

Topics of the Times

You will never be happy if you envy the happiness of others.

A minute of real work beats an hour's talking about it.

No umpire was ever mobbed for letting the home team win.

The coat may not make the man, but it often helps him to make a bluff.

If a man's wife cuts his hair he is entitled to a lot more sympathy than he gets.

One way to forget your financial troubles is to figure the cost of the Panama Canal.

The airship man declines to be called a chauffeur. He claims to be a professor of aviation.

Be particular in examining your \$500 bills. A dangerous counterfeit of that denomination is reported.

Emma Goldman makes it plain that she will not stop talking so long as there are any words in the dictionary.

The north pole, it seems, was located on the shifting ice. Every explorer must watch his own pole. No responsibility for lost poles!

Doubting Thomases who discredit Dr. Cook's story can ask Santa Claus for corroborative testimony when he makes his annual call.

The ex-Shah of Persia hints that he has been bunked out of his throne by Russia. But, alas, he cannot get even by playing the same trick on Nicholas.

Londoners are beginning to drink specially prepared sour milk to prolong life. Have the Londoners ever pondered on what fresh air and sunshine would do for them?

A Pennsylvanian named Kidd has named his youngest baby Orville Updyke. We can see the finish of that youngster when he ages a few years and gets out among the other boys.

Scientists say the north pole doesn't remain at the same place, but wobbles within a radius of thirty feet. Perhaps this accounts for the fact that it has staggered so many explorers.

It is expected that the next census will show a population of about 100,000,000 for the United States. The man who produces an article on which he can make 10 cents profit and which everybody needs knows what a population of 100,000,000 means.

The new McAdoo tunnels, now in operation, carry passengers from New York to the Jersey side in three minutes. The metropolis means to retain all the advantages of its island situation, and conquer, one by one, the long-endured disadvantages.

The Halley comet, after being invisible for seventy-four years, has been sighted by a Heidelberg professor, but people who do not possess telescopes will not be able to see it until next spring. It is sad to think of the many famous ones who will have been forgotten before the plain people get a look at the comet.

The first anniversary of the granting of a constitution was observed as a holiday in Turkey on July 23, and in Constantinople the Sultan reviewed fifteen thousand troops before the Hill of Liberty. The anniversary, coming exactly a century and a third after the notable July day of America, may mean as much in Turkish history.

A board of army officers appointed to investigate charges of hazing at West Point, has found that the practice still exists there, in spite of all that Congress and the War Department have done to end it. The investigating board has been asked to make recommendations for the punishment of the cadets found guilty. Nothing but the severest penalties will stamp out the evil.

In order to facilitate the work of employees, the Belgian postal authorities have suggested that correspondents use red envelopes for all letters to Brussels, yellow envelopes for country letters, and green for those addressed to foreign countries. In a country so small territorially as Belgium such a plan has obvious advantages. To make it work in the United States, it would be necessary to call upon so many shades of color that a color-blind post-office clerk would be driven to distraction in sorting the mail.

"Join a readin' club? Not if I know it! I ain't no woman of leisure with nothin' better to do than read books!"

Thus spoke the harassed, uneducated wife and mother, whose children were daily forgetting at home what they learned at school. "The most dangerous woman in a community is a woman of leisure. She tries to divert herself by taking up one fad after another, and while she proclaims her usefulness, she is really undermining the foundations of social order and wise charity by her follies, which she calls benevolences." So a trained worker among the poor set forth her irritation with the superfluous helper, who, having no business of her own, occupied herself with that of other folk. Both critics illustrate the prevalent misconception of the meaning and use of leisure. The woman they describe is the idle woman. She is truly the enemy of society. Whether she reads libraries of cheap fiction, or plays day-long games of cards, or purveys gossip, or champions "reforms" as foolish as they are noisy, the idle woman is a burden and a menace. On the other hand, every woman who orders her life well and wisely is a true woman of leisure. Without some space in every day uncrowded with duties or pleasures, there is no flexibility of plan and no repose of spirit. Without leisure to furnish elasticity and to make possible some ripening thought, a woman's life becomes either a treadmill round or a wandering butterfly's flight. Leisure is the synonym for reserve power. It fosters the sense of responsibility. It illumines dullness with humor. It restrains rashness and banishes pettiness. To be without leisure is to be without wisdom. Leisure sows the rare seed which idleness neglects, and even industry cannot gather the harvest which has not been sown.

