

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

All that now remains is for the trusts to begin busting.

Shakespeare wasn't much of a man. He raised a very small family.

But when the north pole is discovered Mr. Carnegie will insist on giving it a library.

May it be considered significant that the latest Van Vorst literary production is dedicated to Mark Twain?

The formalin cure is said to have petered out in New York. The trouble seems to have been a minor one—the patients who tried it died.

If Peary can't wait for the raising of that fund of \$150,000 the ice ought to be solid enough now to make walking possible most of the way.

A minister recently prayed that the mayor of his town might either be converted or killed, as the Lord might see fit. It is always well to give the Lord a choice in these matters.

We are pleased to learn that William Rockefeller has had his assessment reduced from \$1,000,000 to \$300,000. We are opposed to grinding the poor by taxation or any other method.

Kansas women are again denied the privilege—or saved from the burdensome responsibility, whichever way you prefer to look at it—of helping elect the country's Presidents.

Marie Van Vorst says there is no chance for an unmarried woman to win fame. In view of the fact that Marie is reaching after fame, the inference should be very simple.

A new edition of W. H. P. Fyfe's "Seven Thousand Words Often Mispronounced" has just been issued. It has one serious fault, in that it doesn't tell how to pronounce the author's name or why he spells it that way.

Emperor William's favorite poet has written a book in which he urges Germany to join the United States in enforcing the Monroe doctrine. Are the Germans foolish enough to believe that Uncle Sam needs help in this business?

Air-ships are not new, for when a Conestoga wagon carried freight and passengers from New York to Philadelphia in three days, in the early part of the last century, the vehicle was called a "flying machine," so unprecedented was its speed.

The lady of fashion keeps longer hours than any workingwoman, has absolutely no regular periods of rest and gets in the social "rush" season no day off in seven. Her meals are not well timed, her food is too rich, her wardrobe is a burden and her feverish hunt for fresh entertainment to arouse senses dulled by monotony involves a constant mental strain, not to mention moral risk.

"A great struggle arises in a woman's mind when she is asked what her new gown cost. She is always in doubt whether to cut the price in half and make you envy her the bargain or double it and make you envy her affluence." This is floating around credited to the London Spare Moments, but it has a distinctly American flavor. No London editor, either in his spare moments or any other moments, ever originated that idea.

The world is waiting for a multi-millionaire who is willing to lessen his burdensome income by increasing the pay of those who are the instruments of his success. Let him do what he pleases with his surplus accumulations. It would not be in every sense agreeable to see him bestow it as a gratuity on his employes, for such a course would have the appearance of charity. But let him recognize the past and present services of his helpers by such an increase in wages as would be commensurate with the great value of those services and would also serve to decrease the embarrassment of riches.

Four small boys stole tobacco from a car. The quantity was small but sufficient to make them sick. A policeman noting the ill effect of their initial indulgence arrested the boys on suspicion. Being in a repentant mood, the boys confessed. Lucky boys. For it is luck indeed to be caught in your first meanness! If you put your finger in the fire it is burned. The penalty follows promptly. You learn by experience to keep your finger out of the fire. Were the penalties following the infraction of all laws, physical, mental, moral immediately applied we might not live so long, but we would get experience rapidly. Because the penalty is in the future we sin and hope to dodge the punishment. Had there been added to that divine warning, "Be sure your sin will find you out," the word

Immediately, there would possibly be less sinning and suffering. Possibly not. Would there also be less manhood and womanhood? Did tobacco make boys sick all their lives would tobacco be stolen? Maybe you agree with Elbert Hubbard who thinks no man can be deeply religious who has not deeply sinned and deeply repented. "Sow your wild oats," say these advocates of necessary evil. That is a dangerous doctrine, young man. You may not reform and be obliged to reap the crop. You may not be caught, as those boys were caught. Don't do a mean thing, but— If you are determined to do wrong pray you may be caught in the first act. Like the boys you may be so sick and so sorry you will quit.

