

Topics of the Times

Secretary Hay is a grandfather, and it's a boy. Bring-on the little breeches.

An "impregnable fortress" is merely one requiring a large force and men and artillery to take.

Gracious, what a glorious thing it would have been for the Russians if the Czar's boy had been twins.

The moon will bear watching. According to Astronomer Pickering, it has broken out in a new spot.

Naturally the project to make paper money "velvety" has failed, and we shall go on working hard for it as of old.

But if Carrie should appear at the door, would Bishop Potter be warranted in saying something like "Tarnation?"

There is a tide in the affairs of wheat which, taken at what seems to be the flood, frequently leads on to misfortune.

The power of the pessimist is shown by the public's familiarity with the word "dyspeptic" and its unacquaintance with "eupeptic."

A New Jersey man has made himself a suit of asbestos clothing. He apparently has a suspicion of what the future holds in store for him.

Both Japan and Russia now have about \$200,000,000 invested in the war. The difference is that the Japs have something to show for their investment.

Just as soon as those English troops reached Lhasa they made it English by dropping the "h." They have been spelling it L'hasa all these years, and now they spell it Lassa.

It is said that the pay of the Japanese soldier is only 45 cents a month. In view of his recent performances we believe the war office would be justified in raising it to half a dollar.

A fashion writer for Mr. Bok's paper says that all women should wear a beauty spot so as to be fascinating. Some of them would be more fascinating if the beauty spot covered the entire face.

Statistics now in course of collation at Washington seem to indicate that the sifting process applied to immigration at the country's ports of entry is, to say the least, defective. Figures showing the number of aliens confined in penal and charitable institutions have been gathered by special agents in every State and Territory. These figures, it is said, show that thousands of foreigners who, under the laws, should not have been admitted to this country, have become public charges, and, as such, liable to deportation at the expense of the steamship companies that brought them to the United States.

It should be a source of pride to every one within whose veins flows Anglo-Saxon blood that our language is rapidly becoming the dominant vehicle of speech throughout the earth. No longer is it necessary for an American or Englishman contemplating foreign travel and equipped only with his mother tongue to feel the least apprehension as to his ability to go anywhere and everywhere along the beaten tracks of Europe. More people now speak English as their vernacular than speak any other European language. In every town and city of importance on the continent there are many persons, students for the most part, who are able to converse in English and who feel a just pride in the accomplishment and take pleasure in its exercise.

As if it were not enough to reform the spelling of certain words in our language, two scientists have come forward with the purpose of reforming the alphabet itself. They affect to have tested the speed with which the mind can recognize some of the letters, and the conclusion reached by them is that the forms of the printed letters are badly conceived from a physiological point of view; that if they were composed of characters of simple construction, such as are the letters T and L, the speed of the recognition of letters would be greatly increased and the mental fatigue would be much diminished. These scientists are shrewd enough not to say what form the other letters should take in order to relieve the mental fatigue. They end by simply making the complaint.

It is a curious fact that the desire for physical development for their children comes to many parents more slowly than that for intellectual development. It is pretty well acknowledged now by everybody—from the ultra-immigrant to the "poor white"

—that "book learning" is a good thing for the children. But the schools in England meet the same opposition as those in America when they try to put the development of muscle on the same basis as that of memory. Many a school principal has listened to protests substantially like that of the good woman who carried her views of education to the grammar school teacher: "I want ye to teach me girl readin', writin' and 'rithmetic," said she, "but she ain't t' larn anny more of this physical torture. If it's jumpin' she needs, I c'n teach her jumpin' meself!" Presently we shall make good our return to the Greek system, which included music and gymnastics as essentials to education, and so produced a wonderfully balanced creature—with body, mind and spirit in such due proportion that no one could overtop the other. The professional athlete, the puny scholar and the religious recluse are each the result of the separation of one department of education from the others. The symmetrical man is the result of the well-considered union of all the departments.

Once every year the soldiers of the Civil War who still survive are accustomed to gather somewhere for their national encampment. Three days are given to reunions and business meetings and a parade. This practice has continued so long that it has become an old story in all the northern half of the country; for the Grand Army has both encamped in Maine and in California. It is an old story in one sense, but a perennially new one in other senses. This year, for the third time, the Grand Army held its encampment in Boston. The city was decorated, of course, and unusually crowded. There were blue uniforms and black soft hats everywhere. The same white-haired men marched in the parade, a little stiffer in the knees and somewhat fewer in number, and they were cheered from end to end of the route. But there was nothing new about any of these things. Yet the encampment as a whole did produce—it always produces—something new and fresh: a rebirth of patriotism, a acknowledgment of the debt due to these men, a new perception of what the war cost them. No one can watch the parade of the veterans without seeing that the vast majority of those in line are men in moderate circumstances. They consider themselves fortunate indeed that they are able to be present at all. Thousands of their old comrades, they will tell you, could not come because of the expense. Here is the new lesson which the encampment teaches, or the old lesson which it constantly repeats—the lifelong sacrifice of the men who fought and lived, as well as the short but complete sacrifice of those who died. The war ruined the chances of financial success for tens of thousands of soldiers, who, if they had been more selfish and less patriotic, would be richer to-day in the goods of this world; but how infinitely poorer both they and we should be in things which wealth cannot measure or money buy!