Sometimes the newspapers announce in startling headlines that a lone highwayman has "held up" a train and gotten away with a fabulous amount of money. This fires the imagination of the criminally inclined and leads them to think that "easy money" may be had without work. But the fact is that very few criminals ever profit much by their ill-gotten gains. William A. Pinkerton, the veteran detective, declared, in a recent address, that no crime pays; that 95 per cent of criminals die in debt and frequently in want. And speaking of "hold-up" robbers especially, he says few are alive and out of prison to-day. The very limited number that are in comfortable circumstances are those who have abandoned criminal lines and taken to honest work. It sometimes happens that a man who has led a criminal life for a while reforms and after squaring himself with the law builds up a competence in some legitimate pursuit. This is partly due to the fact that a successful robber or burglar must be a man of more than ordinary nerve, ability and quickness. The same amount of energy and smartness and labor that he puts into his criminal enterprises would bring him a greater reward in some honest calling, with the added advantage of being able to keep and use what he makes. The ignorant, petty and clumsy thief usually has a short shrift. He is soon caught and put away. It is getting to be quite a general opinion among detectives and students of criminology that men who attempt daring train robberies and similar crimes are men of unsound mind, probably dangerous lunatics, as no really sane man would take the desperate chances involved in such an attempt. If such is really the case, it is all the more important that what few bank or train robbers happen to be at large should be hunted down and put where they can no longer endanger the lives and property of the public.

Buried Treasures.

- For me is buried treasure
By many a misty coast;
But ah! its tale and measure
Long ago I lost.
- Or if Phoenician mintage,
Or crusted bowls divine
That held Alcinoos' vintage
Or late Palerminian wine!
- If Egypt's jewelled scarab;
Or moonlight gleam of jade;
Or magic disk of Arab,
Or Scythian idol-blade!
- Or painted scroll or quiver,
Or Inca's gold-in-cave;
Or pelf from diamond river,
Or Grisamber from sea wave;
- Or, from Varangian barrow
Some amulet uncouth;
Or but this finessed arrow
From hilltops roamed in youth;
- I count my treasure buried
By many a misty coast
The vanished lives, as varied,
That long ago I lost!
- Whereof a cloudy token
Across my memory drives;
But no spell lifts unbroken
My many sunken lives.
—Edith M. Thomas.
- Occasionally a man is so absent-minded that he pays his gas bill the day before it is due.
- And the man you hate is usually a better man than you are.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

"TOWERS OF SILOAM LESS IN NUMBER."

By William Scott Palmer.



"Providence and prudence," said Swedenborg, "act as one." I see earthquakes and volcanoes, wrecked ships, innocent men suffering while the guilty prosper. I see microscopic parasites slaying their thousands and mosquitoes more dangerous than quick-firing guns. Disease, pain, misery, and the incidence of death, working by a grim law which is morally an indifferent chance, seem out of all connection with love or justice. My heart sickens as my mind's eye surveys the world where every living thing lives in some peril; and where the peril turns to disaster as that or this "tower of Siloam" falls without distinction upon young and old, just and unjust, valuable or worthless lives. Or so we say when the tower falls upon ourselves or upon those whom we love as we love ourselves.

Now and then something happens in the world to rid us of one of these dangerous towers, these indifferent agents of death or misery; and we breathe more freely. For example, malaria and yellow fever are growing daily less terrible, and whole countries over which that tower always shook and often fell are freeing themselves from a death that slew indiscriminately, unlovingly, unjustly. At least this is what men say of it when it smites them in some tender place.

There are not many of us, if there are any, who would be so foolish as to mark out the boundary beyond which our use and management of things will not be able to pass, and our skill and prudence will not be able to avoid catastrophe. Some of us even believe that we may come to use our world skillfully enough to ward off all disease and bodily pain, so that life will last much longer than it does now, and death come, for by far the greater number, in the way of old age.

WHO GAINS MOST BY MARRIAGE?

By Harold Owen.



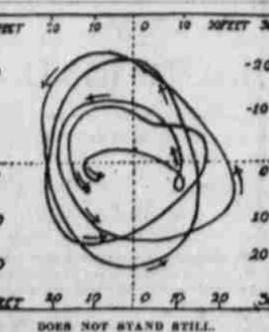
As to the comparative tribulations of the married state, does the man who marries give no hostages to fortune beyond those provided by his collaborator? Is it for his own selfish creature comforts that he bolts his breakfast, rushes for the morning train and stews in the city—all to earn an income of which he personally spends only a fifth or a sixth? Are dressmakers' bills merely part of his unholy, unselfish joy? Once a man becomes a husband, has he nothing to bear and forbear? Has the compound word "hen-pecked" crept uselessly into our language? Has no man's "individuality" been sapped or overwhelmed by an overpowering personality in petticoats? Though it be true that a wife has no "wages," is a husband allowed to husband his? Though a wife may be "a slave to her husband," has the converse

HOW THE POLE "WOBBLES."

Just to perplex Cook and Peary in their efforts to prove they reached the north pole, the scientists now soberly declare that the pole does not stand still. Instead, it moves frequently, away back and forth enough to perplex astronomers for more than a century.

