

Topics of the Times

Most men say they intend to do a lot of things they never intend to do.

There is a great difference between a straight stand-up fight and a cowardly hazing.

The cry of reform is too often drowned by the vociferations of those who want the offices.

Marshall Field was not the richest man in the United States. He was merely the heaviest taxpayer.

They are bringing out everything they can find against the Czar. He is now charged with writing poetry.

King Leopold has wedded a morganatic wife. Leopold isn't nearly as interesting as Pittsburg's upper crust.

The chorusless opera will doubtless be warmly welcomed by the wives of Pittsburg's young captains of industry.

Mr. McCall says he will start another insurance company. He has the capital and everything but the policyholders.

Insurance experts say Chicago is in danger of being burned up again. Perhaps they have been noticing some of the smoky chimneys.

"When war comes," says William of Germany, "I will lead the army myself." This looks like a back-handed one for Nicholas of Russia.

There are people of such sweet dispositions that they can see sermons in stones and good in everything. An Omaha writer rises to defend the Ben Davis apple.

Dr. Charles Elliot Norton believes useless persons should be put to death. Seems like a severe penalty to pass on men for sitting around whitening store boxes.

With a fine record in both the prize ring and the divorce courts, Mr. Fitzsimmons will feel more confident than ever that he has special gifts for the theatrical profession.

Secretary Bonaparte is determined to stop hazing at the naval academy. If he succeeds in doing it let us hope that he will generously place his formula at the disposal of the various college presidents.

One British Conservative paper lays Balfour's defeat to fear of American cotton manipulators. A certain section of the English press has not yet lost its habit of saying: "When in doubt blame the Yankees."

A New York banker says there will be a terrible panic unless we hasten to secure an elastic currency. People who wear their money below the garter will, however, be likely to cling to the opinion that our currency is elastic enough.

If the franking privilege cost the American people \$10,000,000 last year it is time something were done to stop the waste. This is a very large sum to pay, most of it to allow Congressmen to foist off on the people documents that most of them never read. There ought to be fewer documents and the country would profit both from its printing bill and its postal bill.

Almost anything is likely to happen to us if we just sit around and wait. The man who kills himself because he has lost all interest in life should always give himself six months more when he seems to be at the very end of his rope. In those six months it is within the bounds of possibility that his mine may begin to pay dividends, that he will find a \$10 gold piece on the sidewalk, that somebody will think he is a pretty good fellow and leave him \$10,000 in his will, that he will see a good dog fight or get a chance to beat the coal trust. Don't kill yourself. Wait!

The need of more men in the army and in the navy is attracting serious attention. General Mills, the chief of artillery, reports that, although nearly 44,000 officers and men are required to man the coast defenses of the United States, only a few more than 14,000, of all ranks, are available. The need of more artillerymen is especially pressing, for modern guns are complicated machines, a knowledge of which cannot be mastered in a moment. The same need is felt in the navy. The present complement—officers and men included—is only about one-half what it should be to man the ships properly in time of war. Seven thousand additional enlisted men alone are required. The need in the navy increases, of

course, whenever a new war vessel goes into commission.

Hardly any institution of the national government is of more importance or should possess greater interest than the Census Bureau. Originally a census was merely a count of the number of people, but gradually the scope of inquiry has been enlarged and extended, until now the bureau undertakes investigations into a great variety of subjects to obtain the facts which students of economical, industrial and social questions can make available in drawing useful conclusions. One recommendation of the director in his recent report is of special importance. He proposes that authority be given to him to collect judicial statistics. The facts to be ascertained are the number and character of crimes and misdemeanors that come to the attention of the courts, and the disposal of the cases. The offenses and the offenders would be classified, and thus valuable information would be obtained which would show the prevalence of crime at certain periods and in certain regions, and exhibit the progress of the communities toward better observance of the law, and better enforcement of the law.

