

Topics of the Times

All things are easy to the earnest. Burden bearing brings blessing sharing.

There is just as much danger in the riches you desire as in those you possess.

Preachers and political leaders are sometimes slow to distinguish the difference between lip service and heart service.

It may be a good plan to elect our heroes by popular vote and provide that none of them shall serve a longer than four year term.

Gold is said to have been discovered in Greenland. It is rather a pity that these discoveries cannot be made in some place which is comfortable for residence purposes.

A scientist tells us that the planet Jupiter has six floors and a basement, but the most persuasive real estate agent will not succeed in getting us to go and live there unless it has an elevator.

Here's Mr. Carnegie extolling the blessings of poverty again. And Job Hedges says the laird of Skibo might have been enjoying these blessings now if he had taken common stock instead of bonds.

The boy problem is a mighty one. One-half of the orators are complaining because there are not boys enough and the other half are not able to agree as to what shall be done with the boys that we have.

W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., is to have a seek in his father's office, where he will start in the railroad business as a clerk. It is expected that he will be docked for being late or taking a day off now and then.

Robert Goetz is being sued for \$10,000 for running his automobile over a man in Boston. Some of the hysterics will wonder why the victim should not consider it an honor to have been run over by the brother-in-law of a duke.

There really is no limit to the practical in education. Here is a Boston supervisor arguing for teaching the school children more fairy tales. Yet consider the extent to which the country is already overrun with promoters capable of writing the most alluring prospectuses.

Twenty new varieties of fish were discovered last summer in the waters about Alaska by an expedition from the United States Fish Commission. The boy with the best pin and the answer does not care. To him a fish is a fish, by whatever scientific name it may be called.

Fire is the greatest of architects. Cities would make but mean progress without an occasional conflagration. Men will hold on to a ramshackle property till it rots. Whole sections of cities are disgraced by decaying structures. Along comes the fire; eyecores disappear and in their places rise solid structures in keeping with the age.

In the resurvey which has just been completed of the celebrated Mason and Dixon's line between Pennsylvania and Maryland, some of the original boundary stones were found in place. Others were doing duty in the neighborhood as door steps or even; one served as a curbstone, and two had been used in building a church near the National Pike. The arbitrary line which they marked has played a more important part in the history of this continent than many a natural boundary of far more imposing appearance.

According to advices from the Treasury Department the government will at Philadelphia will cease to grind pennies for a time, there being now a surplusage of this kind of currency in the country. During the last five years 5,000,000,333 pennies have been shipped from the Philadelphia mint, which is the only one that coins the 1-cent piece, to various parts of the country. Between July 1, 1902, and June 1, 1903, 80,600,000 cents were coined. If this five year output were collected in a heap it would make a stable stage mountain at least.

"The Strike of a Grand Duchess" would be an appropriate title for the story of a recent episode in the career of the lady who is the Grand Duchess of Baden. When she went home to the palace in Weimar, after marrying the Grand Duke, she proposed to refurnish her apartments in modern style, but the conservative old women of the court objected on the ground that the furniture which had pleased the deubesses for two hundred years ought not to be removed. Her husband agreed with the old women. Then she wished to say what she was to have for dinner. The old women thought that it was beneath the dignity of a grand duchess to interest herself in what went on in the kitchen, and the Grand Duke thought so, too. After several more ineffectual attempts to be mistress in her own house, she took the train for Switzerland. Her husband followed, but could not persuade her to return home till he had persuaded to get rid of the old women and to let her have her own way in the house. If the Grand Duke had been an American husband, he would have capitulated in the first place.

