

# Topics of the Times

Of course the best thing with which to feather your nest is cash down.

If the new anesthetic stovaine can be used for what ails the furnace it will be popular.

If James A. Patten ever decides to take an interest in the bean crop it will be all up with Boston.

Hips are to come back into style again, thus justifying the forethought of the woman who saved hers.

Brother Rockefeller has preached on the happiness of poverty, but has no idea of letting a court decision lead him to it.

Another dread disease is robbed of its terrors—five "lepers" on Molokai Island are declared to be free of taint after all.

Old Abdul Hamid has only eleven wives left. And yet even ought to be enough to keep him from feeling like a forlorn widower.

Attention is called to the alleged love of the new King of Belgium for his wife. It is so strong as to be almost a royal scandal.

Still, it is calculated to annoy a gentleman who is laboriously climbing a pole to encounter another fellow gleefully sliding down.

The mathematician who could figure out the cost of carelessness, and find a method to check it, would be the greatest marvel of the age.

If we put into doing something for our friends half the time we put into trying to get even with our enemies, this would be a grand world.

It is reported that the Standard Oil trust may decide to gather in the drug stores of the country. We are wondering how oil will mix with soda water.

After having been caught in sudden showers two or three times the intelligent man learns to carry an umbrella and thus bring on a protracted drought.

As we understand Secretary Wilson's optimistic report, farmers are now using the family automobile to pull the plow in the daytime and to take joy-rides in by night.

A French scientist claims to have discovered a substitute for beef. We were under the impression that horse had long ago been adopted by the French people as a substitute for beef.

Horses being scarce in Madagascar, a troop of native cavalry for scout duty has been mounted on camels. Careful, although leisurely, service may be expected from them, but they will never make any "Charge on the Light Brigade."

If people eat what they like without troubling themselves with the question of whether it is good for them, they will probably live just as long and be a good deal happier.—New York Medical Journal. But how could people afford to do that without a general rearrangement of prices?

Loud was the applause along the crowded sidewalks of New York when, during one of the Hudson-Fulton parades, a German band, and then an English band, struck up what the populace supposed was "America." A very delicate compliment they deemed it. But the Germans were really playing "Hell Dir im Siegeskranz," and the English band was, of course, playing "God Save the King." A fine old air it is, but its popularity occasionally gives cause for confusion.

To the Rockefeller million for the campaign against the hookworm and the Carnegie million for fighting pellagra is to be added the Crocker million for attack on cancer. These are benefactions for all mankind, investments in good that are entitled to front rank in the beneficence of a generous age. To these gifts and to others such as the endowment of the Harvard Medical School, with its magnificent plant, the fund for medical research in New York and other notable instances in which the sciences of medicine and surgery have attracted the interest of philanthropists, mankind owes much of its increased chance of life and opportunity for work and achievement.

The wisdom of the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis of Brooklyn in renouncing a large amount of supposedly potential wealth because he considered its possession incompatible with his usefulness as a clergyman is to be questioned, although the ethical motive assigned does credit to his sense of pastoral duty. He found himself the owner of a bit of land near British Columbia which upon investigation by experts was declared to be worth several million dollars. When the clergyman learned this he sold it, so the dispatches say, for only a little more than it cost him. One's natural thought on reading this is that the wise course for Mr. Hillis would have been to retain possession of the land and use the income for the benefit of the poor in his parish. "Sell all that thou hast and give it to the poor" was the advice of Him whom Mr. Hillis seeks to follow. This advice does not necessarily imply that one is to sell at a loss or to neglect a profit. The greater proceeds of the sale the greater benefit to the poor.

