

Topics of the Times

It isn't as long a time between earthquakes as it used to be.

If ever the "earthquake proof" house is solved it will be built of rubber.

"Lobsters are scarce," says a dispatch from Bangor, Maine. Happy Bangor!

An excellent way to dispose of the man with the muck rake would be to get rid of the muck.

The muck rake, however, is a useful implement in its way. It is the man behind the rake that the President is after.

Now ariseth the fear that a lock canal in Panama might be unlocked with disastrous effect by an earthquake.

One man killed an enemy by putting poison in a mince pie, just as if mince pie without poison was not deadly enough.

The Supreme Court decision concerning divorces has given Newport society something besides monkey dinners to think about.

Nikish is said to demand \$50,000 a year as leader of the Boston Symphony orchestra. This is not a case of "art for art's sake."

One of the Sunday papers contains an article on "The Passing of Poker." The article may have some historical value several thousand years hence.

Numerous office boys who lost their grandmothers on the opening day of the last baseball season are reporting other relatives in a critical condition.

Like as not, if you were to attempt to explain to a woman the wave-motion theory of earthquakes she would think you were talking about hair dressing.

That Los Angeles surgeon who has restored the reason of a mental incompetent by an operation ought to find a big field of usefulness in Washington.

John L. Sullivan is alleged to have offered Dowle \$1,000 a week to appear with him in a vaudeville "turn." They might do well as the Havebeen Brothers.

The study of Jiu-jitsu has been abandoned at Annapolis, presumably because the young gentlemen at that institution can't bear to be rude to each other.

One of Dame Fashion's latest decrees is that ladies must carry their pet dogs in cunning little satchels, made for the purpose. Ladies who take pride in their pet dogs will, of course, cheerfully obey this command. Meanwhile the nurses will make such provisions as they please concerning the babies.

A London woman died recently from the effects of tight lacing. Advocates of the corset will, however, set up the claim that her stays might have saved her life if somebody had shot at her and the bullet had glanced from one of the steel ribs of the contrivance that she wore for the purpose of making her seem small-waisted.

The President says that men of wealth who run their business with a cynical contempt for the restrictions of law are a menace to the community and that the nation is in need of high ideals. A very good way to establish these high ideals would be to put into jail a few of the prominent offenders guilty of this menacing contempt. Ideals can not be established and maintained without action, and vigorous action at that. There is now a good chance to bring this contempt to book and make the law restricting the selfish operations of great wealth and greed more than a mere dead letter.

The world will read with amused interest the broadly heralded statement that the wife of a multimillionaire has recently traced her ancestry back to the twelfth century and simultaneously has discovered that the blood of kings flows in her veins. Pride of birth is commendable where it is not offensively exploited. It is a worthy boast that one is a descendant of those who fought to form or fought to save this Union. Besides it is a pedigree that is easily established. It is different in the case where one seeks to prove a descent from ancient and noble forbears, although it is comparatively easy when the notorious fact is recalled that for liberal considerations European experts will prepare a pedigree, whether the beneficiary be a rat-trap peddler or railroad magnate, that

will stand the test of casual examination.

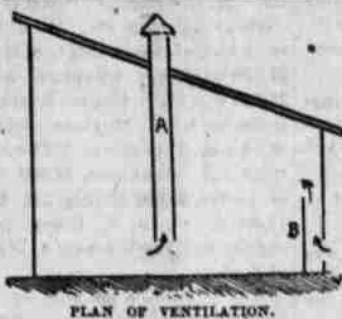
From factory and office up to college and church the cry is for the young man. The world is his to do with as he sees fit. The young man of to-day is master of a business at an age when his grandfather had scarce finished an apprenticeship. Universal education and quick and cheap communication bring to the young man now a practical grasp of affairs which only long years of experience could give to our fathers fifty years ago. This is very well to know, if the young man will also keep in mind the fact that he will not always be a young man. In the same degree that he has opportunities when he is young he will be deprived of them when youth is gone. It behooves him, therefore, to provide against the enforced retirement that awaits him just at the time when he may begin to feel that his experience fits him for the best work. If he is past 20 he must get rid of the notion that he is "preparing" himself for life. It matters not who he is or what he is, he is living his life more tensely and more decisively in all probability than he will ever be doing at a later period. If the young man is waiting for some rich relative to die and leave him capital with which to start into business "right," he had better realize that the only way to start into business right is with his two hands, and that the best capital nowadays is a combination of industry, sense, pluck and application. The young man who has this capital needs nobody's money. He who has it not would not succeed if he had a dozen fortunes as a foundation. Money today does less for a young man who will not also do for himself than it ever did before in the world's history. Money, lands, property and all that form a smaller part in human life today than ever before. Time was when these things comprehended almost all that men knew about or strived for. But the field of aspiration, of effort and of accomplishment has immeasurably broadened and will continue to broaden as man develops. There is no man on this earth so afflicted, so narrowed by environment but that there is a field of success for him. And the time to find it and fill it is in youth.