Of course it is all guesswork as to how many times a man should take a bath and what kind of a bath he should take. It doubtless depends on the man, his constitution, his temperament, his work, and the climate in which he lives. The best the doctors can do, therefore, is to give generalizations for the "average man." As there is no "average man," the generalizations, therefore, have small value. But here we have a college professor who contends that we should leave

off bathing entirely. He frankly confesses that he conquered the "bath habit" two years ago. "Pneumonia," said a hundred other ills result from the foolish habit of washing the body," said Professor John Dill Robertson in an address at the annual meeting of the Chicago Eclectic and Surgical Society. As the professor is a doctor one naturally expects him to supply physiological or scientific reasons for his theory, and in this we are not disappointed. It is his contention that heat and moisture are necessary to the growth of bacteria on the skin. As these conditions are supplied by bathing, it follows that instead of stopping the collection of bacteria upon the skin bathing actually facilitates their growth. Moreover, the hot bath, says Dr. Robertson, draws the blood to the skin, the same as alcohol does, leaving the internal organs without their necessary amount of nourishment. To support his views the doctor called attention to the fact that the city gets its brains and brains largely from the country, where the farmer boy does not take a bath during the entire winter. He swims, it is true, in summer, when he gets a chance, but his skin is not rubbed with a rough towel, and hence the "natural scales of the skin" are not removed. One does not need to join Dr. Robertson's anti-bath crusade to recognize the necessity for the exercise of common sense, prudence and caution in taking cold baths or hot baths. That cold baths under improper conditions have caused many a case of pneumonia is simply a matter of medical record. But this is a poor argument against the bathing habit.

There has been a vast deal of discussion late, most of it with a tinge of surprise, about the frequency with which those who are guilty of crimes of all sorts, from the petty to the most atrocious, are found, when discovered at all, to be little past boyhood in years. Certain occurrences in Chicago have furnished fresh emphasis. All sorts of reasons for it have been suggested, and to make a list of them appeals cursorily to one's sense of humor. Some queer speculators have found a cause in smoking cigarettes. Others attribute most youthful crimes to reading novels of the "dime" variety. Others find all the inspiration in saloons, some in pool rooms and some in the promiscuous association of schools. On the heels of this come those who insist it is because youths do not have enough of school. Some point to vicious home influences and others to some influence at all. Some are sure it is all due to the heredity of the day, others that it is part of youth's rebellion against being forced to work, and still others that it is a fruit of idleness, of not working enough to "keep out of mischief." This proneness to deal with symptoms and call them causes would be funny if it were not saddening. All these things are effects of a deeper, earlier cause, just as the crimes are effects. The truth seems to be that modern society, in this country at least, has lost respect for the principle of authority. Obedience to established law ought to be the first lesson the child learns. Somehow, for some reason, it is not taught any more. The parent of today thinks the child must be governed, if at all, by reason and love. So he may be, when once the habit is formed. Until then it would be no more absurd to treat the baby's colic with philosophic comment on the folly of crying, than to think that punishment for wrongdoing has died out of the world.

There is a better reason than cigarettes or novels or idleness. This is the best thing that has yet been hit upon in connection with the public schools is the care that is being bestowed on the physical condition of the children. In the larger cities of the United States and to some extent in Canada children are being examined for physical defects, and appropriate measures are being taken to remedy these as far as possible. If nothing more was done than to promote the habit of deep breathing that would be a hygienic reform of the first importance. We doubt if anything could be done by public authority that would contribute more to the health and happiness of the community. Until human beings are placed in full possession of their physical faculties and in full enjoyment of their natural functions, they do not know how good a place the world is. With more of genuine good health in the world, more of something approaching physical perfection, there would be less craving for artificial enjoyments and probably less craving for wealth. If the schools will, in addition to making the children practice deep breathing, cultivate their speaking voices and teach them to walk well, the effect in a few years will be marvelous.—Montreal Star.

The Law of Life. LACK of work does turn men into tramps, but does not keep them tramps. The man and the job cannot always keep apart unless the man so wishes. The proof is the fact that thousands of men have been tramps and are no longer. And these men did not owe their escape from trampdom to anything that anybody did for them. They owed it entirely to themselves. Taking his life through, the average tramp is such because he wishes to be—because he falls into the delusion that it is easier to beg and steal than to work. One of those economic lulls known as hard times may have set him to tramping. But, when this lull was over he did not remain a tramp unless he wished to. The individual human life, like the electric current,

A Quaint People. The heart of Brittany never changes, but his face is rapidly losing many of its prominent characteristics with the leveling influence of the French republic. It is only far out of the beaten track, now, or on special occasions like fetes, that you see universally the customs and customs of the old Breton peninsula. Only an hour's run from Quimper, the modernized chief town of Finistere, and you are among the Bigoudines, a people whose dress suggests the Eskimos and Chinese, whose faces are strongly Mongolian in type, and who in language, customs and beliefs seem to have no relation with the rest of France. More and more the picturesque problem they present is coming to attract attention. Artists, students and tourists alike are fascinated by it.—Century.