Is Hetty Green happy? An eastern paper has devoted a page to a symposium of views on this question. Unfortunately, Hetty's own view was not included. The consensus of conviction was that she is an unhappy woman because she is so rich; that she is to be pitied because she lives frigid and alone; that she is mean because she wrangles with the grocer and washes her own clothing, and that she cannot be happy because she walks in "a vain shadow" and disquiets herself, heaps up riches and cannot tell who will gather them. The value of this decision depends entirely on the point of view. If a symposium of multi-millionaires should tell us that Hetty Green must be unhappy because she is rich, we should be bound to believe them, for from actual experience they would know whereof they speak. But the fact is that we hear precious few rich people complaining that riches bring unhappiness. So it is quite safe for us to guess that some people may be happy, though rich, just as some others may be unhappy, though poor. Is the scientist unhappy because he has made more discoveries than his fellows? Is the scholar unhappy because he knows more than the average man? Then why must the one who devotes his acumen and zeal to business be unhappy because they have achieved for him more than is gained by most? The money-maker finds his joy in his work, just as any other man does. Simply because he has emancipated himself from all reasonable physical want, it does not follow that he has got out of the game all the joy there is in it for him. It is unquestionably true that happiness is not proportionate to riches. It seems to be a law of nature that the men most endowed with the instincts through which money is accumulated are deficient in the higher tastes and generous impulses through which wealth may be enjoyed. We look at wealth from widely different standpoints. The money maker finds his enjoyment in the making of it; the miser finds his in the possession of it; most of us find ours in the spending of it. Then who shall say that, as the word "happy" goes, the one who has money and does not enjoy spending it is any less happy than we who enjoy spending it, but haven't got it?

FAMOUS OLD POLISH PALACE.



The old palace shown in the picture is the former residence of the Polish sovereigns at Warsaw. On the balcony of this historic building the last Polish king stood and saw the Russians under Suvarrow massacre 30,000 of his countrymen. During the riots in Warsaw the vicinity of the palace has been the scene of several bloody encounters between the revolutionists and the Russian soldiery and much blood has been shed within the shadow of its ancient walls.

Not Complete.

"Pshaw!" disgustedly exclaimed young Mrs. Mommer. "This is called an unabridged dictionary, but it certainly isn't complete."

"What's the matter with it?" demanded her husband, who was dandling the baby.

"It doesn't tell me how to write 'ootsumstootsums.'"—Philadelphia Press.

When a girl marries a preacher, she makes a match that pleases her mother a great deal better than it pleases her father.

FAMILY FORTUNES OF AMERICA.

Croesus Had Only a Tithe of the Wealth of Some Millionaires.

The great fortunes that have sprung up so amazingly in this country during recent decades to-day, in the opinion of many serious thinkers, constitute a menace to our national well-being, says Cleveland Moffett in writing of "The Shameful Misuse of Wealth," in "Success Magazine." Without these great fortunes there would be no reign of luxury in America, no flaunting of feasts and follies, no riot of extravagance; with them we may expect all the evils that have in previous civilizations attended upon enormous riches. And many of these evils, as we have already seen, are actually with us.

It is admitted that we are the richest people in the world to-day—the richest people the world has ever seen. The vaunted wealth of Croesus is estimated at only eight million dollars, but there are seventy American estates that average thirty-five millions each. As showing the rapid growth of individual fortunes in this country there is interest in a list of rich men—printed in 1855, according to which New York City at that time boasted only twenty-eight millionaires. And a pamphlet published some years earlier says that in 1845 Philadelphia could show only ten estates valued at a million or more, the richest being that of Stephen Girard, which reached seven millions. In contrast to which in 1892 there were over two hundred millionaires in Philadelphia.

As to New York City, the number of its millionaires, according to best information, is over two thousand, while the number of millionaires in the United States is at least five thousand or half the total number in the world. There is one family alone, at the head of which stands the richest and most powerful man in the world, John D. Rockefeller, and the wealth of this family is estimated at a thousand million dollars, a sum so huge that the human mind quite fails to grasp it; a sum so huge that if at the birth of Christ Mr. Rockefeller had begun making a dollar a minute and had let all these dollars accumulate day and night for all these centuries, he would not yet, in 1906, have amassed a thousand million dollars. And if Mr. Rockefeller should to-day turn this wealth into gold coin and take it out of the country, say into Canada, he would carry across the border three times as much gold as would then remain in the United States. Nor would he carry it himself, for the weight of it would be one thousand seven hundred and fifty tons. And if he loaded it on the backs of porters, each man bearing his own weight in solid gold (say 150 pounds), it would require twenty-three thousand men to move it. And if they walked ten feet apart the line of them would reach forty-four miles and would occupy fifteen hours in passing a given point. None of which takes any account of the daily interest on this fortune, which interest, if paid in gold, would require the strength of seven men to carry it, for it would weigh a thousand pounds. Such are the riches of a single family!

