

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

The 17-year locust is said to be due again. How swiftly the years roll by.

Patience is a virtue that all men are willing to recommend to their creditors.

Finding the length of the comet's tail doesn't seem to be one of the exact sciences.

Wellesley girls are going to take up farming. The problem of keeping the boys on the farm is nearing a solution.

Here, doctor, how's this: An Alabama man, 97 years of age, says he has eaten hot biscuits regularly all his life.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has raised the wages of 5,000 employes. Rather, the lavish patrons of the line have raised them.

The couple who were married on a Western Maryland train going at the rate of 40 miles an hour evidently wished the matrimonial knot tied fast.

George Burman Foster says money is the most soulless thing in the world. There are people who will insist that wheat pits beat it for soullessness.

No self-respecting Georgia convict will try to escape in a "Mother Hubbard," much less appear in one, if he can help it. "Mother Hubbards" are awful penalties.

An Indianapolis man died in a bargain rush to which he had accompanied his wife. Lots of men have yearned unavailingly for a like relief under similar circumstances.

A Milwaukee woman who intended to leave to each of her four grandchildren \$25,000 forgot to add the ciphers, and the heirs will get only \$25 apiece. Urge your grandmother to be careful about her ciphers.

There are a great many swollen fortunes in this country, but investigation will show that very few of them can be traced back to the Belgian hare craze that caught so many hopeful ones a dozen years ago.

Presumably intelligent men are reported in the papers as devoting their energies to the task of keeping a cigar alight as long as possible, and one man proudly boasts of having wasted an hour and a half in doing so.

A Brooklyn chauffeur was sent to jail for six months for running down and killing a citizen. If he had burglarized the citizen's house he would probably have received ten years, which shows the relative estimate put on life and property by the discriminating law.

A learned judge has lately ruled that if a man does not give his wife the money she needs, she is justified in "going through" his pockets, and even in getting her brother to hold him while she does so. Yet the suffragists insist that the law discriminates against women.

Now the worm has turned. The girl continually accused of most of the evils of the nation by her extravagance and love of dress has a champion in a young college woman, who declares that the real blame lies on the young man who is a snob; that it is the best-dressed, not the best, girls who gets the attentions of the average young man. "Find the woman!" is ceasing to be the cry of accused masculinity. She is already standing out in clear view, ready to declare that she never did it.

A total of twenty-eight statues and public memorials to women have been erected in this country, according to a writer who recently made an investigation. It is said that more honors of this kind have been paid to women in the United States than in any other country in the world. In the list are Indian women, heroines of pioneer days, nurses in war and pestilence, writers, teachers, scientists and others who have rendered distinguished service for the welfare of the race. It is an eloquent evidence of the place of woman in American life, although, of course, many as worthy as the twenty-eight in question are without public monuments of bronze or marble to their memory.

What seems to be commonly accepted as a plank in the equal suffrage platform must prove a handicap almost insuperable, if insisted upon by advocates of votes for women. "Quality, not quantity," as a motto for mothers, is a false cry, founded neither on facts of record or theories of accuracy. Washington was one of a family of ten. Jefferson was one of eight children. The small family is not necessarily of high quality. It is not the children of

the rich that become our great citizens, but the children of the poor. The curled and perfumed darling whose early years are smoothed recruits two classes, the idle rich or the wastrel and criminal. The boy who has to fight his own way develops real manhood and those qualities that make for success. Race suicide fills the homes for crippled children, the asylums and prisons. How respectable women can advocate practices so contrary to the laws of God and man, and why such doctrine should be put forward as an argument for woman suffrage is a mystery beyond comprehension.

The accession of King George V. calls attention to the fact that the large majority of the executive heads of the great nations at the present time are comparatively young men. President Taft is in the early fifties. The German Kaiser is 51. The Russian Czar is 42. The King of Italy is 41. The aged Austrian cannot last long, and when he dies the throne will go to Prince Ferdinand, who is 47. King George is 45, and the kings of Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Sweden and Norway, also the Queen of Holland, are younger. It is the age of young men. The old earth seems to be renewing its youth and infusing new vigor into political, sociological, intellectual and scientific progress. As Colonel Roosevelt showed in his Berlin address, the development in the last hundred years has been greater than the sum of all the development that preceded it. The movement in the past 50 years has been especially rapid. The half century has been filled with wondrous achievement. The wisdom of the older men is of great value, but the twentieth century pace calls for youthful enthusiasm and strength. It may be regarded as fortunate that so many of the great executives are in their prime, or even the flush of youth, provided that energy is not allowed to quicken into rashness. Fortunately, the most commanding personal figure among the rulers, the Emperor William, has been sobered and steadied by years of experience on the throne. King George gives evidence of a most serious disposition, and he is not young enough to be giddy. President Taft is of a judicial temperament and a trained diplomat so far as it is possible for an American President to receive training in diplomacy. The Czar of Russia has had a painful experience and probably will not be brash again. The nations over which these four executives now preside can easily maintain the world's peace if they co-operate to that end, and can at the same time set afoot the most efficient forces of civilization.