Dresden China. The retiring postmaster of the British House of Commons tells a story of his early experiences of postal work, a good many years ago. It was a London office, and a customer came in and handed a letter over the counter to the young woman who was serving stamps. After reading the address, she said it would be Brepenue. "But I have never paid more than twopenny half-penny before," objected the customer. "Is it overweight?" "No, it was not overweight, said the clerk, but all letters to China were Brepenue, and as this was addressed to Dresden—"

And So He Did Not Say It. Mr. Elder—There is something I want to say to you, Bessie—er—that is, Miss Kutley. Miss Kutley—Call me Bessie if you wish. Mr. Elder—Oh, may I? Miss Kutley—Of course; all old girls then call me Bessie.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Hottest Place on Earth. The hottest place on earth is Bohrein, on an island in the Persian Gulf, which has a mean annual temperature of 96 degrees.

After a woman gets on the shady side of 40 she speaks of herself and her female friends as "us girls."

EDITORIALS Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Nervous Prosperity is a Disease. MEREELY being prosperous makes many persons nervous. Women, having duties which, if not fewer, are less compulsory, than those of men, are peculiarly subject to this complaint. Their physical strength is less, their nervous systems are more complicated. Secretary Root regrets the decrease of country life on the ground that cities make a nervous race, different from the cool cities which have been the basis of our civilization. Mr. Root thinks that nervousness is a necessary condition of strong nerves. The American climate, in the Northern States, is exciting. Many who cannot sleep in the United States are less troubled with insomnia abroad. When cable cars, with gangs and crowds, railroads overhead, packed streets, automobiles, telegrams, messenger boys, and the general machinery of haste are added, nervous tension becomes extreme. Sometimes it takes the form of a passion for late hours, and might be called Somnophobia. The Somnophobic is so keyed up that he shrinks from the relaxation of sleep, or any other quietness. The love of excitement is often as disintegrating as the love of drink. "Be not hurried away by excitement," says Epictetus, "but say, 'Simblance, wait for me a little, let me see what you are and what you represent.'" Many of our occupations would hardly stand the test of Epictetus. Emerson made the same point as Mr. Root, when he said that Nature's comment is, "Why so hot, little man?" As women are more responsible, just now, than men, for increasing nervousness, one of our problems is to make natural activities attractive to them—not work enough to exhaust them, but enough to keep them from being as restless as a fly under an exhausted receiver. Pleasures, diversions, are never sufficient to form a life. Responsibility is necessary to freedom. Thackeray, laughing at the strivings of Werther, had his heroine, at the end of the poem, go on cutting bread and butter. Candide, after examining all possible worlds, decided that the real thing was to cultivate a garden.—Collier's Weekly.

Physical Training in the Schools. ABOUT the best thing that has yet been hit upon in connection with the public schools is the care that is being bestowed on the physical condition of the children. In the larger cities of the United States and to some extent in Canada children are being examined for physical defects, and appropriate measures are being taken to remedy these as far as possible. If nothing more was done than to promote the habit of deep breathing that would be a hygienic reform of the first importance. We doubt if anything could be done by public authority that would contribute more to the health and happiness of the community. Until human beings are placed in full possession of their physical faculties and in full enjoyment of their natural functions, they do not know how good a place the world is. With more of genuine good health in the world, more of something approaching physical perfection, there would be less craving for artificial enjoyments and probably less craving for wealth. If the schools will, in addition to making the children practice deep breathing, cultivate their speaking voices and teach them to walk well, the effect in a few years will be marvelous.—Montreal Star.

