

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

England has placed three more lands on the red.

When a railroad tries to steal its way through a town it is not larceny but enterprise.

The reassuring information comes from Colombia that President Marroquin has not resigned again.

One of the important things in the education of a boy is that he should learn to keep his lips together.

It does a man no good to give him a dose of his own medicine. After he swallows it he is worse than before.

America may be the "land of the dollar," but the cry of distress anywhere in the world always loosens its grasp on the dollar.

Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis declares that "we all go to the devil on \$50,000 a year." Glad to assure Dr. Hillis that we are still in the immune class.

Russia asks China to trust her implicitly. That is exactly what the lion said to the lamb. From the interior of the lion the wall came: "I'm sorry I trusted."

A Cambridge professor has discovered a large lump on Mars. It may have been induced by the amount of attention we have been giving the planet in recent years.

With Herr Most advising anarchists to uphold the flag and Constitution of the United States and to refrain from acts of violence we may imagine the millennium is not far away.

A Chattanooga paper remarks of a lady in that town who carved up her husband some: "This is the first time she has used a knife on him." For real stoniness Tennessee and Kentucky lead the States.

The Nevada man who wants a divorce because his wife goes through his pockets at night will be disappointed. No court is going to establish a precedent that would endanger the domestic life of the nation.

Ambassador Choate is going to marry one of his daughters to a titled Englishman. It costs a good deal to be ambassador to England, but the lady members of the family will now be likely to regard the investment as a good one.

Nearly 3,000 immigrants reached Halifax the other day bound for different parts of Canada. Ninety per cent of them will settle in the rural districts. Will our neighbors kindly let us know how they manage to divert immigrants from the cities?

A significant addition to the lengthening list of new corporations is reported from Princeton University. The class of '06 has filed articles of incorporation with the County Clerk. The object of the corporation is to further the interests of the institution which the graduates have so much reason to love. The capital of affection, it may be said, is all paid in.

Increasing has been the reminiscence of Emerson's love for pie. It has been remarked that he liked his pie baked in deep, square tins, so that like the real estate speculator he could get a good corner. Rallied upon his fondness for this piece de resistance of New England cookery, it is fondly recalled how the sage replied: "What is pie made for if not to be eaten"—a delightful bit of Emersonian philosophy.

Naval Ensign Hussner, the German officer who celebrated Good Friday by gunning his sword through the back of an artilleryman who had neglected to salute, has been sentenced to spend four years in prison and to be degraded in rank. In view of the system under which Young Hussner's ideas of honor were developed it is surprising that he was punished at all. This is a severe shock to German militarism, but unfortunately it does not revise the "regulations." They remain to develop other Hussners and to excuse other murders.

On the order books of the Women's Exchange in New York City, it appears, is a worker known as "the cheering-up lady." She is kept busy all the time. It is her function to visit lonely homes, to play cards with venerable widows or spinsters, to read, talk and "look pleasant." Here should be a laborer never failing to be worth more than her hire. Professional mourners we no longer know, nor wish to know, of professional cheerers-up it should not be possible to know too many. We bespeak serious rivalry for this old lady who looks pleasant. Here is the happiest combination of business and philanthropy. She exhibits an idea worthy of indefinite extension through an infinite variety of clients. There is no culture more important or pressing than that of the smile which means good cheer.

American Medicine, in an appeal against overwork of children in the public schools, says that in many cities the nervous child is moving parents and physicians to appeal for fewer hours of study and less pressure. Eye strain is an evil that American Medicine bitterly protests against. School children in spectacles are becoming alarmingly common. Mind strain may not show itself so plainly on the exterior, but there is any reason to doubt that it is any less common than the other? Certainly it is more serious in its ultimate results. Education is highly important, but it is not as important as mental and bodily health. Where the one is gained at the cost of the other the substance is thrown away for the shadow. Parents cannot keep too constantly in mind the

fact that a healthy body is absolutely essential to a happy life. And parents should learn to know, too, the difference between the child's smile of resignation and its hearty laugh of true enjoyment. If a boy or girl should be made to work eighteen hours a day and be denied time for proper eating of meals the law would come to the rescue. But there is no rescue for the child who has a voracious appetite for knowledge. There is as much good for a boy in a ball and a bat once in a while as there is in a text book. Parents should not forget that physical development is as important for success in life as is mental development.

