

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Krupp trousseau costs \$250. Probably made of gun-cotton.

Evidently the scorching bicyclists of a few years ago are the scorching automobilists of to-day.

It is not probable that the latest events in Cuba will cause any surprise to the Spanish nation.

Stripes are to be the style for the coming season. It is fashion's not the court's decree, however.

The candy is under something a little stronger than suspicion. Things unspeakable have been found in it. Boil your candy.

Perhaps, Englishmen oppose the spelling reform because they foresee that they would be compelled to drop their h's altogether.

It's wonderful what depths of love are disclosed in the male heart when there's a widow with half a million dollars in the case.

The train wrecker is possibly the most execrated of criminals, and yet he cannot cause as much suffering as does the bank wrecker.

Chicago bank deposits are greater than ever before in the history of that city. After all, Stensland's area of ruin was circumscribed.

Now that modern surgery has discovered a way of splicing the spinal cord, there may be some hope for the fellow with a weak backbone.

Sarah Bernhardt says Patti would be foolish to retire as long as she has any voice left. Mme. Bernhardt is an expert on anti-retiring matters.

A New York balloonist went to sleep while two miles high. But, unlike a good many other balloonists, he finally waked up and was able to tell about it.

Again the learned doctors have come to the front and assured everybody that hydrophobia is wholly an imaginary malady. People ought to quit dying of it.

Dr. Oaler's mother is living, at the age of 100, in Toronto. She is reported to be bright and spry, too. Long may she live on to exemplify the absurdity of her son's theory.

Pittsburg has another scandal which, it is promised, will be just as filthy as any of those which have preceded it. Somebody might bring about a welcome relief by cutting the Pittsburg wires.

Reports from San Francisco say that there is work at high wages for thousands there. One great trouble with most of the people who are idle, however, is that they have no taste for the kind of work that San Francisco offers.

King Haakon of Norway says he finds it very pleasant to wear a crown and is unable to understand why monarchs should ever be worried. It should be remembered, however, that being a king in Norway is a good deal like being a vice president in the United States.

It is reported from Shanghai that for the first time in its history China will abandon its traditional policy and emit coins bearing the effigy of the emperor. In fact, it is said silver rupees and half-rupees have already been struck bearing the likeness of Kuang-su. The reason given is that the circulation of money adorned with the head of Edward VII. has materially increased British prestige in Tibet, and the Chinese government wishes to offset this.

The women of Singaglia, Italy, may be noted in history, if they succeed in their recent efforts. Ten school-teachers of the town went to the board of registry and demanded that their names be put on the voting list, and the board complied. The district attorney took the matter to court, and the court confirmed the legality of the registration. The case will be carried before the highest tribunal. If the decision stands, woman suffrage in Italy will have gained a battle in a bloodless revolution by the simple strategy of some women who asked for what they wanted.

One of the Smithsonian scientists calls attention to the fact that the duration of the lives of the lower animals differs from that of men's lives in being far more uniform. While human beings die at all ages between infancy and senility, among the lower animals, on the contrary, all individuals of the same species live to very nearly the same age unless killed by violence. Some examples of remarkable longevity among animals may be cited. For instance, there is the story of the elephant Ajax, which Alexander captured at his victory over Porus. The conqueror affixed an inscription to the animal and set it at liberty. Three hundred and fifty years later Ajax is said to have been found still living. But little dependence can be placed on most stories of long life among animals.

India's material development in the last half-century is illustrated in the

growth of the cotton industry in the Bombay Presidency, its chief center. The first mill was built fifty years ago. There are now one hundred and ninety-seven mills, and fifteen or twenty more are under construction, with over five million spindles, employing two hundred thousand operatives, and consuming one and three-quarters million bales of cotton. They produce nearly six hundred million pounds of yarn, half of which is exported to China and other foreign countries. The dark side of the picture is the condition of the mill hands and their wages. The working hours in most of the mills are from sunrise to sunset, and there is a growing tendency among some of the mill owners to prolong the hours of labor by the installation of electric light. In these mills the same set of hands work from five in the morning till eight at night, with only half an hour for rest. The hands are paid by the piece, and the average weaver, says our consul at Bombay, Mr. Fee, from whose report these facts are taken, working thirteen hours per day for twenty-six days in the month, would earn less than eight dollars and a half.

The olden time pastor, grown gray in the service of a community, who can look back over two or three generations of parishioners, thinking of parents and grandparents and their many descendants, christened, married, and buried under his ministrations, has no chance to-day. His old white church with its clock-faced tower has gone, along with the old families, the old homesteads, the old influences which once marked American life. His constituents are no longer content to sit in box pews beneath the high pulpit to listen to sermons on eternal damnation, total depravity, justification by faith, sanctification, or the final perseverance of the saints. Fluency of expression, power in prayer, sincerity and godliness of life no longer complete the equipment of one who is to hold a place as pastor of a growing church. And when the demands upon the modern minister are all considered, it is not specially surprising that the profession no longer draws from each community those who seem most likely in point of attainment. No. The modern congregation must have an up-to-date building, fully as attractive as any other in the community, its external architecture no more pleasing than the completeness of its interior furnishings, its fine organ well adapted to accompany the trained singers who are depended upon for the music of the service. To secure these things money is needed, and no pastor is fitted for the place unless he has the rare power of raising funds, or at least of stimulating leaders of his flock who know how to draw the dollars from the critical worshippers. "We need a sort of canvassing agent, a man with the persistence of a book or life insurance agent" is a pretty frank and expressive way of stating what probably is the real feeling of many church members to-day. The chances are that the average minister who is led to adopt the calling from a sense of man's need of salvation is unfitted for this sort of a canvass. The modern pastor must be a social leader. He must know how to shine at a wedding or at an afternoon tea, and must be as graceful in these respects as he is dignified and impressive in connection with the formal ceremonial functions of his church. His calls must be numerous and they must be occasions for pleasant exchange of greetings rather than dreaded interviews on personal religion. Sometimes it seems as if a pastor "not afraid of notoriety," as one put it in connection with a recent case, is called for by modern religious leaders. In many cases it is more than likely that the student, fond of books and the companionship of letters, is as ill-fitted to attend to the social duties of his profession as he is to collect delinquent subscriptions or lift a mortgage from the property of an already overburdened parish. And then, to make it all the worse, the present day congregation is exceedingly hard to please. The instruction once given through the pulpit alone is now afforded by a thousand media. The increased circulation of the daily papers, the development of widely read religious and semi-religious weeklies, the multiplication of philanthropic, charitable, social and educational activities, the increase in the number of topics upon which the modern minister must keep informed, all these combine with the money-raising requirements and the social duties to make the minister's life a strenuous one, with plenty of criticism and with retirement threatening when the step falters in the least.

Standing Up a Stagny Man. Two dollars that had been taken into a till were holding a conversation together. This was not an unusual circumstance, because everybody understands that money talks. "I would hate to be the wife of the man who owns us now," said one dollar to the other. "Here, too," said the other dollar. "If he squeezes her as he does us he will break every bone in her body." "I notice, however," answered the other coin, "that the man who squeezes a dollar hardly ever squeezes his wife."—Council Grove (Kan.) Guard.

Proof Positive. Daisy—Didn't the count have any money at all? Maste—Mercy, do you suppose he would have married Birdie Follansbee if he had had any money?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Men in the penitentiary have just enough to eat, and think they do not have enough; free men have too much to eat.

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