Born unto trouble, there rests a babe in the royal palace of Russia for whom go out the rejoicings of a great nation. The accident of birth has given an heir to the throne of the Romanoffs. From a man of melancholy, it is announced that the Czar has advanced to cheerfulness, and in the advent of his son, the Russian nation, always superstitious, sees an augury of wondrous things. Analysis of conditions in Russia previous to the great event which, barring death, has settled the Romanoff succession, will show why so much depends upon this little boy. The four daughters born to the Czar are mere nonentities, though Nicholas had it in his power to repeal the salic law and make them eligible to the throne, just as Isabella was made eligible to the Spanish throne by her father, Ferdinand VII. But the Russians are set against "petticoat rule," regardless of the fact that but little more than a century ago Catherine II. ruled so strenuously that she figures in Russian history as the greatest monarch since the days of Peter the Great. This thing alone has turned the people against the Czarina, who four times has disappointed them by giving them what court circles call a "makeshift" instead of a ruler. It has even been said that she was to be divorced, "for state reasons" much after the order of the "state reasons" which parted Napoleon and Josephine. The person who bore the title of Czarévitch in the absence of a direct heir of the Czar is the uncle of Nicholas, the Grand Duke Michael, than whom there is no more unpopular person in the whole Russian Empire. The contempt the Grand Duke holds for his nephew has never been hidden, and loyal Russians have resented it even more than the Czar himself. It is not difficult to see, therefore, how the nation regards the birth of the new Romanoff as a pleasant omen for Russia and an augury of better days. For it has given them back the Czarina, who at heart is really loved, and has relieved them of the ruling presence of the Grand Duke Michael, whose ascent of the throne would be regarded as a national calamity.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

MYSTERY OF THE HUMAN BRAIN.



The many cases reported recently in the papers of men and women wandering mechanically through the streets like wound-up automata, recall to my mind an experience of my brother. In a Madras hospital, with which he was connected, lay a gigantic negro, who was supposed to be a congenital idiot. An idiot he was certainly, and of an unusually mindless type—a mere vegetable who seemed even to eat and drink mechanically. A surgeon who had only just joined the staff at the hospital, and who therefore saw its patients with a new eye, after looking long at the negro, said: "I don't think the fellow is a congenital idiot at all. Here, lay him on this bed, and let me examine his skull." A brief examination of the black's skull showed the mark of an old and deep wound. "Just as I thought," cried the surgeon, triumphantly. "I shall trephine his skull, and you'll see." When he had sawed the scarred piece of skull away he found, as he expected, a bit of bone pressing upon the brain. He raised and removed it, with the result that the patient, the moment he recovered consciousness, asked, eagerly: "Where's the army to-day?" "Where was it yesterday?" asked the surgeon. "Yesterday?" turned out to be nine years before, when this negro had been wounded in a battle on the Indian frontier.

It is noteworthy that in clairvoyant cases the body is, through overwork, or ill health, or fasting, or congenitally, in the subdued state to which the Indian mystic and miracle monger reduces his own by maceration. It was so with Scott and Rousseau, and with William Hone when he had the following experience recorded in his memoir: When worn out with overwork he was shown into a certain room in a certain part of London where he had never been before. "On looking round everything appeared perfectly familiar to me; I seemed to recognize every object. I said to myself, 'What is this? I was never here before, and yet I have seen all this; and, if so, there is a peculiar knot in the shutter.' I opened the shutter and found the knot. Now, then, I thought, here is something I cannot explain on principles; there must be some power beyond matter." And from being a pronounced materialist he became a believer in spirits, and, indeed, eventually a profoundly religious soul.

BE SURE THAT HE IS LISTENING.



Never talk business unless you are sure you have the attention of your listener. You only cheapen yourself if you do, cheapen the idea you represent, and you accomplish nothing. You are ushered into Mr. Brown's office, for instance, and after listening a moment, Mr. Brown drops his eyes and begins to finger his mail. Stop talking, even in the midst of a sentence, and wait till Mr. Brown looks up. He will probably say something like this: "I can listen just as well, Mr. Jones. I've got this mail to look over. Go right on talking." Do nothing of the kind. Tell Mr. Brown politely that if he is busy you will call again when he has time to listen to you. If he says he is ready to give you his full attention and then begins to jot down a few figures on an envelope or to read letters, stop talking. He may say: "Oh, I'm listening. I'm hearing. Go right on." You may now be more explicit and say: "I have no doubt, Mr. Brown, that you can listen just as well, but I cannot talk just as well." He cannot possibly get angry at this, and you should withdraw if you are not assured of his full attention.