Nations, like men, have their peculiarities of temperament and prejudice. Moved by the same emotions and desirous of reaching similar ends, two peoples will often pursue courses so unlike as to amaze if not irritate each other. The French method of conducting a criminal trial, for ex-

ample, puzzles and almost scandalizes Americans. They cannot understand a court where the prisoner must take the stand, whether he will or no; where the judge cross-examines all the witnesses, and often attacks the accused person vigorously and even abusively; where matter which English and American law regards as "no evidence" is freely admitted; and where judge, prisoner and counsel vie with one another in rhetorical appeals to the jury. The scene has the dramatic vivacity of the French temperament, but to one nourished on the English common law the proceedings lack dignity and impartiality. Yet those who have studied both systems agree that so far as attaining substantial justice is concerned, there is not much to choose. In fact, a guilty person is probably surer of conviction in Paris than in London, and much surer than in New York. That an innocent defendant is less likely to be acquitted is possible, but there is no valid ground for believing that to be the case. The difference between the two procedures arises from these facts: English and American law is jealous of the life and liberty of the individual. Society must show that a man has so offended that he ought to be punished. The prisoner is innocent until proven guilty, and he need not open his mouth in his own defense. The French proceed from the opposite view. Society must at all costs be defended from the criminal. When circumstantial evidence or the investigations of the police justify a man's arrest, he must prove his innocence; it is his guilt that is presumed. But human nature is the same everywhere, and jurors are often swayed by sympathy with a harassed prisoner. It is even hinted that French judges who really wish for an acquittal are sometimes especially harsh in their treatment of the accused, that the jury may be led by that very fact to take the unfortunate man's part.

## PEERAGE ROMANCE

A Spanish Dancer's Son Claims Broad British Estates.

The claim to the Sackville peerage and estates made by Ernest Henri Jean Baptiste Sackville-West, was recently mentioned in the Probate Court, London, before the president on a summons by which the petitioner asked that the action should be tried before a jury. Harold Morris appeared for the petitioner; Mr. Pilcher represented the attorney general; Eldon, Bancroft, K. C., and Ralph Bankes were for other persons cited, relatives of the late Lord Sackville.

The petitioner, it may be explained, was born at Arcachon, in France, on June 24, 1869, received an English education, and is married. He is claiming the title Baron Sackville of Knole, in Kent, and the estates of Sevenoaks, which comprise about 8,600 acres, the rental being £7,000 a year, and there are valuable heirlooms.

The claim is based upon a romantic story. The claimant is the son of a beautiful Spanish dancer, Josefa Duran de Ortega, professionally known as Pepita, who was celebrated on the continent in the sixties of the last century; and she, according to the petitioner's story, was secretly married to Sackville-West, secretary of the British legation at Madrid, who became afterward first secretary of the British embassy in Paris, and then British minister plenipotentiary at Washington, and died as Lord Sackville in September, 1908, aged 51, at Knole park.

Resistance to the claim raises the issue that the petitioner is illegitimate; that Lord Sackville never married Senorita Duran, who was really the wife of Juan Antonio Gabriel de Oliva, a leading Madrid dancing master.

One of the defendants, who appears as the heir presumptive, is Edward Lionel Sackville-West, son of the late Lord Sackville's younger brother, and formerly major in the West Kent Imperial yeomanry.

This romantic and important suit has been before the public in preliminary stages for twelve years, and will soon reach trial.

## Miscellaneous

"It's a lovely morning," ventured the young man who had bought a necktie. The girl waiting on him did not deny it.

"Most becoming you have of dressing your hair," he said.

"Sir?"

"How do you manage to keep your hands so beautifully white? I should think that in handling goods" —

"Take your necktie and skip," said the girl. "I had the floor manager lead a fresh guy out by the ear yesterday."

"That was all rot I read about paying attention to the tired shop girl at this season," muttered the customer as he hurriedly withdrew.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## Adam and the Apple

The old Marchioness of Salisbury recently was at church, a rare thing with her, and the preacher, speaking of the fall, observed that Adam, excusing himself, had cried out: "Lord, the woman tempted me!" At this quotation Lady Salisbury, who appeared not to have heard of the incident before, jumped up in her seat, saying: "Shabby fellow, indeed!"—Memoirs of the Duchess of Dino.