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A HANDY CORKSCREW FORK. The accompanying illustration looks as much like a corkscrew as it does a fork, but the combination makes a very efficient arrangement for kitchen services. It is particularly designed for turning and lifting large pieces of meat during the process of cooking. The fork consists of the usual handle, with a tube or sleeve fitted therein, the tubes mounted on the outer end of the tube, and a rod passing through the tube and handle and carrying at one end the spiral screw, and the other end secured by a nut to cause the screw to revolve with the handle. In operation the tubes are driven into the meat to the proper distance, and the handle is then turned to cause the spiral screw to engage or twist into the meat, giving a firm and reliable connection between the fork and the meat. To remove the fork, release the screw by turning the handle in the reverse direction. The advantages of the fork are apparent, for with it a piece of meat or a fowl of any size can be handled with great ease without fear of tearing the meat or of dropping the same.



FISHES THAT FLY FOR LIFE. Interesting Scenes While Voyaging in the Gulf of Mexico. "Watching the flying fish in the Gulf of Mexico is one of the favorite pastimes of persons who make the voyage across the Gulf for the first time," said an observant man, "and the habit is not an uninteresting one, for there is much to be learned, much that is new and attractive to the stranger. There is something particularly fascinating about the flying fish in the Gulf of Mexico. "During the trip recently we ran into great schools of them between here and Vera Cruz and it was difficult not to believe at times that they were simply making sport of the big vessel that was plowing through the blue waters of the Gulf. They would dart across the bow of the ship, scumpling this way and that, and seemed to be in a playful mood all the while. They looked like animated sprays, new fashes and splashes of water; now taking this form, now that, now shooting along with the course of the ship; now bounding out from the vessel's side, and all the while apparently conscious of the fact that men and women were watching them. They seemed to take somewhat of pleasure from the enjoyment of the human beings. But, of course, they were busy with other problems. It was not a pleasant business either. It was a matter of life and death with them. They were being pursued by their enemies. The only way they could escape was by leaving the water for a while. The enemy has not learned this little trick of flying, and consequently could

not follow when the flying fish spread their wings and soared in the air for a while. "It is remarkable what distances these delicate members can go on their poorly trained wings. I have seen them fly as far as two city blocks. They are interesting little fellows, and they always draw the attention of the tourist and the stranger in Gulf waters."

A WOMAN'S LOFTY CLIMB. How Mrs. Workman Got to the Top of a 22,548-Foot Peak. Mrs. Fanny Bullock Workman, daughter of former Gov. Andrew D. Bullock, of Massachusetts, is known as the world's greatest mountain climber and explorer. Word comes from India that she has broken her first high record of 21,000 feet twice in one day during her explorations this season of the Himalayas. These giant mountains climbed by her are two snow peaks looming high above the Choogo Loongma glacier and bordering the distant province of Hunas-Nyaga. Starting at 3 a. m., August 12, by moonlight, from the highest camp, at 19,355 feet, and ascending over the sharpest of snow slants, the party, consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Workman and the three noted Italian guides, J. Pettigax, C. Saviole and L. Petigax, climbed steadily until long after daylight, and at 7 a. m. this indomitable American woman climber stood on top of her first peak of the day, 21,770 feet high. After half an hour's halt for scientific observations and photography the party descended this mountain a short distance, and traversing a long snow

arete, ascended a still higher peak which lay beyond, and at 10 a. m. to cloudless weather, Mrs. Workman scored her greatest record, and stood at 22,548 feet above sea level. The heights of these mountains have been computed with the utmost scientific accuracy. On the day of the ascent barometric and mercurial barometer readings were taken on the summits themselves, and also by a government official at the lower station of Scaurid. The climbing of these Himalayan mountains was not accomplished by camping on grass or rocks to 19,000 feet, as in the Andes, but by continued difficult snow bivouacs, made at 16,000, 18,400 and 19,555 feet. Two nights were passed at this latter immense altitude, where two-thirds of the eighteen bodies, who carried the high camp equipment, were prostrated by mountain sickness. Dr. and Mrs. Workman and guides, although they slept little and suffered somewhat from mountain lassitude, were not ill, and were able to carry out their fifteen hours' climb the next day with complete success. These were the most notable climbs of the expedition in 1903, but besides these, three large glaciers have been explored and surveyed and four first ascents and traverses of snow passes from 18,000 to 19,000 feet in height accomplished. This season's work, added to that of 1902, when many peaks and the great Choogo Loongma glacier were first ascended, combine to make the two greatest high climbing expeditions yet carried out in the Himalayas. Several hundred magnificent photographs were taken during the summer.—Boston Herald.

