

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Trouble never comes singly to a bigamist.

The only people in France who take no interest in duels are the undertakers.

The south pole is no doubt beginning to feel as if it were already lashed.

Royal weddings continue, and the people of Europe continue to pay for them.

What has become of the man who used to say that his home was where ever he took his hat off?

Sir Thomas Lipton says that it is luck to be born poor. It may be luck to be born poor, but it is hard luck to live so.

The Kaiser's new Dreadnought is said to be so fast that she easily outdistances even the criticism of the Socialists.

The discovery that cancer cannot live in the same place with limburger cheese is of particular comfort to folks who have either.

Gypsy Smith's favorite song is, "Where He Leads I Will Follow." That's the one that made Edna May famous, and won her a rich husband.

"Is the college girl a mollycoddle?" the New York World asks. That's a question for some other fellow to answer. Jumping in where angels fear to tread is not a pleasant pastime.

A man who has been arrested at Yonkers, N. Y., for bigamy admits that he can't remember the names of all his wives. It is probable, however, that he could, if he were to meet them, truthfully say their faces were familiar.

A desire to enjoy the privileges of democracy and to be independent once in a while of the claims of royalty is the reason given by Princess Christian, the eldest surviving daughter of the late Queen Victoria, for joining a woman's club.

Captain Amundsen is going to start for the north pole, taking with him a food supply great enough to last seven years. He evidently is determined to avoid any danger of being doubted, when he returns, because of the speed he had to make in order to avoid running out of pemmican.

What this world needs is new and better men and women, who will find at hand all the religious help that is necessary without devising new systems of ethical culture. Not all men are intellectual Brahmins, who can feast their souls on academic ideals. Most of us need the personal help and sympathy of a Divine Being, who is to us a reality and not a theory of living.

Eight new sanctuaries for birds and animals have been set apart in the state of Victoria, Australia, by the government within a year. This is in addition to the ordinary protection afforded by law to kangaroos, platypus, magpies, laughing jacks and certain other animals, and is intended to prevent the extermination of native creatures. Several years ago a private citizen established a game sanctuary in South Australia, and the birds within it are now about as tame as domesticated chickens. A similar fearlessness of man is noted in the East African game preserve along the railroad on which Mr. Roosevelt traveled on his way to the hunting fields.

Paper of a stronger texture, something that will stand the test of time, better than that commonly used for legal documents and public records, is earnestly urged by a prominent official whose recent researches have impressed upon him the increasingly perishable nature of that now used. Undoubtedly his plea is well founded, and it might have been extended to cover the paper used in books and newspapers, that is, the books and newspapers which are worth preserving. As a matter of cheapness, such a quality of paper is now generally used that its lease of life is certain to be much shorter than that used in earlier years. Paper can be made from many different materials, and is employed for a multitude of uses; but principally it is used, and will continue to be used, as an adjunct of "the art preservative," and in this connection it is desirable that it be as substantial and durable as possible.

Interest in the Darien Canal project has lately been revived in Columbia. An engineer who is trying to get a concession from the government for the construction of the canal...

London seeking British capital for the enterprise. The recently appointed Japanese consul general in Bogota expresses an intention to co-operate with the engineer. Those familiar with the history of the Darien project will naturally infer that there is more international politics than canal building in the renewed discussion of it. The Darien route by the way of the Atrato River was explored by American engineers in 1857, in 1870 and in 1899, but the difficulties in the way were so great that the project was abandoned. It is true that Senator Hanna talked about this route during the negotiations over the Nicaragua and Panama projects, but it is generally believed that this was for the purpose of bringing the other negotiations to a successful issue. Four other general routes across the isthmus have been considered besides the Darien, Nicaragua and Panama locations. One is by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico, and the other three are in Panama: the Chiriqui Lagoon-Dulce Gulf route, the San Blas Bay-Bayano River route, and the Caledonia-San Miguel Bay route. A railroad has been built across Tehuantepec by Mexico, and the canal project there has not been seriously considered for years. The San Blas and the Caledonia Bay and the Atrato routes involve the construction of a tunnel, and have been rejected for that reason. The Nicaragua route is the only one which was ever a serious rival of Panama, and the United States would now be engaged on that project if the French company had refused to sell its rights at Panama.

