

**TOPICS OF THE TIMES**

In Mr. Harriman's opinion, apparently, there is only one capable railroad man in this country.

If you want rabbits to taste good, you should live on dog meat a while, says Peary. Please pass the chicken.

The sugar trust won't mind a little fine of a few hundred thousands so long as there is a cranberry crop to sweeten.

There is some talk of devoting a newspaper especially to flying machines. A new kind of fly paper, as it were.

If, as one paper says, "shipping is a symptom of prosperity," a remarkably large number of people seem to have been exposed.

"God save the country!" says Mr. Shaw. But won't this make Congress sit up and wonder what Shaw thinks it is there for?

One of the scientists says there will be no blondes 600 years from now. But why worry over a future that is 600 years distant?

While Curtis Jett is serving two life sentences, is it possible that he will reflect on what he would do if he had his two lives to live over?

There is in Kansas a man who is a minister, a doctor, an undertaker and a dealer in tombstones. We have not heard why he doesn't practice dentistry.

The news columns tell of a woman 105 years of age who has made application for divorce. Some of 'em live happy ever after and some never get too old to regret.

The battleship Kansas has stood its trial test, and all Kansas will expect it to become the Gen. Fred Funston of the navy the first time any world power makes faces at us.

It must be a great trial to a young man to spend a long time considering which of two girls he has been paying attention to is best for him to marry, and then to find that neither one will have him.

With the race question unsettled we can see where the country grocers are going to lose a lot of money during the winter. The cracker barrel orators will help themselves to a lot of cheese during the debates.

It is just as we thought: Paris was not "shocked" at that play in the Moulin Rouge after all. The protest was political in its inspiration. We are glad to see an old friend thus set right in the eyes of the world.

This is, of course, the day of the young man, but, judging from the way railroad wrecks are charged against the mistakes of youthful telegraphers, it would seem possible that enterprising and economical captains of industry may be catching them too young.

Mrs. Florence Maybrick declares the American prison system is far inferior to that of England. We should naturally suppose there was nothing so abhorrent to Mrs. Maybrick as the English prison where she was so long and, as she claims, so unjustly confined.

Quite a number of valuable friendships have been hurried by the picture postcard to a premature grave. Absence does not make the heart grow fonder when the interval is bridged solely by the receipts of a picture with a cross on the sky line and the words, "We are staying just under this mark; you can't see the house."

For some time past vests have been made of paper, also cuffs, collars, shirt bosoms, etc., but it has remained for a firm in Saxony to spin narrow strips of paper and cotton into finished fabrics of common use. Paper and cotton and paper and wool are so combined that serviceable outing suits, jackets, skirts and many other articles of dress wear are now being produced. The new textile, if so it may be called, is cream colored and may be washed repeatedly without injuring the surface and is marketed for a ridiculously small price. Sufficient xylolin, as it is called, to produce a complete plain suit costs \$2 or \$3. The way the boy goes through his present clothes would indicate that paper clothes would not last him around the corner.

Most of us, if asked how many points a star should have, would say five, and cite the flag as proof; but the director of the mint has lately corrected this misapprehension in answering an inquiry on the subject. He calls attention to the fact that the stars on the great seal of the United States and on the seal of the President are five-pointed, but that the stars are six-pointed on the seal of the House of Representatives; and further to the six-pointed stars on the obverse of the half and quarter-dollar coins and the five-pointed stars on the reverse. The reverse of these coins is a copy of the great seal with the clouds and stars omitted. So far as known, the six-pointed star comes from copying the colonial coins made after the manner of English heraldry, which sanctions that star. The

stars on the flag are copied from the Washington coat of arms.

An editorial article in a religious monthly calls renewed attention to the shortage of Protestant preachers of ability. It is said that the ministry as a profession has lost its attractiveness for able men, despite the rapid growth of the churches in membership, the marked increase in the population of the country, and the constant demand for thoroughly equipped persons to fill places of importance, a demand unprecedented in the history of the Christian church. The theory is advanced that independent and energetic students are not attracted by the modern plan of ministerial education which provides free tuition, free room rent, and often cash payments as well as such as feel that they are called to preach. An endowment of a million dollars for education of preachers sometimes lies practically idle for lack of students to use the income. The same conditions are to be found in the schools of all Protestant denominations. The future physician or lawyer is placed in sharp competition. He usually has much higher fees to pay, has much smaller funds in the way of scholarship aid to draw up, and knows that a discouraging wait is certain after he is admitted to practice before the first patient or client appears. The theological student steps at once from the commencement platform, with his diploma certifying to the completion of a given course of training, during which he has been carried along financially into a waiting pupil. His salary and his life work begin when his preliminary preparation ends. And yet few able youths seek the preacher's career. The editorial writer suggests that this easy way of getting an education and a livelihood does not appeal to the active and energetic and that, as a consequence, the ministry gets only those who like the easy life. But there are other reasons which might be adduced for the famine in ministers. There was a time when the preacher was the most important personage in the community. His influence was commanding. The church afforded the only avenue to fame for the bright young man. The industrial worker, the manufacturer, the merchant, the farmer, were not supposed to need education. The administrator as such had not developed. But recent years have witnessed a complete change in conditions. Educated men are welcomed and win success in many lines of life, independence and wealth both awaiting the industrious who may have great influence and power. No longer having a monopoly of education and information the minister is compelled to compete with great newspapers, with many magazines in reach of the masses, with a flood of useful and helpful books, and with constantly improving methods of influencing thought. His hearers often are as well educated as himself. He is restrained by church creeds. He is poorly paid. If he is an orator the lecture platform is open to him. There are many reasons why the pulpit should not be so attractive for able men as it was once.

**ERIN SENDS OUT 5,000,000.**

**Irish Emigration to This Country Has Been Enormous.**

No page in history reveals such a migration as that of the Irish to America. The figures are astonishing. From 1840 to 1890 not fewer than 2,000,000 crossed the ocean to settle in the United States; from 1890 to 1899 an additional 1,000,000 made a fresh start in life in the great republic over the seas, and from 1890 to the present time another 1,000,000 was added to our population. Since 1890 the average has been 500,000 a decade.

The twelve agricultural States, represented by Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, contain one-fourth of the 5,000,000. Of the portion settled in the North Atlantic States but one-fifth are on farms; but this tendency to crowd into the towns disappears when the surroundings are agricultural, as is shown by the large percentage—more than 50—of those who have taken to farming in the twelve agricultural States above mentioned.

It is only because the bulk of the Irish in America are not in the midst of farming districts that they are less an agricultural people than the other immigrant elements added to the population. They have found an outlet for their energies in the congested districts and their wonderfully adaptive nature has allowed them easily to enter upon the industries of the people among whom they were thrown.

It is in the Eastern States that the Irish promise to ultimately constitute a majority of the population. This is already the case in three New England States and in many New England cities. In New York City they are barely behind the Germans and slightly in Chicago.

**The Tact Market.**

Chancellor James R. Day was once advising a young undergraduate of Syracuse University to cultivate tact. "But, alas," he said, "I fear that advice on such a subject must always be wasted. On tact the last word was spoken by Barbey d'Aureville when he said:

"If tact could be bought, only those already possessed of it would want to buy it."

A mother is in jail while her children are little, but isn't it a fact that a father's sentence is longer?

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