It pays to have a proper regard for your own dignity. If you allow a man to treat you with disrespect or inattention, your arguments, no matter how good they are, lose their power to convince because what you are always stands back of what you say, either to enforce or to weaken

MRS. MAYBRICK IN AMERICA.

American Woman Who Has Long Been in an English Prison.

Mrs. Florence M. Maybrick, in whose imprisonment in an English prison there has been for years much interest, is now in this country. She is in fair health, considering her long imprisonment.

Mrs. Maybrick's case has been a remarkable one. She belonged to an Alabama family of wealth and refinement and went to England when but 17 years of age. Of the twenty-three years which have intervened fifteen have been spent behind the walls of a prison.

The alleged crime for which she suffered was the poisoning of her husband, a man much older than herself. He died somewhat suddenly, under



MRS. MAYBRICK AS SHE APPEARS TO-DAY.

her nursing, and an autopsy disclosed a large quantity of arsenic in his system. Mrs. Maybrick was arrested and tried for murder. She admitted putting a white powder in his broth, but said she did it at his request and without knowing what it contained. She was

your words. The teacher who addresses a crowd of whispering, giggling, or otherwise preoccupied students cheapens both himself and his subject. No matter how excellent his instruction, even that which the students hear has little effect because really he speaks on sufferance; at their pleasure they cease to listen. But a teacher has more or less authority over his pupils; his position gives him a tremendous advantage. On the other hand, the man who solicits business of any kind has the inferior position because he is asking something, and he needs to be always on the watch lest he be put off, cut short in his talk, or listened to with only half attention.

STRIKING PECULIARITIES OF MEN OF GENIUS.



If we study the brain of the man of genius and its cubic contents we find that the majority of geniuses surpass the ordinary man in this direction. For example, Petrusch, Kant, Loben, who examined the brains of twenty-six French geniuses, found that their brain, on the average, contained about 200 cubic centimeters more than that of the average man. This result was the more striking, since some of the twenty-six geniuses had only an ordinary cubic capacity of brain, such as Descartes, Tiesot and Hoffmann. Among the brains of twelve famous Germans, which included Wagner and Blachoff, investigated, it was found there were brains of either an exceptionally large cubic capacity or an exceptionally small capacity.

Many great thinkers in the realms of literature, philosophy and history felt a real horror of music. Johnson, Victor Hugo, Katherine II., Zola and Napoleon loved best and simplest music. According to Gautier, music is the most horrible of all forms of sound. In contradistinction to these outspoken enemies of music we have the honor paid it by others, such as Aristotle, who held music as one of the finest inspirations to good work. Among modern writers are Daudet, Darwin, Goethe, Carlyle, who called music the language of the angels, and Moore, who conceived his poems first in music. Ruskin called music the finest and most developed pleasure that can benefit any age.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE IS INCREASING.



There are no signs of the development in the United States of a class of over-educated dependents. The vast increase in the attendance upon the institutions of higher education is due to an increasing appreciation on the part of the people of the value of a training which makes life really worth living by filling it with resources that are both pleasant and profitable, apart from their possible practical application.

Another reason for the great increase in the attendance at the colleges and universities is that the people at large have caught sight of the fact that the chances of practical success in life are multiplied enormously if a boy has a sound college training. The statistics by President Thwing of Western Reserve University, published several years ago, proved this conclusively.

An adjustment of the courses of study and curricula that will bring the bachelor's degree down to a point where it can be had by a normal student at about twenty years of age is an absolute necessity. At present there is waste, almost incredible waste, all along the line. The elementary school is the most wasteful of all, taking, as it does, eight years to do what thousands of children do in six and very many can do in four or five. The secondary school is wasteful, but to a less degree, and as matters are at present the college is the least wasteful of all. Therefore, to shorten the college course is at the moment to give up an element of the greatest relative value.

NEW STYLES IN HATS.



convicted and was sentenced to die. So much influence was exerted in her behalf, however, especially by Americans, that the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. Ever since that time the utmost exertions have been made to secure her release, and finally the term of fifteen years was accepted as a life penalty and she was released as a "ticket-of-leave" prisoner. An exception was further made in her favor, and even if she had stayed in England she would not have had to follow the usual custom of reporting to the Scotland Yard authorities regularly, as do other "ticket-of-leave" prisoners. She will now work for a complete pardon and vindication. Mrs. Maybrick will, for a considerable time at least, live in retirement in Virginia, where she will enjoy the income from the property she already

possesses and try to regain possession of that of which she claims she was wrongly deprived at the time of her arrest and trial.

He Had Felt It. Singleton—Did you ever feel that you were an insignificant atom in the great plan of the universe—that you were really unnecessary, so to speak? Wedderly—You bet I have—and I never felt it more strongly than I did last night when I got home and found my wife discussing the fashions with a couple of her women friends.

Physical Support. Soubrette—Yes, De Ham says he used to support Miss Verne in "Romeo and Juliette." Comedian—He's right. They had such a slimy balcony a supe had to stand behind and hold it up.