

Topics of the Times

Men who don't wish to be found out are careful not to be found in.

An Italian steamer uses licorice root for fuel. She ought to be renamed the "Young America."

It would be a godsend to the people of Central America if our canal strip included the entire Isthmus.

The price of starch is said to have been doubled recently. Here is a case where the consumer gets it in the neck.

"Russia," says a paper, "has no national game." It seems that bomb-throwing does not come under the head of Sport.

England is discussing the closing of doors against the anarchist. The doors of the goal, perhaps, with the anarchist inside.

It would be more or less interesting to know what a mosquito lives on when he isn't sucking the blood of some human being.

Russian bonds are lower now than they have been at any time since 1877. It is a wonder that there is any sale for them at any price.

Rojestrensky has resigned from the Russian navy. At least, he has resigned from the spot where the navy would be if Russia had one.

Speaking of "writs of prohibition," aren't they the kind the W. C. T. U. has been trying to serve on the country for, lo, these many years?

A judge has decided that a woman need not tell her age on the witness stand. This will be sadly disappointing to the women who are not subpoenaed.

If King Leopold had not been called to a throne he might have won the distinction of being known as the John D. Rockefeller of Europe. Fate has a way of playing scurvy tricks on some of us.

A Texas man says he has visited New York twice and been robbed there just that many times. He might have saved himself time and trouble by forwarding the money in a registered package.

Castro, president of Venezuela, is known as "the little Napoleon of South America." We would feel nervous if we were in his place. Somehow the little Napoleons never seem to end in blazes of glory.

The courts have decided that H. H. Rogers must give up \$2,500,000 which he pocketed while he was acting as trustee of a gas company. If he would build a fence around himself and charge for the privilege of seeing him give it up he could confidently count on a large attendance.

The plan of naming battleships after States and of having them built in different parts of the country may help to destroy sectionalism, if any still lingers. For example, the new battleship Georgia, the fastest in the navy, was built in the old Pine Tree State; and Maine, because of the pride of craftsmanship, will watch the performance of the new ship with as much interest as the State whose name it bears.

President Castro of Venezuela has an original way of doing things. He left the capital in the spring, and announced that he had retired from the presidency for a while. The vice president, one of his partisans, performed some of the functions of the presidency. In the middle of June Castro let it be known that he would resume his office on July 5th. It would be difficult to imagine the American President taking a vacation and leaving the Vice President to exercise his powers, even if the Constitution permitted such a surrender of duties.

It is said that some of the club women of New York complain of the way in which the parks of that city are littered up by parties of children. No doubt such complaints have been made, for there are flunky women everywhere, but we doubt if the whole burden of the attempt to block the childish fun should be laid at the door of the clubwomen, who are often the objects of unjust criticism. We should rather suspect that the idea originated with those denatured women, whether members of clubs or not, who sport dogs instead of children.

The great advance which has been made toward a realization of Cecil Rhodes' darling conception of the Cape to Cairo railroad is impressively dispelled by the recent announcement that the rail head had reached Broken Hill, in British Central Africa. The length of Africa from north to south along the line of the road is about 4,000 miles. The portion of the road now in actual operation is 2,016 miles long, but the distance remaining to be covered is even less than these figures seem to indicate, for railroad construction is going on southwardly from Egypt, and when the line from South Africa penetrates the Sudan it will make connections forming a continuous rail route across the continent. It is not many years since Africa was known as the dark continent. The re-

gion in which railroad construction is going on is that in which Livingstone labored and in which he died in 1873. At that time the idea that the next generation would see the locomotive in the heart of Africa would have been regarded as the dream of a madman.

At a time when charges of graft are made on every hand, when wrongdoing has come to be expected from every officeholder, when individuals long trusted and honored have been shown to be made of the commonest sort of clay, it is easy to become pessimistic and to see only evil in the path of the republic. The despondent are apt to be carried away by the storm, and even saner folk, warned of some impending curse by a prophet of ill, are swept from their moorings. At such a time it is refreshing and hope-inspiring to hear a clear voice telling of the good of life and calling to the down-hearted to cheer up and see the bright side of things. A notable instance of such optimism was President Angell's baccalaureate address at Ann Arbor, in which he said that the present reaction of indignation against the public iniquities which have been exposed has carried the great mass of the people to a moral height which they seldom have attained. The thoroughness with which mismanagement has been investigated, the determination which has been manifested to eradicate evils, the insistent demand for stricter laws of regulation, the dethronement of bosses who have held power for years, the scorn and contempt accorded to public men, long honored, who have been detected in unsavory business dealings—all show the moral soundness of the majority of the people of the country. "A more sane and wholesome state of public feeling has never been seen," are Mr. Angell's words. This suggestion opened the way for an appeal for enrollment of college graduates among those who are determined that right and honor shall prevail. On the one hand there is the temptation to get rich quickly by dubious means, perhaps, thus adding to the army of corruptionists and destroyers of society. On the other hand, there is the chance for an honorable career among the self-respecting and respected members of a community. In a striking sentence President Angell asserts: "The lawyer of fair ability, of industry, and of character is sure to be recognized in due time; the physician of intelligence, of fidelity to his patients, of pleasing address, and of good morals is certain to be in demand and to bind to him the families he serves by the dearest ties; the editor who loves veracity more than sensationalism, and purity in his columns more than the ill-gotten gains of salacious advertisements, is assured of influence in a decent community; the man on whom political office is thrust by his fellow citizens because of his intellectual and moral worth dwells in an atmosphere quite above the vulgar and nauseous temptations that captivate the professional office-seeker, and when he finishes his career leaves an honored name behind him." These things are true, and no opportunity ever presented itself to the aspiring more encouraging than that which is afforded right now, when the people, tired of exposures and frauds, weary of grafters and corruptionists, and themselves at heart all right, look for the honest and intelligent servant who will be right and do right. It has often been proved in the world's history that an era of seeming wholesale corruption was really, for the great mass of citizens, an age of virtue.

Finds Agent Not Asleep.
A certain woman who wished to have some fun at the expense of an agent who had oftentimes solicited her to insure herself and family asked him on one occasion if he would insure the cat. The agent, to the astonishment and no small amusement of some friends, promptly offered to do so, provided she paid the first premium down. The woman, still thinking to hoax him, expressed her willingness to do so, and placed a shilling on the table. The agent quickly produced a proposal, filled it in and obtained her signature while those present were on the tiptoe of expectancy as to what was to follow.

"Now, madam, with your permission, may I see the cat?"

"Certainly," she replied, at the same time pointing to a glass case which contained the stuffed remains of the poor defunct cat.

A chorus of derisive laughter burst from all present, but to their dismay the agent turned, bowed politely, at the same time picking up the shilling, and exclaimed:

"When the cat dies, madam, kindly call at our office and claim the insurance money."—London Telegraph.

Meeting of Extremes.
In a hunter's camp different men began to unfold their yarns. Among others a Kentuckian said he once shot a buck in such a way that the bullet, after hitting the right ear, passed through the heel of the right hind foot. Jeering and laughter greeted the story.

"Brown," called the Kentuckian to his companion, "tell these fellows if what I say is not as true as gospel!"

"Why, yes," replied the other, "I saw it myself. You see, gentlemen, when he pulled the trigger of his rifle, the buck was just scratching his head with his hoof."

Then he whispered to his friend: "That was a narrow escape. Another time don't lie so far apart."—New York Times.

"That fellow," said a Missourian in speaking about a neighbor whom he does not like, "would get up at night and burn his own clothes to make a light to steal corn from a blind sow."

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