

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

A genius is just an ordinary man with kinks in his mind.

Woman's inhumanity to man makes countless lawyers happy.

After a man leaves the marriage altar it's a case of boss or be bossed.

There is nothing in the theatrical line that can draw like a murder trial.

One-half the world doesn't seem to care whether the other half lives or not.

When a man is content with what he is, he is never content with what he has.

Some men think they are philanthropic when they give back what they have stolen.

A girl may be able to pose as an angel during courtship, but after marriage she sheds her wings.

The Mormon church is spoken of as a great religious trust. Does the chair bear a motion to strike out the word "religious"?

In the last census of India one man gave his source of income as "begging from relatives." That's the hardest work there is.

If a "good" of Cornell kisses a man it will cost her \$2. Still, with reasonable restraint, she can dodge the fine by letting the man do all the kissing.

Marriage may be a civil contract, but some people certainly behave in a very uncivil manner, after the contract has been duly signed and sealed.

In proof of Prof. Coe's assertion that baseball is a part of the religious life of a boy, it is only necessary to point to the career of the Rev. William Sunday.

The survivors of the Variegated and Koriolis have shaken hands with their car, and doubtless are convinced that no higher earthly glory can possibly come to them.

The mother of ten children may be considered a better citizen than her husband, providing she does not give the country a Niedermeyer, a Marx, or a Van Dine. High authority to the contrary, it is purely a question of quality, not of numbers.

Pity the poor Briton with an income? The tax gatherer continues to bear down heavily on him. A year ago his tax was reduced from 15 pence in the pound to 11 pence. Now a penny is added again. That is to say, 5 per cent of a Briton's income must be handed over to the government in time of peace.

Colonel Higginson, in a recent magazine article, speaks of the House of Lords as a set of brakes—not wheels—in the practical action of the British government. Not only legislative bodies, but methods of procedure and persons, may be divided into wheels and brakes; and the service performed by one and the other is almost equally useful.

"When Adam delved and Eve span," runs the old line. Now the conditions are reversed. The son of Adam learns in school to sew and darn, and the daughter of Eve has adopted digging as a profession. Some exceedingly interesting and important archaeological discoveries have lately been made in Crete by a young Boston woman, a graduate of Smith College, who has been working for the American Exploration Society. Her principal achievement is the discovery of the town of Gournes, which consists of a small palace, with its surrounding courts and numerous houses. Authorities fix the date as about sixteen hundred years before Christ, and pronounce it the best preserved town known to archeologists of the present day.

A British visitor in St. Louis is quoted with painstaking accuracy as expressing one view of American newspapers that is interesting if not entirely new. "The American newspapers," he is reported as saying, "are a great power for good, but they treat criminals too well. Why, they make 'eroes of the bloody burglars, murderers and such. They make such 'eroes of 'em that others are led to commit crime so the papers will make 'eroes of 'em too." This humble but frank criticism will be recognized as not without cause, but we must emphatically call for some effort on the part of foreigners, be they highly educated or not, to distinguish between the kinds of American newspapers. Some do not make "eroes" of criminals, while some do. Papers that have an element of readers who think a train robber is a "ero" naturally play to their audiences. The bigger the headline and the stronger the details in relation to crime the more uncultured and uninformed the readers of that paper. By their prints shall ye know them.

"I know men and women," said Thos. A. Edison the other day, "who are food drunk all the time." "Food drunk" is a new term. But it expresses an idea that is old. It describes a condition that is notorious. Few of us indeed but know people who are constantly gorged with food, with the result that their intellects are occluded and their bodies benumbed just as truly as if the excess had been liquid instead of solid. The man who has his stomach full of food is more, or less stupefied. His mind and muscles work reluctantly and sluggishly. His faculties are dulled and his feelings deadened. His condition differs only in degree from that of the man drunk with alcohol or of the snake that is gorged. It is a common saying that if you are going to ask a favor of a man first feed him well. The philosophy is good. The "well-

fed" man is in condition to grant anything rather than dispute about it. He will not question or deny or haggle. Take anything from him but his repose, and he will not object. Every one has experienced the mental disturbance produced by occasional over-eating. It is easy to see that the man who is continually gorged is continually off his mental balance. And if the proportion of us who continually gorge were actually known we would no doubt be amazed and dismayed. That the rich are continually tempted by dishes that tickle the palate tends to afford some little excuse in that direction. But those who have specially observed unanimously declare that the most of the over-eating is among the poor. There the stomach is overloaded with unassimilable stuff in order that the necessary nutrition may be gained. It is quite possible that we all might live comfortably and better than we do now on half what the average man now consumes.

