

Topics of the Times

A full course in the school of experience lasts a lifetime.

The more promises a man makes the more excuses he has to manufacture.

There is no "amusing anecdote" so old or so unamusing that it may not be attributed to some Senator.

The man who has no time for his friends will eventually discover that he has no friends for his time.

"What is a nightmare?" a correspondent asks. A nightmare is a dream you hope will not come true.

It is well enough that the Cook exposure happened before any babies were named in honor of I-took-a-shoo.

A man feels a grievance either because he has nothing worth taxing or because he has and must pay taxes on it.

Apples may not cure an alcoholic thirst, as claimed, but apple dumplings are certainly efficacious in cases of hunger.

We suspect that the apple with which Eve tempted Adam was like those Oregon apples that retail in England for a dollar apiece.

One cause of the mortality among the Pittsburgh millionaires, of course, is the vitiated atmosphere in which they live, move, and have their being.

In an old fashioned winter you frequently encounter the old fashioned man who never makes the slightest attempt to keep his sidewalks clear of snow.

A Baltimore widower with seven children has married a widow with five. Some persons collect antiques, why shouldn't others go in for collecting anthropological specimens?

Premier Laurier of Canada says he doesn't know what is in the German emperor's mind. We are disposed to believe the premier without demanding proof of the truth of his assertion.

Not everything is dead that goes to the dead letter office. For example, the tarantula which popped out of a box when it was opened there the other day was not only very much alive, but caused the office force to exhibit unwonted liveliness.

Morse, the former ice king, insists that it was the public's demand for a victim which made it necessary for him to go to prison. Even if his belief is correct it does not alter the fact that he ought to have taken precautions against furnishing an excuse for being selected as the victim.

Siberia, which is developing almost as rapidly as the Canadian Northwest, is likely soon to cease to be used as a penal colony. The judicial committee of the Russian Duma has accepted the principle of a bill providing for the abandonment of the practice of exiling convicts to Asiatic Russia.

Chief Bison, of the South Dakota Sioux Indians has gone to Nicaragua to make arrangements for the migration of his tribe of 8,000 to that country. He hopes to find a welcome in a country where there is a chance for fighting men, and thinks that there are better opportunities for Indians in Central than in North America.

A Cleveland bank has failed because its president loaned too much money to another concern in which he was interested and which also has gone to the wall. When a bank president becomes deeply interested in something else than his bank he generally assumes a risk similar to that which is taken by a married man who begins to lead a double life.

When a New York woman recently missed \$50 and a diamond ring worth more than twice as much, she concluded that she had thrown them in the ashes. She telephones to the street cleaning department, and was told to go to the dump where the ashes from her street would be emptied. The men in charge of the dump were ordered to look for the missing property. When the woman called she was surprised and delighted to discover that they had not only looked for it, but had found it and were honest enough to give it to her. It was not surprising that the men were honest; it was remarkable that the property was found.

Emperors as well as actors have press agents—a fact which causes the judicious to read with greater interest

than confidence many of the anecdotes of contemporary monarchs. Two lately published about the Tsar are enlightening, if true. It is said that he has been testing the equipment of the private soldiers. On one day he walked about the grounds of his palace for two hours, wearing the accoutrement of an infantry soldier on the march. On another occasion the Tsar came upon one of the sentries who had been suddenly attacked by a hemorrhage. He told the soldier to report himself to a doctor at once, but the man demurred on the ground that he could not leave his post till relieved. The Tsar told him that he had sworn to obey his Emperor, and that the Emperor had the right under the code to relieve a sentry. The soldier thereupon turned over his rifle, and sought medical assistance for himself. The Tsar kept guard until a new sentry arrived.

Anything which throws light on the causes of the enhanced cost of living or gives the consumer an accurate idea of the distribution between producers and middlemen of the money he pays for foodstuffs is read with interest. The information may not enable the consumer to better himself, but it will at least teach him who, if anybody, is to be blamed for a state of affairs which is a daily distress. At present he makes wild guesses, which may be quite out of the way. The other day the secretary of agriculture gave out a scrap of information to the effect that on the average the city retailer of meats made a gross profit of 38 per cent on each pound of meat he sold. The secretary proposes now to enlarge the field of inquiry and discover who is responsible for the high prices consumers have to pay for eggs, potatoes, flour, vegetables, butter and other dairy products. As might be expected of the champion of the agricultural interests of the country, the secretary feels certain that the farmer is not getting his full share of the advance in prices. And yet he seems to be getting a pretty good share. The increase in the valuation of farm lands indicates as much. They sell for more because the crops raised on them bring more. To settle the question one should know how much of the money which a city consumer pays for a bushel of potatoes, for instance, goes to the grower, the railroad, the commission merchant and the city retailer. Then it would be possible to know whether any of the middlemen were charging too much for their indispensable services. If it were to appear that the railroad charges were excessive they could be regulated by law, but no legislature can dictate to wholesaler or retailer the price he should ask, though the latter can be forced to give the honest measure he does not always give now. It will take some time to collect the information the secretary of agriculture wants, but it would be so interesting and probably useful that he should not delay in sending out his agents to gather it in.