Six million two hundred thousand farmers' bulletins on a hundred and forty different subjects were printed for the Department of Agriculture during the past fiscal year. As there are about six million farmers, exclusive of agricultural laborers, in the United States, this is one pamphlet for each one. If any farmer did not get his copy, it was because he did not apply for it, for they are nearly all turned over to the members of Congress for free distribution. There is hardly a subject in which farmers are interested that is not discussed in some one of the various bulletins. Information is contained in them about the feeding of farm animals, hog-cholera, how to kill weeds, the care and feeding of chickens, butter-making and the care of milk, the vegetable garden, good roads, breeds of dairy cattle, bread-making, how to raise apples, rice-culture, tomato-growing, sugar as food, insects affecting tobacco, cotton and grapes; diseases of potatoes and apples, how to detect oleomargarine and renovated butter, tree-planting on rural school grounds, the Angora goat, and scores of other things. It would be difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy the financial benefit which has accrued to the farmers from the perusal of these bulletins. Such men as believe they must be continually studying to keep abreast of the times and to understand the possibilities of their business have been the most diligent readers of the publications of the Department of Agriculture. It is the benefit which these men have derived that justifies the continued expenditure of money by the government for free education of this kind, an education almost as necessary to national prosperity as that provided for the children in the public schools.

Who that has noted the tide of immigrants which pours into the United States every year has not asked himself how the stream becomes merged in the current of national life; how these strangers are transmuted into American citizens? Without doubt the most important agency is the public schools. A college settlement which has been studying the matter closely has brought to light some most interesting and encouraging details. "A little girl of foreign birth and stammering tongue, in one of the lower grades, tells a visitor that the beautiful portrait of the Father of His Country, which hangs upon the schoolroom wall, is a picture of Buffalo Bill. This is the beginning. A few grades higher up a group of boys of foreign birth are celebrating Washington's birthday. In mimic scene they reproduce the proceedings of the Continental Congress. Statesman after statesman answers as his name is called. The gentleman from Virginia can hardly wait his turn to deliver himself of his great utterances; the gentleman from Pennsylvania protests in vain. All at last agree to hang together or to hang separately, and they affix their names to an imaginary Declaration of Independence. Their audience cheers with excitement, and joins with the patriots in singing fervently and unquestioningly "Land where my fathers died." All this may seem an artificial means of stimulating loyalty to a new fatherland. Yet could a better one be devised? These boys are at the age when imagination plays its most important part. Their contemporaries of American birth are playing Indian and train robber. This does not mean that they will become savages or bandits, nor is it expected that the young immigrants will grow into Patrick Henrys or Robert Morrises. But the ideas which these names set up for them are provocations to the best citizenship. The public schools which guide their pupils into exercises of this sort are doing an important service. Our composite population needs every unifying influence.

Tea Services of British Royalty. Among the many beautiful sets of tea services in the possession of the King and Queen of England is one which was given to them on the occasion of their silver wedding, in 1888, by the King and Queen of Denmark, and which is both for tea and coffee. Prince Waldemar of Denmark gave at the same time a case of antique spoons which are also frequently in use. The King is quite a connoisseur in coffee, and has his own coffee-maker from Turkey, always preferring to drink the beverage in the real Turkish way.

LITERARY LITTLE BITS

Charles Marriott, the author of "The Column," is now finishing a new novel which is entitled "The House on the Sands."

"Old Paths and Legends of New England," by Katharine M. Abbott, is shortly to appear with the imprint of P. Putnam's Sons.

Dr. Lyman Abbott is now at work on a biography of Henry Ward Beecher, which Houghton, Mifflin & Co. expect to publish next September.

Mark Twain is making haste to put the finishing touches to his papers on Christian Science that a book may be made of them for early publication.

Miss Alice Brown, the author of "Meadow Grass," has written a third novel, "The Mannerings." The action passes in a country house and includes a double love story.

The author of "The Story of Mary McLane" is at work upon a new book. It is said to be quite different in character from the first one, and to be written with more reserve. It is difficult to imagine what form the girl's ideas will take now that she is two years older and has seen more of the world.

Henry Holt & Co. have in press for immediate publication a handbook on "Money and Banking," by Professor William A. Scott, of the University of Wisconsin. While intended primarily for educational use, it will be serviceable also to the busy general reader who wishes a clear statement in compendious form of the first principles of modern currency.

The little magazine which the Scribners have published for so many years under the title of the Bookbuyer, has been transformed and given the title of the Lamp. It has been made a little weightier, leading off with an article on "Macaulay's First Essay," by Professor Wilbur L. Cross, and the department called "The Rambler" has been relegated to the pages at the back.

John Lane will soon publish a novel by Mrs. Wilfrid Ward called "The Light Behind." Mrs. Ward is a niece of the Duke of Norfolk, the premier British Duke. Her father was James Robert Hope Scott, the parliamentary barrister, and a close friend of Gladstone. He came into possession of Sir Walter Scott's home, Abbotsford, by his marriage with the romance's granddaughter and sole descendant, Miss Lockhart. Mrs. Ward's childhood was passed at Sir Walter's home. She published an earlier novel some time ago, called "One Poor Sample."

