

## Topics of the Times

The United States can feed as well as fight its foes.

General Booth expects the end of the world soon. The general is getting old.

All the world make love a lover, but it hates to buy wedding presents for him.

A man worries about the money he has spent, a woman about the money she wants to spend.

Let the mathematician of the family also figure out how cold it is when it is twice as cold as zero.

Some men who are sent to prison are apt to feel that justice, instead of being blind, is cross-eyed.

Halley's comet slipped by Saturn about three feet to the left, and Saturn now breathes easier.

An absent-minded man usually forgets the things he ought to remember and recollects the things he should forget.

There is a rumor that someone wished to assassinate the Vice President. Perhaps he heard someone call him "Sunny Jim."

A physician declares the automobile promotes appendicitis. He may be correct, but there are cheaper ways of acquiring the disease.

The public debt of the United States is now \$1,062,171,834. If a plain citizen owed a debt like that, he could afford to buy an automobile.

"You wants to remember when you's figurin' on a life of ease," said Uncle Eben, "dat easy consciences an' easy money don't allus go together."

A Russian terrorist recently confessed he shot the wrong general. There is always hope for the man who is willing to admit he made a mistake.

It is a sweetly solemn thought that one-half the world doesn't know how the other half lives. It is nobody's business what brand of breakfast food the neighbors use.

Now a St. Louis doctor of divinity named Bitting comes forward to start a contention over the alleged unsoundness of the modern theology. He doubtless feels that he must get hold of a congregation in some way.

The farmers of the country raised nearly nine billion dollars' worth of crops during the year. But they had to work hard. They could not have accomplished such a grand result by sitting in the shade and talking politics.

Hamilton, Ontario, society was recently thrilled by the discovery that a wealthy young architect, with a big bank account and unusually brilliant future, has been robbing houses at night for months. Was it a diseased brain, or merely a pastime?

A man living on an island west of Seattle found several dozens cans washed ashore containing a substance resembling paint, and, therefore, painted his house with it. How do you suppose he felt when he found that the sticky red fluid was pure opium and he had wasted more than \$9,000?

Rev. Hugh Birkhed, rector of the church of which J. Pierpont Morgan is a member in New York, said at the beginning of a recent sermon: "There should be no poor. My friends, when the eye of God is upon you you will be glad to throw your money away." Mr. Morgan may get scared and decide to buy another important curio collection or two.

Almost two million dollars a day is destroyed by men in the employ of the Treasury Department at Washington. This comes about by the redemption of worn-out paper money. The government encourages the tendency of people to demand crisp and clean bills for those soiled and torn, and the average life of a one-dollar bill is now about fourteen months, where it used to be three or four years. The larger bills, for obvious reasons, have a much longer lease of life. The large increase of late in the volume of bills of all kinds sent in for redemption is taken as a reliable indication of brisker business and better times.

The desire for land that is said to be increasing in our cities is a healthy symptom and will eventually result in good. As yet, however, the desire for lands gets no farther than the wish. It creates no effort to save, no study of the possibilities of a small begin-

ning that will lead to later results, no idea of hard work. It is, too often, just a glorious pipe dream of waving acres of grain that grow while the proprietor takes, his ease, in fields that have come to him for little or no effort. It is too apt to be the spirit of gambling that desires to get something for nothing in return, which has been fostered by the government land lotteries. There is no reason why a strong, healthy man with reasonable intelligence and practical sense should not get ahead in this country. But to begin with he must learn to save. His expenses must come well inside of his income. He must stop hoping for a fortune to fall to him and for a life of ease. His first step is to save and his second to patiently hold on to what he has accumulated. In time he will begin to be able to invest as he desires. The rest will be a matter of judgment. There is one investment that is always good. A home kept free of incumbrances is a steady saving, a refuge in times of trouble, and a haven that makes possible the support of the family by the less competent members should occasion demand. To those who love old mother earth it brings a bit of ground which, although a poor excuse for those great, waving fields of grain, can nevertheless, be put to good use by one who understands, and made a source both of profit and of pleasure.

It is the unvarying law of capital that it flows from the older countries to the newer, from the land of crowded population, intensive agriculture, economical habits and conservative business methods, to the land of untilled expanses, unopened mines, limited transportation systems and progressive spirit. Thus the United States was at first and for many years an exclusively borrowing country. A London authority estimates that six billion dollars of European capital have come here in the past sixty years. The lenders have had no occasion to regret the investment, for their money has earned them more here than it could have earned at home. Those six billions of European capital, of the coming of which there has been scant mention, supplementing the continuous tide of European immigration, of which we hear so much, have been a most important agent in developing the country's great natural resources, and in giving it the splendid measure of prosperity which it enjoys. But the United States some time ago ceased to be wholly a borrowing nation. Although it has been lavish, not to say wasteful, in expenditure and consumption, it has had enough surplus in the past generation to send about one billion dollars to the Latin-American countries for investment, and has invested one-fourth as much more in Canada. It is now sending large sums to the far East. The diffusion of American capital to other countries which are less developed is certain to be carried on upon a much larger scale in coming years, and to have an important bearing upon our foreign relations. The ease with which capital crosses international boundaries means much for the well being of humanity. It contributes to the spread of civilization, tends to secure stability of government, and promotes the cause of peace.