At the next meeting of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs this question will be solemnly discussed: "What Shall We Do With the Men?" That sounds revolutionary and slightly impudent: It gives the impression that in Texas men is on his last legs, and may soon rank with the great auk and the dodo; that woman, in Texas, at least, has learned to live within herself, and has found means of rounding out existence, and making it one grand, sweet song, without the necessity of man's presence. Let 'em talk! The men are discussing the woman question; the women are orating on the man question. There has been some talk about chopping the word "obey" out of the marriage service, and a lot of women have wasted breath shouting for recognition of the fact that they are as good as men, when the world knows that they are a mighty sight better. What of it? The status of men and women hasn't changed. The average man wants to be good and true and prosperous. Earthly Paradise for him is a wife who understands, loving children and a home. The average woman feels that she has played the fullest part in life when she holds her own child in her breast and hears that grand word, "mother." She knows that while there may be fame and rewards in business, the crown she wears as a wife is made of pure gold, and there can be no higher life in this material existence. So let humanity argue and puzzle and talk of amending and revising the race. It can do no harm, and it will never change natural love and the attraction of the sexes which has existed since the days of the garden of Eden.

Although much has been said and written about the servant girl problem, few families in comparison to the total number in the country are troubled by it. This fact would be established by the census reports if the average citizen had not noted it in his experience. The rule is that the American family is independent of outside help. There are less than two million women employed as housekeepers, stewardesses, landladies, nurses, general servants and waitresses, whereas there are more than sixteen million families in the country. Many of the women are employed in hotels and restaurants, public laundries and hospitals. But assuming that they are all employed in families, there is less than one servant for every eight homes. Or, if the nurses, laundresses and housekeepers are omitted, there is one servant for every twelve and a half families. The proportion of servants to the number of families is fairly uniform throughout the whole country. The States in which there are large cities, however, have a larger proportion of servants than those having small cities only; and the Southern States, which have a large negro population, make use of more domestic help than the Western States. The number of laundresses in the South is notable. Georgia has four thousand more of them than New York. The problem of domestic service becomes acute with the increasing prosperity of the family and the growing complexity of its life. The independence of modest means and modest tastes then gives way to dependence on the assistance of outsiders for the gratification of new wishes. The millions of families that are still sufficient unto themselves have little to complain of when they consider the trials of those who are dependent on others for the management of their homes.

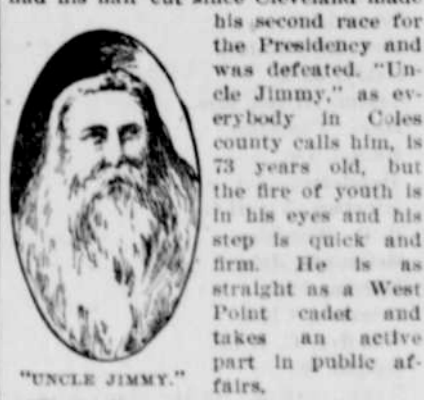
HE WEARS LONG LOCKS AS THE RESULT OF A BET
James Clawson, one of the prominent men of Southern Illinois, has not had his hair cut since Cleveland made his second race for the Presidency and was defeated. "Uncle Jimmy," as everybody in Coles county calls him, is 73 years old, but the fire of youth is in his eyes and his step is quick and firm. He is as straight as a West Point cadet and takes an active part in public affairs.

"Uncle Jimmy" was a firm believer in the success of Cleveland each time that the New York man ran for the Presidency. After the second nomination Clawson made a bet with some of his Republican neighbors to the effect that he never would have his hair cut until Cleveland should be elected.