The movement is very slight—never more than sixty feet—but even that little bit throws the exact mathematics of the heavens into error, and, of course, a north pole discoverer cannot attempt to say that he planted the flag exactly at the pole, when he cannot for the life of him tell whether the pole is where he stood or sixty feet away.

After years of observation of the mysterious movements from astronomical stations in all parts of the earth, the International Geodetic Association incorporated in its report a diagram showing the movements of the pole from 1895 to 1899. This map shows that the end of the earth's axis moved in curves and ellipses, one inside another, without seeming regularity. At no time is the pole more than thirty



feet from its normal position, and the diameter of its course is never more than sixty feet.

There have been various explanations of the movements of the pole. Edwin B. Frost, of the Yerkes Observatory, writing in the World To-day for November, holds that an adequate cause for part of the variations may be found in the movement of the ice, water and air from the pole toward the equator and its return.

Observations made simultaneously at Honolulu and Berlin showed that as the latitude at Honolulu decreased that at Berlin increased with the movement of the pole. The reverse also was true. This means positively that

phrase no sanction from experience? And though a mother be "a slave to her children," has a father no parental cares? Are there no households in which a father has to sink his "individuality" and preferences and wishes—allow his meals to be fixed, where he shall live, when and where he shall take his holidays and even how long he shall remain in harness—for the sake of the children? Is a "devoted husband" merely a contradiction in terms? As to the comparative losses and gains of entering the marriage state, does the man standing at the altar surrender nothing and incur no responsibilities from which he would otherwise be free, and does the woman acquire nothing but the burden of fresh duties and a gold ring of a somewhat monotonous pattern?

I apologize for the elementary and homely character of these interrogatories. But the fact that they arise out of a current controversy shows where that controversy is taking us. And so I put the question, as a matter for timely discussion. Who gains most by marriage, man or woman? And that question cannot be answered without answering the deeper question: "In the interest of which sex (apart altogether from the institution of home and the entity of family) is it most necessary that the institution of marriage should be preserved?"

SUPERSTITION IN EARLY ART.

By Dr. Paul Carus.

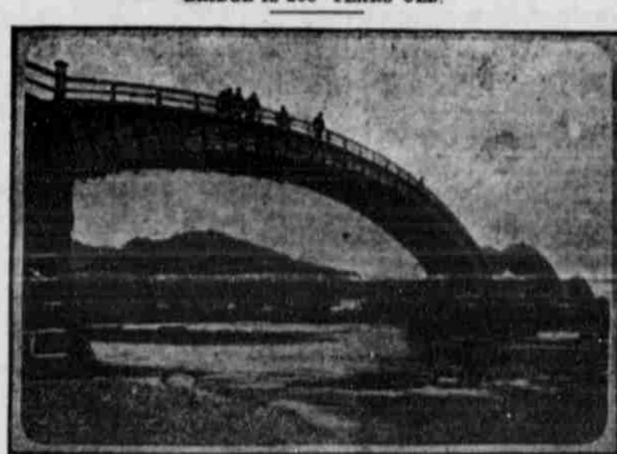


Physiologists are familiar with the fact that six fingers are sometimes actually found on one hand and that the peculiarity seems to be hereditary in certain families, but such instances are malformations and have not justified the theory that they are indications of a superiority of any kind. We have even an instance in the Bible, where a case is mentioned of a giant among the Gentile population of Palestine who was possessed of six fingers. It is reported that he was slain in battle.

Among the notions of the middle ages which are now almost forgotten was a belief that the faculty of prophetic dreams was a sixth sense, which was outwardly indicated by the possession of six fingers or six toes. No one except a searching critic may have discovered that Pope Sixtus IV., who is represented on Raphael's Sistine Madonna, is possessed of six fingers. Raphael was too great a painter not to be able to render this feature so inconspicuous as to make it difficult for a casual observer to discover the sixth finger on the Pope's hand, and yet it is plainly visible to everyone who takes the trouble to look for it.

The same is true of St. Joseph, who, according to the reports of the New Testament, receives his instructions in dreams. He accordingly is a typical example of a person who in all his walks of life is guided by divine commands tendered to him through dreams. He therefore is represented with six toes.

BRIDGE IS 200 YEARS OLD.



REMARKABLE JAPANESE STRUCTURE IS OF WOOD AND STILL SOLID.

The Iwakuni bridge, which is 200 years old, crosses the river Nishiki, in the province of Suho. This is said to be the only wooden bridge built in the characteristic style of old Japan now remaining, all the others being replaced by steel construction designed in the modern style.—Black and White.

there is a shifting of the axis of the earth.

