

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

A genius is just an ordinary man with kinks in his mind.

Woman's inhumanity to man makes countless lawyers happy.

After a man leaves the marriage altar it's a case of boss or be bossed.

There is nothing in the theatrical line that can draw like a murder trial.

One-half the world doesn't seem to care whether the other half lives or not.

When a man is content with what he is, he is never content with what he has.

Some men think they are philanthropists when they give back what they have stolen.

A girl may be able to pose as an angel during courtship, but after marriage she sheds her wings.

The Mormon church is spoken of as a great religious trust. Does the chair bear a motion to strike out the word "religious"?

In the last census of India one man gave his source of income as "begging from relatives." That's the hardest work there is.

If a "cod" of Cornell kisses a man it will cost her \$2. Still, with reasonable restraint, she can dodge the fine by letting the man do all the kissing.

Marriage may be a civil contract, but some people certainly believe in a very uncivil manner, after the contract has been duly signed and sealed.

In proof of Prof. Coe's assertion that baseball is a part of the religious life of a boy, it is only necessary to point to the career of the Rev. William Sunday.

The survivors of the Varaz and Korieta have shaken hands with their czar, and doubtless are convinced that no higher earthly glory can possibly come to them.

The mother of ten children may be considered a better citizen than her husband, providing she does not give the country a Nidermeier, a Marx, or a Van Dine. High authority to the contrary, it is purely a question of quality, not of numbers.

Pity the poor Briton with an income! The tax gatherer continues to bear down heavily on him. A year ago his tax was reduced from 15 pence in the pound to 11 pence. Now a penny is added again. That is to say, 5 per cent of a Briton's income must be handed over to the government in time of peace.

Colonel Higginson, in a recent magazine article, speaks of the House of Lords as a set of brakes—not wheels—in the practical action of the British government. Not only legislative bodies, but methods of procedure and persons, may be divided into wheels and brakes; and the service performed by one and the other is almost equally useful.

"When Adam delved and Eve span," runs the old line. Now the conditions are reversed. The son of Adam learns in school to sew and darn, and the daughter of Eve has adopted darning as a profession. Some exceedingly interesting and important archeological discoveries have lately been made in Crete by a young Boston woman, a graduate of Smith College, who has been working for the American Exploration Society. Her principal achievement is the discovery of the town of Gourni, which consists of a small palace, with its surrounding courts and numerous houses. Authorities fix the date at about sixteen hundred years before Christ, and pronounce it the best preserved town known to archeologists of the present day.

A British visitor in St. Louis is quoted with painstaking accuracy as expressing one view of American newspapers that is interesting if not entirely new. "The American newspapers," he is reported as saying, "are a great power for good, but they treat criminals too well. Why, they make 'eroes of the bloody burglars, murderers and such. They make such 'eroes of 'em that others are led to commit crime so the papers will make 'eroes of 'em too." This humble but frank criticism will be recognized as not without cause, but we must emphatically call for some effort on the part of foreigners, be they highly educated or not, to distinguish between the kinds of American newspapers. Some do not make "eroes of criminals, while some do. Papers that have an element of readers who think a train robber is a "ero" naturally play to their audiences. The bigger the headline and the stronger the details in relation to crime the more uneducated and uninformed the readers of that paper. By their prints shall ye know them.

"I know men and women," said Thos. A. Edison the other day, "who are food drunk all the time." "Food drunk" is a new term. But it expresses an idea that is old. It describes a condition that is notorious. Few of us indeed but know people who are constantly gorged with food, with the result that their intellects are encumbered and their bodies benumbed just as truly as if the excess had been liquid instead of solid. The man who has his stomach full of food is more or less stupefied. His mind and muscles work reluctantly and sluggishly. His faculties are dulled and his feelings deadened. His condition differs only in degree from that of the man drunk with alcohol or of the snake that is gorged. It is a common saying that if you are going to ask a favor of a man first feed him well. The philosophy is good. The "well-