THE NAVY AS A TRADE.

Secretary Moody Points Out Its Opportunities for Young Men.

"Not only the man behind the gun, but the man behind the coal shovel, the man behind the wheel, the man in front of the engine, and, not by any means least of all, the man in front of the galley range—each of these is the subject of solicited thought by men who are distinguished as brilliant commanders of ships and of squadrons," said Secretary of the Navy Moody, apropos of the departure of enlisting parties for the navy, to cover the Middle West and Southwest.

"I mean by that to convey forcibly that each of the many trades, callings and occupations which constitute the industrial life of a modern warship is being scrutinized for avenues of improvement; that there is a consistent and comprehensive effort being made to improve the conditions surrounding the enlisted men afloat, an effort which has already borne such fruit that I think I am justified in saying that in no navy are the conditions of comfort which surround the men of the navy of the United States approached.

"The system under which the navy department is training material for crews is, I believe, if continued along the present lines and with the improvements that experience will enforce, certain to give us the finest man-of-war-men the world has ever seen. A boy from 15 to 17 years of age who enters the navy as an apprentice at \$9 a month receives a good English education and a thorough training in seamanship. He has certain preferences in the matter of rating, and may easily, by good conduct and continuous service, work his way up through successive ratings, which will give him from \$30 to \$65 a month; the latter pay, with the quarters and rations, equivalent to at least \$85 a month in shore employment. He is aided at all times, if he evinces an ambition to perfect himself in his profession, by instruction on board ship and in special schools established for the instruction of petty officers and advanced seamen, and is eligible under certain requirements to take the examination for warrant officers, positions ranking next after ensigns, and with pay ranging from \$1,200 in the first five years of service to \$1,800 after twenty years of service, with allowances and permanence of position and employment that makes the rank quite as sat-

isfactory in a financial way as a very large proportion of the better-paid positions ashore. There is also the possibility of securing a commission as ensign, a possibility that has been realized within the past year by an apprentice."—Washington Post.

PETRIFIED FOSSIL FISHES.



Recent geological research has discovered a series of wonderful fossil fishes among the shale deposits of Wyoming. Their original forms have been somewhat flattened and changed. They measured from 20 to 30 feet long, and were in life exceedingly ravenous and dangerous. That they fought among themselves is almost positively known, for a specimen has been taken from the rock the stout back plate of which had been completely crushed in two, bearing in its solid bone deep imprints and gashes which fit the jawtips of this species, which had jaws set with a bristling row of teeth. These formidable creatures are found along with others in what are known as the "Bad Lands" or fossil beds of the West. This whole section was, ages ago, a great lake, which, through changed geological conditions, was drained, leaving the mighty monsters of the deep to sink and become buried deep, away from the destructive elements of the air and flesh eating animals. By piling up successive layers of sediment nature has thoroughly embalmed and preserved their remains these millions of years, until the pick of the fossil hunter has cut and chiseled out their petrified forms.

Ways of People Who Steal Dogs.

Dog stealing in London has increased to a very large extent lately, and the professional dog stealers, of whom there are many, are having a very prosperous time. A well-known West End veterinary surgeon explained some of the methods of the dog stealers. "These men," said he, "are by no means ragged loafers, but well-dressed persons of some address, many of them well off," says the London Express. "They find out that a well-known society lady or gentleman has a dog which is taken for a walk daily. They cultivate that dog's acquaintance with surreptitious feeds, and then one day the man finds himself round a corner alone with the dog, and the theft is accomplished.

"Sometimes a decoy dog is taken out, especially in case where it is desired to steal an animal of the larger kind. Kensington Gardens are the happy hunting grounds of the dog thief and scores of pets are there stolen from their owners. I should say from my knowledge that at least fifty dogs a month are stolen in the West End. Generally speaking, a lost dog can always be recovered if one goes the right way about it. For instance, I got to know a dog dealer who, though he would never steal a dog on his own account, must, I am morally certain, be in touch with those who do. A client comes to me with a tale of a lost dog and prepared to spend money to get it back.

