

Topics of the Times

Is the world laughing with you or at you?

Some men are wingless angels and some men are hornless devils.

A bleached blonde is always suspicious of other women with blonde hair.

When a young diplomat or army officer marries a millionairess it's a sign of true love.

President Roosevelt says he is going to give up hunting. Not trust hunting, we hope.

Muscle may be the food of love, but after marriage there is apt to be a demand for liver and bacon.

Every time Carnegie speaks of "these days of materialism" the echo of his voice sounds suspiciously like a chortle.

A New York physician says automobiling will cure insomnia. Too often, however, automobiling puts the wrong persons to sleep.

The immigration question would not be serious if those who find fault with this country when they get here would pack up and go back.

Senator Smoot says there never was a Mormon tramp. Surely, a man with half a dozen homes ought to be willing to stay within domestic circles.

A Boston minister declares that "what this country needs is a king." And this from Boston, the head-center and bulwark of anti-imperialism!

Bunyan's muck raker was a man who never looked up. Since hearing from the President, our muck rakers are looking up and showing a disposition to rake higher.

"The Sin of Silence" is the title of a new book. Evidently the author didn't intend it as a book that would be suitable for presentation by loving husbands to their wives.

A Kansas judge cured a man of habitual drunkenness by sentencing him to spend two weeks in bed. The Kansas way of doing things is always something original and unique.

San Francisco may be shaken by future earthquakes, but it will never again be wiped out of existence by flames. In the new town wooden buildings will be scarcer than yellow bluebirds.

The decision of a Chicago religious organization that women are no longer young at 40 may be technically correct, but it has no practical value. How can it be known when women are 40?

The awful fire of 1871 which swept over Chicago destroyed 18,000 buildings, caused 200 deaths, made homeless 70,000 people and destroyed property to the value of \$200,000,000. Yet Chicago has been rebuilt, and its disaster forgotten.

Although nearly three years have passed since the King and Queen of Serbia were murdered by political conspirators, the murderers, or many of them, are still unpunished. Great Britain has refused to enter into diplomatic relations with the new king so long as this condition exists. The latest news from Belgrade is that the king intends to retire the guilty army officers as soon as possible. Naturally, he has had to act cautiously, for he knows that men who killed one king would not hesitate long to kill another if an adequate excuse were presented.

Nobody caricatures John D. Rockefeller when he gives away money. That is one advantage of being a millionaire. All sorts of pictures are made of him in the gold field, in autos, etc., but when he gives \$100,000 or \$500,000 to a worthy cause we hear no jokes about him and but little is said about the money being tainted. The starving at San Francisco did not stop to inquire what sort of a year's dividend from Standard Oil the \$100,000 John gave them might be. The loaves and the meat and blankets were as acceptable from the profits of Standard Oil as from steel shares or coal or from any other source.

Time was when everybody walked and thought it no disgrace. For then walking was only a degree slower than the quickest means of locomotion, and by that token respectable. But who thinks of walking now? If you go into a shoeshop where fifty styles of fine footwear are offered you won't find a shoe you could walk a mile in without being crippled, and though you call for the best grade of stockings they are worn through the first time you put them on if you go afoot. Nobody who is anybody is expected to walk any more. The trolleys and the devil wagons have made walking intolerably slow, and the airships, when they come, will doubtless abolish it for good and all. And that is progress. The voice which clamors for stockings that will wear or shoes that are easy is a voice out of the past, the echo of dead traditions.

It is one of the decrees of fate that no great disaster is without its attend-

ant benefits. A crushing blow may be dealt a community, but the country profits from the sufferings of those upon whom misfortune has laid a heavy hand. In San Francisco a district twenty-six miles in circumference lies devastated by earthquake and fire. Coincident with the announcement that the city will be rebuilt at once, the financial loss is placed at \$3,000,000. This means that approximately a like amount will be expended for building materials and furnishings within the next few years, aside from the vast sums that will be paid for labor in clearing away the debris and rebuilding the ravaged territory. Food, stuffs, clothing and other supplies will be required in great quantities long after the temporary needs of the sufferers have been relieved by the ready response of the nation to appeals for aid. In the upbuilding of a new and greater city which ambitious and determined San Franciscans are already planning, work will be furnished for thousands of skilled operatives throughout the country. The mills and factories will be called upon to meet the requirements, and the present heavy demands in every direction will be further augmented as a result of San Francisco's misfortune. There is no cause for rejoicing in this fact. Could even those who will profit by the catastrophe have had their way they would have decreed otherwise. Nevertheless, aside from any benefits which may accrue to that city through its regeneration, it is evident that the industrial prospects of the nation have been materially enhanced through the losses to which the people of San Francisco and adjoining towns have been subjected.

"What hath God wrought?" It was the first public message ever flashed by telegraph. That was in 1844. The lightning which Franklin had harnessed and brought from the skies was become the message-bearer of man. And the world marveled. Now a swifter agent, the luminiferous ether, which permeates the furthest space of the universe and is so fleet that it encircles the globe in less than the twinkling of an eye, has carried a 700-word message from the American continent over the Atlantic to the coast of Europe. And again the marveling world exclaims, "What hath God wrought?" The greater wonder is not telegraphy, nor wireless communication, but the mind of man which conceived them both. The laws and manifestations of nature are changeless. Only the mind and spirit of man have progressed. His intellect has become so acute and so in tune with the elements about him that he is growing to grasp their meaning. All nature is a wonderland. Miracles abound on every side. Many of the lower animals are endowed with senses so acute as to seem to man uncanny. Fish can see in the darkest depths of the ocean. The moose can hear a sound for many miles. In comparison, man's sight and hearing are significant. But his splendid intellect has so aided his senses that with his telescope he can gaze into the furthest mysteries of the heavens; with his microscope he can penetrate the minutest secrets of infinitesimal life; with the X-ray he can see through his very flesh and seek hidden disease and injury; through his telephone he can hear the voices of friends hundreds of miles away; and now he has spanned the vastness of ocean by his understanding of the workings of nature. Electricity is not the wonder of the age. Wireless telegraphy is not the modern miracle. The marvelous thing which God hath wrought is the development of the mind of man.

**Froggie to the Rescue.**  
One day a couple of my friends were sitting on the river bank, when they heard the cry of a frog in distress. Following the direction from which the sound came, they discovered a snake in the act of swallowing a frog. Just then another frog, evidently attracted by the distressing cries of its mate in jeopardy, hopped up to the scene of action. For a moment it sat blinking at the enemy; then leaped forward, seized the snake by the neck and tugged it into the river. The water quickly poured between the snake's distended jaws, and it was, of course, compelled to release its victim in order to escape drowning. This it promptly did, and the liberated frog swam away with its plucky mate; while the baffled snake wriggled, as best it could, to the shore.—Woman's Home Companion for May.

**Vain Regrets.**  
Jimmie—What's the matter, Willie?  
Willie—You know that dude who's been courtin' sister?  
Jimmie—Yes. You told me about him.  
Willie—Well, he's been givin' me a dime to keep out o' the way every time he called.  
Jimmie—Ain't that all right?  
Willie—No, it ain't. I oughter struck him for a quarter. Last night when he came 'round I stuck out my hands, but he only laughed an' said, "It's all off, Willie, your sister has promised to marry me." Ain't that a shame?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**He Wished to Know.**  
"Anything I can do for you while in Europe?"  
"Yes. Should you visit the rock of Gibraltar, kindly let me know if it really has an insurance company's advertisement painted on it."—Pittsburg Post.

There never was a man so guilty that he could not make a lot of "explanations."

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