fed" man is in condition to grant anything rather than dispute about it. He will not question or deny or haggle. Take anything from him but his response, and he will not object. Every one has experienced the mental disturbance produced by occasional over-eating. It is easy to see that the man who is continually gorged is continually off his mental balance. And if the proportion of us who continually gorge were actually known we would no doubt be amazed and dismayed. That the rich are continually tempted by dishes that tickle the palate seems to afford some little excuse in that direction. But those who have specially observed unanimously declare that the most of the over-eating is among the poor. There the stomach is overloaded with unassimilable stuff in order that the necessary nutrition may be gained. It is quite possible that we all might live comfortably and better than we do now on half what the average man now consumes.

One of the things which marked the late Senator Hanna as a man of strong individuality was his consistent belief in the practical value of the work done by the Salvation Army. Though his gifts to the army were without ostentation he did not hesitate to publicly proclaim his sympathy with the purposes and aims of the organization. He advocated its cause upon every suitable occasion. Being a hard-headed business man, it is reasonable to assume that Senator Hanna familiarized himself with the nature and scope of the army's work before giving it such unqualified support. A feature of the work which particularly appealed to Senator Hanna and which enlisted his active support was the "farm colony" system which the army inaugurated many years ago and which has spread into many lands. The bill to create a colonization bureau, which was to have been introduced before Congress by Senator Hanna, proposes a method whereby the Government may apply the plans and experience of the Salvation Army in putting actual settlers upon its irrigated lands. Whether such a colonizing plan, under Government direction, would be practical or not, the measure serves to call public attention to the success of the army's farm colonies and their remarkable growth in this and other countries. The primary purpose, of course, is to relieve the congested districts of the larger cities by attracting families to unoccupied lands and giving them an opportunity to become home owners under favorable conditions. The object of the Salvation Army colony is not to gather a group of cranks or adherents of some particular socialistic or religious creed, nor is it the purpose to create a strictly farming population. The army starts a family on a ten or twenty acre tract with a cottage, a team, agricultural implements and seeds. It advances all this and some money besides. The settler pays it all back in three or four years out of the earnings from the soil, and in the meantime has the benefits that come from living in an organized community. Farm colonies under the supervision of the Salvation Army have been established in South Africa, Australia and England. In Rhodesia 3,000 acres have been turned over to the army, and western Australia has set apart 20,000 acres for its use. In this country the army has established farm colonies in California, Colorado and Ohio. At Fort Army, Colorado, the colony consists of 2,000 acres, and is perhaps the most successful illustration of the army's plan for drafting the surplus population of the larger cities and enabling it to get a permanent hold upon the soil.

WHEN THE CURTAIN LIFTS.

Pen Picture of a Summer Day, a Boat, a Rod, a Man, a Maid.

Scene—A little lake, deep-set among the hills, long and narrow, fringed with lilies, the water lying level like a sheet of steel. Back and forth along the northern end piles a sharp-nosed boat, with scarce a wake. Amidships, a brown-necked young college lad in bathing suit propels it, with an easy rotary motion of the hands in alternate strokes, with barely a ripple. In the bow, both small hands on the gunwales gripping in nervous tension, a lovely girl of 19, her delicate color coming and going, her hair a wave, her eyes aflame with excitement, and in the stern a middle-aged man whose hair in the right light shows a touch of iron-gray. In his hand arches a fly-rod of split bamboo, well back over his shoulder, the quivering tip darting in irregular thrusts far astern like the hinging beak and serpentine throat of a giant crane, pointing to where the line is weaving this way and that in surging tugs. The lake grows sultry. Dark, white dimples show the lilies, gray mist shrouds them. There is a patter of falling drops, large ones, here and there. But the rod keeps up its lunging, the line is weaving to and fro. Slowly the bamboo straightens, a hunched fish sculls slowly in resentful rage, then with a surge and splash darts back again. Still the plant crane keeps fast its yielding urging, again the line is guided alongside. There is no net. Not a fish is a hand that has been an expert frog-catcher in its day, which gently hovers ready, grips and swings into the boat, with a single motion, a barely three-pounce pickered, so lightly hooked in the cheek that it seems not possible the hook could have held through all that striving, granting, as it did, to the fish to keep his nose well turned away from the angle of the pulling line. But hold it did. And then the rain comes down in very truth—or we awake to it at last—and the boat perforates flies shoreward.