A Japanese astronomer, Kimura, argues that the movement of the earth's axis and the pole can be explained by the theory that the center of gravity of the earth is not fixed, but moves backward and forward five or six feet every year. Mr. Frost thinks, however, that this explanation cannot be considered as established by fact.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Government's "Blue Book."

The United States official register or "blue book," which has been published biennially since 1817, was of over 4,000 pages in two large volumes in 1905, the Washington Post says. Before 1817 the germ of the publication had been appearing for over twenty years in the shape of simple lists of government clerks transmitted to congress by the secretaries, but in that year provision was made for issuing regularly a complete register. There was a time when the blue book was a convenient size for the pocket, though containing a full roster.

During Washington's administration the secretaries of state, treasury and war, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton and Henry Knox, transmitted the names of their clerks to

congress, and in 1793 Secretary Hamilton forwarded to congress a general list of clerks, agents and employes on the government rolls. This latter, being printed, was the first blue book or register. The government was then in Philadelphia, and in the three departments there were less than 150 names, two-thirds being in the treasury.

Resigned To It.

Taking oneself too seriously is supposed to be an American trait. At any rate, it is found in America. The late Edward Everett Hale, in "We, the People," cites a remark of Thomas Carlyle apropos of this habit.

Margaret Fuller had perhaps taken herself the least bit too seriously. She had said that she had determined "to accept the universe."

"She had better," said Carlyle.

Never Forget's 'Em.

"Maude is continually giggling. She seems to have an ever-present sense of humor."

"Not at all. What she has is simply an ever-present consciousness of dimples."—Boston Transcript.

The vices of New York, although so numerous and terrible, and never mentioned except during an election.



HOUSEHOLD TALKS

Effective Egg Beater.



An effective egg beater that is operated in a simple and novel manner is that invented by a Connecticut man. By merely pulling a flexible cord attached to the drum of the implement the blades are made to revolve both ways with great rapidity. The beater consists of a hollow receptacle with a drum inside and a step bearing in the bottom for the support of the revolving member. The blades are bent wires, as shown in the illustration. Around the top of the drum is wound a flexible cord. The eggs are placed in the receptacle and the cord pulled to its full length, this causing the blades to revolve rapidly in the mixture. The momentum thus gained causes the cord to rewind about the drum, and when it is again drawn out the blades revolve in the opposite direction and the cord winds up once more. This double action continues indefinitely, or as long as is necessary to operate the beater to do the work.

Stuffed Ham.

"For company," says the rule. In a cold-broiled ham make many incisions by cutting out small slices. Prepare a stuffing of half a loaf of bread, grated; all kinds of spices, a little more cinnamon than the others; a tablespoon of currant jelly; half a cup of walnut catsup; half a pound of butter and the beaten whites of three eggs. Mix, and press all that is possible into the ham. Cover it with the remaining dressing and brown. When cold rub over with the three yolks beaten with a little milk and again brown. Trim with green.

Veal Loaf.

Have as many pounds of veal as wanted (the leg is the best), ground with a little pork. To each pound allow one egg, well beaten; one-half teaspoonful of pepper, one of salt, two rolled crackers, a tablespoonful of flour, a tablespoonful of cream and one of butter. Season with sage or parsley. Mix all thoroughly, make into a firm loaf, and roast the same as other meats. If beef be used in place of veal add salt pork.

Artichokes.

Gather the artichokes two or three days before they are required for use. Cut off stems, pull out the strings and wash them in two or three waters. Have a large saucepan of boiling water, with two teaspoonfuls of salt and a pinch of soda. Put the artichokes in with the tops downward and let them boil quickly until tender. Take them out and lay them upside down to drain. Serve with melted butter.

Potted Eggs Tartlets.

Potted eggs will be found very acceptable, and they may also be used in tartlets or as a filling for sandwiches. In either case a little cream is a great improvement, besides giving a dainty finish. In making potted eggs use two ounces of oiled butter and three hard-boiled eggs. Pound them well together in a mortar and add salt, pepper and a teaspoonful of anchovy sauce.

When Cooking Vegetables.

Not every cook knows that all vegetables that grow under the ground should be put to cook in cold water. This includes potatoes, turnips, carrots and others. Those that grow on top of the ground, such as beans, peas, spinach and corn, should have boiling water poured over them. If left uncovered they will retain their fresh green look.

Neonlight Padding.

Mix six tablespoonfuls of flour in a gill of milk, then stir it by degrees into a quart of boiling milk with a little salt. Stir constantly and boil ten minutes. Serve it with sugar and plain cream, or a rich sauce, as preferred. This is not blanc mange, as the use of flour instead of corn starch gives it a much different taste.

Short Suggestions.

Keep all dry supplies in glass preserves jars—labeled. A good test for balmed icing is not to take it off until it pulls up hard from the bottom of the glass when put in ice water.