The Democratic candidate was beaten that time and "Uncle Jimmy" let his hair grow, as he had promised. He was pleased with the result. So much so, that when Cleveland was elected again four years later he did not sacrifice his locks, but let them grow.

Pat Outwits the Devil.
An Englishman, a Scotchman and an Irishman fell under the power of the Evil One, who condemned all three to be hung, but allowed them to select the tree on which the suspension was to be effected. While the Englishman chose an oak and the Scotchman a pine, the Irishman selected a gooseberry bush. On the devil waving his hand, the three selected objects duly appeared and the representatives of England and Scotland were forthwith strung up. When it came to the Irishman's turn his Satanic Majesty walked around the bush and said: "I'm afraid it is not tall enough," on which Pat exclaimed, "Oh, bedad, I'm in no hurry. I can just wait till it grows."

Parent and Child Before the Law.
A very interesting paper on the above topic was given in a number of Harper's Bazaar, which sets forth some little known points of law, relating to the obligations of father and mother to a child.
The father of an infant is bound to provide him with necessities, including food, clothing and medical attendance. If he does not provide such necessities, a stranger who furnishes them can hold the father liable. The obligation on the part of the parent to maintain the child continues until the latter is in a condition to provide for his own maintenance—generally speaking, as long as he remains a minor. But by the statute law of the country this obligation only ends with death in the case of children who are blind, lame or physically or morally incapable of providing their own support. . . . It is the purpose of the law not to compel a father to maintain idle and lazy children in ease and indolence, but to provide the young and inexperienced with the nurture and sustenance to which they are properly entitled from those who brought them into the world; this to continue until they have gained strength and ability to care for themselves.
It is doubtful to what extent a mother is bound to support her child. In general, she would not be bound to do so during the life of its father. Under some statutes an adult son is compelled to support his mother. A father cannot avoid his responsibility for the support of his child, even though he may agree with the mother to do so; and although a wife, by her own fault may forfeit her own claim to support she cannot forfeit that of the child.
A stepfather is not bound to support his stepchild unless he practically adopts him by taking the child into his family and providing for him, thus giving him the same status as a natural child. An adopted child and the person legally adopting have all the rights and are subject to all the duties of the relation of parent and child, including the right of inheritance.
The duty of a child is, first of all, honor and obedience. Failure to render these, or ingratitude, may be punished by dishonourment. The father may cut his children off entirely, but he cannot leave more than half his property to charitable institutions if he has a wife and children living. (This is true in New York.)



WHERE LIFE IS STRENUOUS.
Relaxation from Work Will Make a Man Enjoy Life Longer.
There are men, and plenty of them, who start the business of the day, or thinking about the business of the day, almost as soon as they are out of bed, and keep it up with scarcely an interval until they turn in at night, says the London Express. The business telegrams and letters brought to the bedroom in the morning and the continuation of mental labor and worry into the small hours of the next morning, until sheer inability to go on compels a reluctant halt for sleep, are evil modern phenomena that occur too often. And the hurried midday lunch is not worse for the digestion than it is for the mind, which is thus cheated of its due pause for rest.
This is certainly not the way to get most work done in the long run. The men who have put most work into their lives and been able to keep on longest at it have been men, like Mr. Gladstone, who knew the full value of absolutely banishing work from their minds for some time every day. In the height of political excitement Mr. Gladstone could always contrive to shut out politics and official business for an hour or two while he read Greek or a novel.
One man may seek his relaxation with a tennis racket or a bicycle, another with a book, another in talk (not about business); but complete relaxation in some form every man should have every day. And an entire and absolute holiday, long enough to count, is no less indispensable every year. The meaning of "rest" varies with the individual; to one it is rest to climb

Alps or cycle fifty miles a day, to another to lie under a tree or on the beach. But in some form the rest is inevitable, unless the breakdown is to come. The hours from which business is entirely excluded every day, the weeks from which it is entirely excluded, the months from which it is entirely excluded, are the hours of recuperation. The houses are by the man who means to last.
Queer Food Plants.
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There is a loaf of bread made from the roasted leaves of a plant allied to the century plant. Another kind of bread is from dough of juniper berries. These are relished by some tribes of Indians, while others manufacture cakes out of different kinds of bulbs.
The prairie Indians relish a dish of wild turnips, which civilized people would not be likely to enjoy at all. In the great American desert the beans which grow on mesquite bushes are utilized for food.
Soap berries furnish an agreeable diet for some savages in this country, while in California the copper colored arbutines do not disdain the seeds of salt grass.
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EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Great Number of Divorcees.