I would that I could make you see it as I saw it! For it was a lifting of the curtain to just the scene that William Black delighted in—the bare-armed, bare-legged gillie at the oars, the delicately beautiful young American girl in the bow, and in the stern—the same old, yet never old, lad in the hair of iron-gray; and all in the heart of the hills, of the gray mists, on the level of that sullen lake.—Forest and Stream.

If the girls can reach up high enough to lower them, this is to inform them that pompadours will not be worn so tall hereafter.

When the commanding officer meets his troops for the first time in the morning, he calls out cordially, "Good morning!" The men reply with a peculiar, long, rattling shout, "Your good health, your excellency!" When a maneuver is executed to the commander's satisfaction, he shouts congratulations to the men, and they respond all together, "We are glad you like it."

IS THE SUN HOT OR COLD? Sun and a Hot Stove Have the Same Kind of Energy. So far as I know, no reasons at all for doubting the high temperature of the central body of the solar system have ever been found. There are in general three distinct ways in which heat can be transferred from one body to another—conduction, convection and radiation. The first two are dependent upon the presence of matter, the latter will take place across a perfect vacuum. We may receive heat from a stove by all three methods. If we place our hands upon it we receive heat by conduction; if we hold them above it they are warmed by convection, the heat being brought to them by the rising current of hot air. If now we stand in front of the stove we will feel its warmth, the sensation in this case being produced by the heat waves which it emits. These waves are similar to the electric waves used in wireless telegraphy, differing from them only in their length. They bear the same relation to them which the ripples on a mill pond bear to the Atlantic rollers. With the instruments at our disposal at the present time we can measure the length of these waves as accurately as we can measure the length of a table with a foot rule, and we can prove that they will pass through a vacuum, a plate of glass or a tank full of liquid air, without losing their ability to warm our hands. We find, however, that if we pass this radiant heat through certain substances, water vapor, for example, its intensity is diminished, and it has been absorbed. It is possible to determine the exact length of the waves of heat which have been removed by absorption in the vapor, and if we test the radiation which comes to us from the sun we find that waves of this same length are absent, the water vapor in the earth's atmosphere having refused to transmit them. This fact, taken alone, is pretty good evidence that the sun and the hot stove are pouring out the same kind of energy.—Harper's Weekly.

What Made Him Ask. Paying Teller—What is your name, anyway? Indignant Presenter of Check—Don't you see my signature? Paying Teller—Yes. That's what aroused my curiosity.—Baltimore American.

EDITORIALS Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

The Methodists and Amusements. THE question as to what amusements may be permitted to the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church is one that has caused more discussion in church circles than possibly any other. "Times change, and men's manners and customs change with them." It is an old and a true proverb. It is also true that this change in manners and customs—and the inevitable change as to how they are viewed—is as active in the churches as anywhere else. It is to this steady shifting of ideals and opinions that the question remains perennial with the Methodists.

In the early Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, the whole matter was dismissed in a prohibition to members against "taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus." But along in the decades about the middle of the last century the inevitable broadening of ideas due to the rapid increase in population, the change from solitary rural life to the busy and bustling of the city—all were liberalizing tendencies. Especially in the cities, Methodists in good standing indulged in amusements, etc., which were looked upon with horror by the more conservative, and hence more strict members in the country, especially the elder generation. But the liberals argued that they were well within the prohibition of the Discipline, and that there was no loss of true religion to themselves.

