

Topics of the Times

Peary has the usual hard job in trying to fire the Cook.

Civilization will last only so long as law and order are bombproof.

If a man is a liar it is useless to tell him so. He knew it all the time.

A soft answer may turn away wrath, but there's likely to be a flare-back.

My boy, you will learn that many a so-called orator is merely a human phonograph.

It's all right to hope for the best, but the fellow who spends all his time hoping will never get it.

Will some gentleman kindly volunteer to go to the polar regions and verify the Peary and Cook maps?

Hitch your wagon to a star if you must, young man, but endeavor to make a wise selection of the star.

If Dr. Wu is really after the spirits it will be necessary for them to be very careful about what they admit.

King Edward regards a fleet of battleships a sign of peace, especially when it belongs to the home country.

An Ohio woman opened an old baking powder can and found \$3,200, enough to raise quite a batch of muffins.

It would be a shame if King Alfonso should lose his job just when he is beginning to accumulate an interesting family.

What a lot of fun Mark Twain could have with the name of his son-in-law. At Mark's time of life will he feel like learning how to spell it?

If King Edward has been hunting around for a life job he has probably found it in his proposed effort to establish a friendly feeling between the lords and commons.

The execution of Ferrer will not extinguish the influence of his teaching and it is more than doubtful if it will do much to instill sounder ideas of government into the minds of his followers.

Before getting his divorce J. M. Barrie settled a handsome fortune upon the lady and made the co-respondent promise to marry her. Is the age of chivalry dead, as has been alleged?

The "common drinking cup" must no longer be used in railroad trains or stations, in public or private schools or in the State educational institutions, according to a ruling of the Kansas Board of Health. One immediate advantage of this prohibition ought to be a decrease in the prevalence of contagious diseases in the State.

The Chicago & Northwestern comes along to add its name to the list of railroads which have not lost a life among the millions entrusted to their care during the last year. In this case the achievement looks pretty good, because the total of passengers carried amounted to the combined populations of the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. When you come to think of it, it's quite a job transporting all those folk without running over one of them or letting them do any fool thing that might result in death.

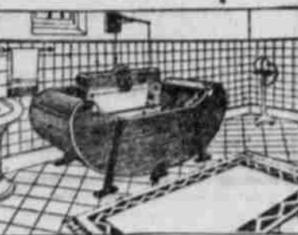
Church membership in the United States is the subject of a bulletin issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor. The statistics show that during the six years following the census of 1909 church membership increased 6.4 per cent. Of this increase 4.4 per cent was in Roman Catholic churches, 1.8 per cent in Protestant churches, and the remainder in churches of other denominations. The total church membership reported is \$2,936,445, or 39.1 per cent of the total population. Of this total, Protestant churches are credited with 20,287,742 and the Catholic with 12,079,142. Of the total church membership 56.9 per cent are women. The disproportion between the sexes is most marked in the Protestant churches. In the Catholic church the men constitute 49.3 per cent of the total.

"My boy," writes a white-haired mother to her son, a busy man in a distant State, "write home often. You do not realize what your letters are to me, and how long it is between them." No, he had not realized it, and unhappily there are many absent sons and daughters who need a similar reminder. They would be indignant at the suggestion of wanting filial devotion,

but in the stress of business, in the society of new friends, in the happiness of a new home circle, how rarely they spare an hour for a good long letter to the aging mother in the old home—the loving mother whose heartache, as the passing days fall to bring the longed-for letter, is one of the most pathetic tragedies of old age. The decline of the letter-writing habit of an earlier generation has often been deplored, but this feature of the decline can neither be excused nor defended. The post-card substitute for letters is little less than a mockery when the cards are sent to the mother who wants, and should have, so much more than that. As youth lives in and for the future, so does old age always look back over the slope as it nears the summit. The parent is wrapped up in the son and daughter; but as the son grows to manhood and the daughter to womanhood, they are absorbed in the plans and the processes of building the structure of the coming years. Such is the law of life and the basis of all progress, but it is a pitiful thing when the son and daughter fail to keep in mind their obligation to the loyalty and love of their parents. Blessed are the absent ones who write long and frequent letters to the old home. Soon, they cannot know how soon, the precious privilege will no longer be theirs.

