

Topics of the Times

The bill collector's work may not be very pleasant, but it has to be done.

Even in the case of a wheat crop it is better to wear out than to rust out.

Naturally, the Chicago counterfeiters who needed "dough" did their work in the kitchen.

When a man gets too lazy to enjoy his vacation he obtains his salary under false pretense.

The czar's baby has inspected the Baltic fleet, but declines to give his opinion of it for publication.

Every young man who cleans his clothes with gasoline does not get credit for owning an automobile.

It is now proposed to establish training schools for chauffeurs. It would be more sensible to start training schools for pedestrians.

Pointed shoes are coming back into style. This will enable the corn doctors to quit viewing with alarm and again point with pride.

The son of Tolstoy, the novelist, says that Russia is destined to conquer the world. Of course it will be necessary to conquer Japan first.

Miss Tarbell is now devoting her attention to John D. Rockefeller personally. It is unlikely that she will be able to get any of his hair.

A Wisconsin court has decided that a parent may hurt his boy's physique with a paddle, but must not injure his dignity. Most boys would like to have that decision turned around. The recovery would be sooner.

The reason most of us don't resign our jobs like Mr. Lorce is because through inexcusable carelessness in making the contracts we could not continue to draw \$75,000 a year and retain a \$500,000 cash bonus.

Ninety-five rich men are going to have a town of their own near Cleveland and permit only millionaires to live in it. They will need some vigorous watchmen to keep people from throwing stones across the line.

In Lhasa the Lama posted a proclamation on the walls commanding the inhabitants "not to hurt the British as long as they behave themselves." The Lama can now claim that he has established a protectorate over the British.

The United States bought Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000. What would Alaska be worth to Russia now, in her fight with Japan, at which her fleets could rendezvous and coal? As it is, Alaska has produced us \$100,000,000 and has furnished a market for millions of our products.

The German bands may disappear from the streets, but a successor to them is in training. Cries of "Hear! hear!" recently attracted the attention of the dwellers in a New York apartment house. A man with a megaphone at his mouth and a covered table at his side was soon discovered by tenants who crowded the windows and fire-escapes. When the audience seemed large enough, the man uncovered the table, on which there was a phonograph. A succession of songs soon edified the crowd, and the thrifty inventor of a new amusement gathered the coin tossed down to him, and departed for fresh fields.

Lynchings should be stamped out, North and South, East and West. The newspapers, the churches and all educational forces should unite. Laws can't be enforced with effect if popular sentiment is against their enforcement. Anti-lynching sentiment must be created by education. The pulpit, the press, the forum and the school are the institutions that can bring into existence a stable, earnest, law-respecting condition of public mind. The process may be slow, but it will be effective. The anti-lynching crusade should become a national rather than a sectional crusade. For, though it may be more prevalent in some sections than in others, there is evidence that defiance of law can become a national disorder.

Men who separate themselves from their families pay a very high price for success. Some of the very greatest failures in life in America in recent years have been failures of men whose lives and careers are blazoned abroad as those of great, successful men. Their sons are noted for their worthlessness, degenerate sons of worthy sires. These young men are unfitted to make a living for themselves and they are unfitted to spend the money which their fathers piled up with infinite pains and labors. In these cases it is extremely doubtful if the worth-

less sons are to be blamed; the fathers, the great, successful men, are primarily at fault because, though they made the money and a name, they did not give any time or pains or thought at all to the most important work in the world, which is the rearing of honorable and useful men.

Every autumn thousands play football; hundreds of thousands watch it; and almost all the participants and spectators enjoy it. The only cloud over the game is the belief which some hold that football is more dangerous than other vigorous sports. Anything is "dangerous" to which a greater number of accidents than occur in the normal course of life can be directly traced. The sailor pretended that bed was a dangerous place, because many people die there. A year ago a professor in Illinois University investigated the statistics of football in sixty American colleges, to discover whether the common impression about the game was well grounded. He found that in ten years, among two hundred and ten thousand students enrolled in these colleges, twenty-three thousand, or eleven per cent, played football. Of these only two hundred and sixty were injured badly enough to lose any time from classroom duties. Three were killed. In view of the large number of students engaged in the game, the professor considered the number permanently injured "so small as to be a practically negligible quantity." He finds that in all good institutions football is adequately supervised by the authorities, and that college officers approve the game in the ratio of twenty-seven to one. Finally, accident insurance statistics show that many other sports are more dangerous than football. The case for football rests on the broad reason for all vigorous, manly sport; young men take to such sport naturally, and they need it not only for their physical well-being, but for their moral steadiness. As President Eliot of Harvard has said, athletics are a moral safeguard in discharging the high energies of youth.

