

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Some people display the best of taste by cutting out originality from their conversation.

Many women have a way about them that is calculated to drive sensitive men to drink.

Mrs. Sage will not aid rich beggars. "To him that hath shall be given" she does not take literally.

Governor Magoon is going to abolish dueling in Cuba. He must be afraid that somebody will get hurt.

Possibly Mr. Hughes wears that beard in fulfillment of a rash vow made at some earlier period of his career.

Peary hasn't found the pole, but he has penetrated farther north than any other navigator, giving America the record.

In view of the general advance in wages the walking delegate is beginning to think it is time for him to strike for an increase.

Swiss hotels are about to bar Russians, the proprietors having no desire to see their furniture and crockery muscled up by a bomb explosion.

When one reads of the actions of Count Boni de Castellane it seems a pity that Mrs. Jay Gould never taught her daughters how to use a rolling pin.

According to Anthony Comstock, Adam "hid behind the skirts of Eve." It will be recalled that on that memorable occasion Eve wore her apple-green suit.

There are likely any number of patriotic American citizens who feel that an opportunity to kick Count Boni de Castellane should be added to the manifold blessings of this country.

Governor Magoon is discharging government officials in order to cut down Cuba's expenses. Cubans will regard such a proceeding as a poor way to try to save the country.

A man in Pittsburg, Mass., killed his wife and himself because she spilled a cup of tea at the supper table. There's nothing like thoroughness. He never will be bothered in that way again.

All the old clerks employed by Russell Sage have had their salaries doubled by Mrs. Sage. This must put them in the embarrassing position of trying to mourn Uncle Russell's death and look pleased at the same time.

Harper's Weekly publishes a story to the effect that in the reading-room of one of the most exclusive clubs of Boston there is a sign that says: "Only low conversation permitted here." In view of the fact that it is an exclusive club, perhaps the joke is on those people who think Boston doesn't know how to say what she means.

Certain Chinese who led the boycott on American goods in Canton last year, and were punished by imprisonment, were released the other day. A crowd of enthusiastic Chinese gathered and applauded the men, and a magistrate gave a luncheon in their honor. Indeed, the boycott leaders were treated very much as the leaders of the anti-Chinese agitation used to be treated in the sand-lot days of San Francisco.

Many Americans are astonished because they see grave discontent in the midst of unprecedented prosperity. They can not understand the unrest of many citizens, native born and naturalized alike, when the times are better than ever before. It is nothing strange. Human ambition feeds on success. The farther from actual want men and women get the more they desire. Comfort is conservative, but it is not an opiate. If it were the world would stagnate when it was best able to undertake and carry out great enterprises. There is never enough prosperity to go around. In the important sense of approximate equality.

One of the Philadelphia papers has given considerable space to correspondence upon the problem of domestic economy and the cost of living. Writers whose resources vary widely have given their experience and offered their advice. One woman whose husband gives her five thousand dollars a year for her family of four is unable to get along comfortably on that sum. She wants a sample bill of fare for a week, and also information as to where she can "get a hat for less than fifteen dollars." Another woman with a family of three has less than five hundred dollars a year, yet she says they "have the best of everything and plenty of it." She does her own washing, ironing, cooking, dressmaking and mending, has a garden and keeps hens. One of these women ought to study domestic science. The other might easily get a chance to teach it.

"While this is an age of intellectuality and brains and all that sort of stuff," said a young business man yesterday, "you've no idea of the absolute lack of knowledge of little things that most of us have. For instance, yesterday I was in conversation with a friend and, although we were talking upon

some absolutely irrelevant subject, I was startled by suddenly having him ask me: 'What is the capital of Florida?' 'Tallahassee,' I answered, and he thereupon began to ask me the names of capitals of State after State. I answered correctly thirty or more until we came to a distant State. Think as I would I could not remember the capital of that State. When he saw he had me cornered my friend told me of the theory he had that only one man out of every ten had more than a superficial knowledge of these little things. According to him I was the eighth man he had tackled and not one of them could tell without a break the capitals of all the States in the Union."

