

Topic Times

New York has a German population of 809,000 and Chicago has 440,000.

The twenty-five largest London theaters sent 28,000 people and earn \$30,000 a night.

England gets about \$5,000,000 worth of new gold from Africa every month and \$7,500,000 worth out of Australia.

Miss Vida Goldstein, the woman candidate in Victoria for a seat in the Commonwealth Senate, was not elected, but she received 51,000 votes.

The annual loss from the burning of buildings in the United States is about \$135,000,000, not including cost of insurance and the appliances for fire protection.

A bore put down at Cessnock, near Maitland, in New South Wales, recently penetrated, at a depth of 290 feet, a seam of coal twenty-seven feet in thickness.

In a divinity essay written by an English schoolboy appeared the following passage: "So he sed unto Moses. Come forth; but he come fifth and lost the Jobb. Morral, Git up uryl."

Mr. Chamberlain is said to be a remarkably proficient political stage manager, appreciating and knowing the value of a dramatic entrance quite as well as Sir Henry Irving or Mr. Beerbohm Tree.

It is stated that over 2,700,000 tons of dust ejected from the Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent have fallen on the island of Barbados. The dust, contrary to expectation, has been found to have no fertilizing value.

Public revenue of Great Britain from April 1, 1903, to the latest date at hand amounted to \$227,849,705, a decrease of \$28,004,705 from last year.

The value of exports to the United States from Panama in the fiscal year 1903 amounted to \$193,342, of which \$56,767 was the value of hides, \$40,974 India rubber, \$27,805 cocobolo nuts, \$16,598 ivory nuts, \$13,372 deer skins and \$6,908 coffee.

Phonographic records of Emperor William's voice, on metal matrices, will be the first deposits made in the phonetic archives that are to be kept at Harvard University, and in the Congressional Library and the National Museum at Washington.

The Russian government has elaborated statutes on general life insurance by the state. The business is to be entrusted to the governmental savings banks. All kinds of policies will be issued and the insured will participate in the profits of the business.

Cobra George Salem, an Egyptian, who entered the Missouri University last fall and is taking the four-year course in agriculture, is so well pleased with his work that he has succeeded in persuading several of his friends in Egypt and Turkey to come and take a similar course in some American college.

In commemoration of the Indian princess Pocahontas, who died at Gravesend, England, when about to sail to Virginia with her husband in 1616, St. George's Church, in Wapping, is to have a pulpit made of wood brought from Virginia. Pocahontas is buried in the chancel of St. George's Church.

The Greco-Roman chariot in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, one of the new exhibits, has excited great interest among artists and archaeologists. Its preservation was due to the fact that it was buried by the ashes of Vesuvius. Many other treasures were found in the same neighborhood, some of which Baron Rothschild bought and presented to the Louvre. The chariot in question is two-wheeled and is perhaps the rarest in the world.

Feb. 13 was the centennial of the use of steam traction on railroads. It was only a five-ton moving engine running over the Merthyr Tydfil course. Its inventor was Richard Trevithick, a Cornishman. It could draw fifteen tons at a rate of five miles an hour. It had an eight-inch cylinder and footed wheels, which caught in notched rails and helped it over hard places in the track. Only a few trips were made by it, for the experiment was not commercially profitable.

TALENT HAS DEVELOPED EARLY. Precocious Youngsters Who Are Making Their Mark in the World.

At Grand Rapids, Mich., there is a precocious child who recites selections from Kipling, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Eugene Field and James Whitcomb Riley with apparently as much appreciation of the demands of the pieces in the matter of expression and dialect as many a professional elocutionist.

This child is Louise Remington Fay, 3 1/2 years old, daughter of Mrs. Helen Remington Fay. She comes naturally by her talent, as her mother is an elocutionist and has appeared more or less in public ever since she was a few years older than her daughter.

Recently Louise gave readings from Kipling and Dunbar before the Education Club, and the event has been the talk of its members ever since. She has also appeared in public on several other occasions. The child's mind does not seem taxed in the least by her work.

A youthful inventor has just built a wireless telegraph apparatus which he has operated with success in the physical laboratory of the Indianapolis Manual Training High School. He is Arthur Berger, 15 years old, who will be graduated with the June four class.

Berger conceived the idea four years ago of making a wireless telegraph system. He gathered all the knowledge he could of the Marconi system from scientific periodicals. When familiar with the apparatus and the fundamental principles he began his first machines. They were crude affairs, but demonstrated the soundness of the principle on which he had built them.