Have you a hobby of some kind? If not, get you one. What sort of a hobby? It matters not so it is clean and diverting. Golf, gardening, tennis, croquet, cooking, photography, wicket work or work bench, love or literature—one of these or of a hundred others may save your health. One who takes his business home with him and sleeps with it courts a break-down. He is putting crows feet about his eyes, gray hair in his head, stress on his nerves. He is carrying about a load, one end of which rests upon his brain and the other upon his heart. This sort of a man needs relaxation from his task and a change in the course of his thoughts. Without such a short mental vacation he cannot go to his work with that freshness that is demanded by our competitive living. Get a hobby and ride it some. It is not necessary to ride the hobby all the time. One need not become a crank. Put it through its paces when you are tired. The change will rest you. Ride it when you are blue. The color of life will change. Relax the bent bow so that it may go back with a snap. Note the optimists. Nine out of ten of them either have a hobby or were born to see the bright side. A hobby well ridden will clarify your vision and correct moral or mental strabismus. You can't ride your hobby cross-eyed. The trouble with most of us is that we do not see the need of a hobby until it is rather late to choose one. We are going to be happy—some time. We need a touch of Bill Nye's philosophy: "Enjoy life while you can, for you will be dead a long time." It is a pathetic fact that many of us are dead a long time before comes the holiday we had promised ourselves. Get a hobby.

Cactus Button of Mexico.
Certain of the Indian tribes of Mexico have a curious belief about the cactus button. This is a small apple of a certain kind of cacti. Before it is ripe it is plucked and pressed flat until it is about the size of an American 50-cent piece, but of about half the thickness. These cacti buttons are sold at quite a high price, because the plant is somewhat rare and is found only in high, rocky places, generally difficult of access. This cactus has the effect of leaving the most wonderful and rose-colored dreams to him who indulges in it.

The story of the Indians is that this cactus was once the food of the gods. The evil spirit stole it from men who had found it and begun to eat it. He did it in the steep mountains, where it was lost for many hundreds of years. But man, who was born with a taste for it in his mouth, never gave up the search for it until at last he found it. It still has the power to give one visions of heaven, its ancient home.

Sea Water as Antifat.
A new fad for reducing fat is causing a good deal of talk in theatrical circles. It is the deep sea water cure.

Any man who can successfully run an automobile, could do well with a flying machine.

THE POPULAR PULPIT



UNDER THE LOAD.

By Rev. Frederick E. Hopkins.
"Behold I am pressed under you as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves."
—Amos 2: 13.

If you have spent many days in the country you know how the prophet happened to select this illustration. There is always a strong temptation for a farmer to put one more sheaf on his load. But after a while he discovers that no one can do all he might like to do. The wheels have been sinking into the soft ground, and his big, splendid team may tug and do its best, but with all that, and with all of his pushing on the wheel, and useless whipping of the horses, and senseless irritation, he will end by recognizing the fact that there is such a thing as being too ambitious.

Now, this overloaded cart is like an overloaded life. We all cheer and honor progress. The greatest thing in the St. Louis exposition is the evidence of marvelous improvement and advancement in the last ten years. The whole world is not only wide awake, it is hard at work, and we are all thankful.

We have no patience with people who whine about "worldliness." We believe the talk about this "materialistic age" is greatly overworked. It is a species of unmanly drive and cant for preachers, deacons, and Sunday school teachers to be forever harping upon their false emphasis of the text, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God." As I read my Bible, when God fed his chosen people he gave them quail to eat because it is the finest bird that flies. And God helped Solomon make silver as common as stones in the streets of Jerusalem. But with all this encouragement we are not to overload.