Holding up railroad trains has become so common that it attracts no more attention than the killing of a few people on a trolley car, but the exploit of a lone bandit in holding up a train near Glasgow, Mo., is a little more interesting. In this case a single robber, masked and with a pistol in each hand, compelled a sleeping car conductor, a porter and a flagman to go before him and wake up all the passengers in a sleeper, and as fast as he came to them demanded and received their money. He then left the train and there was the usual fruitless effort to follow and arrest him. He got only a small amount because the door of the other sleeper was locked. This is the climax of what has always been an astonishing thing, which is the abject and unnecessary cowardice displayed by both train hands and travelers on such occasions. That women will scream and that nine out of ten men will cover and tremble is to be expected. The wonder is that with 100 men on a train never is one found of sufficient nerve and daring to put a train robber out of business. This is remarkable because it is something that could be easily done. It would not be necessary to face the bandit and begin a duel with him. Any man with a pistol and a moderate share of nerve could conceal himself in some dark nook in the train and blow the bandit's brains out as he passed, without ever being seen. The facilities for such strategy on a railroad train are innumerable. The way most men reason about it is: "This man will certainly shoot me if I give him any provocation. My life is worth more to me and my family than my money. It would even be cheaper to give up my money than to receive a serious wound. It is the business of the railroad company to protect me and I am not going to do its police work at the risk of my life." No one will blame a man for reasoning in this way, but the wonder is that there is not occasionally some plucky individual who will risk his life to kill a villain and protect a trainful of passengers. This is wonderful because every newspaper contains an account of some feat of heroic daring in other walks of life. In the last year hundreds of people have risked their lives to save others from drowning or from burning to death. Even women rush into burning buildings to save a pet dog or parrot. Mr. Carnegie has established a mill to turn out medals, diplomas and pensions for heroes and the applicants are innumerable. When will it happen that a Carnegie medal was given to a man who rushed at a railroad bandit with pistols in his hand and choked him to death in the presence of the passengers? It may be that not many men on a railroad train have pistols with them, but if that is so they ought to carry them when they take long railroad journeys in this country.

Color Troubles of Whittier.
It is well known that the poet Whittier was color blind and unable to distinguish red from green. He once bought for himself a necktie which he supposed to be of a modest and suitable olive tint and wore it once. He never wore it again, for his friends soon made him aware that it offended against the traditional quietness of costume enjoined alike by the habits of the Friends and by his own taste. The tie was of flaming scarlet.

On another occasion, when he found a little girl in distress on account of a new gown, made over from her elder sister's, which was not becoming to her coloring and complexion, he tried to console her.

"I wouldn't mind what a rude boy says about it, Mary," he said kindly. "These looks very well indeed in it, like an oread, Mary, dressed all in green."

Unfortunately, Mary was not dressed in green. She was red-haired, and her dress was red. That was the trouble.

A Plucky Policeman.
Policeman Jacob Farra, of West Chester, Pa., who has the reputation of being afraid of no dog, attacked a dog which was apparently mad, dragged it from a porch and shot it. The dog was on the porch of W. R. Otley and had chewed the legs off a rocking chair when the policeman arrived. He did not hesitate, but grasped the animal by the tail, threw it over a fence and then shot it in an alley.

The Future Fire.
"Do you really believe," asked the unscrupulous business man that "honesty is the best policy?"
"I believe," replied the Rev. Mr. Goodley, "that it is the very best eternal fire insurance policy."—Philadelphia Press.

These are the real facts about the standing of the noblest work of God—man. He is first known as the son of this mother; then the husband of his wife, and ends by being known as the father of his children.

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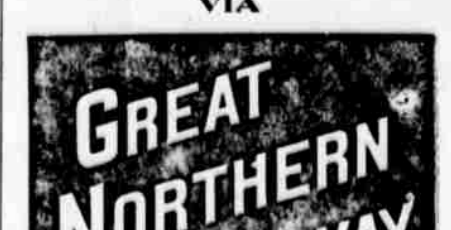
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