In suits for divorce, as in other unpleasant cases, judges have the right by law to hear testimony in private in the interest of public morality. We do not know how far this wholesome law differs in different states. It must grant everywhere wide discretion to the judge and this may include power everywhere to suppress the decree as well as the evidence and to seal the whole record file so that it never can be examined by the public. That practice has prevailed in New York City for a long time, though it was not brought to general public notice until census officials sent by President Roosevelt to obtain statistics of divorce found themselves confronted in New York with sealed records in locked safes. These cases are invariably those of rich and prominent families, or persons possessing an equal influence with the courts. This is a shameful abuse for protection of privileged classes of a law strained from the original purpose of protecting public morals. It is one thing to prevent demoralizing recital in open court and another to cover up evil whose example would be wholesome to society. The cause of public morals is not aided but injured by allowing persons of wealth and station concealment of vices which are ruthlessly exposed when practiced by humbler persons. There can be no reason for this discrimination but some form of bribe, whether paid in larger fees for secret hearings, as direct honorarium to court officers or a tribute to the political organization by which they are controlled. Why should the Astor family be broken up in secret while the frailties of John Smith and his wife are exposed to the public and spread upon the record unless it is because they pay for the privilege? These secret records are kept with peculiar care and, like the secret archives of government, will make interesting reading for posterity.

**The Fighting Parson.**  
When the great-grandfather of the present Duke of Norfolk was engaged in any of his electioneering contests he was always attended by his chaplain, an athletic man and one who had made such good use of his hands on several occasions that he acquired the name of "The Fighting Parson." Mr. Dauncey, an eminent counsel, having once to examine him as a witness during a trial, asked "whether he was not the gentleman called 'The Fighting Parson.'" "I believe I am, sir," the divine replied; "but if you require any more positive proof and will do me the favor to step out of court, I will give it to you under my own hand." No further evidence was taken. —Bally's Magazine.

**The Idle Soph.**  
The psychology students of Harvard are repeating a new witticism of their brilliant teacher, Prof. William James. Prof. James, it appears, made this comment upon a very exquisite and idle millionaire sophomore from New York: "What time he can spare from the adornment of his person he devotes to the neglect of his duties."

**Where Thrift Fails.**  
Poor Richard had just written "For lack of a nail the shoe was lost." "Never mind," we cried, "perhaps a lie was lost, too."  
Thus we learn that thrift is not always desirable.—New York Sun.

Some people have better clothes than

## PEOPLE BURIED ALIVE.

Widely Prevalent Dread of Grewsome Accident Leads to Legislative Action.

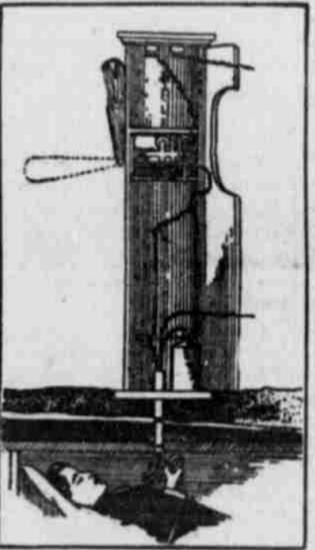
### INVENTOR'S SKILL AT WORK.

English Society for the Prevention of Premature Burial Extends Its Efforts.