With the country, the world, in fact, busily divided into hostile Peary and Cook camps, the partisans and the middle-of-the-roads seem to have given little thought to the role played by Eskimos in the achievement both of the commander and the doctor. Could either Peary or Cook have attained to the Pole without the aid of these husky little brown men, with the unpronounceable names? It is extremely to be doubted. With icy climates and frozen temperatures as their native element, habituated to hardship as the millionaire is to luxury, stomachs apparently molded of indurated iron in ability to digest astounding foods, these aborigines of the far north furnished the indispensable factor of guides and pack-horses and assistants amidst conditions that would speedily put even the hardest of white men out of commission. In a way, too, the Eskimos, both of the Peary and Cook parties, developed a strange and admirable gallantry, a sort of unconscious fighting spirit, in battling with the heart-breaking conditions which must ever attend explorations of this nature. It could only have been this driving impulse that sustained them through weeks and months of bleak and dreary toil in a struggle toward the "great wall." They were not buoyed up, as were the leaders of their respective expeditions, by the knowledge of the acclaim of history and civilization, waiting to lavish adulation as soon as they return from frozen solitudes. In all fairness, the names of these Eskimos should go down into history side by side with those of Cook and Peary. There was simply the high courage and bright incentive of sheer manhood; no sordid or vainglorious motive did tempt, or could have tempted them upon such a bleak and profitless enterprise.

MECHANICAL WAVE BATHTUB.



ACTS LIKE A PATENT CHURN. The mechanical wave bathtub shown in this illustration was originally invented by a French nobleman, but is now being used to some extent in Germany. It resembles in form and in action certain patent churns now sold everywhere, and is intended to produce a wave motion, such action being deemed more or less beneficial from a medical standpoint.—Popular Mechanic.

The Chinese Cow. The Chinese cow has been bred as a work animal rather than for milking purposes, and, beyond feeding her calf, it appears that she has almost lost her claim to being a dairy animal. A cow in China is seldom milked without the assistance of the calf.

Then He Ran. Office Boy—Miss Keyes, please let me look at your face! Miss Keyes—What for? Office Boy—Why, the boss said some of the paint was scratched off his typewriter. I didn't know whether he meant you or the machine.

It's an easy matter to get married on a salary of \$6 a week, but staying married on it is another proposition. No woman, who has a house that is clean, need ever be ashamed of her furniture.

Science AND Invention

Paying for electric current for a dim light is the height of extravagance; one new light often gives double the light of two old ones.

The Technological museum of Sydney, Australia, has a model of the famous Strasburg clock which has been running accurately twenty years.

The only ostrich farm in Europe, at Nice, uses a big incubator to hatch the eggs, the sun of that latitude not being hot enough to do the work.

Maps showing 30,000,000 stars, all accurately located, have been completed by astronomers of many nations working together in the common cause.

The quarter of a million electric lights at the Seattle exposition were supplied with current generated at Snoqualmie Falls, fifty miles distant.

At the close of last year there were approximately 230,000 miles of railroad in the United States, compared with 186,646 miles at the close of 1898.

It is estimated that the known supply of fertilizer in the shape of natural nitrates will be exhausted by the world's demands in less than twenty years.

A St. Louis druggist prevents customers from monopolizing his free telephone by a switch in the wire, operated from behind the prescription counter.

Some French fruit culturists have recently essayed the use of fruit walls of glass instead of masonry, with interesting results. With a glass wall the same kinds of fruit can be grown on both the north and the south sides.

As saying that the use of ozone will render costly filtration plants virtually superfluous. At Baltimore an ozone plant, capable of treating 10,000,000 gallons daily, is about to be put in operation, and in Europe the method has been adopted at Nice, Brest, Chartres and elsewhere.

RISKED HER NINE LIVES.

Moment of Peril for a Pittsburg Cat on the Twenty-fourth Floor.