A STATISTICAL paragraph in a paper which is careful with its figures offers the rather remarkable information that there are now 51,538 divorced people in the United States, of whom over two-thirds are women. This naturally arouses interest in the fate of the men who were divorced, as originally there must have been an equal number with the women. Did the husbands fade and die under the blight of divorce? Are they more sensitive than the wives and unable to thrive when the clinging vines are forcibly torn away by the county court? Or did the majority rush off and marry again, thus taking themselves out of the lists of the divorced? But does marriage really take one out of such list? When a man is divorced is he not always divorced, though he marry again? If not, and a second marriage wipes the early matrimonial record quite off the slate, why is it that women do not seek the same way of escape? Why do more of them not profits it to ask questions at random? The problem is a fascinating one and worthy of serious investigation by statisticians. Why, oh, why, out of 51,000 divorced persons are 34,000 of them women? Where are the missing ex-husbands of 17,000 of these sisters? The mystery deepens the more it is considered.—Indianapolis Journal.

The Get-Rich-Quick Victims.

NO community is immune from the blandishments of the "get-rich-quick" swindlers. All that is required to make a victim is, indeed, a willingness to believe that men having an unusually good thing are in a fever to give it away, and a little of the blind boldness which leads certain people to try such a hazard and see what comes of it.
The truth cannot be too often stated that when a man discovers a sure way of getting rich quick, the last thing he does with it is to tell strangers about it. He wants all there is in it for himself—and possibly for his close friends. He communicates the discovery in a whisper; and never, never seeks partners in the odd corners of the country.
But sometimes people are caught by the plausible though cheap promise that he needs money to carry through his idea—that he has the scheme but has not the money, and so is seeking the contributions of small capitalists everywhere. If he cannot get capital from the men who are looking for money-making opportunities, it is because they do not believe there is anything in his little plan; and they are men of shrewdness and experience who are infinitely better judges of any such plan than the average outsider can possibly be. When they shy at it, it is time for all other people to take to cover.
A good rule for the average man is to button his pocket tight when the insinuating stranger comes to him with the story that, if he will only let the said stranger hold his money for a little while, he will get it back doubled or quadrupled. And it is just as good a rule when the insinuating stranger approaches one through the postoffice as on the street.—Montreal Star.

The Bacillus of Suicide.

THE prevalence of suicidal mania in Washington is accounted for by a hitherto unknown scientist, who has studied the subject deeply and trailed the microbe of suicide to its native lair, in the unseasonable strawberry. Clifford Howard is the name of the discoverer of the bacillus of self-destruction. He is an assistant secretary to the District Commissioners.
Mr. Howard's methods of scientific investigation are no less unique than his conclusions, and his process of reasoning is admirably simple. Suicides are most frequent in the spring. Strawberries are out of season in the latter part of Washington in early spring. Unseasonable strawberries are eaten in Washington. Strawberries eaten out of season invariably produce mental depression. (Proof of fact not given.) Mental depression causes suicidal thoughts. Therefore the bacillus of suicide is tracked to his lair in the strawberry.
Most remarkable, however, is Scientist Clifford Howard's discovery that the deadly microbe enters or develops in the strawberry only when the fruit is transported from its proper habitat to a higher latitude. The April strawberry is innocuous in Georgia, but may not be eaten in