Assemblyman Marks of Hudson County, New Jersey, introduced a bill in the house some time ago providing that all cemeteries shall be equipped with a receiving vault, the interior of which shall be in view of a person outside and subject to frequent inspection by a physician, the New York World says. In this vault bodies are to be kept until it is proved beyond any doubt that life is extinct. In the interior of the vault are to be placed mechanical devices which will enable the supposedly dead person to give alarm in the event of a return to consciousness. Somewhat similar provisions are contained in a bill introduced in the house at Albany by Assemblyman Redington. It provides that each cemetery shall have a mortuary to be used for the disposal of the dead. Each body so received is to be kept under observation for a certain period of time before interment or cremation.

This incident reflects popular apprehension concerning that world-old horror—burial alive.

While the subject of premature burial is a most distressing one, and one



THE GRAVE SIGNAL.

the details of which are better hushed and forgotten, certain occurrences occasionally arise serving to reawaken the widely prevalent dread of being buried alive. Medical science, the legislature and the inventor have endeavored to obliterate that dread by providing means whereby premature burial and its grewsome consequences may be effectually prevented.

#### Precautionary Society Measures.

The newest and most important organized movement to provide against premature burial has been started by the Association for the Prevention of Premature Burial, an English organization, which has been at work for the past twelve years. Preparations are being made to establish a branch of the organization in America, probably in Washington. Large quantities of literature dealing with the subject are being sent to medical societies and to lawmakers all over the United States. Statistics compiled by British medical authorities are presented, showing that out of a total of 384 recorded cases 149 persons were buried alive, 219 had narrow escapes, 10 were dissected alive, 3 had narrow escapes from vivisection, 2 were embalmed alive and 1 was cremated alive. Further attention is called to the fact that in the above figures the countless thousands of people who die and are buried alive and of whom there is no record have no part.

It is suggested that to this end waiting mortuaries, lighted and ventilated, furnished with pleasing surroundings and replete with every apparatus for resuscitation, should be provided by urban or rural cemetery authorities, where every person dying within their respective areas could be deposited until such time as the official death verifier appointed for the purpose certified that the signs of decomposition in the body warranted its interment.

It is the intention of the American members of the association to endeavor to influence legislation and to pro-

cure the enactment of a law which will provide every possible safeguard against premature burial.

**Machine to Determine Death.**  
Meanwhile, Dr. Vaillant, chief of the radiographic service of La Riboliere hospital, Paris, is experimenting with a machine which, he asserts, will provide an absolute test of death. It involves the use of X-ray photographs of the internal organs, which, Dr. Vaillant declares, differ in the cases of subjects alive or dead. Death falls show clearly in the case of a corpse, but not if life is present. Radiographs of bodies taken even a few minutes after death reveal clearly the outlines of all the organs, whereas, if the radiographs are taken during life the organs are not revealed.

At Pittsburg, Hubert Devan, a French-Canadian, recently announced the invention, now protected by patents, of a device which he calls a "grave signal." The device consists of a piece of ordinary gaspipe, six feet long, with a glass globe about the size of an incandescent lamp on one end. The pipe is arranged to pass through a brass plate at the head of the coffin, leaving the lower end within a fraction of an inch of the forehead of the corpse. Through the center of the pipe runs a plain, smooth stick, one end of which rests on the forehead of the body in the coffin; the other end is in the glass globe, with a red cloth attached to it. Should the person come to life in the coffin and stir, the stick will be forced through the pipe and the red-cloth signal will be displayed. At the same time a number of small apertures will open at the base of the globe and fresh air will be forced down the pipe into the nostrils.

#### USES CAVE AS DWELLING.

Fitted Up as a Modern Flat, With Water and Electricity.

One of the most prominent and successful farmers of Prairie Grove, Ark., who is an active member of the National Farmers' Union, has dwelt in a cave for years. It is probably the most palatial cave in the world, and is fitted up with all modern conveniences, including hot and cold water, electric fans, electric lights and steam heat. He discovered the cave at the top of a mountain, 1,700 feet high.

It is seventy-eight feet long by twenty-five feet wide and thirty-two feet high. The walls are of beautiful granite, which has been handsomely polished. The ceiling is forty feet thick. The front of the cave is of glass, which the owner and occupant, H. S. Mobley, put in, together with hardwood floors.