## Wedding Gift Clubbing

She who notes the names on cards attached to wedding gifts has marked an increasing tendency to club together in buying one striking present. The idea of becoming popular. Showering small gifts upon young couples is bound to result in many embarrassing duplications. One bride gazed with horror at no less than fourteen pie knives. Neither she nor her future husband ever indulge in pie. Clubbing avoids such duplications.

When a rogue gives a man an even break, he regards himself as very virtuous.

If you can't smile away your troubles, try work.

Nearly every man wants to talk; there are few good listeners.

# MARC AND GARDEN

Stick to the Farm!

"Stick to the farm," says the President to the wide-eyed farmer boy. Then he hies him back to the White House home.

With its air of rustic joy.

Stick to the farm," says the railroad king.

To the lad who looks afar, Then hies him back on the double quick.

To his rustic private car.

Stick to the farm," says the clergyman.

To the youth on the worm fence perch, Then he lays his ear to the ground to hear.

A call to a city church.

Stick to the farm," says the doctor wise.

To those who would break the rut, Then hies him where the appendix grows.

In beautiful crops to cut, —McLanburgh Wilson in New York Sun.

## Why Boys Leave the Farm

An official connected with an eastern agricultural college has made a summary of the reasons given by 155 sons of farmers for abandoning the pursuit of their fathers. Sixty-two of this number said that farming does not pay. A strong argument can be made on the idea that it pays better than other forms of business. The secretary of agriculture has stated that the products of the soil in this country in 1905 reached a value of \$8,000,000,000, which is a good deal of wealth to divide up as a reward in one industry. Seventeen of the young men said the hours of labor on the farm are too long. No doubt they meant at certain seasons, but this is a detail open to adjustment. Twenty-six thought local advantages on the farms are not equal to those in cities, which is also a matter of opinion. Sixteen said they had a natural bent for something else, which is a point that deserves consideration always. Others objected to farm monotony, and fifteen said they would return to farming as soon as they made a pile of money at something else.

Many of these young men are the victims of illusion, and, unfortunately, of a kind curable only by experience. Probably they are not aware that 90 per cent of those who branch out into general business fail to accumulate any considerable wealth, while the positive wreckage in means, health and comfort is large. A farm is never monotonous to a good farmer. It is rather a book of fresh interest each succeeding day. A surplus at the end of a year is the rule on the farm; and the style of family living, and that is, the whole is in favor of the country. But statistics show that plenty of boys remain on the farms. The farming population of the United States in 1900 was four times as large as in 1850, and the value of their property increased five fold, or from \$4,000,000,000 to \$20,000,000,000.

## Do Farmers Read Bulletins?

I have noticed one thing in particular while traveling in some of our best agricultural states, and that is, when I see a number of well dressed farmers discussing beef and milk rations, feeding young animals for a healthy development, nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus and their functions in plant growth and protein and carbohydrates and their functions in animal growth, I am invariably in a prosperous and up-to-date community. Now, the question is, do the best and most intelligent farmers read their bulletins and keep in touch with their station workers and read the agricultural press, or does the reading of these bulletins and agricultural papers make more intelligent farmers? It is one or the other considered from either standpoint, for these bulletins and agricultural papers are not read by the poor and uneducated class of farmers, neither do they circulate as freely among the poorer farmers as they do among the farmers in the better agricultural communities.—Agricultural Epitomist.

## No Use for the Horns

When cattle were raised on the range a good set of horns was necessary for protection. An all-wise creator put them there for that purpose. On the farm a cow or a steer not in need of horns. Breeders are breeding them off very rapidly. Even the long-horned Hereford has a polled strain now, and it is predicted by many that within twenty-five years a horned animal of the bovine race will be a curiosity. On the other hand, advocates of horns say the hornless strain of every horned breed is undersized, and until it can come up to those that have horns in size and weight people will want the horned cattle of both shorthorn and Hereford breeds.