ILLUSTRATING HIS MEANING.

The following anecdote of the late well known actor and musician, Tom Cooke, as told by the London Sunday Times, is included by F. L. Wellman in his "Day in Court," and affords a good illustration of the important part played by emphasis and accent:

At a trial between certain music publishing houses as to an alleged piracy of a popular song, Cooke was subpoenaed as an expert witness by one of the parties. On his cross-examination by Sir James Scarlett, that learned gentleman rather slipshodly questioned him thus:

"Sir, you say that the two melodies are the same, but different. Now what do you mean by that?"

To this Cooke promptly answered, "I said that the notes in the two copies are alike, but with a different accent, the one being in common time, and the other in six-eight time; and consequently, the position of the accent of the notes was different."

Sir James—What is a musical accent?

Cooke—My terms are nine guineas a quarter, sir.

Sir James—Never mind your terms here. I ask you, what is a musical accent? Can you see it?

Coke—No, Sir James.

Cook—Can you feel it?

Cook—A musician can. (Great laughter.)

Sir James (very angry)—Now, pray, sir, don't beat about the bush, but explain to his lordship and the jury, who are expected to know nothing about music, the meaning of what you call accent.

Cooke—Accent in music is a certain stress laid upon a particular note in the same manner as you would lay a stress upon a given word for the purpose of being better understood. Thus, if I were to say, "You are an ass," the accent rests on ass; but if I were to say, "You are an ass," it rests on you, Sir James.

Reiterated shouts of laughter by the whole court, in which the bench itself joined, followed this repartee.

The Real Job.

Him—I—I don't know how to tell you how I love you.

Her—Don't worry about that—I'll take it as it comes. What you want to get nervous about is how to tell papa about it.—Cleveland Leader.

We are willing for people to save money, if they will quit talking about it.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

The growing scarcity of finishing woods has led to an annual production of over 1,100,000,000 square feet of veneer.

The department of agriculture is experimenting in several of the southern states with Japanese grasses used for matting.

Porcelain was discovered by an alchemist who was seeking a mixture of earths that would make the most durable crucibles.

The latest mechanical furnace stoker not only puts the coal on in the most approved manner, but it also disposes of the ashes automatically.

While the number of violent deaths a thousand among miners has undergone in European countries a decided decrease, in this country it is steadily increasing.

Switzerland has 14,717 miles of telegraph and telephone lines. In 1908 the 2,255 telegraph offices handled 4,942,000 telegrams, producing a revenue of \$680,444.

After six years' contest Peter Cooper Hewitt has received patents for his mercury vapor electric lamp. The patents have been in dispute almost since the date when they were first applied for, in 1901.

"One cannot be long in any hotel or restaurant in Canada without seeing halibut on the bill of fare," says a writer in "Canada." "In this respect it assumes the position of a national dish. It is there on Christmas day and again on Midsummer day."

The comet's tail could have been packed in an ordinary trunk—if packed by a man. If packed by a woman, she would still have had room for eighteen dresses, four nebulae, two bonnets, six pairs of shoes, the children's clothes, and two entire comets.—Chicago Post.

Noting a projecting ledge a poor prospector struck it a casual blow with a sledge, and one of the world's famous gold mines was discovered. The poor prospector was Stratton. No wonder he called his mine the Independence, for it made him independent, converting the prospector into a rich man.

The finishing touches have just been placed on the exterior of "the model power plant of the world"—a \$1,500,000 structure erected by the United States government a stone's throw from the capitol at Washington. This station is to furnish heat, light and power to the entire group of immense government buildings on Capitol Hill.

Vacant lot cultivation in Kansas City, Mo., is done this season under the direction of the City Club. One nine-acre tract and several smaller lots have been set out in vegetables, the farming being done by needy persons. They are not taxed for soil, seeds or tools, and the City Club has engaged a practical gardener to supervise the work.

