

Topics of the Times

Above all, don't treat the grip as a joke.

The wife beaters think the whipping post is an outcropping of "that coarse and brutal strain."

Emperor William knows how to preserve strict neutrality. He has decorated both Stoesel and Nogi.

King Leopold of Belgium has been acting recently as if he considered himself old enough to begin to be good.

Premier Balfour says that England is too great. Doubtless he intended to say too big, for no country can be too great.

John D. Rockefeller says he weighs 200 pounds. It may be that the Ida Tarbell treatment was exactly what he needed.

The Paris doctor who has discovered that kissing promotes digestion need not expect any rake-off from the pill-makers after this.

Spanking is now prohibited in the New York public schools. This decision meets with the hearty indorsement of the small boy.

Crocker has decided to quit being an English squire and move over to Ireland. Poor old Ireland! Will its troubles never cease?

A Frenchman who had fought 70 duels died the other day from natural causes. Is it necessary to add that they were French duels?

The census shows that there are 18,187,518 students at school in the United States. Yet there are people who don't know enough to come in when it rains.

In the woman suffrage states the habit of kissing the babies is spreading. The fact is cited in proof that the ballot doesn't separate the women from the love of home.

That orator who advises women not to marry until they can support a husband, is evidently a rude, mean man, who thinks Cupid carries a typewriter in one hand and a frying-pan in the other.

Secretary Hay says there is no way to guard against the malady of old age except to associate with young people. Yet women find fault when their husbands are "out with the boys" a few nights in the week.

Russia threatens to do awful things to China if the latter country doesn't begin right away to be more careful about preserving neutrality. Perhaps Russia expects, in case China doesn't heed, that the Japs will sit still and wait while she runs over to administer the slapping.

It is said that the stroke of a lion's paw is the third strongest force in the animal world. The first is the blow of a whale's tail and the second the kick of a giraffe. People who can speak from experience will be likely, however, to cling to the old belief concerning the power appertaining to the hind legs of a mule.

The Cleveland board of public service has been called upon to decide whether a woman may be arrested for washing dishes so early in the morning that the rattling of them disturbs the neighbors. The question need cause no general alarm. The matter seems to be in competent hands, and doubtless stern measures of repression or warning will be taken in time to check the spread of the evil.

One acre in five of a wonderfully rich agricultural valley was sold under foreclosure of mortgage during a year of stringency and low prices. To-day the occupants of the same land are prosperous and happy, and all because of the larger reward which now follows their husbandry. The impetus which recent prices of cotton have given the South can hardly be overestimated. The factory operative of the cities should remember, as he pays a little more for his barrel of flour or for his cotton shirt, what this additional price means to those who raise the great staples of life. Live and let live!

A boy went up to the desk in a public library not long ago with the request, "I want a story in rime called 'Sohrab and Rustum.' Can you tell me where I'll find it?" After the boy had secured the book the librarian remarked, "There is a compliment to Matthew Arnold. That boy's desire for the book is proof more positive than all the criticisms that 'Sohrab and Rustum' has life in it, has blood and tears in it." This same librarian said, also, that the children of the poor read the classics much more eagerly than the children of the well-to-do. It is from the children who are devouring the classics with the eagerness of hungry souls that the producers of the classics of the future will come.

Lord Curzon's return to India as viceroy for an additional term beyond that for which he was originally appointed, calls attention to the success of the British in finding the right men for administering the affairs of government in their colonies, and their wisdom in keeping the successful public servant in office. The case of Lord Cromer, as the British representative in Egypt, is another illustration of the point, and Lord Milner is regarded, even by those who disapprove his policy in South Africa, as a brilliant administrator. The Americans did not fall much, if at all, behind the British when they were called upon to solve similar problems. Judge Taft proved in the Philippines, that he was an administrator of the first rank, and Gov. Wright, his successor, belongs in the same class.