Evolution of Industrial Methods. I believe that industry among human beings is destined to pass through three phases—the phases of competition, of organization, of emulation. Civilization has spent thousands of years in the competitive system. Out of a hundred business men ninety-nine have failed—the hundredth man with broken heart, broken hopes, and one man with money in his pocket and a broken digestion. Competition encouraged the merchant to sell adulterated goods, bogus goods, worthless goods. It encouraged him to pay his employees as little as he could in order to compete with others who hired employees, and to charge his customers as much as he could. The competitive system is now dying a slow death. Already the system of organization has arrived, and the trusts represent this system. It is crude and selfish. It takes for a few big organized pirates the enormous wealth of the country, and distributes among a great many little competitive pirates. But organization, even under trust management, is a step in the right direction. The trust that is combining the nation's industries into a few companies paves the way certainly and surely for national ownership. When one man, or half a dozen men, shall own all the railroads, there will be an interference by the people sooner or later. When one man, or a few men, shall own all the steel mills, all the coal mines and all the oil wells, all the street car lines—there will be interference by the people sooner or later. When it is clearly proved that one man, or a few men, can run the business of the nation, that the much vaunted competition is not the life of trade, but an indication of savagery, then the people will say to the one man, or the few men, "We, the people, will own the business of the people, and not you, an individual."—New York Journal.

Anglo-American Arbitration. SOME of the United States newspapers suggest the desirability of an arbitration treaty between Britain and that country, similar to that recently made between Britain and France. Everything that looks in the direction of lessening the danger of war, and establishing the pacific plan of settling international disputes by fair argument before a competent and impartial tribunal, instead of "the stern arbitrament of the sword," should have the support of all right-thinking men. The tendency shown among the nations to discuss such peaceful methods, and in some cases to adopt them, is a sign of the times for which we ought to be thankful. It is an evidence of the development of the Christian consciousness which, when it reaches its full development, will tolerate war no more. It may seem a far cry yet to the day when "the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law," but it is coming. By all means the two great English-speaking nations should show a good lead in this direction.—The Christian Guardian.

refusal to treat with the invasion sent by the British to discuss the Tibetan non-observance of trade treaties. It may not mean the complete unveiling of the mysteries that enshroud this Asiatic country which has so resolutely pursued a policy of shutting its doors to foreigners, and has since the expulsion of the Jesuit missionaries early in the nineteenth century been visited by but a scant handful of daring explorers. Of these but four or five succeeded in penetrating to the capital, the sacred city of Lassa, where the grand lama dreams his life away in his nine-story palace.

The hostility of the natives is by no means the only thing that prevents explorers from penetrating far into Tibet. The country, a tableland of 15,000 to 20,000 feet above sea level, wild, mountainous and devoid of roads, is by nature fully as inhospitable as Siberia. Outside of the monasteries, or lamaseries, as they are called, there are no houses, mud hovels serving to accommodate the natives. This, however, does not apply to Lassa itself, which, as the few photographs obtained show, is a well laid out city, picturesquely located on the southern slope of a mountain, with the palace of the grand lama towering above the other buildings. The grand lama, or, rather, the dala lama—for there are two grand lamas—is not only the chief personage in Tibet, but is acknowledged as the head of the Buddhist church throughout Tibet, Mongolia and China. From the little that has been written about him it appears that, as a rule, the dala lama, who is elected when a child, dies young, and it has been hinted that the length of his days depends upon the amount of trouble he gives the gyaiho, the temporal ruler of Lassa.