Last year, during his study of electricity in advanced physics, Berger began the construction of a second set of instruments, with many improvements upon his former system.

The construction of a wireless telegraph system is not the first apparatus made by Berger. He has invented an automatic letter-folding machine designed to facilitate the work of the mailing departments of large business firms. The machine folds the letters, puts in any advertising matter desired, such as a return postal card, seals the letters and puts the stamps on. It is a simple device, and a child could operate the machine. Berger is perfecting the letter-folding apparatus and expects to put it on the market soon.

"Tibbie" Page, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Page, of Payson, Utah, is the latest musical genius of Utah. Though only 6 years of age, the child plays the cello in dance music and executes difficult accompaniments to violin selections by her father.

The little girl was born June 27, 1897, and even before she could walk was humming tunes. After hearing her father play the violin she would hum the melody, and when her hands were powerful enough to lift a bow she picked up the knack of handling it, solely by observation. At the end of a week, having had a few lessons in the methods of placing the fingers, she could play parts by ear with her father.

The child practiced until she was able to play waltzes, all by ear, and now she accompanies her father in difficult numbers. She has been playing her part in the orchestra during a six months' tour of Utah, Idaho and Oregon. In addition to her other accomplishments the little girl is a clever dancer and sings well.

DIFFICULTIES OF STEPMOTHER. Some of the Trials Which Beset the Path She Must Tread.

Stepmothers often have to meet many difficulties quite unknown to the mother whose children are quite her own, with no one to contradict the relationship. And it is too true that there are always those who are looking for flaws in the "new mother" who has taken charge of another woman's children. Will she treat them properly? Will she care for them, and will they love her? And will she teach them to forget their own mother? Meddlesome women are constantly on the lookout for some fault to find with the stepmother. And yet a woman who undertakes this noble mission is often as capable as the own mother might have been to rear the young folk, and frequently is very fond of children, which trait, after all, is half the battle.

One woman who took up the charge of caring for stepchildren found that one little boy was extremely nervous and sensitive. In regard to his school work, in particular, he was very anxious, and questions or words of sympathy only seemed to tend to make him feel more worried until he would be ill. At last his new mother learned that he was what is termed "slow" in school, and that his teacher was marking his arithmetic lessons below par principally because he did not work out his problems after the usual rules, but after a fashion taught him by his new mother, who had methods of her own. The boy had grown so nervous over his failures that the stepmother thought best to take him out of school for a term, and help him herself by individual teaching.

Not being in touch with the methods used in this particular school, she could only point out to the child the principles of the work, after which he would readily apply the regular school system taught in the text book, with good results. This experiment, far from setting him back in his school progress, placed him in a position to "skip" a year's work, and he eventually entered high school ahead of what would have been his regular time. This through the efforts of his stepmother, whom he loved with all his heart, and which love did not grow dim when he became a young man and went out to meet the trials of the world.—New York Sun.

The Man Was Consoled. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., is an enthusiastic motorist. While speeding one of his red devils along a Long Island road he saw a man and a dog far ahead of him, the dog running in and out of the bushes.

As he whizzed past a moment later the dog darted out ahead of the machine to bark at it, was run over and instantly killed. Mr. Vanderbilt stopped his machine and returned. "I'm very sorry, old man," he said to the man. "Will that make it all right?" He held out a fifty-dollar bill.

"It will," said the man, taking it. Then, as the machine flew away down the road, he looked sympathetically at the remains and said: "Poor little devil. I wonder whose dog it is?"

Then There Was Silence. A well-known English actor was once, while a young man, touring through the provinces. One night when his cue came he was nervous, and on going upon the stage could hardly speak. The audience was greatly displeased, and "things began to come his way." He stood this bombardment for a few minutes until a green head of cabbage sped by his ear. Stepping to the front of the stage, he raised his hand for silence, and exclaimed: "I came here to-night determined to please an interested audience, but I sincerely regret that any person has lost his head over the matter!"

Not Appreciated. "Now, Tommy," said the fond mother, "when you see people your senior standing you must ask them to sit down, and they'll like you."

"I asked old man Sparks to sit down, and he tried to lick me," replied Tommy.

"How was that?"

"The pavement was wet and slippery."

Prepared for Showers. "I hope," said the thrifty old farmer, "that you have something laid up for a rainy day."

"Sure thing," replied his nephew from the city. "I've got seventeen borrowed umbrellas."

Disorder in a political meeting seldom begins until after it is called to order.

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