However, there is no reason for leaving the horns on after they are bred. The time to take them off is when the animal is young, and the way to do it is with any of the prepared horn killers. But take them off with the saw rather than let them go. It is more humane to do it than not to do it.—Farmers' Mail and Breeder.

## The Cost of Keeping a Cow

According to careful experiments, the cost of keeping a cow a year with the best of feed and shelter, labor and interest on the investment included, all told, amounts to \$55. If, then, the cow can be made to produce more than \$55, she is not worth keeping. A good cow ought to produce at least \$110, or double the cost of her keep.

It is roughly estimated that it costs \$2,000 to run 3,500 sheep a year under ordinary range conditions, where a forage crop is not put to figure against the expense, says Denver Field and Farm. Two men one year at \$50 a month, including their living, will cost \$600; twenty extra men one month at \$25, including feed, \$500; expense of shearing 2,500 sheep, \$125; total cost of running 2,500 sheep one year, \$1,360, which, with the 1,000 lambs and incidental expenses of the ranch, brings the total figure up to \$2,900.

## Brush for Soil Wash

There is nothing quite so good as fine brush to catch and hold soil wash. Where small trees are used to fill a gully the top of the tree should be placed toward the head of the gully, so that all soil and trash coming down will be caught in the forks of the branches. If the tree is placed in the opposite direction the descending trash will slip more easily by and over it. For the same reason, in filling a gully with brush and branches, the tops of the brush should be placed upstream.

Where gullies have been formed during the summer by soil washing it is well to fill them as early as possible in the fall while the leaves are still on the brush with which they are filled. When they are filled early and before the leaves of the trees have fallen, many leaves, as well as grass and weeds that may be blown about the fields by fall and winter winds will be caught in the brush to decay, will help fill and will form good soil. The brush itself will decay in a year or two, so that when the gully is filled it becomes subject to washing and being cut up by travel in wet weather. Never burn a bit of brush on the place, but put it to some good use.

## Breeding Swine

In breeding swine or live stock of any kind the breeder should have a well defined object in view, a point toward which to work, a type, an ideal, if you will, well fixed in his mind. All hogs are the same breed are not alike, and it is this fact that makes improvement of any breed possible. There are different types of the same breed for the breeder to select from, and the intelligence and judgment used in the selection of the animals reserved for breeders will sooner or later demonstrate the success or failure of the breeder. Of course, methods of feeding and care cut an important figure. Many men who are good feeders of swine are very poor breeders, but few good breeders are poor feeders.

The tendency of all our improveable animals is to revert backward toward the original type, and in the case of swine it should be borne in mind that while there is no stock that can be so rapidly improved by judicious selection, care and feed, there is none that will degenerate so quickly under neglect.—Kansas Farmer.

## Vitality of Seeds

The period for which the seeds of different plants maintain their vitality varies a good deal. The seeds of some vegetables are worthless after they are two years old, while the seeds of other plants improve with age until a certain period. For instance: the seeds of artichokes are good until they are three years old; asparagus, four years; beans, two years; kidney beans, one year; beets, ten years; broccoli, four years; cabbage, four years; carrot, one year; cauliflower, four years; celery, ten years; corn, three years; cucumber, ten years; egg plant, three years; endive, four years; kale, four years; leek, two years; lettuce, three years; melon, ten years; pea, two years; pumpkin, ten years; radish, four years; radish, two years; spinach, four years; squash, four years; tomato, two years, and turnips, four years.