The lamas dominate the country. Their influence can be easily understood when it is said that fully one-sixth of the population are numbered in their order. The lamaseries dot the mountain slopes like fortresses, and the people willingly labor to support their spiritual guides, who do not lose an opportunity to terrorize them. One thing that contributes to keep these priests in power is the fact that the people believe them to possess godlike powers, and wonderful are the tales travelers tell of remarkable exhibitions going to support this belief. Human sacrifices are also said to be a component part of the religion of the country, which is described as being but a veneer of Buddhism over a body of savage and uncouth superstition. As may be imagined, the spiritual, as well as the temporal power, rests in the hands of a very privileged few. In the country districts the principal occupations are agriculture and cattle raising. Labor of all sorts is very cheap in Tibet, the men being paid but 2 or 3 cents a day, while the women generally receive but their board and lodging. Where the country is not a barren waste the principal products are wheat, barley, peas and beans, the live stock raised including horses, asses, mules, cattle, sheep and yaks. As in everything else, primitive methods prevail, and prosperity is constantly absent.

The population, which has at times been estimated at over 80,000,000, whereas a tenth of that figure would probably be nearer the mark, is rapidly on the decrease on account of the prevalence of disease, the chief ill being smallpox. Dirt abounds everywhere, as explorers soon discover to their great disgust. The reason for this state of affairs is not hard to seek, since dirt is considered sacred, and washing is religiously tabooed. Religion amounts to a passion with the lama and his men alike, but it is in many ways a religion of but formal observances. Prayers are regarded as of great potency, and the lama has devised an ingenious method of saying a great many prayers in a short space of time. A small, hollow cylinder is fixed on an axle, one end of which extends beyond the cylinder to serve for a handle. In this "praying wheel," as it is called, are deposited small slips of paper on which have been written prayers composed by the lama. The wheel is then revolved rapidly, the prayer being that the devotees will thus attain the felicity of Nirvana without having to pass through many interminable stages of reprobation. The praying wheels, it might be remarked, also serve to wreak vengeance on an enemy, the person injured stealing his enemy's prayer wheel and revolving it in the wrong direction in the belief that this will certainly assure an unhappy hereafter for the luckless owner. This alone is sufficient to convince the observer of the state of spiritual degradation into which the people are plunged.

Tibet as at present constituted is clearly no place for white men, nor can it be said to offer many advantages under a high state of civilization. In addition to its topographical shortcomings, of which mention has already been made, climate plays no small part in making it undesirable for purposes of settlement. August, September, October and November are the only months which can be considered "dry," rain or snow contributing to render the remaining months unpleasant. According to Zoubkov, the average annual temperature is 42 degrees for morning, 67 for noon and 56 for night, a variability that, to say the least, cannot be conducive to comfort. A not unnatural result of the conditions which have so effectually barred communication between Tibet and the outside world is the maintenance of a very small army. It is said that there

IN A FORBIDDEN LAND

TIBET IS DESPOTICALLY RULED BY ITS PRIESTS.

Grand Lamas Who Practically Own All the Property in the Country—A Queer Code of Penances—Praying by Mechanism.

For centuries Tibet has been almost a sealed book to the rest of the world, and the result of the expedition under Col. Younghusband, which the British have sent into the region, will be watched with interest. The high priests, or lamas, of Tibet have ever denounced the foreigner as an incarnated devil, and they preach that so long as Tibet remains isolated from the rest of the universe, so long shall she be great. A few missionaries and explorers have wandered across the corners of this great tableland, clambered up some of its snow-clad mountains, and visited a few of its stone cities; yet the greater part of its 650,000



A MOUNTED LAMA.

square miles, an area equal to Germany, France and Italy combined, is still unknown to the outside world, on the maps of the world there is no other such white patch as this in the center of Asia.

From the account of travelers Tibet would seem to be a land where religion is supreme. The people obey their priests with almost slavish obedience, and accept the most marvelous teachings with utter credulity. The lamas possess most of the wealth of the country, and consequently they have reason to fear the foreigner and the intrusion of the explorer.

Colonel Younghusband's punitive expedition into Tibet was undertaken in retaliation for the grand lama's curt



GRAND LAMA'S PALACE—LASSA.

refusal to treat with the invasion sent by the British to discuss the Tibetan non-observance of trade treaties. It may not mean the complete unveiling of the mysteries that enshroud this Asiatic country which has so resolutely pursued a policy of shutting its doors to foreigners, and has since the expulsion of the Jesuit missionaries early in the nineteenth century been visited by but a scant handful of daring explorers. Of these but four or five succeeded in penetrating to the capital, the sacred city of Lassa, where the grand lama dreams his life away in his nine-story palace.

