

Topics of the Times

The merciful man is merciful to his beast, also to his wife.

One of the commonest of delusions and one of the fatallest is where a man thinks he's in a hurry.

The Senate might easily learn all about the pure food question by reading the news columns of the daily papers.

An English author says that he wrote a story in his sleep and received pay for it. He simply lies in a peculiar way.

At a recent food exhibit in Berns, Switzerland, 1,785 varieties of sausage were shown. Every family must have its own brand over there.

Mails are carried on deer routes in Alaska. There are some deer routes here, too, if the post office appropriation bill is to be depended on.

It appears that Mr. Shonts' salary as president of the Clover Leaf is only \$12,000 a year. How Chauncey Depew must despise a road like that.

It also may be observed that when the unfortunate millionaire wishes to regain his health he lives as nearly as he can like the poorest of his fellows.

When a sartorial master like Edward of England turns his imagination loose, we get results. Beside the royal blue what becomes of the Quaker gray?

The life insurance McCurdys still have one claim to distinction in being about the only persons who are made defendants daily in suits from \$5,000-10,000 up.

New York has discovered already that the subway, which it hailed as the eighth wonder of the world, is "dirty and unsanitary." So is there a fly in every ointment.

A London man recently paid \$5,000 for an orchid. He might have bought an entire prune ranch in Arizona for that price. Some people seem to have queer ideas of the value of things.

Smoking cars for women are now being run on English railways. The future hubby over there may complain that his wife's cigarettes are not as good as those his mother used to roll.

There might be some chance of the government clerks becoming reconciled to a 70-year age limit if the provision was made sweeping enough to compel congressmen also to back away from the public trough at that age.

A Baltimore paper refers to "Hamlet," the well-known play by W. Shakespeare. We hope we do not err in assuming that our contemporary has reference to the W. Shakespeare who formerly resided at Stratford-on-Avon, England.

Two Chicago boys who amused themselves by shooting at lanterns on railway trains, thus endangering the lives of passengers, have been sentenced not to touch firearms for two years. This awful punishment will no doubt cause all other young owners of revolvers to throw away their weapons and resolve to lead blameless lives.

For some time past tradition has been overset in the British navy by the substitution of bugle calls for the boat-swain's whistle. The admiralty has decided to restore the pipe. This will be a great boon to writers of sea ballads and nautical comic operas, to which the "bosun's" pipe is as necessary as the rose to lyric poets.

Japan is feeling its oats when the Minister of War tells the Diet that at some convenient date in the future the Japanese government will urge the British government to reform its army organization. It will throw John Bull into a contemplative state of mind to be admonished about his domestic concerns by this suddenly developed naval power in the vicinity of Hong Kong and Singapore and Sydney and Calcutta.

Why should the American citizen or citizeness who pays \$500 in good money to be enrolled in an "America's smart set" be made a target for the mordant jeers of an inconsiderate populace? How are we ever going to have an American aristocracy if the crowds in the bleachers are permitted to paralyze exalted ambitions by hooting at the patient performers in the field? If we are not to have a "Burke's Peerage" edited by society writers and sold on subscription to people who want their names mentioned, we are left with no standards of aristocracy whatever. It is very evident that a permanent social distinction can never be established in the United States if grand juries are to be forever prying into the circumstances by which the title to social standing is acquired.

For a good many years it has been the habit of some Representatives in Congress to gird at the "brutality" of the wicked boys at West Point and Annapolis. The young satraps haze and are hazed. They even fight, upon occasion; a crime unpardonable in youths bred to fight, if necessity arrives, hereafter. Besides, the rascals wear buttons and things and are much more brilliant in externals than the civilians,

and yet what are they, after all, but Uncle Sam's charity boys, as their statesmanlike critics tell them to encourage them? Most of them come to the academies by the democratic route of competitive examination, but something survives of the curious old prejudice which was once keen against West Point in particular. No military and naval aristocracy here! No bedizened popinjays to sneer at the plain people first and enslave them afterward!

Charles M. Schwab, the young millionaire who was once the head of the steel trust and is now completing in New York the costliest private residence in the world, has once again remarked that education and culture unfit young men for success in life. Perhaps this is largely true so far as Schwab's observation extends. But it must be understood that the brain of Charles M. Schwab has a very limited horizon. Great successes are being achieved every day for the development and betterment of humanity, which a Schwab can no more appreciate and comprehend than a pig can understand art. The pig—come to think of it—has a tiny little brain. But every fraction of its intellectual energy is devoted to the welfare of its stomach. You see a lot of so-called human beings that seem to be built on the same plan. There is a sort of fatality leading them to the accumulation of money. They have marvelous cunning in getting rich, but if you touch their minds on any other question you may find them blank. The man who thinks of nothing but making money may not be capable of realizing that other people can think of nobler purposes. Like the pig, with its snout so deep in the trough that its eyes are buried in the slop, its human prototype may also be unable to see or think of anything in the world but the one business of getting all that's to be got. It is right and proper that the pig should have no thought but for its stomach—it is made that way. But with man it is different; to have a pig's mind he must acquire it by killing the best there is in him. By will he renounces manhood and debases himself to the level of the animal. He spills no blood, but he murders a man to make a pig. It is the basest of suicides, and perhaps the commonest. It is right and proper, too, that a man should make all the money he can get honestly and use wisely. The man who makes money, as a means to an end, is not to be despised. He is doing his part of the world's work, and the part is no small or ignominious one. But there are other duties in the world besides making money. There are qualities in the human mind and soul infinitely more important than those which make large accumulations of money possible.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME TEXAS.

Data in Old Geography Leads to Belief that it Came from "Tecas." Edward W. Heusinger of San Antonio has just added to his collection of old and rare books a geography which was published in 1747, says the New York Tribune. The maps in this book are remarkably well executed and are interesting in that they show the parts of the world as they were known at that time. On one of the maps the northwestern part of North America is shown as "parts undiscovered." Australia was also one partly undiscovered and it is shown as the land of "New Holland," with New Guinea and "Van Dieman's Land," now called the island of Tasmania, as one supposed continent. New Zealand, too, is shown as a partly discovered new land. The Hawaiian islands had not been heard of.

The Atlantic Ocean was at that time called the "Western Ocean." What is now the Pacific Ocean was called the "Great South Sea," and the Caribbean Sea was then known as the "North Sea." Another important map in those days was that of Mexico, known as "New Spain," and what is now Texas was then the "Province of Louisiana."

The French settlement of "Natchikoches" is shown and the countries of the Natchez and Apache Indians are indicated and it is interesting to note the "Rio de Norte," which, according to this wonderful map, rises among some mountains in a land about where South Dakota now is.

Mr. Heusinger says one important factor in the text of this work is the description of certain Indian tribes "toward the North River" (Rio Grande), known as the "Tecas," was then the name for the reformed Indians living in the missions, for it speaks of them as "having embraced Christianity" and "being the more passionate lovers of the Spaniards." Texas was therefore, no doubt, derived from the word "Tecas," he says.

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