## Scab in Sheep

The disease commonly called sheep scab is one of the oldest known, most prevalent and most injurious maladies which affect sheep. It is caused by a parasite which is a contagious disease. Investigation has shown that the disease is not hereditary, as the parasites which cause it live on the external surface of the body. It is possible, however, for a lamb to become infected from a scabby mother at the moment of birth or immediately thereafter. The treatment must consist of external cures to "purify the blood." Proper hygienic conditions alone, though of importance in connection with the subject of treatment, cannot be relied upon to cure scab. The only rational treatment consists in using some external application which will kill the parasites. By far the most rational and satisfactory and the cheapest method of curing scab is by dipping the sheep in some liquid which will kill the parasites.

## Silo Feeding

Not only must the silo be erected, shelter must be provided for the cattle during winter. Then if corn is fed in the form of silage there will be successful results. A great many farms buy stock cattle in the fall of the year, turn them into stalk fields and resell them toward spring as feeders. If the market is normal there will usually be a profit, but it, nevertheless, is a wasteful practice. A much greater profit would be secured from silo feeding as mentioned.

## An Incendiary Lover

A blaze was discovered in a Williamsburg letter box and the contents, about fifty letters, were charred before the fire was extinguished. It is the opinion of the police that a young man wrote a proposal of marriage to the girl and then got cold feet and set the box of letters on fire to destroy his own. It was George Ade who wrote this caution to young men, "Tell 'em anything you want, but won't write letters."—Boston Globe.

## Hard Luck

Old Lady—Put man! What have you done to your hand? Unemployment—Broke my knuckles, mum, knocking 'at people's doors askin' for work.—London Scrape.

No boy was ever heard to say at the table, "This is my full meal."

## OPENING UP BRAZIL

Enormously Rich Country to Be Reached by New Water Routes.

Bolivia east of the Andes is one of the richest regions of the world in timber, rubber and minerals and it has some fine agricultural lands. It has no outlet on the Pacific coast. Its only outlet is through the Amazon and Brazil, and since peace was made with Brazil a railroad activity in this direction has taken possession of the whole republic.

East of Bolivia is the great Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, a territory nearly three times the size of Texas. A dozen large navigable rivers pour northward out of this state into the Amazon. Its agricultural, mining and grazing possibilities are very great.

It is said that a great deal of this territory will grow as fine long staple cotton as Mississippi or Alabama. The Brazilian government has matured a plan to connect by canal one of the tributaries of La Plata in this state, thus opening an all-inland water route from Para to Buenos Aires, a distance of nearly 6,000 miles, says the Engineering Magazine. This extensive route would reach the whole interior of the continent.

Turning to the west and northwest, the Amazon is navigable in its chief tributaries in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia to the very walls of the Andes. One may go aboard a steamer at Para and remain aboard until it has plowed its way up to the hill city of Iquitos and several hundred miles beyond. Peru has little Pacific coast trade now, and the development of this country must pour its wealth into Para.

But if Brazil and Para had none of these Andean republics to draw trade from, the development of the Brazilian Amazon valley alone must in time amount to untold wealth. In the states of Para and the Amazonas and the federal territory of Acre there are near the water's edge 10,000,000 rubber-bearing trees of the Hevea variety. These trees if properly tapped will live indefinitely and steadily increase their yield. The state of Para is considerably larger than Texas and much of this state will grow excellent cotton.

## WASHINGTON PLACE OF BLUFF.

One City is All America Where These Counts for Something.

The Washington way is bluff, bluff, pure and simple, where everybody bluffs and everybody knows that everybody else bluffs, and yet the bluff is kept up. It is better to have bluffed and lost than never to have bluffed at all. There is no longer a democracy; there are only degrees of snobocracy. Washington is the superlative degree.