From the window ledges of the weather bureau office on the top floor, the twenty-fourth, of the Farmers' Bank building to the street is a distance of 320 feet, the Pittsburg Gazette says. It is sufficient to give many persons the creeps just to look out of the window to the thoroughfares below. For this reason Observer M. H. Summers was given a fright the other day when he observed the official cat of the building sunning herself at the very edge of one of the window ledges. He was almost afraid to move at first for fear of frightening the cat into taking a step that would result in her falling. So he began moving toward the animal very cautiously. The cat was a favorite and he was particularly anxious to save her.

The cat, however, thought Mr. Summers wanted to play, and she made a leap which took her completely out of sight. The frightened observer felt that it was all over with pussy, and he hurried to the window to see if she had reached the street. He could not see her anywhere at first. Then he looked toward another window, and there was the cat perched on the ledge as comfortable as you please. She must have jumped nearly eight feet along the side of the wall, hundreds of feet above the street.

"It's all right; talk as you please about the performance," said Mr. Sum-

THE POSTCARD HABIT IN GERMANY.



The rage for picture postcards appears to be still on in Germany, as it is in this country. If we are to take the scene represented in our illustration as typical. The people of Berlin want to write postcards even when sitting in an open-air restaurant. The postman is seen acting in the double capacity of postcard seller and walking pillar-box. The cards he sells are written upon there and then promptly posted in the letter-box which he carries on his back. Note the bugle painted on the box, which is possibly a symbol of old times, when the postman announced his approach by blowing a horn.—Illustrated London News.

The Count de Choiseul, a distinguished amateur horticulturist, finds the results for pear trees most excellent, the fruit grown on the north side of the wall being equal to that grown on the south side, and even smoother. Other well known nursery gardeners have made the experiment with good results for pears, peaches and apples. The principal objection made to the glass wall is that it does not store up heat like a masonry wall, to keep the plants warm at night; during the day-time the heat is nearly equal on both sides of the wall.

The value of ozone as a purifying agent for water is being recognized in many places. Its attack upon insusorial life is akin to the process of combustion. Any well constructed apparatus by which air charged with ozone may be made to traverse the water answers the purpose. Professor Soper of Columbia University has found that Croton water is not only sterilized by the ozone treatment, but that unpleasant odors are removed. Professor Geddes of Glasgow is quoted

as saying, "but I confidently believe that the cat risked every one of her nine lives on that occasion."

And ever since the inhabitants of the twenty-fourth floor of the building have been debating the subject of whether the cat would have alighted on her feet had she fallen the long distance to the street.

A Satisfying Job. Proud Papa—That boy of mine is a wonder. Very smart child for his age.

Disgruntled Neighbor—Haven't a doubt of it. If we were living in old times, I am sure he would be holding an office for which he seems eminently qualified.

Proud Papa (suspiciously)—What office do you mean?

Disgruntled Neighbor—Town crier.—Baltimore American.

Even new things have their faults; we can never keep new shoestrings tied.

It is possible to prove a good many things which are not true.

MAJOR GENERAL O. O. HOWARD, NOTED "CHRISTIAN SOLDIER"



IN THE death of Major General Oliver Otis Howard the United States has lost one of the most notable figures of its military history for the last half century. He served with distinction in the Civil War from beginning to end, and after the war became a figure of national prominence as the head of the Freedmen's Bureau. Subsequently he commanded the troops employed in the pacification of the Indians of Arizona and New Mexico. In his later years he had the record of having been in more engagements than any other living officer of the army. Throughout his long career General Howard was noted for his profession of Christianity, being known in this country as "the Christian soldier" and abroad as "the Hero of America."

General Howard was born in Leeds, Me., Nov. 8, 1830. He was graduated from Bowdoin College in 1850, and four years later from West Point, receiving the degree of master of arts in 1853 from Bowdoin. Appointed to army duty, he served as a lieutenant, and at West Point, until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he was appointed colonel of the Third Maine Volunteer Infantry. At the first battle of Bull Run he commanded a brigade of New England troops, and before the war closed he had taken part in twenty-one engagements and risen to the rank of major general.