In the city you have noticed how the merchant, anxious to market his goods, will put one box too many on the truck. The load starts off easily. The iron shoes of the team strike sparks from the pavement, and adjacent buildings jar under the tread of the wheels, and the head of the firm looks out through his gold spectacles and exclaims, "That's business." But around the corner the pavement is broken. There is a hole and the hind wheel of the cart drops into it. The horses are brought up with a jerk that almost throws the driver from his seat. With a red lantern tied to the pole the load remains there all night. The shipper missed his train, he missed his market, he missed everything that he aimed at. In the red light of that danger signal there is a good opportunity for us to read the lesson of the text.

And it goes a great ways toward proving there is nothing so much the matter with government, or politics, or religion. The trouble is life is overloaded. But if we thank God as we do for a load of prosperity, let us also be thankful for the compliment intended in giving us the load. It is in this light we should think of such texts as "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."

A load is always a compliment. God never yet called a Judas to any great work, because Judas is always weak. He does not want to be a disciple for the sake of filling the world with goodness and gladness, but for the sake of filling his bag. Of course, under any strain of self-denial, such a man would break down. The world has always turned to the busiest men in any community to get things done. Their activity is one way God has of indicating that they can be depended upon. It is a compliment, therefore, to have your name linked with theirs. If you are asked to carry a load, that is proof enough that you are good for something. You have strength, endurance, patience, ability, power, or you would have no trials or responsibilities. Do not fret then over a load of business or the load of family care.

Which had you rather be like—a certain fig tree the Master saw, green and promising on the hillside, but which he approached and withered with the hot breath of his indignation, because it had nothing but leaves, or like a man doing your best in a harvest field, loaded like a cart that is pressed, that is full of sheaves? Such a load is a means of developing our strength.

Many of the brightest saints the world has known owe their canonization not to the recognition of any church but to the discipline of the load of life. Just as when a horse is putting forth all his weight the driver throws a load on his back and the added weight gives him additional pull, so a cross laid upon us at a time when we think we are doing our best

and doing all we can is the thing that, in the providence of God, is necessary to bring the graces of Christian character to perfection.

God never overloads us. We do that, and if it is done in an unselfish and enthusiastic service for humanity it is commendable. There is no particular danger that many of us will suffer, however, in this way. The thing we are apt to misunderstand is the glory in carrying a load.

To every one on earth God gives a burden, to be carried down The road that leads between the cross and crown;

No lot is wholly free,
He giveth one to thee.

COMMON PEOPLE VERSUS MOBS.

By Bishop Fallows.
Professor Barrett Wendell of Harvard is quoted as saying: "Our cities to-day are governed by the mob, made up of all the lower classes. Abraham Lincoln certainly was of the mob, but he outgrew his class." It can not be proved that something called a mob rules our cities. All classes are represented in creating their governments. It is in harmony with dictionary definition to call all the lower and lowest classes of a community a mob. But the current meaning of the word is a rabble or a tumultuous coming together of people, whether high or low in social ranks.



BISHOP FALLOWS.

Abraham Lincoln was a farmer, a pioneer, a boatman, a rallsplitter. Are we to consider all that belong to these categories as a mob? Three-fourths of all our lawyers, judges, ministers, doctors, business men, college professors, etc., come from the farming community. Society, like cream, is continually rising to the top. The quality of the cream depends upon the richness of the milk. However, the richest cream of human society comes from the American common people. Abraham Lincoln, thank God, never outgrew the plain people from whose loins he sprang. He never forgot his relationship to them. He never would have been Abraham Lincoln if he had. The common people are the best people. They, as a people, did not crucify Christ. It was the men who claimed to belong to the upper classes, the classes of privilege and monopoly and intolerance and narrow culture that put him to death.