It is the one city in all America where titles count, says Spencer Harley in the Smart Set. To be anything you must be something. You must be a senator or a congressman or the Hon. This or Mr. Commissioner. That which is not only your own credential, but serves also for your wife and your sons and daughters. But better still, oh, the very heaven of snobocracy!—to be the subject of an effete monarch and have a real title that can't be taken away because the free and independent voters have no longer any use for you. We are not nicely discriminating. Sir John Jones is just as good as Baron Smith or the Count Spaghetti or the Duke of Wienenwurf. So long as he's got a handle to his name and a coronet on his head and we call him "My lord," we don't care a cent what he is. Of course, we are too democratic, and of course, too sensible, really, to care about such silly things, but there is a satisfaction in saying to that chap Brown—insufferable snob—at the club in a careless sort of way:

"Had a most interesting talk with the duke." You pause just long enough to notice the effect on Brown, and go on indifferently: "It's quite true what those wretched yellow papers are saying about the princess. Of course, I am not at liberty to repeat what he said, but—" and that is all you condescend to tell Brown.

And think how it sets your wife up for her to be able to say with a blast of air to Molly Black, who married a twelve-hundred-dollar clerk in the red-tape office: "At the embassy last night the duchess said to me—" and to know that Molly would give her husband's salary for a year to be allowed to put her foot inside the Patagonian embassy.

The Washington bluff is as different from the New York or Chicago bluff as terrapin is from chicken in a chafing dish, with some cooking sherry to take away the taste. In New York they bluff in public; in Washington the bluff isn't worked where everybody can see it. That's vulgar. We bluff each other in the privacy of our own mansions.

There is only one person in Washington who is bluff proof. That's the boarding house keeper. She's seen too much of it to be taken in. It has got to be a pretty slick member of congress who can bluff her out of a month's board.

## Diplomacy

Sunday passed, Tuesday rolled around, and still his tall form did not loom in the vestibule when the cuckoo clock was sounding 3. Thursday he came, and the beautiful girl was burning with wrath.

"So this is the way you neglect me!" she hissed. "What have you to say for yourself? Why didn't you come?" "I couldn't," faltered the young man. "I had the dyspepsia, and the doctor advised me not to come."

"What—the doctor told you not to come to see me because you had the dyspepsia?"

"Well, he told me to keep away from all sweets."

The next moment she had him seated on the parlor sofa, telling him he was the nicest young man in the world.—London Express.

## Little Willie Knew

Little Willie, the son of a German-titten woman, was playing one day with the girl next door when the latter exclaimed:

"Don't you hear your mother calling you? That's three times she's done so. Aren't you going in?"

"Not yet," responded Willie imperterbably.

"Won't she whip you?" demanded the little girl, awed.

"Naw!" exclaimed Willie in disgust. "She ain't goin' to whip nobody! She's got company. So when I go in, she'll just say, 'The poor little man has been so deaf since he's had the vesicles'!"—Lippincott's.

## Plan Return to Old Fashions

Venetian women have formed a league for the purpose of introducing once more the fashions of the renaissance period. Signora Rosa Genoni, the novelist, who is at the head of the movement, appeals to the spirit of independence and patriotism of her country-women to discard obnoxious Paris modes and to adopt the national dress worn by their illustrious ancestors.

She has won over a considerable number of women to the cause, and the men of Venice are giving a warm support to the new league.

An Admiration from Japan.

"You shouldn't call us Japs in your newspapers," said a Japanese journalist. "We don't think it's polite. You wouldn't want us to call you Yanks in our papers, would you? A western Congressman said to me the other day: 'What name are you—Japanese or Chinese?' I'd have liked to hit him, but I only smiled and retorted: 'What key are you—monkey or Yankee?'"

## One Anyhow

"There are no martyrs these days. 'Oh, I wouldn't say that.'"

"Do you think there are any people to-day who would suffer tortures for their beliefs?"

"My wife believes that an eighteen-inch waist looks better than a twenty-two and I think she suffers some because of that belief."—Houston Post.

He Wouldn't Miss It.

Ivan and his baby sister were playing with some new marbles that were quite small. One marble disappeared and could not be found. The mother became alarmed, tearing baby had swallowed it. "Oh well," said three-year-old Ivan, "there are enough left."—The Delineator.

## FACTS IN TABLOID FORM.

Two bushels of olives give three gallons of oil.