TREED BY A WOUNDED BUFFALO.



Walter Hill, youngest son of James J. Hill, and Rudolph J. Schiffmann, both of St. Paul, were marooned in the branches of a tree on the railroad magnate's North Oaks farm a few miles out of St. Paul until a late hour by a wounded buffalo bull. The pair with two others left the city at 10 o'clock to kill four of the herd of twenty animals, the keeping of so many being no longer practicable. Hill shot at the first one, but the bullets he poured into the beast had no effect and he barely escaped the bull's horns and found refuge in a tree already occupied by Schiffmann. The pair were rescued by neighboring farmers on snowshoes. They then continued the hunt and killed three more animals.

Mistaken Identity.

"Oh, doctor, he growled so savagely I was sure he was mad even before he went on in such a biting way."

"I beg your pardon, madam, but is it your large dog or your small pet one you are speaking of?"

"Law, doctor, it isn't my dog I am talking about. It's my husband."—Baltimore American.

A Legal Difference.

The Client—How much will your opinion be worth in this case?

The Lawyer—I'm too modest to say. But I can tell you what I'm going to charge you for it.—Cleveland Leader.

Some men commit suicide because they are tired of waiting for the fool killer.

Hot air is one of the many things it is better to give than to receive.



Why Men Wait on Women.

Irreverent persons suggest that man's only object in life is to please woman and to serve her, says Harper's Weekly. Slightly exaggerated, this statement, perhaps; yet there must be some truth at the bottom of it. Otherwise, why should man wait on woman at all? Why take pleasure in being agreeable to her? Why go out of his way to assist her? In other words, why should he be chivalrous?

Chivalry is the expression of man's real, instinctive deference for woman. Although, like other instinctive feelings, it is being modified or rooted up by education and civilization, the chivalrous instinct nevertheless still makes itself felt in modern man. It impels him, when confronted with woman, to pass through three different stages. In the first one he strives to attract woman's attention; in the second, to please her; finally, to serve her.

The unconcerned are highly diverted by the first. There is no end to the things a man will do to attract woman's attention. Nothing is too absurd. One man found it necessary to spoil his patent leather shoes. He was being rowed across a lake when a girl passed by in her canoe. Without a moment's hesitation he plunged both feet into the rippling water, letting them dangle there stupidly.

Other men use other methods; some grow spry and climb fences, stumble over their own feet; some imagine themselves the proud possessors of a voice and exercise it; others whistle out a tune or twirl their mustaches. Still others grow disconcerted and forget where they are going, or lose the thread of their conversation.

So much for the desire of being noticed. When it comes to pleasing women men are more particular. They then strive for personal perfection. The intellectual ones go about with poetry in their breast pockets and learn it by heart, ready to repeat it at the first occasion. Or they dabble into art or literature or some "ism" in order to acquire the correct pose. The more matter of fact puzzle over material things; whether their hair is parted in the right place; whether the red or blue tie will make the better impression. For men are vain and dress to please.

Woman and Science.

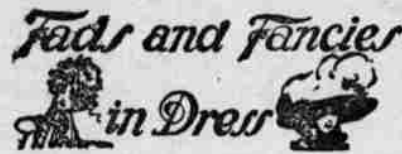
What was the beginning of science? Take medical science, for instance. Here the first in science may have been women. Man, crippled and wounded in the chase and hunt for food, crawled home to his hut, and there the wife gathered together neighboring women and kinswomen to consider and decide what was best to save and cure the injured. And so began what might be called experimental medicine. After thousands of cases some course of treatment would be selected as most successful, and this would be handed down from mother to daughter for ages, meaning the saving of the weak—a form of artificial selection—the beginning of civilization, for without these artificialities there would be only one thing—nature—to shape all men just so, so that all people would look one just like the other, even as do savages, for by a life true to nature people unless they were shaped just so, could not survive, because they could not fit nature.—New York Press.