Distinguished always as a rigid disciplinarian, General Howard always found time for religious services, and his sincerity, though at first questioned in the Civil War, at last became understood and respected. Once he was asked by a civilian: "Is there not much prejudice among soldiers against the Christian in the military service?" "Oh, no," answered General Howard. "On the contrary, the soldiers, all things being equal, relied more upon the man who feared God and tried to keep his commandments. A man might be a professing Christian and yet be a weak, sniveling, good-for-nothing fellow, and they considered all such as hypocrites; but the man who loved and feared God did his duty better, kept his gun cleaner and minded his own business more, and did every duty with self-sacrifice and fearlessness. Because a man was a Christian he lost no credit either with his company or with his commander."

The kindness, firmness and fairness of General Howard impressed the Apaches with whom he had to deal in Arizona and New Mexico. When it was found necessary to treat with Cochise, the Apache chief, Howard would ask no one to undertake the dangerous mission, but, accompanied by only an aid and an interpreter, went himself, unarmed. He remained thirteen days, and by his tact and showing of a sense of justice made a friend of the bloodthirsty savage.

Many stories are told of General Howard's endeavors to make good Christians out of the soldiers of his command. He never failed to invoke the divine blessing at each meal, and he was a total abstainer from intoxicating drinks throughout his military career. "The true beverage of a soldier is cold water," he once said at a banquet in New York. "In this I pledge you."

HOW THE POLAR EXPLORERS TEST THEIR WHEREABOUTS.



THE SUN AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES. THE HORIZON.

The sextant, to which frequent reference has been made by recent polar explorers, is an instrument small enough to be conveniently held in the hand and is equally well adapted for measuring the altitude of celestial objects in order to obtain the latitude and local time or for measuring the angle between the moon and sun or the moon and a fixed star to ascertain the longitude. It is called sextant because the measure is recorded on an arc of 60 degrees, one-sixth of a circle. It consists of a frame, usually of metal stiffened by cross braces. The arc at the bottom of the frame is marked off with double the number of degrees actually measured. This is done because the fixed and movable glasses attached to the instrument give a double reflection of the objects observed and thus form an angle with reference to each other equal to only half the angular distance between such objects, one of which is seen directly and the other by reflection. The arc of 120 degrees thus records the actual angle.

Midway on the frame on one side is a telescope and opposite on the other leg of the frame is a glass transparent in the upper half and silvered in the lower half. Both the telescope (E-T in the accompanying figure) and the glass (H) are firmly attached to the frame. At the top of the frame is a mirror (C) which is movable by means of an arm (R-M) to which it is fastened. C is called the index glass and the arm (R-M) revolves around it. At M is a shifting scale for making fractional measurements and called a vernier. The observer takes the instrument in his hand and holds the telescope horizontally. Looking through the telescope he may see the horizon through the transparent surface of the horizon glass H. Then, if wishing to bring the sun into line, he manipulates the mirror C as a child handles a bit of looking glass for the purpose of catching the sun's glare and throwing it into the eyes of a companion. He turns the arm R-M until the mirror C catches its reflection and throws it back to the silvered surface of the glass H. When the sun is thus made to coincide with the horizon the section of

TAKING AN OBSERVATION. the graduated arc over which the arm R-M has passed indicates the measure of the angle in degrees which is exactly determined by the movable fractional scale of vernier. Arabian astronomers are credited with having used a sextant as far back as the year 995 with a radius of 59 feet 9 inches. The modern instrument was invented independently about 1730 by Thomas Godfrey of Philadelphia and Captain Hadley of the British navy.

Couldn't Say Anything. The boy had been repeatedly warned about running to the neighbors and had even that day made the best of promises before gaining liberty. Yet no sooner was the door safely shut behind him than he had disappeared like magic.

"Why did you go to Garner's?" demanded his father upon his return. The boy looked steadfastly at the floor.

"I am waiting for an answer." Still silence.

"Come," said his father, losing patience; "don't stand like that! Speak up like a man."

"Well," said the boy, raising reluctant eyes, "you've got me right where I can't say anything."