The practice of educating boys for the professions, which are already

overstocked, or for the mercantile business, in which ninety-five in a hundred fail of success, is fearfully on the increase in this country. Americans are annually becoming more and more averse to manual labor, and to get a living by one's wit's, even at the cost of independence and self-respect, and a fearful wear and tear of conscience, is the ambition of a portion of our young men. The result is the mechanical professions are becoming a monopoly for foreigners, and the ownership of some of the finest farms, even in New England, is passing from Americans to Irishmen and Germans. Fifty years ago a father was not ashamed to put his children to the plow or to a mechanical trade; but now they are "too feeble" for bodily labor; one has a pain in his side, another a slight cough, another "a very delicate constitution," another is nervous; and so poor Hobby or Billy or Tommy is sent off to the city to measure tape, weigh coffee or draw molasses. It seems never occur to their foolish parents that moderate manual labor in the pure and bracing air of the country is just what these puny, wasp-waisted lads need, and that to send them to the crowded, unhappy city is to send them to their graves. Let them follow the plow, swing the sledge, or shove the foreplane, and their pinched cheeks plumped out, and their lungs now "cabineted, cribbed and confined," will have room to play. Their nerves will be invigorated with their muscles; and when they shall have cast off their jackets, instead of being thin, pale, vapid coxcombs, they shall have spread out to the size and configuration of men. A lawyer's office, a counting room, or grocery store is about the last place to which a sickly youth should be sent. The ruin of health is as sure there as in the mines of England. Even of those men in the city who have constitutions of iron only five per cent succeed, and they only by "living like hermits and working like horses;" the rest, after years of toil and anxiety, become bankrupt or retire; and having meanwhile acquired a thorough disgust and unfitness for manual labor, bitterly bemoan the day when they forsook the peaceful pursuits of the country for the excitement, care and sharp competition of city life.

TRICKS TO GET DEER.

Sometimes Stop When You Call, and Red Attract Them.

There are some tricks in woods hunting that are common property. For instance, most hunters who pot partridges while the covey are sitting on a pine or spruce tree know that the lowest bird should be shot first. If this is done, nearly all of the covey will sit still to be butchered, but if the highest bird is shot the survivors will fly instantly. They are disturbed not only by the noise of the dead bird coming down through the branches, but they see it fall and take warning.

Not many hunters know, however, that a deer under full headway, speeding down a runway as if a legion of hounds were after it, will often stop still and instantly if he hears a shrill whistle. The whistle is the deer's signal of warning, of challenge, and of accessibility, and it always attracts attention from them.

Similarly a running deer will often stop if it hears an unusual, but not terrifying, noise. A half-breed Chippewa of the Flambeau Reservation named Sam Pogon asserts that deer understand the meaning of the English word "Stop!" and always obey it.

Whether this is true or not, and it isn't, Sam says always says "Stop!" in a clear, mild tone instead of using the whistle, and his deer generally stop. He does a good deal of guiding, and it gives his patron rather an eerie feeling to lie hidden by a runway with him and hear him give his brief command.

The brown deer of the woods is as much attracted by a red handkerchief or any other bit of scarlet cloth as is the antelope. Red sometimes angers animals and sometimes arouses their curiosity, but it never terrifies them.

That is one of the reasons why most Indian hunters wear red cloth bound around their foreheads; the other reason is that it is a distinguishing mark of a human being and brother Indians or amateurs are less apt to mistake them for game and pot them as they move slowly through the trees.

It is a fact not commonly within the knowledge of sportsmen that a wounded deer, shot while speeding by a stand, will always come back to that stand if it has strength enough. More deer are finally bagged by men, who simply inspect the bloodmarks and sit down and wait than by men who take up the blood trail.

Of course, it is wise to follow the blood for a half-mile on a chance that the deer has gone down, but if it goes beyond that distance it is pretty much of a certainty that it will continue for some time longer, and in that case the best place for another shot is at the old stand. Why the deer does this is not positively known, but it is probably because it is best acquainted with that runway and in its hurt condition likes to be near its haunts.

Some men in the woods will not shoot a doe at any time of year, no matter how tempting the shot, and they earn credit as self-restrained sportsmen. Others are not so conscienceful and take deer of either sex as they come.

A few of these men are wise enough to know that in case a buck and doe are together and it is wished to bag both, the one to shoot first is the doe. If the buck be shot, the doe will flash away, never to return; if the doe is shot, the buck will probably make half a dozen jumps going out of sight, but if no noise be made will always return to sniff at the body of his companion.

This may be because the male has more affection than the female, or merely because his courage is higher and he has less caution.—New York Sun.

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