

Topics of the Times

When they have appendicitis lots of people feel all cut up over it.

Fools sometimes rush in and win while wise men are investigating.

When John Paul Jones gets on a postage stamp even an Englishman can lick him.

Simple method of committing suicide in St. Petersburg is to become a public official.

The Isle of Pines is now said to be pining for trouble and is again trying to annex the United States.

The new San Francisco is to be laid out on artistic lines. Let us hope it may never be laid out by anything else.

It is unnecessary to state that the San Francisco man who offers to give 500 women complete outfits is a bachelor.

The American dime novel is to be shut out from Germany. It has been put on a parity with diseased pork, as a disseminator of infection.

Mr. Rockefeller is putting up \$1,000,000 for reformatories for boys, and deep down in his heart he may be regretting that Mr. Garfield is grown up.

The czar will now have a better opinion of Alfonso as a ruler. As Nicholas probably looks at it, only the good and great are compelled to dodge bombs.

Young Rockefeller proposes to run the rubber business, but whether to the extent of confiscating the domesticated and esteemed rubber plant does not yet appear.

According to Missionary Nassau's testimony the march of civilization in King Leopold's Congo colony is with some difficulty distinguished from barbarism running amuck.

The contention that the world is growing better will carry more weight when a speaker fails to get a big audience on the strength of an announcement that he proposes to abuse some one.

Somebody who has been looking into the matter finds that long ago one of King Edward's ancestors was a bricklayer. We have always thought he must have had a good, sturdy, honest ancestor back somewhere.

A new ocean greyhound 800 feet long has just been launched. The management should have it provided with a "seeing the ship" automobile, so that passengers who desire to do so may go from one end to the other without being compelled to over-exert themselves.

A night watchman, who during the day worked regularly at a trade, is said to have gone crazy. Doubtless the man is insane, but more likely the lunacy is more a cause than an effect. The theory of existing on next to no sleep is one of the sort that should be kept sedulously out of practice.

The first number of the Columbian Magazine was issued in Philadelphia in 1795. In it the editor, having a vision of the news of the country in 1850, prophesied the following news dispatch: "Boston, April 30.—At length the canal across the Isthmus of Darien is completed. It is about sixty miles long and half a mile broad. First-rate vessels of war can with ease sail through. The cost has been about five hundred thousand dollars. Two vessels sailed through on the twentieth of January last, bound for Canton, in China." Will any one dare to prophesy that way to-day of 1950?

There is essentially no difference between the Pennsylvania railroad chief clerk who gathered in thousands of dollars from coal companies as a tip or price for steering the railroad company's orders in their direction and the coachman who pockets an occasional dollar in the placing of orders for oats or the steward who profits in buying meats and other table requirements. And no better than this chief clerk are those higher Pennsylvania officials who accepted gifts of stock in various companies and then favored them in the distribution of cars. They are all of the purchasable class, which is hardly more contemptible in the dollar-tip grade than the \$1,000-tip grade.

When La Provence, a new French steamship, was about half-way across the ocean on its maiden trip, the wireless telegraph operator at Poldhu, Cornwall, was sending it the latest news of the San Francisco earthquake. The message was interrupted by news about the explosion of gasoline in the sewers of New York. The operator on board ship was surprised when he learned that the New York news came from the wireless station on Cape Cod. This is interesting in two ways. It shows the state of perfection of wireless telegraphy, and also the kind of news which is sent by it to the ships at sea. One would think that passengers on the great deep would prefer news about anything else than disasters on land.

The new world language, Esperanto, seems to have already won more advocates than the older Volapuk. No manufactured language, however, seems to

have much chance in competition with English, which long ago displaced French as the most useful and widely spoken language and which is gaining faster than ever in all parts of the world. Quite recently the German government has ordered that all railway officials and employees must learn to speak English. In Antwerp also the authorities are urging all classes to study English and are providing special facilities in the public schools; the city has become "almost an English-speaking port." In Japan all school children are now obliged to learn our language. A few years hence tourists from this country will be able to get along there as easily as on a trip at home. With Great Britain, India, Australia, Canada, the United States and large sections of Africa using English, what hope is there for any other language?

One of the speakers at a convention recently held in Chicago said regretfully that "we are drifting into an age of clamor." He is disturbed by the noise made by people shouting for the abatement of real or fancied evils. He wishes they would lower their voices and discuss with gentlemanly composure the reforms they advocate. The difficulty is that in an age of business and bustle he who talks in a "still, small voice" cannot be heard and might as well keep silent. A man must clamor and shriek in order to be heard and command attention. Most reforms have had to be clamored for. They could not have been obtained otherwise in reasonable time. If they had been asked for mildly and conservatively the persons whose purses would be touched would have maintained a discreet silence and the general public would not have been stirred to action. There would have been no factory or child labor legislation if it had not been clamored for. The packers are improving conditions in their houses. They object to the clamor that has been raised, and say that if they had been told quietly of evils that ought to be remedied they would have attended to the matter. Perhaps they might have done so, but generally the persons who gently suggest to the men in charge of a workshop or factory that they should make expensive improvements are told to mind their own business. There are some desirable reforms which are unattainable merely because several men with strong lungs are not shouting for them and giving highly colored accounts of dreadful conditions which would disappear if the reforms were introduced. Attention was called twenty years ago to many of the life insurance abuses which have recently been exposed. The statements were not made vociferously enough to catch the public ear, and the house cleaning in the companies was left for the "age of clamor." It is true that cranks, visionaries, pseudo reformers, and mischief makers are clamoring for unwise or vicious legislation as loudly as genuine reformers are asking for needed legislation. They attack imaginary evils as strenuously as the others do real evils. But the false reformers are no more noisy in this age than they have been in preceding ages. The public is not in the habit of taking for gospel all that it hears from irresponsible individuals. It usually remains unmoved by their clamor and heeds only that of persons whom it looks on as measurably responsible. Society cannot get along without clamor. It is the great agent for the removal of abuses. Those who complain the most of its strident, discordant voice are the ones who are directly or indirectly interested in the continuance of the bad conditions against which clamor is raised. Thus railroad men think there has been an unnecessary clamor against railroad management. Deep seated evils cannot be cured by whispering against them.

