

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

It is Korea's privilege to furnish the seat of war.

One touch of nature sometimes makes the whole world grin.

It's an easy matter for a stingy man to get rich—but what's the use?

Flour is going so high that paste diamonds may soon be worth more than the real.

Sir Edwin Arnold's fame is secure. He was the first prominent white man to marry a Japanese girl.

This massaging of the heart is no discovery of modern surgery. Dan Cupid has practiced it for centuries.

It seems like a reckless waste of pathological effort to discover the germ of mumps after nearly everyone has had them.

The suspicion that a cigar was the cause of the Baltimore conflagration will cause the parlor match to say "There are others."

It must be through patriotism or because they have to do it that the Russian soldiers go to the front to fight for \$3.90 a year.

There is nothing remarkable about Queen Alexandra eating a 9-cent dinner; many an American queen tackles no better fare every day.

If every man would put as much ginger into his work as a pig puts into motion when it scratches its back against a board fence there would be fewer failures in this world.

Kouropatkin has promised not to return to St. Petersburg until he has unfurled the Russian flag over the Mikado's palace. Kouropatkin is easily the most promising warrior now in captivity.

"Wealth is not worth striving after," declared John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to his Sunday school class. It is surprising how much easier it is for a person not compelled to labor to make such an assertion.

A Kansas farmer is not bragging much over his score. He has bought three gold bricks within five years! That's nothing. We bought mining stock three times consecutively. But it was a long time ago—in the eighties.

With the proceeds of eggs laid on Sundays an English countrywoman has enriched the Church Missionary Society by 17 shillings. The idea of returning to the Lord the things that are of His day shows both sentiment and sense.

The wife of an itinerant Methodist preacher in Missouri having fallen heir to \$500,000, such a common little thing as a pants button in the contribution box does not seem to him a matter of such world-wide moment as it did a few months ago.

One curious effect of the war in the Orient will be to send a large number of Coreans to the Hawaiian islands to work on sugar plantations. As all labor conditions in their own country are upset the Coreans will be more willing than before to engage in raising cane in our new territory. As laborers they are said to be industrious and peaceful, a great contrast to the Japanese, who are given to strikes and other disturbances.

Boston has to own among its citizens a man who proposes that school-boys shall go to school from 8 o'clock until 5 six days a week, and have but two weeks' vacation in the year. He thinks they should not enjoy more leisure than is granted to office boys. It was to be supposed that the last man died long ago who did not know that the boy who never goes fishing is as badly educated as the boy who goes fishing when he ought to be in school.

A thorough investigation of the post-office establishment would inevitably lead to an inquiry into the uses and abuses of the postal franking privilege extended to Congressmen (by Congress). And such an inquiry would in all probability prove to be quite embarrassing to some of the members. Instances have been known in which members of Congress have forced the mail service to transport their household effects, under their franks, and the tale is told that one member even wanted to send a cow free in a postal car. It is an open secret that some members of Congress make the post-office do express service for them and that others circulate various sorts of literature under their postal franks.

"I am well." Do you appreciate the force of that declaration? Suppose, on the contrary, you say, "I am sick." Keep on saying it. Begin to believe it. You will end in your bed. Yes, there is something in Christian Science. There is something in The New Thought, or Suggestive Therapeutics. These systems contain the germ of a great truth—the influence of the mind over the body. More than that, the mind influences itself. It influences itself by the subtle power of suggestion—the foundation of hypnotism. So that it will not do to say that it makes no difference what one believes. It matters tremendously. If you believe you are happy you are, for the time, happy. If you believe you are pure, and keep on believing it, you will be pure. If you believe you are strong, so long as you believe it, you are strong. Of course there are limitations to this power of faith. Circumstances and conditions affect it. And it may be carried to a ridiculous extreme. But—it is a workable power and every creature ought to know it. Keep in mind the fact that you are captain on the deck of your mortal vessel. The helm is in your own hands. Storms and currents may deflect your course, but, these aside,

you are supreme master of the voyage and of its destiny.

