

Topics of the Times

It isn't as long a time between earthquakes as it used to be.

If ever the "earthquake proof" house is solved it will be built of rubber.

"Lobsters are scarce," says a dispatch from Bangor, Maine. Happy Bangor!

An excellent way to dispose of the man with the muck rake would be to get rid of the muck.

The muck rake, however, is a useful implement in its way. It is the man behind the rake that the President is after.

Now ariseth the fear that a lock canal in Panama might be unlocked with disastrous effect by an earthquake.

One man killed an enemy by putting poison in a mince pie, just as if mince pie without poison was not deadly enough.

The Supreme Court decision concerning divorces has given Newport society something besides monkey dinners to think about.

Nikish is said to demand \$50,000 a year as leader of the Boston Symphony orchestra. This is not a case of "art for art's sake."

One of the Sunday papers contains an article on "The Passing of Pook." The article may have some historical value several thousand years hence.

Numerous office boys who lost their grandmothers on the opening day of the last baseball season are reporting other relatives in a critical condition.

Like as not, if you were to attempt to explain to a woman the wave-motion theory of earthquakes she would think you were talking about hair dressing.

That Los Angeles surgeon who has restored the reason of a mental incompetent by an operation ought to find a big field of usefulness in Washington.

John L. Sullivan is alleged to have offered Dowle \$1,000 a week to appear with him in a vaudeville "turn." They might do well as the Havebeen Brothers.

The study of Jiu-Jitsu has been abandoned at Annapolis, presumably because the young gentlemen at that institution can't bear to be rude to each other.

One of Dame Fashion's latest decrees is that ladies must carry their pet dogs in cunning little satchels, made for the purpose. Ladies who take pride in their pet dogs will, of course, cheerfully obey this command. Meanwhile the nurses will make such provisions as they please concerning the babies.

A London woman died recently from the effects of tight lacing. Advocates of the corset will, however, set up the claim that her stays might have saved her life if somebody had shot at her and the bullet had glanced from one of the steel ribs of the contrivance that she wore for the purpose of making her seem small-waisted.

The President says that men of wealth who run their business with a cynical contempt for the restrictions of law are a menace to the community and that the nation is in need of high ideals. A very good way to establish these high ideals would be to put into jail a few of the prominent offenders guilty of this menacing contempt. Ideals can not be established and maintained without action, and vigorous action at that. There is now a good chance to bring this contempt to book and make the law restricting the selfish operations of great wealth and greed more than a mere dead letter.

The world will read with amused interest the broadly heralded statement that the wife of a multimillionaire has recently traced her ancestry back to the twelfth century and simultaneously has discovered that the blood of kings flows in her veins. Pride of birth is commendable where it is not offensively exploited. It is a worthy boast that one is a descendant of those who fought to form or fought to save this Union. Besides it is a pedigree that is easily established. It is different in the case where one seeks to prove a descent from ancient and noble forebears, although it is comparatively easy when the notorious fact is recalled that for liberal considerations European experts will prepare a pedigree, whether the beneficiary be a railway peddler or railroad magnate. That will stand the test of casual examination.

From factory and office 'up to college and church the cry is for the young man. The world is his to do with as he sees fit. The young man of to-day is master of a business at an age when his grandfather had scarce finished an apprenticeship. Universal education and quick and cheap communication bring to the young man now a practical grasp of affairs which only long years of experience could give to our fathers fifty years ago.

This is very well to know, if the young man will also keep in mind the fact that he will not always be a young man. In the same degree that he has opportunities when he is young he will be deprived of them when youth is gone. It behooves him, therefore, to provide against the enforced retirement that awaits him just at the time when he may begin to feel that his experience fits him for the best work. If he is past 20 he must get rid of the notion that he is "preparing" himself for life. It matters not who he is or what he is, he is living his life more tensely and more decisively in all probability than he will ever be doing at a later period. If the young man is waiting for some rich relative to die and leave him capital with which to start into business "right," he had better realize that the only way to start into business right is with his two hands, and that the best capital nowadays is a combination of industry, sense, pluck and application. The young man who has this capital needs nobody's money. He who has it will not succeed if he had a dozen fortunes as a foundation. Money today does less for a young man who will not also do for himself than it ever did before in the world's history. Money, lands, property and all that form a smaller part in human life today than ever before. Time was when these things comprehended almost all that men knew about or strived for. But the field of aspiration, of effort and of accomplishment has immeasurably broadened and will continue to broaden as man develops. There is no man on this earth so afflicted, so narrowed by environment but that there is a field of success for him. And the time to find it and fill it is in youth.

Wholly irrespective of its effectiveness as a matter of law, the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in regard to divorce is hailed with delight from one end to the other of this country. The amount of embarrassment that it will occasion was greatly exaggerated at first, as was quite natural, but a little reflection shows that no great commotion will be occasioned. Obviously no marital relations can be affected unless they get into the federal courts, and this can happen only at the suit of parties in another State or by some suit involving the interpretation of the United States constitution or statutes. This can hardly happen except in connection with inheritances and inheritances are easily superseded by wills. Nine-tenths of the people who are technically involved will never experience any trouble and most of them will never hear of the decision. The important thing about this decision is its moral influence. It is like a thunder-clap and a lightning stroke from a clear sky. The loftiest tribunal in the land utters a scathing denunciation of the overgrown divorce evil and the great heart of the nation utters a loud "amen." Deep calls unto deep in a hearty condemnation of a great moral wrong and immediately there is heard on every lip a demand for legislation that will make the decision a national law. The habit of divorce is entirely a cultivated habit. Fifty years ago there were almost no divorces and married people were much happier than they are now. Even now there are no divorce laws in South Carolina, and unless the married people of that State are made restive by the evil in other States no doubt they are the most contented married people in this country. It is because the divorce laws excite unrest where there was none before that the evil has reached its present proportions. The divorce habit is like "the beginning of strife," which Solomon says is "as when one letteth out water." The simile is drawn apparently from a leak in a levee. It is scarcely perceptible at first, but it grows with alarming rapidity, and after a while puts all restraint at defiance. Have we got that far with the divorce evil? Obviously if we are ever to be delivered it must be by the opposite process. There seems to be an established proportion between supply and demand in divorces, just as there is in merchandise. We have been overwhelmed with the demand on account of the bountiful supply provided by unwise legislation. If this demand is ever to be lessened it must be by shutting off the supply. No doubt the more difficult divorce becomes the more peaceable, the home will be and the fewer will be the divorce suits.

**Across the Ocean.**  
Two or three months ago a Guthrie woman mailed a copy of a Guthrie paper to a friend at Ladoga, Ind. At least that was where she intended to send it, but in writing the address she left off the first two letters of the State, making it "India." So across the ocean it traveled. The Indian postal officials could find no town there by the name of Ladoga, and sent it back to this country. After months of traveling it finally turned up in the Indiana town, after having visited Bombay and a number of other Indian cities.

**A Small Beginning.**  
Elste—Your Uncle Harry seems awful young to be a doctor.  
Willie—Yes, but he ain't a real, grown-up doctor yet. I guess he's only 'tendin' to children yet, so's to get some practice.—Philadelphia Ledger.  
After a woman passes forty, all the compliments she gets about her looks are from women who don't mean them, and from drunken men.  
When a man loves a woman more than tongue can tell all he has to do is let her get a glimpse of his pocket book.

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