Wholly irrespective of its effectiveness as a matter of law, the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in regard to divorce is hailed with delight from one end to the other of this country. The amount of embarrassment that it will occasion was greatly exaggerated at first, as was quite natural, but a little reflection shows that no great commotion will be occasioned. Obviously no marital relations can be affected unless they get into the federal courts, and this can happen only at the suit of parties in another State or by some suit involving the interpretation of the United States constitution or statutes. This can hardly happen except in connection with inheritances and inheritances are easily superseded by wills. Nine-tenths of the people who are technically involved will never experience any trouble and most of them will never hear of the decision. The important thing about this decision is its moral influence. It is like a thunder-clap and a lightning stroke from a clear sky. The loftiest tribunal in the land utters a scathing denunciation of the overgrown divorce evil and the great heart of the nation utters a loud "amen." Deep calls unto deep in a hearty condemnation of a great moral wrong and immediately there is heard on every lip a demand for legislation that will make the decision a national law. The habit of divorce is entirely a cultivated habit. Fifty years ago there were almost no divorces and married people were much happier than they are now. Even now there are no divorce laws in South Carolina, and unless the married people of that State are made restive by the evil in other States no doubt they are the most contented married people in this country. It is because the divorce laws excite unrest where there was none before that the evil has reached its present proportions. The divorce habit is like "the beginning of strife," which Solomon says is "as when one letteth out water." The simile is drawn apparently from a leak in a levee. It is scarcely perceptible at first, but it grows with alarming rapidity, and after a while puts all restraint at defiance. Have we got that far with the divorce evil? Obviously if we are ever to be delivered it must be by the opposite process. There seems to be an established proportion between supply and demand in divorces, just as there is in merchandise. We have been overwhelmed with the demand on account of the bountiful supply provided by unwise legislation. If this demand is ever to be lessened it must be by shutting off the supply. No doubt the more difficult divorce becomes the more peaceable, the home will be and the fewer will be the divorce suits.

When a man loves a woman more than tongue can tell all he has to do is let her get a glimpse of his pocket book.



Ventilation of Farm Buildings.
There are no small buildings on the farm that cannot be amply ventilated by the simple plan here described. Generally such buildings are of the single or sloping-roof sort so that the plan can be carried out at small expense. In the rear of the house, near one corner, build an air shaft, made by joining at the edges four boards about eight inches wide. Set this into the ground or fasten to the floor if of boards so that it will be firm. Have it open at the top, of course, and make it three or four feet high. In the side of it, next to the wall of the building and about a foot up from the floor cut out a piece so as to have an opening the width of the board and about six inches the other way, and in the side

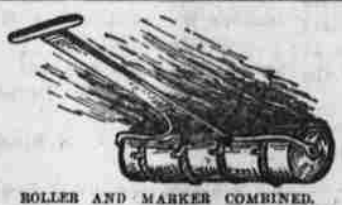


of the building opposite this hole in the shaft cut a hole of corresponding size. Cover those two holes as well as the hole in the top of the shaft with wire netting so that no bird or small animal can get in.

This is the shaft by which the air enters the building. Then build another shaft long enough to reach the floor up through the roof so that it will come out through the roof a foot or fifteen inches. The top of this shaft must be capped so that the opening will be protected from rain. The lower end is to be covered with wire netting. Fasten this firmly at the roof end and with corner supports to the floor at the bottom. The plan is simple, easy to construct and works splendidly. It is particularly good for ventilating poultry houses. In the plain illustration A represents the shaft through which the foul air passes and B the shaft through which the fresh air enters.

A Barrel Cucumber Garden.
An interesting form of backyard gardening is raising cucumbers in barrels. An old sugar barrel without heads will answer. Get several of them and saw them in two, setting the halves according to the space available, about twelve feet apart. Drive a stake through the center of the barrel to hold firm during storms and fill the half barrel with manure. Plant four hills of cucumbers around the inside of each barrel and make a kind of trellis in the shape of the letter H out of laths, one trellis for each hill, one end to rest on the top of the barrel. The vines may be readily made to run over the barrels and trellis, making a very attractive and luxuriant appearance, and producing immense quantities of cucumbers. The crop will be greatly increased if the vines are thoroughly soaked during the dry weather.

Combined Roller and Marker.
A neat attachment to a garden roller is the following: Bore holes eight inches apart lengthwise and put in



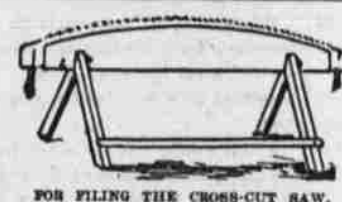
pins. To mark the garden make these pins each hold a small rope, encircling the roller by driving them into the holes beside the ends of the rope. More than one row of holes can be used to change distances. Tack strips lengthwise of the roller to mark places in row for setting plants.

Seed Testing.
The bureau of plant industry is doing a good deal of seed testing this spring owing to the reports published in regard to widespread adulteration. Special attention is given to testing samples of alfalfa seed for fodder. Many other seeds come in for careful examination as to purity but testing for germination does not receive so much attention. This is a branch of seed testing that can be better attended to by the farmer himself and it is something that every farmer should be intensely interested in.