Roast veal is the least digestible of butcher's meat. It takes five and a half hours to digest. Roast goose takes two and a half hours.

A piano stool that will accommodate but one person under ordinary circumstances, but which contains leaves which can be spread to hold two to play duets, has been invented by a Chicagoan.

At nine Paganini was composing sonatas, while Malfe, the great Irish composer, it is claimed, wrote "Lover's Mistake," a song which was sung by the prima donna, Mme. Vestris, in the drama "Paul Pny."

Chung Ling, a priest of Buddha, well versed in all the mysterious knowledge that is secreted in those mystic temples of the plains of China, is a student in the Franklin school night class for foreigners, Washington.

Gertrude E. Curtis, of Bradford, Pa., is the first colored woman dentist. She passed the final examination in the College of Dental Surgery, in Philadelphia, with high honors, and intends to begin active practice without delay. She believes dentistry is one of the best professions for women, and has encouraged several colored girls to take up the study.

The coal market of the Argentine Republic, heretofore supplied almost exclusively from Great Britain, is to be invaded by American coal mined in West Virginia and exported from Norfolk. The first cargo is being loaded in the British tramp steamer London Bridge, bound for Puerto La Plata. West Virginia coal, it is asserted, can be put in Argentine 25 cents cheaper than British coal.

Writing from Calcutta, Consul Perry says that it has been found that the skin of the rat is well adapted to a variety of purposes such as the binding of books, the making of purses, gloves and other articles for use and adornment. It is stated that already the traffic in this commodity amounts to about \$250,000 a year in Great Britain, and advertisements have appeared for supplies of skins of the brown rat in lots of 100 to 10,000.

Most members of the upper house possess more than one title, and not a few have a large number. The duke of Abercorn is holder of four Scotch, four Irish and two British peerages. The marquis of Lansdowne has one Scotch, five Irish and two British titles. Other peers who are well equipped in this respect are the duke of Norfolk (seven), the marquis of Breadalbane (eight), the duke of Portland (five), the duke of Devonshire (five) and the duke of Northumberland (six).—Westminster Gazette.

The German diamond fields in south-west Africa are still yielding a goodly supply of extremely small diamonds, but some reports indicate that the industry will be short-lived. Dr. Kutz-Buckeburg, after spending eighteen months in the neighborhood, explained the situation to the Cologne branch of the Deutsche Kolonial Gesellschaft.

He said that the diamonds were superior in their form and brilliancy to those of the British South African mines, but that so far no stone had been found weighing more than a single karat.

Reads's literary work was, Sir Robert Anderson remarks, a rare combination of genius and plodding. A brass scutcheon which stood by the fireplace held the Illustrated and other papers which reached him week by week. From these he culled anything that took his fancy, and the cuttings were thrown into a companion scutcheon, to be afterward inserted in scrap books and duly indexed. Materials for his novels and plays were thus supplied or suggested. The accuracy of his descriptions of events and places was phenomenal.—Blackwood's Magazine.

At nineteen Charles XII, king of Sweden, with 10,000 troops, routed 50,000 Russians under Peter the Great at Narva; George Washington was a major; "Carro del Cicolo" came from the Spanish pen of Calderon; Wilkie, the English painter, painted his "Pitiless Fair," containing 140 figures, regarded as one of the most complete canvases of the period; Tennyson was the chancellor's medal at Cambridge University for his poem, "Timbuctoo," and Klopstock conceived and composed a good part of his "Messiah," the great work which gave such impetus and impetus to German literature and fired the genius of the Fatherland.

Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and Kentucky were the foremost founder states. New York and Massachusetts have been strongly nourished by Europe's money, culture and immigrants and plenty of good, hard sense to boot. Virginia lost out through pride and war, with her many bloody sacrifices. Malaria has most ruined Kentucky. Kentucky was our oldest, longest maintained frontier, settled up by first and second generations of English farmers and a few Irish and Scotch and old revolutionary soldiers. Kentucky had more and harder Injun fighting than any other state, besides largely indulging in the 1812-1815 and the Mexican and other wars.—New York Press.