It became evident that the clause in the Discipline needed amendment; that the church most authoritatively specify what things could not be permitted to the Methodist. The change was made by the General Conference of 1872. The paragraph which has stood since then deals with conduct, and expressly forbids among other things, "the buying, selling or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage;" and "dancing, playing at games of chance, attending theaters, horse races, croquet, dancing parties or patronizing dancing schools, or taking such other amusements as are obviously of misleading or questionable moral tendency."

But this did not end the controversy. In very many churches, this regulation has become a dead letter. Methodist members attend theaters, visit circuses, send their children to dancing schools and play card games in their homes; and they do not feel that they thereby commit any sin. That is to say, they do not admit that the church has a right to prohibit any line of conduct that is not sinful; and feeling that those things are not, they ignore the precept. The matter was all threshed over again at the recent General Conference in Los Angeles.—Toledo Blade.

THE Question of the Battleship. HERETOFORE, when the public spoke of battleships, the breath was bated and there was a gleam in the eye that boded the kindling of destructive pride. Some spirited souls even went so far as to lift the hat when one of our navy's ornaments was named, but something has happened. It has become dangerous to refer to America as sailing the seas like a battleship. We hate to think of the ship of state as armored and carrying 12-inch guns. We cannot even remember that famous line, "She seems to feel the thrill of life along her keel," without sympathetic shudders.

The reason is as follows. Cesarvitch, 13,110 tons, disabled by torpedos and beached, Feb. 8, at Port Arthur; Retzian, 12,700 tons, disabled by torpedo and beached at Port Arthur, Feb. 8; Poltava, 10,900 tons, disabled at Port Arthur; Sevastopol, 10,900 tons, disabled Feb. 9; Pobeda, 12,974 tons, damaged by mine at Port Arthur, April 13; Petropavlovsk, 10,900 tons, blown up by mine at Port Arthur, April 13. Six first-class battleships, four of them undoubtedly destroyed by submarine engines of warfare, not to speak of the dangers within the ship itself, as we have learned in the cases of the Missouri and the Iowa.

It is told that the unfortunate Admiral Makaroff disapproved of battleships on the ancient ground of "all your eggs in one basket." The admiral is dead and a battleship holds his body, a battleship which sank within two minutes after a submarine was exploded under it. There are others along the shore of the bay at Port Arthur, all former prizes of the Russian navy, pointed at by the experts of other nations as perils to peace and warnings for war.

SEVEN AND THIRTEEN. They Are the Most Popular Numbers in a Man's Mind. "As a man to pick out some number between nine and ten and you can sell him nine times out of ten what number he has selected, though his selection is made mentally," said a writer in the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "and when you come to think of it the task of naming the correct number is not a difficult one. In the course of an hour the other day I asked ten men to think of a certain number—any number between one and ten—and I would tell them what number they had fixed their mind on. In nine cases out of ten I was correct, missing it only once. The minds of nine of the persons selected the number seven and one of them selected the nine. It is not difficult to understand why the mind should run to the number seven. It is the most natural thing in the world for the mind to sell him seven. Even in the case of the man who fixed his mind on the number nine, he told me when it was all over that his mind had first run to seven, but he quickly changed to nine without knowing just why it was that he changed.

"Seven is the most prominent figure between one and ten. It is the most popular number in the line and is associated with more things than any other number and it is quite reasonable that the mind should light on seven. I made another test the other day with five persons, asking each of them to write some number between one and ten and give it to a sixth person. When the slips had been handed to the sixth man I said, 'Seven is the number on each of the slips.' " "Corroborate," said the man to whom they had been handed, and the five men were a bit bewildered for the moment by the fact that they had all hit upon the same number and that I was able to tell what the number was. It would be quite as easy to name a number between ten and twenty, though I have made no tests along this line. I dare say that thirteen would be the first number to flash in the mind, simply because it is the most talked-of and the only number between ten and twenty that has the widest association. So you can tell there is no trick about it and it does not require any knowledge of the occult philosophies."