FORMS OF LEAVES.

Theory to Explain Outline Criticized by Botanist.

It was inevitable that a theory should be thought out to account for the varied forms and outlines of leaves, says the London Spectator. That which has found favor with many is as follows: The "simple," large, "uncut" forms are said to be those which grow at a height and lie nearest to the sun. The elaborately "cut" leaves and leaflets (such as those of ferns) are declared to belong in the main to plants of lower growth, which only enjoy the broken sunlight that struggles through the simpler foliage of the higher plants. This is ingenious; but it hardly corresponds with fact, as the reader may discover by noting the leaves growing in any English thicket. Take, for example, the foliage hanging over the thickly overgrown bed of a brook. Above will be the leaves (quite small) of the whitethorn and of the maple, the latter being the larger. Below these very possibly will be seen growing the large leaved wild guelder rose, the laurel and the bramble, and below these again the dock leaf, the broad butter burr and the arum.

In English woods and thickets it would be difficult to lay down any rule which would hold good generally for the place occupied by plants with leaves of different sizes. But the theory mentioned above does fit to some extent the facts in the position of grasses in a hayfield. There the smaller leaved pieces certainly do grow at the bottom, where the tiny meadow vetchlings and hop clovers and ladles' fingers, and other minor and sweet scented plants, of which the best hay is made, hide their minute and finely "cut" leaves among the bases of the taller grasses.

A Trifle Mixed.

Sister—How many times did you dance with Miss Flirt at the ball?

Brother—Only once, and that one we sat out in the conservatory.—Baltimore American.

RAN EMPTY TRAIN.

Not a Passenger from Jersey City to Pittsburg—Expensive Trip.

It cost the Pennsylvania railroad and the Pullman Palace Car Company \$125 on Christmas day to run a train without any passengers from Jersey City to Pittsburg. The train, the Pennsylvania Limited, one of the finest on the road, consisted of an engine, baggage car, diner and three coaches when it pulled out of Jersey City at 11:24 a. m. on Monday, and when it reached Pittsburg at 9:35 o'clock that night, the only passengers it carried were the three changes of Pennsylvania crews and the regular Pullman crew.

The run was strictly according to schedule, but not a ticket was punched, not a meal was served, or a piece of baggage handled. Nobody worked but the engineers and firemen.

Three cooks basted fowls and created good things in the culinary line for four waiters to serve the passengers who didn't come. A barber waited in vain for "Next!" and the Pullman conductor had plenty of time to admire his new uniform. All this cost the company, founded by the late George Pullman, good cash, and, as for the Pennsylvania, why, there were three conductors who didn't conduct, while twelve brakemen and three baggage-masters twirled their thumbs instead of lantern, flag or trunk. A lone stenographer had time to waste, and the wear and tear on the train, the equipment of which represented about \$45,000, kept on with every turn of the wheels.

It is doubtful if a railroad train ever made such a run before. Joseph Brown, the Pennsylvania conductor who had charge of the train from Jersey City to Philadelphia, said that in his forty-five years as a railroader he never remembered such an occurrence.—New York American.

Modern Advertising.

First Actress—Have you had your diamonds stolen lately?

Second Actress—No; I quit that several years ago.

First Actress—What's your game now?

Second Actress—Running down prominent citizens in my auto.

Hard Record to Beat.

Friend—Do you think that automobiles will eventually take the place of the railroads?

Auto Enthusiast (gloomily)—I hardly think so. The railroads killed 15,000 people last year in this country alone.

Scrofula

Few are entirely free from it. It may develop so slowly as to cause little if any disturbance during the whole period of childhood.

It may then produce dyspepsia, catarrh, and marked tendency to consumption, before manifesting itself in much cutaneous eruption or glandular swelling.

It is best to be sure that you are quite free from it, and you can rely on

Hood's Sarsaparilla

to rid you of it radically and permanently. Accept no substitute, but insist on having Hood's. Liquid or tablets, 100 Doses \$1.

Get What You Ask For!

There is a Reason—Why the Good People of America buy Cascarets as Fast as the Clock Ticks.

Every second some one, somewhere, is buying a little Ten-Cent Box of Cascarets.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6—60 times to the Minute, 60 Minutes to the Hour, 3600 Boxes an Hour, 36,000 Boxes a Day of Ten Hours, 1,080,000 Boxes a Month, and then some.