### One Kind of Carefulness.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in one of the last addresses that he made to his Sunday school class before abandoning it, said of carelessness in business:

"Too many business men are careful on one side, their own side only. Thus a coal dealer whom I used to know shouted one afternoon to an employe who was driving out of the yard:

"Hold on there, Jim! That coal can't have been weighed. It looks a trifle large for a ton to me."

"Jim shouted back:

"This ain't a ton, boss. It's two tons."

"Oh, all right," said the dealer in a mollified tone. "Beg your pardon. Go ahead."

### A Sweeping Summary.

"You don't give Mr. Grafton Grab credit for being a high type of statesman."

"No," answered Farmer Cornstossel. "Pears to me he's sort of out-of-date; one of them old-time fellers that thinks through their pocketbooks an' talks through their noses."—Washington Star.

### Preparing for the Worst.

Abe Alderney—Whatcha doin', Si—goin' to start a little rain fer yer onions?

Si Sourgrass—Naw; but I'm goin' to start somethin' fer that fresh city feller when he comes around in his airship to try to elope with my darter—Judge.

No wonder grocery store cigars are so poor; every man who buys a bill of groceries expects a cigar for nothing.

Some men act important only when they are talking over the telephone.

# PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

## WORK IN REALITY A DIVINE BLESSING.

By Prof. Geo. Burman Foster.



Work to-day wears a sour and stern countenance, not seldom full of pain, indeed, and on this account we are not without our fears that under the influence of socialism something of the joys of life may be sacrificed. We sometimes imagine that if work sat upon the all-powerful throne of life there would be no room for pleasure and pain any longer, for the free activity of the spirit in the kingdom of art and beauty in that world of the ideal where all traces of human indigence are obliterated.

Let us look at the great subject in a large way. God is a creating, working God. With His breath He sustains all that lives. He renews the face of the earth unceasingly. So great and numerous are His works, so full is the earth of His wisdom and goodness, that the children of men may dwell under the shadow of His wing.

But man is only truly man when he is like God. Therefore, only the creating, working man can speak of the divine nobility of his nature; only such a man can be sure of being in the image and likeness of God, of sharing the eternal Father's strength and life.

He should no longer work because he must, but because he will. He will find his supreme happiness in his work. A co-worker with God, he will carry some stone to the great temple of humanity in which the divine light, life and love shall stream ever clearer and warmer to man.

## REINCARNATION FALLACY OF FAR EAST.

By Dr. F. M. Peebles.



The literature of the reincarnation cult abounds in the repeated, the stereotyped phrase, "the inequalities of life," which inequalities, considered from the viewpoint of the whole, are among the choicest blessings. The reverse of inequality is sameness or deadly monotony. A forest of trees the same in kind, shape and height would induce a distressing mania. If all births were equal, if there were no ignorance to educate, no vicious to reclaim, reformers would be denied the pleasure of aiding the ill-born and lifting up the depraved on to the higher planes of moral consciousness and a better life. The test of a speculation, or of any theory, is its practicability. What, then, is the result of a 2,000 years' belief in reincarnation upon Hinduism?

Did the Hindus discover the potency of steam, did they put the railway system in practice, did they discover the Morse telegraphic communication, did they discover

the telephone, or the spectroscopy, or the liquefaction of oxygen, radium, wireless telegraphy, electric light? What has the reincarnation cult done during centuries for the overthrow of child marriage, for removing the curse of caste, and for the physical and mental education of India's millions?

As an imported theory from the dreamy, imaginative East, reincarnation may be thus summarized: It is not based upon one well-established scientific fact; it sets at defiance the law of evolution as ascending step by step through mineral, vegetable, man, angels, seraphs, gods; its 80,000,000 of believers in India, Tibet, Korea, Burma, constitute the most superstitious people on earth; it annihilates or stupefies memory for long periods of time; it degrades the aspirations of the spirit by rotating it back again and again into the meshes of matter; as a Karmic force it knows nothing of mercy or forgiveness, mercilessly punishing souls in this life for wrongs committed in some previous existence; in brief, it is a mingling of Hindu magic and Tibetan superstition, eclipsing the mind and deepening every mystery of the universe.

## IS WESTERN CIVILIZATION A FAILURE?

By P. Ramanathan.



The West, which includes Europe and America, is firmly persuaded that it is progressing satisfactorily. It is proud of its success in industry, science and politics, and claims to have created and to live in an age of progress. "Fifty years of ever-broadening commerce, fifty years of ever-brightening science and fifty years of ever-widening empire" represent the cry of those who are satisfied with material prosperity, even though its silver lines are set on a background of squalid poverty and lawless schemes of revolution.

The nervous restlessness which characterizes life in Western cities is not the mark of true progress or sound civilization. This is felt to be so by the cultured few who are puzzled and amazed at the "up-to-date" craze which is slowly but surely quenching the spirit and so ruining the most valuable asset alike of the individual and the nation.