Carroll D. Wright says "the wage system will pass away" and a system which will be composed of the profit-sharing and co-operation ideas will succeed it. "The fashion of this world passeth away," says St. Paul, and the fashion of paying for work in wages may pass away, although it has existed from the beginning of recorded time. The system, like all human systems, has its defects. It does not give to everybody the exact equivalent for his toil. No new method of compensating labor which can be devised and introduced will be fair to all at all times, and the complaints that the worker does not get enough, which have been heard since the first employer hired the first employe, will not cease. The laborer will continue to complain that he does not have a fair share of the wealth he assists in producing. A system which has endured for thousands of years does not fade away in a day, even though the one Mr. Wright talks about has defects, one of them being that workers are always striking somewhere to get better pay. Probably Mr. Wright does not believe he will live to see the day when profit sharing and co-operation will rule in the industrial world. The ideas of workmen will have to change materially before they will surrender the certainty of the wage system, inequitable though it may be sometimes, for the uncertainty of the profit sharing system. They would accept it if business were always good and profits always large, but it would not suit them when lean years came. If it were introduced they would agitate for a larger share of profits, as they do now for higher wages. There would be the old conflict under a new name.

When a man has nothing to talk about which interests him more than the shadowy possibilities of the distant future he may discuss with propriety the passing away of the wage system. It is not a living question. It is one which is of merely speculative interest to the people of this century. They will hire and be hired after the fashion of their fathers.

WHERE CORNWALLIS LOST.

Moore House and Farm at Yorktown May Be Bought by Nation.

An estate owned by a Detroit man, which is creating national interest and discussion and which may soon become the property of the nation, is the famous old Temple farm in Virginia, now in the possession of Sidney A. Witherbee, says the New York Herald.

As one of the most interesting relics of United States history and the scene of Washington's triumph over Cornwallis, this beautiful spot is a center of interest to thousands of patriotic Americans. So closely is it connected with the important events in the formation of the country that it is often called "the central spot of history," and from all sides petitions are pouring in to the government to buy the farm and house and preserve them as a monument to the memory of the first President of the United States.

Temple farm was the home successively of Lord Spotswood, Washington, Lafayette and Rochambeau. It is situated in one of the most picturesque spots in America, and under the ownership of Mr. Witherbee is being carefully cultivated until its 500 acres nearly 400 are now in a state of beauty.

To the east is an uninterrupted view of Chesapeake Bay. To the north can be seen the marine traffic of the York River navy, to the west rises the monument erected by the Federal government commemorating the surrender of Cornwallis and that other spot sacred to the memories of heroes—the National cemetery.

Barely a mile away is quaint Yorktown. Not only are the surroundings of Temple farm historic, but the farm itself, with the famous old "Moore house" upon it, has hardly a spot which has not borne the footprints of armies.

The famous "McClellan road" is here; the remains of the first place of worship in Virginia are another interesting relic, as well as the oldest marked grave in the United States.

But of the many historic associations of the place the most interesting is that of the event which won for Washington the title of "Father of His Country." Here, in the corner room of the Moore house, facing the war-spotted fields, the articles of capitulation were drawn up by the commissioners, and nearly 8,000 English soldiers and sailors marched through the old farm toward Yorktown, prisoners of war.

On this same spot in 1635 came the first revolt against British rule, so that Temple farm has the distinction of being the spot where the first and last act of revolt which led to the birth of the republic took place.

During the centennial celebration Moore house was thrown open to distinguished guests of the nation—the descendants of Lafayette and Rochambeau.

Locating the Guilty Idiot. Jones waited out of the bathroom in a gorgeous and purpling fury. "Some idiot has been using my razor," he howled.

"I know it," responded Mrs. Jones. She looked Jones right square in the eye. "Who was it?" demanded Jones. His voice shook with emotion. "I say, who was it?" "John Henry," remarked his wife dispassionately. "I'll have you know that nobody uses that razor but yourself."—New York Evening Sun.

Combined. "What is the age of your wife?" inquired the immigrant inspector. The Mormon elder made a rapid calculation. "One hundred and seventy-eight, sir," he answered.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Turbine Engines. Faith in the new steam turbine engine is shown in the fact that two manufacturers have contracts to furnish in the aggregate approximately 540,000 horse power capacity of them.

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