

Topics of the Times

A King has a bomb job.
The reason talk is cheap is because the supply is always greater than the demand.

Expert chemists who may happen to be out of a job might find employment in doctoring the tainted money.

Emperor William is reported to be a close friend of Miss Krupp. In time of peace William prepares for war.

Another beautiful thing about the egg industry is that it has demonstrated its independence of a trust.

John D. Rockefeller is charged with being a poor speller. Perhaps this accounts for the fact that it isn't written "Rockafellow."

Primitive man is supposed to have lived on roots. But let us not be too quick to envy him. Perhaps somebody had a monopoly on roots.

In Birmingham, England, they are manufacturing power from garbage. Some of it is probably strong enough when they gather it on a hot day.

"China is suspected of being two-faced," says a contemporary. We can't believe it. If it had another face it wouldn't wear the one it uses now.

Anybody who can invent a safe and sane method of fastening the feminine hat in place may consider that his fortune is made. The present pin is a deadly weapon.

Count Witte is reported to be very pessimistic at this time. We don't blame him. In fact, we can't understand what right any Russian has to be very cheerful.

Secretary Shaw says he would go 1,000 miles to see the grave of a government employe who had died of overwork. But suppose he were the occupant of it himself?

The New York Sun believes in calling a "leg" a leg, as well as in calling a "spade" a spade. The use of "limb" for "leg" the Sun condemns as both vulgar and ambiguous.

Hottentot widows cut off a finger joint every time they remarry. If that custom were adopted in this country, Newport would soon be known as the home of the club-handed women.

It appears that the original "Dead-wood Dick," the dime novel hero, became a peddler of gum in his old age. The inducements for becoming a hero get smaller and smaller every year.

The United States is going to build the biggest battle ship in the world as a move toward universal peace, on the theory that any nation which gets a glimpse of the big ship will be scared too bad to start anything.

"If there was money to be given out," said one of the railroad officials who had been caught in the graft net, "I was there to take it." This seems to be the great trouble at the present time. Apparently there is always somebody on hand to take it.

English-speaking people are reluctant to interfere with political liberty, but it becomes a serious question how far they are bound to exercise such restraint in dealing with those whose avowed object is to destroy all civilized society by force, and who regard good governments as worse than bad governments by the very fact of their being good. If the revolutionary anarchists of Europe and America choose to make themselves an international menace they may be sure that society will find means of protecting itself.

Many practices which ten years ago, five years ago, one year ago, and even six months ago were in favor, public opinion having no condemnation for them, are now held to be odious and even criminal. This is perhaps the most notable development of the day, namely, the creation of a higher standard for the conduct of American business. The revelations of graft in the insurance and railroad companies are a shock to national pride and yet there is hardly an American who does not know that in one form or another graft has entered largely into the corporate life as into the political life of the country. The saving clause of the situation is that it seems a passing phase in our national progress. The optimist has reason to rejoice that the national conscience has been touched and that public opinion is establishing higher ideals.

It is a grand thing for the country and its future that the American lad and young girl, with whom the nation's future will rest, have taken thoroughly to the outdoor life and its health-giving sports. We used to be considered an energetic but exceedingly nervous people, living in superheated rooms in winter, careless of our diet, with pastry as the national dish, dyspepsia as the national disease and invigorating athletic sports almost unknown among our recreations. How different everything is now! Look about you at the young men and women of the hour, devoted to golf, tennis, baseball, boating, field, track and water sports of all kinds, riding, hunting and

what not, and see the glow of health that is in their cheeks. Does it not foretell the story of the country's greater future? Can anything go wrong with a people so physically well built that moral clearness of vision, high ambitions and ability to strive and win must necessarily go with it?

A minister in an Ohio town recently made a canvass by mail to ascertain why so large a proportion of the men of his community absented themselves from church. He received the usual explanations. The absentees stayed away, they said, because they were tired on Sunday and wanted recreation, because the sermons were dull, because church members treated them coldly when they went, and because many church members were hypocrites. If mere frequency of repetition were decisive these explanations of church absenteeism would have to be accepted as the true ones, for they have been offered innumerable times. The question naturally arises, however, why, if desire for recreation, dull sermons, and hypocrites are what keep men away, they do not also keep women away? The studies by Havelock, Ellis, Starbuck, Prof. Coe, and others of the psychology of religion suggest that the chief cause of the "eternal feminine" in the churches may be found in the fundamental differences of nature of the sexes. The feminine nature tends to be passive and susceptible, the masculine to be active and insusceptible. The different qualities are met with in varying degrees in different men and women, but this description of the two sexual temperaments is generally recognized as roughly correct. This may explain why the churches have attracted women more strongly than men. The Sunday services obviously make their appeal chiefly to the passive, susceptible side of the nature. This is always true of the music. It generally has been no less true of the sermon. The virtues which have been most constantly inculcated from the pulpit as essential to the spiritual life have been those of meekness, forgiveness, faith, prayerfulness, etc. The more aggressive moral and civic virtues seldom have been treated as constituents of "spirituality." It is a remarkable fact that until recently, even when church societies were formed for charitable and other purposes requiring active effort, they usually were composed exclusively of women. There is marked tendency among American churches at the present time to lay more stress on the active virtues and afford more opportunity for their exercise. Ministers are preaching more than they ever did before on people's duty not only to live peaceably, honestly, and decently themselves but to do something to improve political and social conditions. "Men's unions" have been formed in many churches, and the number which not only maintains missions but supports social settlements is growing. Many are extending and making more practical their charitable work, and some are even talking of building model tenements. It will be interesting to observe what effect, if any, these changes in sermons and extensions of religious activity have upon the male attendance and membership. On the theory of the psychologists they, in the long run, should strongly stimulate men's interest in the churches' work, and judging by what has taken place in some "institutional" churches they are adapted to produce this result.

After the Frisco Quake.
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