When a woman agrees to become a stepmother to a man's children, does she enter the marriage relation with New Year's resolutions?

now squatting drunkenly in the mud, their huge guns raking the arched stars. They have felt a shudder along their keels, and their glory has dwindled like a leaking balloon. The American people are prone to ask questions when things happen. Something has happened. The colored pictures of our navy are singularly unimpressive just at present, and we desire to know why. If we cannot find out why, we, at least, wish to be sure that something was really wrong. So there is the question in the air. How much is a \$5,000,000 battleship worth? If a Japanese corvette's guard or the naval equivalent of the body can take a rowboat, a cap pistol, and a torpedo and sink battleships, we desire to be allowed to look on, and possibly make a small bet on our own prospects. Further, some would like to know just how we are going to keep the upper hand if our battleships won't battle against the enemy's torpedoes. We are in a state of doubt.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Chinese Exclusion. IT is expected that the new treaty regulating the admission of Chinese into the United States, now in preparation, will permit certain Chinese, not of the coolie class, who are now excluded, to enter the country. Under the existing exclusion law, Chinese laborers are prohibited from coming to or remaining in the United States. Registered Chinese laborers may leave the country and return to it, under certain conditions, and Chinese officials, teachers, students, merchants and travelers may come into the country when properly certified. The law has been strictly construed by the Attorney General who ruled that not all Chinese persons might enter the country who were not specifically forbidden, but that only those who are entitled to enter who are expressly permitted to do so. The ruling excluded traders, salesmen, buyers, bookkeepers, accountants, managers, storekeepers, interpreters, physicians and agents. Persons falling within these designations are not manual laborers, against whom the exclusion law was particularly directed.

The classes excluded by the rulings are numerous, and the new treaty may provide for the admission of some of them. Our expanding trade with the East would doubtless be stimulated by a more hospitable treatment of what may be termed the Chinese mercantile and professional element. A discreet extension of the privilege of entry could be permitted, it is believed, without injuriously affecting the wages of labor. It is understood that the contemplated regulations apply to the admission of Chinese of the higher classes and that there is no intention to admit coolies.

Whether provisions shall be made for use of Chinese laborers in the construction of the Panama Canal is under consideration, and the more extended use of Chinese labor in the Philippines is urged by certain interests concerned in the development of the possessions.—Philadelphia Ledger.

THE Price of Fame. WHEN one considers how much the people love to be humbugged, it is surprising that there are not more people engaged professionally in the business. A man with a very brilliant mind may make a brilliant address before a brilliant audience, and there the brilliancy stops; but a man with a mind about the size of a shriveled walnut, may talk a lot of nonsense to an audience of no—or of average or unusual—intelligence, and immediately he becomes famous. An educator in a recent religious meeting told a fairly intelligent audience that dancing was the closest approach to Paradise, and today his name and theory is known from Maine to California. A University of Chicago professor tells wherein Rockefeller is superior to Shakespeare, and while the oil magnate modestly protests, the professor's mail is overwhelmed with requests for photographs and books of his hair. A Harvard professor, who teaches Slave literature, and who is a native of Russia, expresses the hope that his fatherland will be defeated in the Eastern war, and he gets half a column of attention, whereas his academic utterances have never won more than very moderate attention. And so, if a man must simply be foolish to become famous, is it any wonder that almost everybody to-day is famous?—Baltimore Herald.

THE DANGERS OF LIVING

With Deadly Microbes Everywhere, Man's Chances Are Slim.

Death through the agency of a meanly microbe is becoming a thing so common that men no longer marvel at it. In fact, it is almost impossible now to die of any old-fashioned disease of a crank. Appendicitis is now classed as being a bug-promoted affliction. Toothache will doubtless be the next malady to fall into line. In this connection some simple rules for dodging the various bugs that would work havoc in our delicately adjusted systems may be appropriate. They are suggested by a contributor to the New York Sun, who signs himself High Price Guesses, M. D., and are as follows:

May I beg to caution my fellow citizens against using telephones? The microbes upon the mouthpieces are a sure cause of infection. Also against taking one's meals in restaurants! Nobody knows who uses the plates, cups and saucers, glassware, etc. Also against entering a room where other persons are. The agitation of the air caused by one's entrance sets microbes circulating. Also against raising one's hand or waving one's hand in salutation; as these gestures set microbes in circulation. Sleeping in beds or on sofas at hotels is, if possible, more dangerous still. Sitting in pews in churches or standing in the aisles is unwise.