One of the things which marked the late Senator Hanna as a man of strong individuality was his consistent belief in the practical value of the work done by the Salvation Army. Though his gifts to the army were without ostentation he did not hesitate to publicly proclaim his sympathy with the purposes and aims of the organization. He advocated its cause upon every suitable occasion. Being a hard-headed business man, it is reasonable to assume that Senator Hanna familiarized himself with the nature and scope of the army's work before giving it such unqualified support. A feature of the work which particularly appealed to Senator Hanna and which enlisted his active support was the "farm colony" system which the army inaugurated many years ago and which has spread into many lands. The bill to create a colonization bureau, which was to have been introduced before Congress by Senator Hanna, proposes a method whereby the Government may apply the plans and experience of the Salvation Army in putting actual settlers upon its irrigated lands. Whether such a colonizing plan, under Government direction, would be practical or not, the measure serves to call public attention to the success of the army's farm colonies and their remarkable growth in this and other countries. The primary purpose, of course, is to relieve the congested districts of the larger cities by attracting families to unoccupied lands and giving them an opportunity to become home owners under favorable conditions. The object of the Salvation Army colony is not to gather a group of cranks or adherents of some particular socialistic or religious creed, nor is it the purpose to create a strictly farming population. The army starts a family on a ten or twenty acre tract with a cottage, a team, agricultural implements and seeds. It advances all this and some money besides. The settler pays it all back in three or four years out of the earnings from the soil, and in the meantime has the benefits that come from living in an organized community. Farm colonies under the supervision of the Salvation Army have been established in South Africa, Australia and England. In Rhodesia 8,000 acres have been turned over to the army, and western Australia has set apart 20,000 acres for its use. In this country the army has established farm colonies in California, Colorado and Ohio. At Fort Amity, Colorado, the colony consists of 2,000 acres, and is perhaps the most successful illustration of the army's plan for drafting the surplus population of the larger cities and enabling it to get a permanent hold upon the soil.

WHEN THE CURTAIN LIFTS.

Pen Picture of a Summer Day, a Boat, a Kodak, a Man, a Maid.

Scene—A little lake, deep-set among the hills, long and narrow, fringed with lilies, the water lying level like a sheet of steel. Back and forth along the northern end piles a sharp-nosed boat, with scow and wake. Amidships, a brown-necked young college lad in bathing suit propels it, with an easy rotary motion of the hands in alternate strokes, with barely a ripple. In the bow, both small hands on the gunwales gripping in nervous tension, a lovely girl of 19, her delicate color coming and going, her hair a wave, her eyes a flash with excitement, and in the stern a middle-aged man whose hair in the right light shows a touch of iron-gray. In his hand arches a fly-rod of split bamboo, well back over his shoulders, the quivering tip darting in irregular thrusts far astern like the lunging beak and serpentine throat of a giant crane, pointing to where the line is weaving this way and that in surging white. The lake grows sultry. Dark, white dimples show the hills, gray mist shrouds them. There is a patter of falling drops, large ones, here and there. But the rod keeps up its lunging. Slowly the bamboo straightens, a built-necked fish sculls slowly in resentful rage, then with a surge and splash darts back again. Still the plant crane keeps fast its yielding urging, again the fish is guided alongside. There is no net. Not a hand is a hand that has been an expert frog-catcher in its day, which gently hovers ready, grips and swings into the boat, with a single motion, a barely three-pound pickerel, so lightly hooked in the cheek that it seems not possible the hook could have held through all that striving, granting, as it did, to the fish to keep his nose well turned away from the angle of the pulling line. But hold it did. And then the rain comes down in very truth—or we awake to it at last—and the boat perforce flies shoreward.

I would that I could make you see it as I saw it! For it was a lifting of the curtain to just the scene that William Black delighted in—the bare-rimmed, bare-legged gills at the curve, the delicately beautiful young American girl in the bow, and in the stern—the same old, yet never old, lad in the hair of iron-gray; and all in the heart of the hills, of the gray mists, on the level of that sullen lake.—Forest and Stream.

If the girls can reach up high enough to lower them, this is to inform them that pompadours will not be worn so tall hereafter.

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