It is folly to call this wide expansion of sensuousness and worldliness an age of progress. Sages declare that cities get filled with the rural population when love of finery and amusement dominates the minds of the people. The flight of the country into towns, known already to be too full of the unemployed and the unemployable, is like the rush of insects into a bonfire lit in a tropical night, and affords positive proof that the spread of sensuous ideals is breaking up the foundations of society.

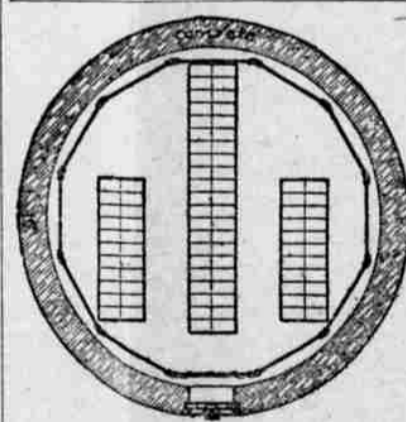
## THE NEW ROTATING SAFE.

Vault Is Always in Motion When Locked and Is Burglar Proof.

The improved melting methods now in the hands of expert burglars in the form of gas "cutting burners" has so greatly impaired the burglar-proof qualities of existing safes as to warrant serious attempts to devise some new type that will resist their powerful effects. All the safeguards so far devised in this country against such burners are based on reducing their efficiency by increasing the thickness of the plates.

The unique safe shown in the illustrations, the invention of a German safe expert, and already installed in several of that country's largest banks, is entirely on a different principle. Instead of reducing the efficiency of the burners it makes melting of the metal by such means absolutely impossible.

It is a safe divided into two parts, one part being the surrounding con-



CONDITION WHEN REVOLVING.

crete or stone wall, and the other the armored safe proper. The wall section is stationary, but within it the armored safe is revolved by means of an electric motor fitted close to the lower ball bearings on which the safe is pivoted.

During business hours the safe is stationary, entrance to it being gained through the doors. During this period electric accumulators within the safe are connected with an outside charging circuit, which connection is broken when the closing door approaches. A time switch, likewise within the safe, is set to stop the motor at any given time the next morning or the following morning, should the day be Saturday. The doors are closed, and the motor is started by an outside switch, which, however, is not capable of stopping it again.

The safe then commences to revolve, and continues this movement at a

# FASCINATION OF THE AUCTION HABIT

In the fall and spring one goes to auctions; that is, if one has acquired the "auction habit." You, dear woman, who have time and the inclination cannot resist if you let this peculiar habit get hold of you; you will go—you will buy—things for which you have no use; things you do not need, just because the temptation proves too strong and you cannot resist.

It is said a drunkard cannot pass a saloon with its tempting sign; there is a fascination in those signs for him because of his raging thirst for drink. Well, I have seen women who could no more resist the red flag of the auctioneer than can such a poor, demoralized man the signs that carry temptation in every letter. There is no doubt of its being a nice, ladylike form of dissipation, this love of auction buying; you will look with disgust, with loathing, and be loud in your denunciation of gambling, of drunkenness, of all sorts of things, but if you have contracted this habit its hold is quite as strong upon you as upon those other victims, or, rather, victims of other vices.

And it is not always in the hope that something really worth while may be "knocked down to you," for next to nothing, that carries you to such sales? Are you not nearly always on the lookout for some bit of antique furniture, perhaps; some rare small piece of bijouterie that has been tucked away so others do not see it?

Sometimes you, dear woman, may have a "fad" for collecting something; it may be fans or tables or lamps, or anything about the house; then you go to every auction where there can be a chance to bid in something of the sort. Please remember that auctioneers are always cognizant of these "fads." They will soon recognize you; any one of them will note exactly what you are in the habit of buying, and, dollars to cents, he can tell just which of the hundreds of things he is about to sell you are likely to bid on. Then, if he knows his calling, he will have an imaginary bidder ready; he will watch you when you think you are indifferent; he will not need that you call out the additional bid; just the barest nod of the head; even the flicker of an eyelash will be enough for his experienced eye, and—you will be caught in the meshes of your habit again.

We all know that woman that buys bargains; I know one exceedingly well; so well that I never go to a store on "bargain day" without a severe mental arraignment of myself, and a peep into numerous boxes where are stored things I may never hope to use, and which nobody on earth wants; for which not much cash was paid in each special case, but a respectable sum can be counted up in the sum total. That is why I am telling you to not let the "auction habit" grow on you.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

speed of about three feet a second until stopped by the time switch. Rotating at such a speed, the surface of the safe at any given point is continually changing which makes impossible a successful attack by "cutting burners." Again, as the safe is designed as a polygon, the distance between the armor and the melting instrument in the hands of the burglar is changing constantly, and with proper distance. Any contact between the burner and the rotating wall would, to say the least, place the

burner out of commission and endanger the operator. The same may be said of any other tool used in an attempt to break the safe open.—Popular Magazine.

### How to Treat a Wife.

An ancient Egyptian moralist, writing to his son, said: "If thou takest a wife try to make her happier than any of her women friends. She will be doubly bound to thee if the tie is sweet to her. Accord her what pleases her. She will appreciate the effort."