"I go to the dog dealer, describe the animal, and ask him to keep his eyes open for it. Very shortly he comes to me and tells me for what sum he will be able to produce the dog. Sometimes negotiations go on for months. Where rewards are not forthcoming, or where the police are hot on the track, the stolen dogs are sent down to Club Row in Bethnal Green, where there is a sale every Sunday morning."

The Power of Imagination.

An English physician made an interesting experiment not long ago for the purpose of determining the relative power of imagination of the sexes. He dosed 100 of his hospital patients with sweetened water, and soon afterward entered the room, in great apparent agitation, saying that by mistake he had administered a powerful medicine. In a few minutes four-fifths of the patients, mainly men, responded to the supposed emetic. Not a woman was affected.

Something of Real Value.

"I notice in the horrid newspapers that some person ova on the continent has discovered the microbe of hydrophobia, don't you know?" "Deah me, how stwange! But, weally, that doesn't concern me nearly so much as would the discovery of some means to counteract, don't you know, the effect that is produced on a blooded dog by biting common persons. My little Fido was quite ill the last time he bit an ordinary child on the street, don't you know."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

JEFFERSON DAVIS' OLD HOME.

Beauvoir Mansion to Become a Retreat for Confederate Soldiers.

In all the fair southland there is not a place dearer to the hearts of the Southern people than Beauvoir, the late home of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States. This home was recently purchased by the sons of Confederate veterans and will soon become a home for impoverished Confederate veteran soldiers.

Beauvoir is the most beautiful and imposing place on the Gulf coast. It was settled and improved by James Brown, a wealthy planter, who was lavish in the expenditure of his abundant means in building and beautifying his home. Oaks, cedars and magnolias vie with each other in adding charm, and the long, gray moss fills in any little details that are lacking. The mansion, as it was termed, is as good as it was the day it was built, over 60 years ago.

A gallery 80 feet long and 14½ feet wide borders the building in front and on the sides, and ends in wings that



HOME OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

are entered through tall Venetian doors. The hall is 10 feet wide and opens at the rear on a wide gallery, on which the wings also open. The room to the right as the hall is entered from the front was Miss Winnie's room. What a Mecca this room will be for the veterans, and how they will cherish everything that belonged to the "Daughter of the Confederacy."

Equally distant from the mansion, east and west, are quaint little cottages. Originally there was only one room in each, surrounded on the four sides by wide galleries. Later one and two sides have been inclosed, giving two additional rooms. It is about the east cottage that the principal interest centers, for it was in this that Mr. Davis studied and wrote, and where Miss Winnie did much of her early literary work. The main room of this cottage was Mr. Davis' private library. The walls are lined with book shelves, and a little gallery runs along the upper shelves. This was reached by a small ladder. Near the fireplace is where Mr. Davis' desk stood, and the door beside it is spattered with ink thrown from his pen when he was writing his book, "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government." The east room has been enclosed, and in this room the chieftain was wont to recline and rest on a sofa. Back of this was a tiny room where Miss Winnie wrote. It is a real girl's den, and is yet quite characteristic of the former fair occupant.

The west cottage was occupied by Mrs. Hayes, the older daughter, and her children when visiting her parents. The Beauvoir home was bequeathed by will to Jefferson Davis by Mrs. Sarah Anna Dorsey, of Louisiana.

The Medicinal Value of Water.

The human body is constantly undergoing tissue change. Worn out particles are cast aside and eliminated from the system, while the new are ever being formed, from the inception of life to its close.

Water has the power of increasing these tissue changes, which multiplies the waste products, but at the same time they are renewed by its agency, giving rise to increased appetite, which in turn provides fresh nutriment. Persons but little accustomed to drinking water are liable to have wasted products formed faster than they are removed. Any obstruction to the free working of natural laws at once produces disease, which, if once firmly seated, requires both time and money to cure.

People accustomed to rise in the morning weak and languid will find the cause in imperfect secretion of wastes, which many times may be remedied by drinking a tumbler of water before retiring. This very material assists in the process during the night, and leaves the tissue fresh and strong ready for the active work of the day.

Hot water is one of our best remedial agents. A hot bath on going to bed, even in the hot nights of summer, is a better reliever of insomnia than many drugs. Inflamed parts will subside under the continual poulticing of real hot water.

Very hot water, as we all know, is a prompt checker of bleeding, and beside, if it is clean, as it should be, it aids in sterilizing wounds.

British Trade Returns.

British trade returns for 1902 show an increase in exports of £3,517,604, and in imports of £4,870,086.

Most men can stand a disappointment in love better than the loss of a dollar.