

**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 whipped Japanese is a dead Japanese—none other genuine.

We may be shy on wheat, but who cares so long as the apple crop is larger than usual.

There is a growing belief that the term "grand larceny" is merely one of the synonyms for grand larceny.

A woman can save a lot of money in matches by keeping the gas burning, so as not to have to light it.

Professor Benbow successfully steered his air ship for 500 yards at St. Louis. But it's a thousand miles to Washington.

Western civilization is permeating China. In another generation it will not be considered a disgrace for a Chinese woman of high rank to stand on a broad footing.

London is getting giddy. The daughter of the Lord Mayor has been jilted by an Egyptian official and somebody exploded a bunch of firecrackers in Westminster Abbey.

Artlessness is held to be the prerogative of childhood. But why should so valuable a jewel be denied older people? Is there any virtue that is really unbecoming an adult?

"Tips to Millionaires" is the title of a magazine article by Israel Zangwill. After Zangwill has been over here a little longer he will learn that all head waiters are not millionaires, even if they do look and act like it.

The Chinese idea of neutrality is shown by the readiness with which they sell provisions to either party upon the production of the price. In this respect the neutrality ideas of the Orient and of the Occident seem to be in full accord.

The man who imagines unionism is only a passing feature of industrialism is badly deceived. Unionism is here to stay. And it ought to stay. It may be abused, but it has accomplished much; not only for labor, but for civilization.

Rawhide, or even leather, if boiled for hours, will make a nutritious soup, says a writer in Country Life in America on the subject of what a man lost in the woods may find to eat. Many a man has bridged the awful gap by boiling his boots, whence the phrase to express the final extreme, "I'll eat my boots first." Mark Twain was once put to this final resort and recorded afterward that "the holes tasted the best."

A housekeepers' club recently organized in an Arizona city opens its meetings by a roll call to which each woman is expected to respond with a tested recipe or a helpful domestic suggestion. The others write them down. Then for an hour the members assist their hostess with her mending, or whatever sewing she may have on hand, and the next hour they devote to their own sewing—fancy work being prohibited. Thus is revived the helpful old fashion of the "sewing bee," so called, doubtless, because the sewing and the bustling were simultaneous.

"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori"—thus it has always been and thus it will be so long as international disagreements continue to be settled by resort to arms. Not only do patriots deem it sweet and becoming to die for their country, but the memory of those who fall in defense of flag and country is cherished more sacredly than that of those who achieve the greatest and most beneficent triumphs in the arts of peace. No other fame is so enduring as that of the military hero. On no others are honors so gratefully bestowed. This is demonstrated in the history of the United States quite as conclusively as in that of any other country.

The moment a hero appears and wins men's hearts they set about killing him. If he is a soldier or sailor they dower him with bull pups and buy houses for him, and then turn and rend him when he disposes of them. They set banquets in his honor, and then cry him down as a tiresome after-dinner speaker. They nickname him "the Just" and then ostracize him because they get tired of the nickname. In sheer perversity they unearth a tin soldier and hail him as "a bigger man than old Grant." Or they faintly damn their idol as "a good old has-been." For his fame it were better often that the man who has deserved well of all men should die while his deserts are green upon him. When you have been made legendary during your life there is really nothing left for you to do but become a veritable legend by quitting it.

Last year England imported 210,000 tons of butter. The United States exported about 4,000 tons. These facts leave a fair inference that England offers an open market for more than fifty times as much butter as we are in the habit of exporting. England's purchases of this article from foreign countries and from her colonies amount to about \$100,000,000 a year. Our export sales of it approximate \$1,500,000. England purchased last year about 350,000 tons of cheese. Our total exports were in the vicinity of 8,000 tons, worth about \$2,250,000. Canada, whom we are prone to regard as an economic inferior, exported ten times as much as we did. This leaves a fair inference that there is in England alone a possible market for some \$40,000,000 worth of cheese every year.

