

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

The fruit trust is now being accused of squeezing the public like a lemon.

Meanwhile there are a lot of people who could help by simplifying their own signatures.

Naturally, educated persons are provoked by an attempt to make them unlearn their spelling.

In Russia they arrested a man with a pumpkin full of cartridges. Another revolution squashed.

A dentists' union is now being formed. Will it deny to non-unionists the privilege of wearing false teeth?

"Mark Twain" pleads for the adoption of "simplified" spelling. Mark is still America's greatest humorist.

John D. Rockefeller has had a tooth pulled, but what the country is waiting for is to see him get his leg pulled.

Since hazing has been stopped at West Point the demand for tobacco sauce must have greatly decreased.

The Connecticut Democrats seem to have been able to hold their convention without offering a nutmeg to Mr. Bryan.

Aberdeen University has conferred the degree of LL. D. on Andrew Carnegie. When did Andrew give Aberdeen a library?

An American millionaire is reported to have paid \$40,000 for a Titian. These would be halcyon days for the old masters if they weren't dead.

San Francisco people are talking of holding a world's fair in that city in 1913. Evidently the San Franciscans are neither discouraged nor superstitious.

Sir Oliver Lodge says the sun will be cold in 20,000,000 years from now. Sir Oliver probably doesn't think Providence is working overtime in the interests of the coal trust.

Emperor William says he would come to this country if he were not kept so busy at home. Considering the way the emperor works, it is surprising that he doesn't strike for a raise of pay.

After revolution has flourished for a hundred years in Cuba, it is rather too much to expect that the pastime should be suddenly given up with no other popular diversion to take its place.

A Chicago scientist has discovered that a man who accumulates money as Rockefeller has done is aided by gnomes, sylphs, undines and salamanders. This will make lots of people satisfied to stay poor.

The Standard Oil Company is going to increase its capital \$400,000,000, giving the new stock to the old shareholders as a bonus. This may be a cunning scheme to keep Ida Tarbell from buying her way in.

Russian terrorists have condemned Premier Stolypin to death. It will be hard for ex-President Palma of Cuba to understand how they can get anybody to hold office in Russia for any amount of money or glory.

The prejudice against the uniform, when it takes the form of refusing its wearers admission to public places of amusement, whether or not it may be justified by experience, is a bad thing for the navy. It is difficult enough now to secure enlistments for that service. It will be still more difficult if it becomes widely known that wearers of the uniform are subject to hostile social discrimination on shore. Self-respecting young men of the shops and farms, conscious of such proscription, will shun the service.

Under both English and American law every man is presumed innocent until he has been proved to be guilty, but under old English law when he has once had a trial in a court of competent jurisdiction and has been convicted this presumption is reversed! It is presumed that he has been justly tried and justly convicted. If he questions the justice of his conviction and carries that question up to a superior tribunal, the presumptions are against him and in favor of the tribunal. It is not, therefore, sufficient for him to show that some error has been committed on the trial; he must also make it appear to the satisfaction of the appellate tribunal that this error has been prejudicial to him and really affects the justice of his condemnation.

If we may accept the expert opinion of the famous son of a famous father, pulpit eloquence has suffered a decline. According to Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, son of the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, the sermon of to-day is no longer the power it was. It is possible the modern sermon may be couched in equally forcible language, but its influence cannot be compared with that wielded by the exhortations of a generation or more ago. The pastor to-day faces a very different audience, an audience that is at once critical and largely unimpressionable. It doesn't ask for rhapsodies, it is impervious to warning lessons, it refuses to have its feelings harrowed up. This was not the con-

gregation the old-time giants of the pulpit faced. They were not handicapped by such considerations as temper the eloquent flight of the preacher of to-day.

The publication by a London newspaper of scores of letters on "Grumbling husbands" draws out scores of other letters on "Nagging Wives." The husband who sulks or swears at the breakfast table, the wife who overcooks the mutton and undercooks the potatoes, the woman who is extravagant and silly, and the man who is stingy and exacting, fill the printed columns with their unlovely faces; but no one seems much the happier for the discussion. The truth lies deeper than any single experience is likely to give. But good cooking on the part of the wife and cheerful paying of bills on the part of the husband, economy and generosity each in its place, tact in the training of children, success in earning a good income, and a thousand circumstances like these will not insure domestic happiness. Even Love, the magician, cannot do that, although he promises blithely to do so. Skill in the art of living is the essential for a happy home—and it must be possessed by both husband and wife, even though in varying amounts. It is exactly like skill in playing the piano or running a complicated machine—to be acquired by practice, and to be preserved by practice. An irritable word, unregretted, or a glum silence is the very root of it. Courtesy is its fair blossom. The woman who has skill in the art of living would as soon think of turning a drove of swine loose in her dainty home as of letting out there a black herd of reproaches and criminations. The husband would bring thieves and outlaws under his roof as soon as fault-finders and exactions. In any large view of life these flaws in its most intimate relations take on their true hideousness. Neither a cooking school nor a college course can cure the disease of which they are the symptoms. That can be cured only by a heart-stirring realization of that divine order by which ideas and stars and systems move in their appointed courses, and by which discord and contention meet their appointed end of misery and wreck.

Every physician knows that we may increase bodily suffering and even engender the very diseases we most dread by continually dwelling upon our bodily condition. On the other hand, we may augment our health-power by expelling discordant thought or any other enemy of health and happiness from the mind, as one would eject a thief from his house. The mental conditions that govern success are precisely the same as those that govern health and happiness. Success is largely a creation of the mind. If we would succeed we must frame the mind for success. Our thoughts must be of success, not failure. A stream cannot rise higher than its source, and even a Raphael could not paint the face of Christ with Satan in his mind for a model. If we have dwelt upon the dark side and lived in the shadows, the brain is incapable of producing bright, helpful mental pictures. How can one expect to find success and happiness when one is going in the opposite direction, constantly feeding the mind with visions of disaster and failure? The mainspring of all effective effort is hope. If hope is strangled by gloomy forebodings there is no incentive left. You can anticipate failure and disaster so long that your brain is absolutely incapable of giving off anything but morbid thoughts. You increase discord by admitting its reality, just as you increase happiness by dwelling upon the things which make you happy. So by dwelling upon and anticipating failure you invite it and cause success to fly from you. If we persistently shut out every thought that discourages or depresses, and keep the mind in a bright, healthy, keen condition, then the brain cells will be clear to think and plan and the body strong, active and able to carry out the brain's dictates. The mind that is unclouded by the cobwebs of fear and expected failure and quick to seize upon every passing opportunity or advantage, will open the door to success. Indeed, the possession of such a spirit as this is success itself. No material treasures that any man may acquire can compare with the treasures of a hopeful, healthful mind.

No Smoking in Street.
No smoking was allowed in the streets or parks of Berlin before May 23, 1832, and offenders were punished by a fine for the first infraction of the rule and by imprisonment afterwards. The King of Prussia in those days detested smoking, and the police and military men were under strict orders to arrest anyone who smoked in public. It is recorded that when Napoleon occupied Berlin a hundred years ago the Berliners eagerly took advantage of the opportunity to smoke, and took a special delight in puffing smoke in the faces of the police, who then had no power to arrest them. In 1832, however, the restriction was withdrawn.

No Kicked Straight Out.
Tom—My! but old Gotrox was mad when I told him I was going to marry his daughter.
Dick—Kicked like a mule, eh?
Tom—No, I wish he had. A mule only kicks backward, I believe.—Catholic Standard Times.

His Part.
"She has got a new dress."
"Did she get a fit?"
"No, but her husband will."—Hous-ton Post.

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