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According to common law there is no legal obligation resting upon a child to support a parent, in case of either a minor or adult. In some States statutes have been enacted to enforce this duty, with the result that the State has been greatly relieved from the care of paupers.
A father has a right to the services and earnings of the child while the child lives with him, and is maintained by him—a right resting on the parental duty of maintenance and furnishing some compensation for the service he renders the child. How long this right continues is open to question, but certainly until the child reaches the age of 14, and usually during the entire period of minority. But where a father refuses or neglects to support the child or compels him to support himself, the right to his earnings ceases. At common law a mother has no implied right to the service and earnings of a child, as she was not bound like the father for its maintenance.
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Washington on pain of inevitable mental depression and probably suicide. When the Washington strawberry ripens, however, any old strawberry may be eaten by Washingtonians with entire safety.

Scientist Howard's advice to those who would abstain from suicide is that they refrain from eating strawberries until the fruit is ripe at home. Wonderful are the discoveries of the amateur man of science.—Philadelphia North American.

Breach of Promise.

THE story of one action for breach of promise of marriage is the story of all. Acquaintance ripens into friendship and friendship into an engagement. The engagement comes to an end, whether from the fault of one of the parties, or of the other, or of both. If, however, the final breach is not clearly the fault of the lady she can if so disposed sue her late lover and obtain money damages, the amount of which depends on many circumstances, apart from the wrong she has suffered. The other side of the picture is far different. The man may be treated ever so heartlessly, he has not the same remedy. Any claim he might prefer would be laughed out of court. The man who asked publicly for golden saive for injuries done to his heart would never survive the world's contempt.
The question arises whether now that women are claiming equality in so many respects they ought not to submit to equality in this. It may, of course, be urged that the custom of proposal involves an important distinction between the sexes, and that is undeniably so. The woman who has been jilted cannot revenge herself by instantly offering her hand to the false one's friend. But, on the other hand, it must not be forgotten the breach of promise action is the resort not of those who really suffer, but of those who, by the very fact of exposing their broken hearts for the gawky of nations, often suggest doubts as to whether their sentiments are sincere.—London Daily News.

A Self-Made Man.

THERE are many men who are proud of being self-made men. They carry their heads high and claim that they have made their own success by their own unaided efforts. They claim that no one can say that they were helped with loans of money, or that they were ever boosted into positions by the strength of others, yet this is all a mistake. No person ever made a success in life without being assisted by others. Think of the assistance given by the mother when the self-made man was a helpless babe; think of the helpful advice of the father, mother, brothers and sisters, when the self-made man was immature; think of the inheritance from father, mother, grandfather and ancestors back for a thousand years, all of whom have bequeathed health and vigor of body, strength of mind, common sense and the inclination to virtue, but further than this, the self-made man has been assisted by those who have labored for him. What manufacturer, farmer, nurseryman, editor, physician, lawyer or minister has not been aided by others almost daily throughout his life? No, we may do much to improve our conditions in life, but we are never entirely independent of the helpfulness of others.—Green's Fruit Grower.

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Science AND Invention

Pack thread or cord is given extraordinary strength, according to a German authority, by laying in a strong solution of alum, and then carefully drying.

A tropical substitute for the potato, already being tried in French colonies, is Coleus Copalli, a new edible of the Mint or Labiate family. Its tubers, which average an inch and a half in length, closely resemble the potato in flavor when prepared in the same way.

The cradle of the human race is still being sought. The widely accepted theory of Max Muller, based on language, teaches that man's early home was in India; but some ethnologists are now inclined to agree with Prof. Hirt that the Aryans first lived in the territory north of the Carpathian Mountains, near the boundary line between Austria-Hungary and Russia, now occupied by Letts and Lithuanians.

Ozonizing apparatus for vitalizing the atmosphere of the sick chamber may become a necessary part of the physician's outfit. Dr. J. E. S. Barnes, an English medical man, reports having used the ozonizer in a severe case of pneumonia complicated with pleurisy, and the result was an immediate and important change in the air of the room, which was followed by rapid improvement of the patient's condition. Ozonizers are being used also for bettering the air of factories.