The fuel for the cooking range passes out through the mouth of the cave and extend outward a distance of nearly forty feet. Movable screens permit the increase and reduction of rooms of the pleasure of the occupants. A fine spring at the top of the mountain furnishes water through a private system of waterworks.

This novel dwelling was completed about two years ago. It is approached by a beautiful road ascending the crest of the mountain by easy stages, and the grounds about the cave are kept in perfect condition. The occupants declare that it is the coolest dwelling in summer and the most comfortable in winter, and they have no fear of cyclones, which are frequent in that region.

Neither heat nor cold penetrates the solid protection of yards of granite. Mr. Mobley says he will live in the cave for the rest of his life. The cave is in easy driving distance of Prairie Grove town.—Boston Traveller.

#### Cardboard Takes Quality of Metal.

An eighth-inch disk of cardboard revolved on the shaft of an electric motor of highest speed gets stiff, owing to the rotary tension, which makes it behave like metal, and it can no longer be bent. If struck with a hammer a sound emits like that from bronze. It easily saws a cigar in two, similarly as a disk of soft iron, when rapidly rotated, cuts through heavy armor plate. Centrifugal force does many other strange things. Among others, when a small chain is looped around a high-speed rotary drum the chain can be shoved off the drum to the ground, where it bounces up and when struck acts like a ring of solid metal.

#### Hank's Reply.

Hank Stubbs—I fixed one uv them air agent fellers to-day.  
Big Miller—How so?  
Hank Stubbs—Waal, he came sneakin' up to my front door an' ast me of the lady uv the house wuz in, an' I said no, but the gentleman uv the barn an' hoss stables is.—Boston Herald.

#### Very Cautious.

"You say she's a very remarkable woman."  
"I think so. She can play bridge with a poor partner without looking like a martyr."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

If you pay attention to a baby and let acts cross and mean, the mother is pretty apt to say: "Baby does not feel good; he has not had his nap."

## RECENT news item recorded the fact that two \$50 gold pieces struck from the United States mint at Philadelphia in 1877 had been sold to William H. Woodin, a coin collector who lives in New York, for \$10,000 each, the highest price ever paid for an American coin. If any reader cherished a vague hope of making large profits by gathering together his surplus \$50 gold pieces and selling them for \$10,000 each it was quickly shattered by the second paragraph of the article, which stated that though \$50 gold pieces were struck from octagonal private dies during the early mining days of California, the two \$50 gold pieces of 1877 now in Mr. Woodin's possession are, so far as is known, the only ones of this denomination ever coined by the government.

Since all dies for American coins are destroyed at the close of each year, they stand on the same plane as the ancient coins with regard to time. The supply cannot be increased, even though the demand be great, after the year is numbered with the dead centuries, though its successor be but one day old. Yesterday or yesterday is irrevocably past and forever gone as the years of the Roman Empire or the Greek Republic.

The science of numismatics embraces the study of the coins of all the nations of the earth who have at any period impressed upon pieces of metal—gold, silver, bronze, brass, copper, iron, tin—any device indicating that such pieces of metal were issued by authority for public use as money. Even in the primeval days, exchange of goods must have been known. The need for a medium of exchange would early be recognized. Various commodities have at different times been selected by different peoples as a measure of value. Tin was used in ancient Syracuse and Britain; iron, in Sparta; cattle, in Rome and Germany; nails, in Scotland; silk, in China; tobacco, in the colony of Virginia; sugar, in the West Indies; soap, in Mexico; bullet and wampum, in Massachusetts; codfish in Newfoundland. But the moneys of the civilized nations have for the greater part been made of gold, silver, copper and bronze.