A public school teacher on the east side recently asked a pupil in her United States history class to describe the death and repentance of Benedict Arnold. She was somewhat astonished when the child, in whose mind American, British, Union and Confederate soldiers were pretty well mixed, replied: "He begged to be allowed to die in a Union suit."—New York Sun.

Much attention and thought, states the Chemical Trades Journal, have been bestowed by those engaged in the breaking up of battleships and other craft as to the profitable disposal of the large quantities of wood obtained from the various vessels in course of destruction. Although there is much useful timber got that can be sold for re-use, there is a considerable quantity that is splintered to such an extent that renders it practically valueless. One or two firms are contemplating putting down wood distillation plants to utilize the hitherto valueless wood.

Trial by ordeal still exists in some parts of Japan. If a theft takes place in a household, all the servants are required to write a certain word with the same brush. The conscience is supposed to betray its workings in the waves of the ideographs written. Tracing an ideograph involves such an effort of muscular directness and undivided attention that this device often leads to the discovery of the guilty party. The test is, at all events, more humane than the ordeal by boiling water, to which accused persons were formerly submitted in Japan.—London Chronicle.

Professor Elliot Smith, of the University of Manchester, has lately made a minute examination of the mummy of Ra-Nefer in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and finds that it is older by eleven centuries than any other known mummy. The body of Ra-Nefer, a high official in the court of Seneferu of the fourth dynasty (3000 B. C.), was found by Dr. Flinders Petrie at Medum, Egypt, in 1892, and presented by him to the museum of the College of Surgeons. Although discovered so long ago, it is only now that its importance has become apparent.

COMBINED CRIME AND ART.

Burglar and Forger Who Managed to Keep Up Air of Respectability.

It is alleged that Herr May (the German philanthropist and author recently proved to have been a burglar and bandit in early life), in addition to the improving literature of which he was the acknowledged author, also published anonymously a series of cheap and detrimental fiction, in which his experiences as a bandit were utilized. In other respects, however, he appears to have wholly forsaken his wicked ways.

If this is so, and it would be kinder to give him the benefit of any doubt, the case only bears a partial resemblance to that of the celebrated Charles Peace, the London Standard says. That now notorious burglar was actively practicing his real profession when he was known to the sedatest society of Peckham as a well-to-do and cultured gentleman of impeccable antecedents.

Peace was a past master in the art of imposture and had the makings of a brigand in him, if he never got the chance of following the more adventurous and perhaps more picturesque branches of crime. He, too, managed to establish some reputation for plety by his partiality for sacred music. His house was crammed with musical instruments, but he never allowed anything else to be played.

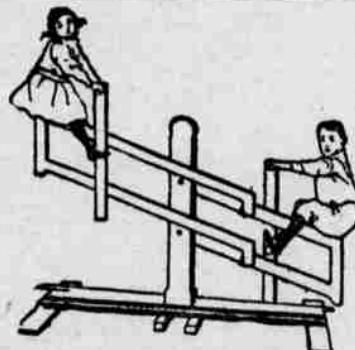
Another criminal who managed to impose on his friends and acquaintances was Thomas Wainwright, who was certainly a forger and probably a prisoner, but who had been a fashionable writer and critic and was the friend of Charles Lamb, Talfourd and De Quincey. "The kind, light-hearted Wainwright," as Ella called him, was a thoroughgoing and heartless scoundrel and the offenses for which he was sentenced to transportation for life were only incidents in a long career of wrongdoing. Whether he really confessed that he poisoned the unfortunate Miss Abercromby, urging in extenuation that she had very thick ankles, may be doubted, but quite enough has been proved to his discredit. At the same time it is improbable that he would ever, like Herr Karl May, have returned to respectability, even if the opportunity had been allowed him.

Another and less known man of letters who combined literature with crime was George Barrington, transported to Botany Bay to pocket picking in 1790. He did recover his character, became high constable of Paramatta and was much thought of in official circles for his good conduct. His literary fame rests mainly on the often quoted description of the true patriots: "Be it understood, we left our country for our country's good."

INVENTS A NEW SEESAW.

Can Be Adjusted for Use by Children of Unequal Weight.