There abounds in Paraguay a tree, growing to the stature of an ordinary chestnut tree, from which a kind of vegetable silk is obtained. Consul Kuffin, at Asuncion, says he believes it can be woven into threads, but it is chief use at present suggested for it is in stuffing cushions and quilts, for which purpose it appears to be well adapted on account of its extreme lightness. When removed from the bolls, which are six inches in length and about four and a half inches in diameter, the substance resembles a glossy down.

When a balloon passes over a forest it descends, and ballast must be thrown out to keep it up. This is explained by Prof. Moullieufert, of the French National Agricultural College of Grignon, as being due to the existence above every forest of a prism of cool, moist air, produced by the abundant transpiration of the trees, and extending to a height of from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above the treetops. Prof. Moullieufert also says that while forests drain the soil underneath them, they keep the upper layer, to a depth of four or five miles, moist.

From seven diamonds—weighing from two to twenty-one carats—that have been picked up in Wisconsin and adjoining States, Prof. William H. Hobbs traces the diamond fields of North America to the volcanic region of the Canadian wilderness, south of Hudson bay. The only known matrix of the diamond is the black shale—"blue ground"—around the necks of burned out volcanoes. The loose stones found seem to have been transported by glaciers, and on following up the probable courses of these ancient ice rivers the lines converge in the barren territory stated.

The Carnegie Institution has located its "Desert Botanical Laboratory" on the shoulder of a mountain two miles west of Tucson, Arizona. The Tucson Chamber of Commerce has given the site, and will install a water supply and an electric plant for the laboratory. The object of the undertaking is to study the plants characteristic of arid regions. The mountain on which the laboratory is to stand and the adjoining mesas possess a splendid representation of these forms of vegetation. Proposed sites in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Chihuahua and Sonora were examined before the location was finally chosen.

DOCTOR PARKER'S KINDNESS.

Tinged by Ruggedness When Dealing with the Wild.

The vein of rugged humor which appeared so frequently in the pulpit utterances of the late Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, of London, continually cropped out in the everyday clerical affairs of his life. He was once approached in the City Temple by a country clergyman, whose church was in an embarrassed financial condition, and asked to preach there on any day, at any hour, that might suit his convenience. "It is impossible," replied Dr. Parker. "I have already more engagements than I can fulfill."

Mrs. Parker, who was present, saw the minister's look of disappointment. "My dear," she said to her husband, "you must go. This gentleman has come a long distance to see you, and you must make it possible."

"Well," said he, looking into the face of his rural brother, "you see I must go. Fix your day, and I will be there at 12 o'clock."

The village pastor returned his thanks, and went his way with a radiant countenance. The day came, the church was crowded. Dr. Parker preached in his usual telling manner, as he alone could plead. At the conclusion of the service the pastor came into the vestry, and expressed his indebtedness to Dr. Parker and the gratitude of the church for his valuable services, asking at the end:

"How much, doctor, are we in your debt?"
"Forty-nine pounds, nine shillings and sixpence," promptly returned Dr. Parker.

This staggered the minister, who managed to stammer out: "It will take a little time to pay it all."
"Well, I will not take less," said Dr. Parker. "And meantime, as you have been out of pocket through coming to see me in London, take this" placing two sovereigns in the minister's hand—"to cover your outlay. Mind, not a halfpenny less to me than the sum named—but you can take eternity to pay it."
Dr. Parker would accept nothing but third-class fares when he visited poor

parishes, but woe to the church that had a reputation for meanness in money matters. He visited one such, where, after service, the deacon said: "Well, Dr. Parker, as to your fee?"
"It is fifty pounds."
The deacon demurred; Dr. Parker insisted. Finally the officials of the church got together and paid over the fifty pounds. Then Dr. Parker said: "Now, this is not for myself. Some time ago you had 80-and-80"—meaning a somewhat obscure minister—"to preach here. You know that the church is a struggling one, and that he is a poor man with a large family. You refused to pay him more than his bare railway fares. To redeem this in