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The population, which has at times been estimated at over 80,000,000, whereas a tenth of that figure would probably be nearer the mark, is rapidly on the decrease on account of the prevalence of disease, the chief ill being smallpox. Dirt abounds everywhere, as explorers soon discover to their great disgust. The reason for this state of affairs is not hard to seek, since dirt is considered sacred, and washing is religiously tabooed. Religion amounts to a passion with the lama and his men alike, but it is in many ways a religion of but formal observances. Prayers are regarded as of great potency, and the lama has devised an ingenious method of saying a great many prayers in a short space of time. A small, hollow cylinder is fixed on an axle, one end of which extends beyond the cylinder to serve for a handle. In this "praying wheel," as it is called, are deposited small slips of paper on which have been written prayers composed by the lama. The wheel is then revolved rapidly, the prayer being that the devotees will thus attain the felicity of Nirvana without having to pass through many interminable stages of reprobation. The praying wheels, it might be remarked, also serve to wreak vengeance on an enemy, the person injured stealing his enemy's prayer wheel and revolving it in the wrong direction in the belief that this will certainly assure an unhappy hereafter for the luckless owner. This alone is sufficient to convince the observer of the state of spiritual degradation into which the people are plunged.

Tibet as at present constituted is clearly no place for white men, nor can it be said to offer many advantages under a high state of civilization. In addition to its topographical shortcomings, of which mention has already been made, climate plays no small part in making it undesirable for purposes of settlement. August, September, October and November are the only months which can be considered "dry," rain or snow contributing to render the remaining months unpleasant. According to Zoubkov, the average annual temperature is 42 degrees for morning, 67 for noon and 56 for night, a variability that, to say the least, cannot be conducive to comfort. A not unnatural result of the conditions which have so effectually barred communication between Tibet and the outside world is the maintenance of a very small army. It is said that there

are not more than 4,000 soldiers in all the dala lama's domain, and these are very poorly equipped and disciplined. As a consequence robbery and outrage are prevalent throughout Tibet. The lama, it should be said, control the administration of justice as well as the dispensation of religious instruction, and the courts are more remarkable for their superstitious than for their law. Crude and barbaric methods prevail of a nature that would disgrace even the Middle Ages. Drowning, torture and flogging are common penalties for slight offenses.

Audacious Morgan. An old Washington gentleman tells a story which he overheard President Lincoln repeat. During one of the busy reception hours, when the President was talking first to one, then to another of the many gentlemen who filled the room in the White House, a gentleman asked if any news had been received from John Morgan, whose Confederate cavalry were raiding Kentucky and Ohio. "Well, catch them some of these days," replied Lincoln. "I admire him, for he is a bold operator. He always goes after the mail trains in order to get information from Washington. On his last raid he opened some mail bags and took possession of the official correspondence."

First Artificial Teeth. It is certain that the ancients had some acquaintance with the dental art, yet it is difficult to determine by whom artificial teeth were introduced. Herodotus, in his accounts of the ancient Egyptians, mentions a "dentist for the teeth." The British Museum contains interesting dental instruments discovered among the ruins of Pompeii (destroyed A. D. 79) and dated in the second century describes the operation of drawing teeth with a forceps. Belsout establishes the fact that the ancients were acquainted with the art, for he found artificial teeth in their catacombs and tombs. It is generally thought, however, in modern dentistry that Albrecht First taught the true art of making teeth, and in his work, "Alphabetic," he gives drawings of several dental instruments then in use.

The uttering chaufur lost control of his machine, which dashed through the wall of a writing-block factory and precipitated him into a vat of finished product. "Well," he muttered, as he crawled out, "I may be badly damaged, but I'm still indispensable to a well-ordered office desk." "How so?" asked the surgeon. "Because I'm a first-class ink roller,"

My ledger shows that I did a business of more than \$20,000 last year," said the grocer who was trying to sell out. "Yes," rejoined the prospective purchaser, "but what does your pocket-book show?"