MORAL AND SPIRITUAL STRIKE
By Dr. Polhemus H. Swift.
Every sane strike is born of a desire to better conditions or to break the force of a trend toward worse conditions. There is a force that forever tends to drag men downward. There is a current that flows about our lives that is moving ever upward. As we face the moral and spiritual realm for a moment we see abundant reasons for a new strike that will be worth while. No soul is at a standstill. To be satisfied with ourselves is to yield to the downward impulse. Every man is conscious that he might have done better. There are some things that we ought to strike for and there are some that we ought to strike against with all our hearts. We ought to strike for a better experience, for a new birth from above, for a larger measure of power. God has filled this old world of ours with mighty forces. There is the might of steam, electricity, magnetism, falling water, chemical affinity, steel, sunlight and a hundred others. As men have ignored these forces they have remained savages. As they have appropriated and obeyed them they have marched with steady step to higher levels of civilization. God has not been less generous in the spiritual world. We can be strong if we will to break the downward trend that has touched our lives. Science says: "Obey the law of the force and the force will serve you." That law holds for every realm. Obey Jesus Christ and he will fill you with power to strike for better conditions or to break the trend that drags to lower levels.

DANGER OF IGNORANT PIETY.

By Rev. A. C. Hartzell.
The supreme danger of the church of Jesus Christ to-day, as always, is not from without, but from within. It is the danger of willfully ignorant piety. Ignorance that is humble and longs for knowledge has all the future of blessedness. But willful ignorance is always essentially narrow, joyless, un-social and cruel.

The only thing that can save us, and with us the world, is faith in the universal, joyful, social, loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Short Meter Sermons.

Love cures many of our likings.

The greedy church cannot grow.

Faith always puts its feet on facts.

Ayer's

You can depend on Ayer's Hair Vigor to restore color to your gray hair, every time. Follow directions and it never fails to do this work. It stops

Hair Vigor

falling of the hair, also. There's great satisfaction in knowing you are not going to be disappointed. Isn't that so?

"My hair faded until it was about white. It took just one bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor to restore it to its former dark, rich color. Your Hair Vigor certainly does what you claim for it."—A. M. BOGGS, Rockingham, N. C.

25¢ a bottle. All druggists. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

Fading Hair

Two Missouri Towns.

When the presidential struggle between Clay and Jackson was at its height it is related that a band of emigrants from Kentucky and the then other Western States commenced to settle on the north side of the Missouri River and called their county Clay and the county seat Liberty.

At the same time another lot of emigrants from Virginia and other Southern States pitched their tents on the south side of the Big Muddy and called their county Jackson and the capital Independence. And so it remains to this day. Clay stood for liberty and Jackson for independence.—Oak Grove (Mo.) Banner.

An Honest Opinion.

Mineral, Idaho, Nov. 14.—(Special).—That a sure cure has been discovered for those sciatic pains that make so many lives miserable, is the firm opinion of Mr. D. S. Colson, a well known resident of this place, and he does not hesitate to say that cure is Dodd's Kidney Pills. The reason Mr. Colson is so firm in his opinion is that he had those terrible pains and is cured. Speaking of the matter he says:

"I am only too happy to say Dodd's Kidney Pills have done me lots of good. I had awful pains in my hip so I could hardly walk. Dodd's Kidney Pills stopped it entirely. I think they are a grand medicine."

All Sciatic and Rheumatic pains are caused by uric acid in the blood. Dodd's Kidney Pills make healthy kidneys and healthy kidneys strain all the uric acid out of the blood. With the cause removed there can be no rheumatism or sciatica.

Some of the beauties of Persia decorate their faces by painting figures of animals and insects upon them.



Mrs. Rosa Adams, niece of the late General Roger Hanson, C.S.A., wants every woman to know of the wonders accomplished by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I cannot tell you with pen and ink what good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did for me, suffering from the illa peculiar to the sex, extreme lassitude and that all gone feeling. I would rise from my bed in the morning feeling more tired than when I went to bed, but before I used two bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I began to feel the buoyancy of my younger days returning, became regular, could do more work and not feel tired than I had ever been able to do before, so I continued to use it until I was restored to perfect health. It is indeed a boon to sick women and I heartily recommend it. Yours very truly, MRS. ROSA ADAMS, 819 12th St., Louisville, Ky."—\$5000 Forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

FREE MEDICAL ADVICE TO WOMEN.

Don't hesitate to write to Mrs. Pinkham. She will understand your case perfectly, and will treat you with kindness. Her advice is free, and the address is Lynn, Mass. No woman ever regretted having written her, and she has helped thousands.

MALLEABLE IRON STUMP PULLERS

Patent, lightest and strongest Stump Puller on the market. 112 Horse power on the sweep with two horses. Write for descriptive catalog and prices.

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