Think of it—220,000 People take a Cascaret tablet each day. Millions use Cascarets when necessary.

The Judgment of Millions of Bright Americans is Infallible. They have been Buying and Taking Cascarets at that rate for over Six Years.



It is not an Experiment, not an Accident or Incident, but a sound, Honest Business, based on Time-Tried-and-Tested Merit, never found wanting.

There is a Reason.

Cascarets are the implacable foe of All Disease Germs; the incomparable cleanser, purifier and strengthener of the entire Digestive Canal.

They Act like Exercise on the Bowels. Muscles, make them strong and active—able to Help Themselves do their work—keep themselves clean.

Cascarets are the safe-guard of Innocent Childhood against the Dreadful Death-dealing Dangers that threaten the Lives of the Little Ones.

They are Purely Vegetable, absolutely Harmless, always Reliable and Efficient.

Is It Your Own Hair?

Do you pin your hat to your own hair? Can't do it? Haven't enough hair? It must be you do not know Ayer's Hair Vigor! Here's an introduction! May the acquaintance result in a heavy growth of rich, thick, glossy hair! And we know you'll never be gray.

"I think that Ayer's Hair Vigor is the most wonderful hair-grower that was ever made. I have used it for some time and I can truthfully say that I am greatly pleased with it. I cheerfully recommend it as a splendid preparation."—Miss V. Brock, Wayland, Mich.

Made by J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Also manufacturers of **Ayer's** SASSAPARILLA, PILLS, CHERRY PECTORAL.

Sister Liked Him.

"Have you any reason to believe that your sister likes me, Willie?"

"Course she does. Just yesterday I heard her say, 'Nobody could help likin' the dear old easy mark.'—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

For forty years Pisco's Cure for Consumption has cured coughs and colds. At druggists. Price 25 cents.

A Careful Patient.

A woman whose throat had troubled her for a long time, says a writer in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, grew impatient at the slow progress she was making, and made complaint to her doctor, who said:

"Madam, I can never cure you of this throat trouble unless you stop talking, and give your throat a complete rest."

"But, doctor," objected his patient, "I'm very careful what I say. I never use harsh language or anything of that kind."

Marriage as an Institution.

The historical facts concerning marriage as an institution are probably only vaguely known to the majority of people, most of whom would doubtless be surprised to learn that the institution, as we know it to-day, is less than 500 years old. Histories of the marriage ceremony show that it was not solemnized in church as a religious rite until the time of Pope Innocent III., A. D. 1198, and was not considered a sacrament until 1443.

An Intricate Problem.

Mrs. Kbrown—That conductor insulted me.

Mr. Kbrown—How?

Mrs. Kbrown—Wanted me to pay fare for Tommy.

Mr. Kbrown—Well, Tommy is quite a chunk of a lad. He looks—

Mrs. Kbrown—And you, too? Do you mean to insinuate that I look old enough to have a child old enough to pay car fare?—Cleveland Leader.

a true, faithful, loyal servant of Mankind. Over Five Millions of Dollars have been spent to make the merits of Cascarets known, and every cent of it would be lost, did not sound merit claim and hold the constant, continued friendship, Patronage and Endorsement of well-pleased people year after year.

There is also a Reason—

Why there are Parasites who attach themselves to the Healthy Body of Cascarets' success—imitators, Counterfeiters, Substitutes.

They are Trade Thieves who would rob Cascarets of the "Good Will" of the people, and sneak unearned profits, earned and paid for by Cascarets.

A Dishonest Purpose means a Dishonest Product and a Disregard of the Purchasers' Health or Welfare.

Beware of the Slick Salesman and his ancient "Just as Good" story that common sense refutes.

Cascarets are made only by the Sterling Remedy Company, and the famous little Ten Cent "Vest Pocket" box is here shown. They are never sold in bulk.

Every tablet marked "CCC."

Be sure you get the genuine.

FREE TO OUR FRIENDS!

We want to send to our friends a beautiful French-designed, GOLD-PLATED BONBON BOX, hand-colored in colors. It is a beauty for the dressing table. Ten cents in stamps is asked as a measure of good faith and to cover cost of Cascarets, with which this dainty trinket is loaded. Send to-day, mentioning this paper. Address Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago or New York.