnivorous readers, if a multiplicity of juvenile books can educate them into that habit. Whether or this is a desirable consummation is another question. It is by no means certain that the phenomenal increase in the amount of juvenile fiction is a matter for congratulation. The average story for boys or girls is fully as ephemeral as the average adult novel. Happily there is every reason to believe that the boys and girls do not actually read as much as the large sales of juvenile books would indicate. The sales indicate the gift-giving propensities of prosperous parents and friends rather than the reading habits of the children. The latter as a rule pay more attention to the pictures than to the text, except where the stories are read to them. For this reason the increasing excellence of the illustrations is most fortunate.

Morgan Does Give Tips.
"My tips to servants on the Oceanic amounted to \$13," said a traveler who came over with J. Pierpont Morgan. "The rule is to give \$2.50 to the table steward, \$2.50 to the bedroom steward, \$1 to the bathroom steward, \$2 to the check steward, \$2 to the smoking-room steward, \$1 to the shoeshine steward and \$5 to the chief steward. In case he has performed special courtesies. As these special courtesies were wanting on my trip, I cut the chief steward out and gave the deck steward \$4 because he took excellent care of me, reserving the best place for my steamer chair, etc. I saw Morgan give the chief steward \$100, and it was generally understood among the help that all would fare in proportion. I guess he gave the table steward \$50."—Detroit News.

Who's Move?
When Steinitz, the chess player, lived in Vienna one of his pupils in the game was Gustave Epstein, among the richest bankers of the Austrian capital. One day the teacher puzzled over a position so long that Epstein said, impatiently: "Well?" But soon the banker himself was in a hole, and his too-prolonged meditations were interrupted with a disrespectful "Well?" "Sir, don't forget who you are and what I am," said Epstein, angrily, but Steinitz retorted: "On the board you are Epstein and I am Steinitz; over the board I am Epstein and you are Steinitz."—Nashville American.

A Joke Either Way.
Friend—You call that a joke? You'll never be able to sell it.
Humorist—Well, in that case it will be a joke on me.
"I see, and if you do sell it it will be a joke on the editor."—Smart Set.

No Wonder.
Biggs—They say young Squanderleigh is unable to hoe his own row.
Diggs—Naturally. He's a rake.

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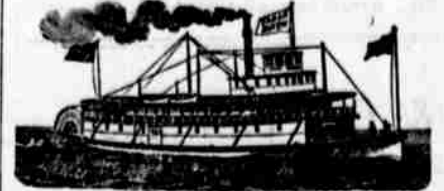
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