One of the most popular forms of amusement among small children is the seesaw, but up to the present time this exercise could only be indulged in by children of equal weight. A Virginia man, however, has invented a



SEESAW FOR CHILDREN.

seesaw that can be used by an adult and child and can be adjusted to make their weights equalize each other. An upright post rises from a firm base. Pivoted to swing on this post are horizontal bars with seats on their outer ends and handles by which the user may hold on. The horizontal bars are made in two parts, slidably mounted so that one side of the seesaw can be made different lengths, thus adding to the weight of the person who sits on the long end. The whole structure is strongly built and works easily and there is no danger of a breaking board or of children losing their balance on it as they have rests for their feet when in the air and a handle to grip. Such a device will be found a popular one for private or public playgrounds.

Too Lavish.

Mrs. Dobbs was trying to find out the likes and dislikes of her new boarder, and all she learned increased her satisfaction.

"Do you want pie for breakfast?" she asked.

"No, I thank you," said the new boarder, with a smile. "Pie for breakfast seems a little too much."

"That's just the way I look at it," said Mrs. Dobbs, heartily. "I say pie for dinner is a necessity, and pie for supper gives a kind of finishing touch to the day, but pie for breakfast is what I call putting on airs."—Youth's Companion.

A girl always cries when she loses her job.



Novel Rope Fastener.

No knots are needed with the novel and effective rope fastener that has just been patented. Therefore, as

there is nothing to tie up or unite, its use means a big saving of time. The fastener is shaped like a letter "W" with an inverted "V" on the bottom. This makes three slots, two above and one below, and to

firm as if tied, fasten a rope the latter is brought over one of the upper slots, down the lower one and up again over the other arm of the W. Wound over the fastener in this way the rope cannot slip, but will hold its position as firmly as if tied. This device has a spring hook at the apex of the middle section of the W by which it can be attached to any projection. The fastener will be found very useful on sailboats or for hanging up clotheslines. The average person ties a knot that requires much time and patience to untie. With this fastener he is saved the trouble of making and opening weird knots.

Sour Cream Pie.

Two eggs, a cup of thick, sour cream, three-quarters of a cup of sugar, one cup of chopped raisins, half teaspoonful of vanilla, a pinch of salt. Add the pinch of salt to the yolks of the eggs and beat them very light. Stir in the sour cream, then the sugar and the raisins, mixing thoroughly. Add the vanilla and pour the mixture into an open crust. Beat the whites of the eggs light, beat in a scant cup of sugar and spread over the pie. Bake in a moderate oven.

Chestnut Souffle.

Mix a rounding tablespoonful of flour and a quarter of a cupful of sugar. Add a cupful of chestnut kernels, boiled and mashed, then gradually half a cupful of milk. Cook five minutes, stirring constantly. Beat the whites of three eggs until stiff and dry, cut and fold into the first mixture. Fill three-quarters full, set in a pan of hot water and bake in a slow oven until firm to the touch. Turn out and serve with whipped cream or lemon sauce.

Cheese Nuts.

A delicious dish to serve with toasted crackers and hot coffee. Chop a pint of English walnuts or blanched almonds. If almonds are used, slightly toast them. Place the layers of chopped nuts in a small pan, alternating with layers of grated cheese and grated bread crumbs; season with butter (in dots) and dashes of salt and pepper. Soften with a little boiling water and bake twenty minutes.

Potted Cheese.

When leftover cheese grows dry and hard, don't throw it away, but grate to a powder. Put some in a bottle and save to serve with soups, Italian fashion, or cook with macaroni, or add to scallops. The rest of it may be beaten soft with a fork, seasoned with mustard or cayenne, and reduced to a paste with a little vinegar. This is fine to spread on saltines or crackers, or for a sandwich filling.

Cocoanut Macaroons.

Wet one and a half cups of powdered sugar with a little cream, just enough to dampen it well. Beat the whites of two eggs stiff and gradually whip into them the moistened sugar, then beat in two cups of grated cocoanut. When the mixture is very light drop it by the teaspoonful upon buttered paper and bake quickly to a light brown.

Orange Salad.

Peel ripe oranges, divide into lobes and cut each lobe with a sharp knife into three pieces if the oranges are large, into two bits if small. Set on the ice until cold, arrange on crisp lettuce leaves and add a mayonnaise dressing.

Hints About the House.

The ribs of a discarded umbrella may be utilized for tying up tall and willow palms in pots.

Lamp chimneys should never be washed. Damp a cloth in alcohol and rub them with it and it will clean and polish them.

Boiled potatoes should be served as soon as they are cooked. To make them drier drain off the water quickly, shake them in a strong draft of air and do not put back the lid on the pot.

When making glue you will find that the addition of a little glycerin increases its adhesive quality and makes it more elastic. One part of glycerin to three parts of glue is the right proportion.