In the long series of known coins, extending back to the seventh century B. C., savants have an invaluable confirmation and illustration of the history of the past. The earliest Greek coins bear sacred subjects only, on one side the portrait of the god, on the other objects emblematic or symbolic of the deity. The highest divine authority was invoked as testimony of the true value of the coin, which was perhaps struck off within the sacred precincts of a temple. From these coins is reconstructed the mythology of the classical world.

After the death of Alexander the Great his portrait as a deity appeared on coin of the realm, and from his period on a complete gallery of the portraits of the sovereigns of the ancient world as well as evidences of the history and political revolutions of its

numerous states and territories are found in these imperishable records. None of the older coins are dated, the practice of inscribing the date beginning in the fifteenth century. The ages of coins before that period are determined by their legends, as an averting to the page of corroborative history and the art era to which they belong.

In England, coining has been carried on at the Tower of London mint in every reign since the Norman conquest, except those of Richard I. and Edward II. Clipping was early practiced and carried to such an extent that in the reign of Richard III all money was called in and new money coined from fresh stamps. After that only the stamp of the London Tower mint was recognized. Henry VIII. was the first sovereign to systematically debase the English coinage. His daughter Elizabeth did her best to keep it at its face value. During her reign the tower mint was commissioned to receive all debased money, melt it and recoin it into money of the proper weight. The fumes from the melting coins caused sickness among the workmen. Medical men of the time prescribed for this illness a potion to be drunk from a dead man's skull, and an official warrant procured the requisite cups from London bridge, where the heads of traitors were displayed.

After independence had been won in America Robert Morris, financier of the revolution, was instructed by Congress to prepare a report on the foreign coins then in circulation. He accompanied his report with a plan for American coinage, and he may be considered the first to introduce the subject of a national mint in this country. The first building erected in the United States for public use under the authority of the federal government was a structure for the United States mint in Philadelphia, then the capital city. The mint in Philadelphia has always been regarded as the principal or parent institution, and coins issued from this mint are unmarked, while those coming from the branch or associate mints are marked by certain capital letters, indicating the city where they were struck. These marks are known as mint marks.

In the Philadelphia mint, which has a large and good collection of coins, are many old papers which throw interesting sidelights on the past. During the years 1797, 1798, 1799, 1802 and 1803 the operations of the mint were suspended on account of the prevalence of yellow fever. In the mint collection, written on handmade, unruled foolscap paper, is an indemnity bond signed by the workmen as a pledge that they would return to work. It is dated August, 1799.

In 1874 Congress passed a bill providing for the minting of coins for foreign countries. Two years later the Philadelphia mint filled an order for \$100,000 worth of minor coins for Venezuela. Since then the United States, competing with other big nations, has manufactured money for many of the Latin American republics, which find it cheaper to have their money made for them than to equip and operate a mint.

## DESIGN FOR TEAPOT HOLDER.

An attractive little holder for the teapot handle is both necessary and decorative and may be embroidered in colors to harmonize with the china and the decoration of the tea table. Cut two squares of linen and one of flannel four and one-half inches. Transfer the design on the linen and work in French embroidery, which is composed chiefly of satin stitch. The dots and figures on the wings, and also the head and body should be done in

sat in stitch; the outline in button hole stitch. Then cut out the shape of the butterfly. Trace the outline of the butterfly on the piece of linen which is to form the lining, and buttonhole the edge. Then cut it out. Cut a piece of flannel the same shape, but a little smaller, and lay it between the two pieces of linen. Baste around the edge to hold the three layers in place, then tack the edges lightly together in the buttonhole stitch. It may be easily taken apart for laundering, and will iron better than it would if washed all together.

**One of Them.**  
"My dear," Judge makes the caller say, with a smile, to the little girl who occupied the stery while her father, an eminent literary man, was at dinner, "I suppose you assist your father by entertaining the bores?"  
"Yes, sir," said the little girl, gravely. "Please be seated."

"She belongs to one of our best families." "Did her ancestors come over in the Mayflower?" "Oh, no. She's much more exclusive than that. She's a 'Daughter of Discoverers' of the North Pole."—Life.