Old Stone Well Moved.
The residents of Bainbridge are much excited over a remarkable landslide which has taken place on the south side of that village during the last few days, for sections of the hill continue to slide away at intervals. The slide is on what is known as Higgins hill, where a stone quarry has been operated for many years. The hill was over forty feet high, and a great deal of valuable rock had been removed from it during the last few years, but the greater part of the broken stone and earth has been dumped on the hillside. The recent wet weather caused this to loosen and a portion of the hill commenced to slide on Thursday night and has been going down ever since. A mud roadway, which was used by teams to bring down the stone, was entirely obliterated, but the remarkable part of the slide is that an old stone well which was on the top of the hill slid down the embankment for a distance of twenty-two feet and was not destroyed. The well, which is sixteen feet deep, has always had from twelve to fifteen feet of water in it and there is an old windlass on the top. As has been stated, that well slid down the side of the hill, windlass, stone and water, and it did not even cause turbidness of the water. The windlass, which is nearly worn out, appears as good to-day as it was before the well moved.—Chillicothe News-Advertiser.

Short-Shifted.
Wife—John, here's my new bathing suit. I don't see anything immodest in it, do you?
Hub—Well, no—not so long as you keep out of it.—Boston Transcript.

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More inventions are being made in electrical appliances than in all other industries combined.

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Opportunities are only holes knocked in the walls of difficulty.

Heaven can always become a closer environment than earth.

All culture must be measured by its contribution to the soul.

Regeneration is spiritual heredity overcoming that of flesh.

True parenthood is a perfect sermon on the Father in Heaven.

We can always have His face nearer to us than our failures.

You cannot live right when you are feeding your mind on folly.

Almost all things we get for nothing cost more than they are worth.

With many the wisest thing to do is to say nothing and stick to it.

Keep your heart fallow and you can be sure of fat crops from God's seed.

When the church is a refrigerator car it is traveling under false pretenses.

A man needs to pray for himself when the offering spoils the sermon.

It's the man who is always crowing who is most likely to have to eat crow.

There is no promise that the Holy Ghost shall come to the ghostly church.

They who have the joy of finding the lost never desire the pleasures of the lost.

Many are willing that God should lead them if they may show Him the way.

A man does not secure the wedding garment by his fidelity to the mode here.

A good deal of our faith in revivalists is to cover our failure to do their work.

The men who proclaim the reign of law in nature often forget it in their souls.

Many shepherds never go after the one until they have sheared the ninety and nine.

TRAGEDY UNDER THE SEA.

Fate of a Diver Whose Helmet Strangely Came Unfastened.

An accident which is described as without precedent in the history of diving operations has been the subject of magisterial inquiry at Simonstown. Two divers, Kramling and Macphail, were at work at some levels on the new jockyard works at Simonstown. They were working at a depth of about fifty feet, and, though they did not go down together, they met under water, and were, it appeared from the evidence, discussing by signs the position in regard to the levels on which they were working.

According to the statement of the survivor, Macphail, he saw his companion's helmet suddenly fly off. In this desperate position the drowning man clung to Macphail, who gave the signal to the boat overhead to haul in, and the two men were drawn up to within ten feet of the surface. At this point the hauling ceased, the men in the boat being unable to raise the heavy weight further, and Macphail was compelled to loose his hold of his drowning comrade, who sank to the bottom. The other man reached the boat, and immediately went down again, but Kramling was lying face downward on the bottom, and was dead when they finally got him to the surface.

No explanation was forthcoming of how it was possible for the man's helmet to come unfastened. It was stated to have been adjusted properly when he entered the water, and the two divers were said to have been on perfectly good terms, no question as to the possibility of foul play being raised. The verdict was simply that the man was drowned, but the magistrate confessed that the manner in which the helmet became unfastened remained a mystery.—Cape Town Correspondence London Chronicle.

Prehistoric Incubators.

The use of incubators in the hatching of eggs is not a new process. On the contrary, it dates back to the ancient Egyptians who often hatched eggs of various fowls in clay ovens heated to the proper temperature.

With the drying out of the Egyptians, the science of incubation, like so many of their other arts, went with them, and it was thought that it was one of the lost arts until Reamur regained it in the last century.

Stereotyping.
The first attempt at stereotyping in America was made in 1775 by Benjamin Mecom, a printer at Philadelphia. Previous to this time the Dutch had stereotyped a prayer book in 1771. The first printing press in America was established in 1639 at Cambridge, Mass.

Civilization Shortens Equine Life.
The life of the horse is said to have been reduced by civilization. At the age of 20 the domestic animal is as old as if it had lived thirty years in a free state.

There isn't much fun in making love to a girl if she knows you really mean it.

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