Dainty Invalid Outfit.



This charming invalid outfit might easily be copied at less cost than the rather high price asked for this luxury in the shops. The outfit includes a light, soft lounging gown, a robe for the lap made of the same material, and a pretty little cap to cover an incomplete coiffure when the invalid receives her first visitors. Gown, robe and cap are folded into dainty envelope case of silk in matching color. The

set illustrated is of fine, soft French flannel in pale pink. The gown is bordered with satin embroidered with French knots and the robe with plain satin. The cap is entirely of the satin.



Velvet flowers are proving a popular trimming with other velvets upon handsome corsages.

Liberty silks, dyed in shaded tones of red and blue, are in great favor for first season girls.

With the season's double-breasted coats the correct thing is to begin the buttons at the waist line.

Handsome plumes are now put on the fuzzy felt turbans, and sometimes they are seen with aigrettes.

Valenciennes laces, French, German and Normandy, are going to be extensively used on summer frocks.

Some of the embroidered burnous wraps, so popular this season, have handsome knotted silk fringes.

Corded ribbon is being used as a trimming on several of the daintiest of the ready-made evening gowns.

Hats are made of velvet, beaver, felt or heavy corded silk, trimmed with handsome wings or ostrich feathers.

The puff is again in evidence. It

with a fine chain of sterling silver plated with gold, form some of the imported necklaces.

One of the latest favorites is the little cashmere cape, with narrow shoulders and long stole ends, which comes in every shade.

A new French cotton crepe of pebble wale in place of the striped crinkle of the summer is among the handmade waists in the shops.

Cap shapes are popular, ruling strongly among turbans and toques and even hats. They are probably the result of the automobile bonnet.

The School Lunch and Dyspepsia.

It is very important that the meal eaten at recess be a warm one, and whenever possible it should be prepared and eaten at home. Until a child is 10 or 12 years old it must have its dinner or principal meal of the day at noon. The rest of the household may dine in the evening, but for the youngster so heavy a repast near bedtime is certain to be deleterious. A bundle of cold sandwiches will not serve as a substitute for the midday dinner, for the child needs not only the warm, home-cooked food, but also the walk home, the bit of play on the way and the hour's forgetfulness of lessons.—A Doctor in the Delinquent.

A Light Kitchen.

The kitchen should be the lightest room in the house. Many persons clear the kitchen, draw down the blinds and darken it during the very time that light should pour into the apartment. If there is any place in the house where light should seek every corner it is in the kitchen. Unless the cupboards and refrigerators are carefully watched mold will quickly form on the food. There is nothing that cleans the sink better than soda water, and it is always needed about the refrigerator. Butter will

TWO SMART AFTERNOON COSTUMES



Costume No. 1, on the left, is made from a beautiful shade of wistaria satin cloth, with perfectly plain, long skirt and three-quarter length coat, suggestive of the directoire period. The latter is elaborately trimmed with black soutache braid, as indicated by sketch, and the flat collar and oddly-constructed bow at waist line are black satin, and the small buttons down each side of coat are oxidized silver.

On the right is a very smart model in smoked cloth and velvet a few shades darker—the latter forming the plain skirt. The cloth is arranged in tunic fashion, joining the bodice under a girdle of heavy braid. Velvet ribbon matching the skirt laces the front of cloth yoke and outlines same, and deep velvet cuffs are finished with braid and tassels.

adorns the sleeve everywhere, seemingly, between the shoulder and the wrist.

A smart hat for a girl of 12 is a huge affair covered with moire silk and trimmed with a large moire ribbon bow.

An adorable little blouse to accompany a white suit is of rose-painted chiffon over white satin, with a pink satin girdle.

Black hats may be worn with everything and are always a wise choice for the women who may not invest in many chapeaux.

It is no longer necessary to have stockings match the footwear; instead they match the skirt, the headgear and even the gloves.

Delicate mosaic pendants, festooned

keep sweet longer if placed in stone jars.

Hats Wedged Down.

The fashionable turban of the winter season is a lesson in wonderful construction, and bears out the principle that while headgear may be large it must be light in weight and of undoubted comfort. Whether made of beaver, fur or velvet, it is a feather-weight construction, and is worn so well wedged down upon the head that a feeling of absolute security is assured.

The Bride's Pledge.

"Jack, dearest, let us promise each other that we'll never, never, never quarrel; and if we ever do, that you'll frankly admit you're wrong."—Browning's Magazine.