At the present time and for the future as well, there is lying at the Bank of France, in Paris, a reserve gold store of £160,000,000, which is, in fact, writes one correspondent, "locked upon as a war fund, beside which the twenty millions of Germany look very small." But the German "Kriegsschatz," or emergency war chest fund, only amounts to six millions sterling, and it is lying not in the Reichsbank, at Berlin, but in the vaults of the Julius tower, in the fortress of Spandau for the capital, against the coming of Germany's next evil day. It has been lying there as a dead fund ever since Germany received from France her war indemnity of £250,000,000, from which it was taken.—London Chronicle.

## QUEER STORIES

Pawnshops in Chile are under special regulations of the general government, enforced by local authorities.

Fujiyama, the volcano that appears in all Japanese pictures, is 12,365 feet high and ten thousand pilgrims ascend it every year.

Tracing the criminal by his finger prints was successfully accomplished at Scotland Yard, London, last year in no fewer than 9,440 cases.

According to the Hospital, London, some English physicians are ordering patients to eat oysters that have been well soaked in sea water as a cure for dyspepsia and tuberculosis.

As a weaver, nature is an exceedingly neat worker. Certain tree bark and leaves furnish excellent cloth, such as, for instance, the famous tapa cloth used in the South Sea Islands.

In the vicinity of Concepcion and Talcahuano, Chile, there are more than eighty million cubic meters of soft coal of fair quality within an area of eighty thousand square meters, or about 30.7 square miles. The vein is 3.5 meters, or about 11.5 feet, thick.

Excellent natural pottery is manufactured by nature in the case of a certain cactus. Woodpeckers are apt to excavate nests in the trunk and branches, and in order that it may protect itself against these incursions, the plant exudes a sticky juice, which hardens, forming a woody lining in the hole made by the birds. Eventually the cactus dies and withers, but the wooden bowl remains.

The congressional library is rendering a great service not only to the other libraries of this country, but to those in Canada, Europe and Australia, by its catalogue division, by its compilation of rules governing cataloguing, by its classification methods, which are being generally imitated, and by its duplicate cards that now go to one thousand libraries of this country. Four million cards have gone during the last year.

In 1801 there were in Europe only twenty-two cities which had more than 100,000 inhabitants. These were London, Dublin, Paris, Marseille, Lyons, Amsterdam, Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, Naples, Rome, Milan, Venice, Palermo, Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw, Copenhagen and Constantinople. Two only of these cities had more than 500,000—London, 950,000, and Paris, 600,000. Naples came third, with 360,000, and Vienna fourth, with 230,000.

At eighteen Mendelssohn produced "Midsummer Night's Dream"; Meyerbeer, "Jephtha's Daughter"; Schubert, "Erl King"; Bach was court musician at Weimar; Michael Angelo executed his basso-relievo of the "Battle of the Centaurs"; Da Vinci's work was acknowledged by his master, Verocchio, as far surpassing his own; Lope de Vega, the Spanish dramatist, and composed "Arcadia"; Savage produced his first comedy, "Woman's Riddle," and Shelley wrote "Queen Mab."

An Incendiary Lover.

A blaze was discovered in a Williamsburg letter box and the contents, about fifty letters, were charred before the fire was extinguished. It is the opinion of the police that a young man wrote a proposal of marriage to the girl and then got cold feet and set the box of letters on fire to destroy his own. It was George Ade who wrote this caution to young men, "Tell 'em anything you want, but won't write letters."—Boston Globe.

Hard Luck.

Old Lady—Put man! What have you done to your hand? Unemployment—Broke my knuckles, mum, knocking 'at people's doors askin' for work.—London Scrape.

No boy was ever heard to say at the table, "This is my full meal."