

**TOPICS OF THE TIMES**

It doesn't take the average man long to get short.

Don't expect a soft answer when you call a man hard names.

Isn't it getting to be a good while between dourmas in Russia?

Will the ambitious mothers of America parade Count Boni as a "horrible example?"

A man is very apt to find himself in other people's way when he insists upon having his own.

Japan is conquering Manchuria commercially, which is a more substantial and lasting way than shooting holes through it.

When Opportunit! knocks at your door and doesn't receive an answer she doesn't often leave a card with her address on it.

Count Boni de Castellane may now be listed with those people who have come to the conclusion that it is foolish to keep letters.

After this the American girl who marries a title must understand right at the start that it will be useless for her to expect any sympathy.

Every time a man and a woman engage in an argument the man gets a chance to say unprintable things and the woman to turn on the briny flow.

William Allen White, who originated the question, "What's the matter with Kansas?" has taken in more territory. He now asks "What's the matter with the United States?"

It costs Consuelo Vanderbilt \$100,000 a year to get rid of her ducal husband. Some women would have dickered him down to \$50,000, and bought thread with the difference.

The husband who refuses to carry the baby, cut kindling or build fires is no longer entitled to his wife. This is now a court decision. It may be inserted in the next new divorce law.

The editor of Harper's Weekly says the American girl between the ages of 18 and 25 is a bore. But he has probably been unfortunate in associating with one who was wearing her first engagement ring.

It cost J. Pierpont Morgan \$10,000 duty to bring the manuscripts of two poems by "Bobbie" Burns to this country. How "Bobbie" would have been tickled if anybody had ever seen fit to prove to him that there was as much as \$10,000 in the world.

Off the banks of Nova Scotia they have for some time been catching fish ordinarily to be found only in tropical waters, and this strengthens the supposition that the gulf stream may be changing its course somewhat. The Canadian Fish Commissioner, Prof. Prince, reports meeting with several varieties of fish lately which are strange to that latitude.

Recently at Brockton, Mass., a 6-year-old child blew a man's head off with a shotgun; at Bangor, Me., a small boy killed his infant sister with a lead of shot, and similar occurrences have been reported from other places. Ninety-nine per cent of gun accidents might have been avoided by the exercise of a small symptom of common sense. The children referred to in the dispatches found the guns in their home and the guns were loaded. To keep a loaded gun in the house is next to criminal carelessness. To keep a loaded gun in the house where there are children is idiotic.

High finance is not without its humorous phases and one of them is presented in the virtuously reprehensive attitude of the New York Exchange magnates toward gambling in mining and other "curb" securities. Such gambling is highly sinful, they say, because "the money thus employed comes almost entirely from a class of people who would otherwise be likely to use it in listed stocks!" "Don't blow your money against the crap game in the alley," about the stock exchange magnates; "come and buck our highly respectable faro bank." Is there no sense of the ludicrous on the stock exchange?

The business of The Hague conference is at once complicated and promoted by the number of questions which other conferences and conventions are submitting to it. At the recent conference in Berlin of the International Law Association, the proceedings of which will be submitted to The Hague, it was urged that floating and automatic mines be forbidden except in the waters of belligerents. They would not be allowed in passages like the British channel, which must be used as a thoroughfare by all nations. It was also the sense of the conference that letters conveyed by regular mail steamships should be free from molestation, that ships commissioned for warlike purposes should not be allowed to hoist a mercantile flag or change their character at sea, and that vessels captured while carrying contraband of war should be conveyed to port for legal investigation. Shortly

before this the Fifteenth Universal Peace Congress, at Milan, passed a resolution that ocean trade routes should be neutral. This resolution embodied a still earlier one adopted by the Lake Mohonk Conference of International Arbitration in June.

The picture post card has proved to be not only a joy to the millions, but an important source of profit to the Post Office Department. These cards are easy to handle and do not increase the expenses of post office administration in proportion to the revenue they bring in. Because of their financial value, which has seemed worth stimulating, the post cards have succeeded in securing a bit of favoritism from the government which no other mail matter has obtained. Before long it will be permissible to write messages on the address side of the cards as well as on the picture side. Probably hundreds of thousands of persons in America alone, and certainly millions if all the world is included, are picture post card collectors. A post card without a message from the sender is but half of a pleasure, but a message across the picture, or even beneath it, or at one side, is regarded by the collector as the right thing in the wrong place. When the new arrangement takes effect the sender may use the left half of the front of the card for his written message, and all of the blessings will be neatly delivered to the receiver without any of the evils. The United States is not the country that makes the innovation. Most of the European countries have already tried it, and even have private arrangements for the transmission of such cards across national boundary lines. By the last universal postal congress it was agreed that after Oct. 1, 1907, such cards should pass freely between all nations which are parties to the convention. Postmaster General Cortelyou has now issued an order providing for this, and also providing that after March 1 next such cards shall be admitted to the domestic mails. This is good news for the collectors, and presumably experience has sufficiently demonstrated that messages confined to one-half of the card will still leave free space enough on the other half to enable the mail men to make out the addresses without undue confusion.

**WORK AMONG MOSLEMS.**

Question Discussed at an American Board Meeting.

Following closely upon the acceptance of Mr. Lehman as ambassador at Constantinople comes the announcement of the new attitude of the American board toward mission work among the Moslems in Turkey, says the New York Tribune.

Hitherto it has been feared that Moslem fanaticism might result in violence against the missionaries at the front if it were plainly stated that this board is endeavoring through its missionaries to make Jesus Christ known to the followers of Mohammed. For nearly four score and ten years the board has maintained a silence that has been misinterpreted both in the east and in the west. Widely has the uncontradicted but erroneous statement been circulated that "mission boards are not working for the Christianization of Moslems," and that "no Moslems become Christian."

There is even a wide difference of opinion among the missionaries and the friends of the board as to the wisdom of discussing this question here. Some fear it may result in open fanatical violence against missionaries in Turkey and elsewhere, while others believe that the time has come when the board should speak boldly and frankly.

Last April witnessed a long step in advance in the conference in Cairo, Egypt, where some seventy delegates assembled from all over the world to discuss this question. Since the conference was in a Moslem country, secrecy was maintained at that time to prevent the breaking up of the gathering. Two volumes are soon to be issued, giving to the world a full report of proceedings of the first world conference of Christians upon the subject of Mohammedanism and its relation to Christianity.

Printing Press in Tibet.

When approaching Tibet from the valley on the west a correspondent paid a visit to a monastery, there far famed for its printing press, says the Times of India.

In winter the press does no work, probably because the ink cannot be kept from freezing, and we are disappointed in our hopes of witnessing the manner in which sacred literature is manufactured in Tibet.

All around a big hall are arranged in shelves the printing blocks, which are simply rectangular pieces of wood upon which a whole page of lettering has been carved. When in action a block is held in a vise and then levered by hand upon the paper, where it leaves a facsimile of the carving on its face.

The process is simple and expeditious, and several fat volumes can be printed in a day. But the blocks, of which there are very many thousands, represent long and patient labor, their workmanship and finish being very fine. Of the usual adjuncts of a printing press there are none at Nartank monastery except that unwashed condition of some of the monks and all of the attendants entitles them to rank with printers' devils.

It is bad enough for a popular man to attempt to get votes but it is the limit when an unpopular man tries to

Our idea of the right kind of a letter is one in which there is nothing to answer.

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