Especially dangerous with these is the riding in trolleys or railway coaches, reading books from public libraries, or sweeping out rooms, or touching newspapers or magazines, or walking in the public streets. All these should be avoided. Fruits and breadstuffs purchased at public shops, breakfast foods, butchers' meat, confectionery, all may be fatal. Each and all of these is and are swarming with bacteria. Writing letters or telegrams and opening them are risky things to do. Wearing clothes made by tailors or dressmakers or purchased ready made (and the same is true of boots and shoes) should be never thought of. To kiss a woman or a man or child is voluntarily to assist in the microbe's progress, in simple not only, but in swarms. I write this out of pure love for my race.

A HELPFUL SPIRIT.

Mrs. Sanderson put on her glasses and looked amiably through them at her guest. "Know where you could get any ripe wild strawberries?" she said, in a pleasant tone. "Why, of course I do. It's curious how often people come to me to ask about things, and how often I'm able to help them out. You can get some wild strawberries up on James Wilder's hill. He told me the other day they were just about ripe, and that if I hadn't a patch of my own he'd offer me some. "I like to be helpful to my neighbors," said Mrs. Sanderson, without a glance at her guest, who seemed to be trying to make up her mind to say something, "and now I'm killing two birds with one stone, for if you pick some of those strawberries Tommy Wilder won't be half as likely to over-eat and make himself sick."

"Yesterday I had two chances. One was when Miss Mauser came over to see if I could lend her an ironing board, and I was able to tell her that Mr. Brown had bought a couple of a traveling man, and would dispose of them reasonably. I told her I should have bought one if I hadn't owned two. She started right off for the store. She said hers had met with an accident, but I know how easy 'twould be for her to get the borrowing habit, and I knew she wouldn't want to if she realized it."

There was a slight sound in the caller's throat, but Mrs. Sanderson hurried on: "And the second chance was when that little Porter girl came here with the subscription list for Abner Tompkins, that got hurt in the mill. I asked her about his bruises, and when she'd finished I said, 'I can give you something better than money for him, Susy, I'll give you the address of the man in Nashua that makes the wonderful liniment that healed Brother Sam's bruises and cuts after his accident.' " "I did give it to her. She's a curious, albeit kind of a girl, but I guess she was grateful, for I'm sure there were tears in her eyes when she said good-by. I don't think folks are fit to live in this world if they can't forget themselves and do for others now and then."

Both Learned Their Lessons. When George Roberts was president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, says the New York Times, he had an experience with a train conductor in which each learned a lesson. The conductor, who knew Mr. Roberts, walked by him with a nod and without calling for his ticket. "Here, conductor," said the president, sharply, "you have not looked at my pass!" "But I know who you are," said the conductor.

"That has nothing to do with it," replied the president. "I might be traveling without it. I am entitled to ride free only when I have the evidence of my identity." He spoke sharply, thinking he was giving the conductor a fine lesson in duty. "Ticket, please!" said the conductor, sharply, nettled at the chiding. "That's right," said the president, and he began to feel in his pockets for his pass. He went through pocket after pocket in a vain search, while the conductor stood looking grimly on. "Come, come!" said the conductor. "If you haven't a ticket, sir, you must pay your fare."

President Roberts made a last hasty examination, and then taking a five-dollar bill from his wallet, paid his fare from Philadelphia to New York, and the incident was closed. He had left his pass in his office. A woman who is always looking for slights from those higher than herself in the social scale, is pretty sure to resolve them.

