

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

"Debrutalized" football has become almost human.

The year 1906 promises to be an unusually prosperous one for the big lawyers.

If the independent and prosperous farmer "gets the worst of it," what are the rest of us getting?

The search for the best book is endless. There are almost as many best books as there are readers.

By the court's decree the Countess Castellane gets what she wants and gets rid of what she didn't want.

Most of the objection to trial marriages come from men and women who have passed through marriage trials.

It appears that the "debrutalized" class rush contents itself with breaking a collar bone instead of a neck. We certainly are advancing.

Richard Croker has been offered \$100,000 for his autography, and from now on he will be receiving letters beseeching him not to tell all he knows.

Andrew Carnegie offers to donate \$1,000,000 to the cause of universal peace. It is hoped that there will be no unseemly quarreling among people who desire to handle the money.

Two Warsaw anarchists recently threw bombs at an actress. If her advance agent isn't making the most of the incident she ought to fire him and employ a good, live American.

In spite of all the scientific theories that have been advanced it seems probable that the matter of betrothals and marriages will be settled, as heretofore, by the young persons chiefly concerned.

Possibly the kaiser deserves great credit for being an optimist, but one could pick out two or three persons who really would have more excuse than the kaiser for giving way to pessimism.

Mr. Rockefeller says he "trusts implicitly in Providence." It has been the popular impression for some time that Mr. Rockefeller's trust was in the Almighty. That is to say, the Almighty Dollar.

According to Dr. Senn, of Chicago, more people die from eating food than from drinking intoxicants. And yet it is not easy to find a satisfactory substitute for food, even if we replace it with breakfast food.

There is a thoughtful lady in Philadelphia who wants the family physician to arrange betrothals, so that there may in future be less mismatching. The question now arises, would the doctor charge for a house or an office call?

Inconsistency, the paste jewel of human nature, has never been better illustrated than by the barbarous contrast of bravery and cowardice which a medical journal points out in professional motor car drivers. They risk their lives in perilous runs for money, for excitement, for fame, from zest for the sport or whatever the motive may be. Yet some of them will not have the number thirteen on their cars. Shrinking from the fictitious terrors of a medieval superstition they plunge boldly into dangers that are so obvious that every spectator of a race holds his breath. Curious illogical human nature!

To help supply the demand in America for good servants and also to help Italian immigrants to good places, an Italian banker of New York City proposes to train Italian women in model houses before they leave home. He plans to open in northern Italy practical schools of domestic service equipped with American laundries, kitchens and dining rooms, where girls may learn free of charge the work that will be required of them. Then they will come to this country, where they will easily secure places on the strength of their practical education. It is thought that persons of influence in both countries will be ready to help this work, which is philanthropic in the best sense in that it promotes the efficiency of the worker and insures good service to the employer.

Bigness is said to be a quality which appeals especially to Americans. However that may be, a purely scientific interest justifies the spreading of information contained in a recent bulletin of the United States Geological Survey about the size of the United States. The area of the United States proper, exclusive of Alaska, island dependencies and the Panama strip, is given as three million twenty-six thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine square miles. The absence hitherto of an official standard resulted in a discrepancy between the computations of the Census Bureau and the General Land Office. A conference was called between these departments and the Geological Survey, and the bulletin of the Geological Survey is the result.

The sons of the Count and the Countess de Castellane are the real sufferers from the mercenary marriage of which they are the issue. While the mother is given the custody of the children—

all of whom are of tender years—they are to be given over to their father, a man of vile habits, two days in the week, one week at New Year and Easter and a month in summer of each year. During these times they will be with their grandmother, who is a bitter enemy of their mother and under the influence of their father. If the countess succeeds in making even decent Frenchmen out of her boys under these conditions both she and they will be exceptionally fortunate. A mother must indeed be of strong character and determined will to counteract the influences that will be set at work against her personality and teachings in such a case.

The temporary agreement, or modus vivendi, between the United States and Great Britain regarding the rights of American fishermen in Newfoundland waters has stirred up considerable opposition in several parts of the British Empire. The present Liberal government in London has agreed that the American fishermen may use purse-seines, and may employ Newfoundland crews, although both of these things are forbidden by the local laws of the colony. The agreement is to continue until an understanding can be reached as to the rights guaranteed to American fishermen by the treaty of 1818 and does not grant any right which that treaty does not appear to protect. The people of Newfoundland charge the British government with betraying the interests of the colony. In Natal the arrangement is regarded as a blow at the system of colonial autonomy. It is urged that the affairs of a self-governing colony should not be discussed with a foreign state until the imperial government has the concurrence of the colony interested. In London the opposition condemns the government for what it calls "a complete surrender to America." The impartial observer will consult the treaties before forming an opinion on these partisan charges. The fishing rights of Americans in Canadian waters were recognized by the British at the same time that they recognized the independence of the Continental colonies. The revolutionists successfully contended that the fisheries of the whole Atlantic coast were a valuable asset of the territory which had won its independence. After the war of 1812 the British claimed that the previous treaty was nullified by the hostilities, but the American commissioners refused to admit that contention, and insisted that the recognition of our rights in the fisheries was as irrevocable as the recognition of the independence of the colonies. The conditions under which the rights might be enjoyed were slightly modified in the treaty of 1818, still in force. Other and temporary agreements have been made, but when they expired the old treaty again became active. The early rights, which were conceded in the first peace treaty between the mother country and the colonies, have been modified so many times that the Newfoundlanders and many British and Americans have come to think that they are not rights at all, but privileges.

VALUE OF THE ARCHITECT.

Public Not Generally Informed as to His True Worth.

The real necessity for education in architecture, in our minds, is not to teach the public what is good architecture so much as to bring them to a closer appreciation of the function the architect plays in public work. To many people he is still a sort of upper craftsman, less businesslike than a mason, not as practical as a carpenter, but one who increases the cost of a building from some unknown reason and keeps the builders all guessing. Any one who looks back over the progress of the profession in this country for the last quarter of a century can readily appreciate how modern a thing the American architect is and how little he is understood. The nation, the cities, the individuals have thrown opportunities at the profession with both hands. The profession has never been quite equal to it, but has made a brave fight and is fighting still.

When we say that the public appreciates architecture we do not mean that the appreciation is a knowing or an intelligent one. It simply likes a large, handsome piece of building construction, and, generally speaking, the public that goes by on the street will take kindly to the really good architectural monuments.

There is, however, beyond a question a great work to be done, and the suggestion to educate the public by means of the creation of museums of architecture is one which deserves careful consideration and which if carried out very generally would undoubtedly do a great deal to bring about the desired results.

It is safe to say that the collection of architectural casts in the Metropolitan museum at New York is studied and admired more than any other one feature of that magnificent collection, and there ought to be similar collections in all of our large cities. Whether the time is yet ripe for them to be independent collections is a question.

Even now nearly all of our museums have a more or less general collection of architectural casts and if these could be enlarged so as to be more specific in their illustrations—to include models of complete buildings of the best type, with examples of decorations of furnished interiors and with perhaps in connection therewith exhibitions of architectural drawings—they would become powerful educational agents.—Brickbuilder.

A child's first impression is usually made by the paternal slipper.

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