There is a story that when Marryat's "Japhet in Search of the Father" was running as a serial the usual signals were neglected by an American and a British boat which met at sea and a substitute appeared in the query, "Has Japhet found his father yet?" That

was seventy years ago, and ship loads of books have been written since. Not only was Japhet not the final work of its kind, but tales of adventure have poured forth in amazing quantity and with all the variety that is indicated in the range from a dime novel to Stevenson's "Treasure Island." Furthermore, the public that feasts on these later productions knows little of Japhet. Some readers pick him up by chance, others search him out because they have a curiosity about one of the old authors who was once very popular. Meanwhile the vast majority go after the books of the year and are not conscious that they are losing anything. Possibly, too, there is no loss, but it may be said also that Japhet would answer as well for its purpose now as ever it did. While it falls much below "Treasure Island" in artistic value and considerably below it in sustained interest, it is a lively performance and greatly superior to much of the contemporary literature that has usurped its place. Moreover, when we say superior we include in the idea those elements that make such works popular. People who want just a rattling good story will find it in this diverting narrative. Probably the signaling act would not be repeated if it were running as a serial now, but it is quite conceivable that it might be celebrated as a book of the year. On the score of fashion alone there would certainly be nothing to prevent, for there is nothing that stamps it as belonging exclusively to a peculiar time or a peculiar mood of the reading public. The new books take its place simply because they are newly published, which is a happy thought for the new author. Each generation must have its own output, including ephemeral stuff that appears and disappears in a single season. And while the critic rages Miss Corelli points with pride to the fact that forty-three tons of paper were used in the first edition of her latest.

**A CONVENIENT TRUNK.**  
Trunks are an absolute necessity at this season of the year, when everybody who can afford to go away to the seashore or the country for a rest. As we watch the express wagons as they pass by we see trunks of every conceivable size and shape, some new and others old and in their last stages of usefulness. Everybody has helped to pack a trunk at some time or other, and the most inconvenient and troublesome part of it all is the insertion of the tray, which most all trunks contain, into its proper position. It is practically impossible for one person to do this alone without vexation and hard work, and often two have trou-

ble enough. If all trunks were constructed like the one shown herewith all this inconvenience would be done away with and the packing simplified. The tray is supported by four bars or levers, two on each side, so arranged that when the lid of the trunk is opened the tray is elevated simultaneously with the raising of the lid. By the insertion of a number of lugs to connect with the levers the tray, when once elevated, is held firmly in that position and cannot slip, but must be released by the hand. When the lid is closed the bars still hold the tray in position, and no stationary support is necessary within the body of the trunk. Often, when it is thought that the trunk is packed, it is suddenly remembered that some needful article has been forgotten, and what a job to haul the tray out in order to put it in some corner. This will occur a half-dozen times, which means a whole lot of trouble. With this device the opening and closing of the lid, with the consequent raising of the tray, can be done easily and quickly.

Peter Seiger, of Baltimore, Maryland, is the patentee.



RAISES THE TRAY AUTOMATICALLY.

Wearing a Trade Secret.  
The history of cast steel presents a curious instance of a secret stealthily obtained under the cloak of an appeal to philanthropy. In 1790 there lived at Attercliff, England, a watchmaker named Huntaman. He became dissatisfied with the watch springs in use and set himself to the task of making them homogeneous. He succeeded, his steel became famous and about 1770 a large manufactory of this peculiar steel was established at Attercliff. The process was wrapped in mystery, faithful men were hired, high wages paid and stringent oaths administered.

One midwinter night as the tall chimneys of the Attercliff steel works belched forth their smoke, a traveler knocked at the gate. It was bitterly cold and the stranger awakened no suspicion. Moved by motives of humanity, the foreman let him in. Feigning to be worn out with cold, the fellow sank upon the floor and soon appeared to be asleep. That, however, was far from his intention. He saw workmen cut bars of steel into bits, place them in crucibles and thrust the crucibles into the furnaces. The fire was urged to extreme heat until the steel was melted, and then drawn out and poured in liquid form into molds. Mr. Huntaman's factory had nothing more to disclose, says the Mining and Engineering Review. The secret of making cast steel had been stolen.

What Did He Mean?  
He—I believe congratulations are in order. Pray accept mine.  
She—What for?  
He—I heard you were engaged.  
She—You're late. I've been married for two months to Mr. Roller.  
He—Oh, I beg pardon. How stupid! I'm so sorry.—Philadelphia Ledger.

It is not much trouble for the wolves to find fault with the sheep.

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