Acquiring a Specimen. Mrs. Franklin had always spoken her mind, and she insisted to do it as long as the gift of speech was spared her. Her children and grandchildren knew her habit, and found it not always cheering. "I'd like to have you tell me what induced Edith to fall in love with that young man I saw last night or the first time," said the old lady to one of her daughters. "I think she was attracted to him at first because he's such an athletic fellow and such a splendid swimmer," the mother of Edith ventured feebly, after a moment's casting about in Lettland for a satisfactory answer. "Edith!" snorted Mrs. Franklin. "Which does she propose to keep him after she's married him—a gymnasium or an aquarium?"

Wanted a Demonstration. "John," said Mrs. Maup, coming out on the back porch, "where her husband sat tilted back in his chair, his feet on the railing, "didn't I hear you tell the minister when he was here that you were deeply interested in temperance movements?" "Yes," Mr. Makepeace replied, rather stony. "I said so, and you know that I am."

QUEER STORIES

The bamboo has been known to grow two feet in twenty-four hours. Alaska has paid for its cost to the government twenty times over. There are over ten million people in Italy who cannot read or write. Every square mile of sea is estimated to contain some 120,000,000 fish. The great bulk of chalk is composed of eight different species of tiny shells.

The wings of the house fly vibrate 335 times a second; those of the honey bee 410. All the cork used in the world in a year weighs a little over one thousand tons. To form a rainbow the sun must not be more than forty-two degrees above the horizon.

A rifle bullet is traveling at its greatest speed not as it leaves the muzzle, but at about ten feet in front of the muzzle. It is often said that there are seventy thousand known criminals in London. The whole records of Scotland Yard do not contain in all so many names, and many of these have been dead for years. It is estimated that the Eskimo population of Alaska, Labrador and Greenland has declined from thirty thousand to fifteen thousand in twenty years, owing to the thinning out of seal, bear and walrus.

Statistics have been compiled recently which state that the average life of an English express locomotive is twenty-five years, of a local passenger engine twenty-five years, of a freight locomotive twenty-six years and of a switching engine twenty-seven years. The total mileage of an express passenger engine was fixed at from seven hundred thousand to one million miles, and for each of the other classes of engines a mileage of five hundred thousand to eight hundred thousand.

There is a group of islands to the south of New Zealand called the Sisters, or Seven Sisters, which are reported to be subjected to a practically constant rainfall. The same may be said of the islands and mainland of Tierra del Fuogo, save for the difference that the rain often takes the form of sleet and snow. On a line running round the world from four to eight or nine degrees, there are patches over which rain seldom ceases to fall. This is called the "zone of constant precipitation," but at the same time there are several localities along with it which have very little rainfall.

OUR AMERICAN HUSBAND.

Some Observations as to His Aged Characteristics by a Londoner. An American young man does not, as a rule, look forward to marriage nor prepare for it by saving any considerable portion of his anti-nuptial income. When he marries it is usually on short notice and because he has fallen very desperately in love with some one and cannot find it in his heart to wait until cool caution declares the venture advisable. Even when an engagement is a long one and uncertainties so much on either side there is only a very moderate amount to begin housekeeping on. Thus before his marriage the young American of the middle class begins to give evidence of what is to be his chief national characteristic as a husband—an unfeeling, unselfish and almost improvident generosity.

The middle class husband in America rarely interferes with the affairs of the household. He hardly knows the cost of staple articles of food. As a rule he does not make his wife a regular allowance either for household or personal expenses, but gives her as much as he can spare freely, but with a lack of system that is not conducive to the best outlay of their income. The young American husband is also very indulgent to his wife's fondness for fine clothes. He would far rather have an extravagant wife than a dowdy one, and although he grumbles occasionally at a millinery bill, in reality he glories in the resplendent appearance of his wife in her fine feathers. The American husband is a rare who does not concede his wife's right to expend a much larger sum with her dressmaker than he does with his tailor. Indeed, he often leaves his tailor or altogether and cheerfully repairs to the ready-made clothing house in order that his wife may have more money for extravagant finery.—London Telegraph.

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