Growing Black Raspberries.
The amateur who wishes to try berry growing will find the black raspberry a good plant to begin with. The raspberry is in all probability the most honest of berry growing plants. There is no waste, the berries are uniform in size, and as soon as gathered they are ready for the table, or for preserving. A plantation of this fruit, once established, should last six or eight years. It will grow in almost any soil except a very stiff clay, or one that is so poorly drained that the water stands on the soil for some time before being drained away. It is a heavy feeder, so its soil must be fertilized every year or two to keep up its maximum productivity.

A northern exposure is best for the plant, for it suffers from extreme heat, and the direct rays of the sun, more than from extreme cold weather. A sloping ground is preferred to either the summit or base of a hill. The black raspberry is propagated by burying the tips of the canes about August. Simply dig a little hole with a spade, and bend the cane so that the tip will lay in the hole, then cover it with soil and press it down. The weight of the soil will usually hold the cane; if not a small peg may be used. In the fall a young plant with a mass of roots will have been formed. The old cane may be cut away and the young plants will be ready for setting out. In most cases it is well to let the young plants remain until spring before transplanting. Proper attention should be given to pruning raspberries. Canes of the first season produce fruit the following season, but after bearing they may be cut away.

Hold Cross-Cut Saw to File.
Take two pieces of one-inch board (hard wood is best), wide as saw in widest place, and as long as the saw between the handles. Shape the boards with a "billy" like the cutting edge of saw. Lay your saw on one of these boards with the teeth above the board enough to file nicely, and straddle the saw with a pair of six-inch strap hinges, near the ends of the boards. Now open the hinges and remove the saw, and mark around the hinges to show where to let them in the board the thickness of the hinge. Fasten hinges to this board, and then to the other board in the same manner. Now you have a pair of jaws in which your saw will rest on its back, permitting the teeth to come above the edge of the jaw to file. Bevel edge of boards. Now



get two legs for each board, of 2x4, or sticks from the woods, as I did, and bevel to stand like legs of a sawhorse, and long enough to stand up to file easily. Fasten your jaw boards to these legs, from inside of jaws, with screws or wire nails. Fasten a strip across two of the legs at the bottom to put your foot on while filing to help to keep the horse steady. Put in your saw and pull out on the legs to tighten the jaws on the saw.—Farm Progress.

Notes for the Bee Keepers.
Bees, like men, are good-natured when they are making headway in providing for the future. This accounts for the different receptions given to an intruder at different times.

Beehives are now so constructed that they may be opened and their contents removed or changed about and examined without materially interfering with the action of the bees. They frequently continue their labors even when the comb is held in the hand of the beekeeper.

Honey is always a ready seller and the price per pound averages anywhere from 12 to 20 cents, depending upon the locality and quality. A good hive of bees in the average locality will produce about seventy-five pounds of honey per year and pay 50 per cent on the investment of the first season. Get posted on beekeeping if you seek a pleasant and profitable occupation.

It is claimed that a strong colony of bees is the best preventive against moths.

Any one who doubts that there is money in beekeeping need only look up statistics on the honey crop of the United States to find out what a great marketable article honey is. In the year 1900 the total amount of capital invested in bees in the United States was \$10,186,000. The returns from the national honey crop that same year were \$6,695,000, a dividend of 65 per cent on the amount invested. What other crop pays this rate of interest?

ODD WATER WHEELS.

Some Float on Streams—Huge Ones Make a River Lift Itself.

The people of Syria and Tiflis make their streams do things that Americans do not seem to have learned the secret of persuading the water courses of this country to perform, says the New York Tribune.

At Tiflis the natives have learned how to utilize the power of the current of the River Kur without building dams. What they have accomplished possibly might be done by an American farmer living on the banks of a rapidly moving stream and desiring a small, cheap power. The Caucasians build floats on the surface of the river. Into them are set water wheels. The whole affair is fastened to the bank in such a way that it will rise and fall with any change in the level of the surface of the river, so that the power is about constant all the time.

In Hama the ancient "entering in of Hamath," the Syrians have accomplished a feat that makes one think of lifting one's self over a fence by tugging at one's boot straps. They have harnessed the historic Orontes, or Nahr el Asi, as the Syrians call it, into the work of lifting itself many feet toward the south and trained it thus to water their fruitful gardens and orchards.

As for size the water wheels which do this work are as to other water wheels what Niagara is to other waterfalls. As one stands by one of these great wooden frames revolving upon its wooden axle and looks up at its perimeter forty feet above one thinks it large and is astonished when he turns his gaze upstream to see that relatively it is not a great wheel, for in the distance looms up one sixty feet in height. Even then he is not prepared for the spectacle of one ninety feet in diameter, grunting around on its cumbersome axle just outside the town.

Life in Hama for some people is like the liking of others for olives, an acquired taste, because of these very water wheels. According as one feels about it, it is a musical city or one filled with nerve-racking groans. Day and night without ceasing these massive slow revolving structures utter speech. For those who have acquired a taste for their companionship the never-ceasing tones are soothing, reminding one of ocean roar or a slow fugue played on some cyclopean organ. The diapason tones are deeper and louder than the deepest organ stop. Now they are in unison, now repeating the theme, one after another, now for a brief moment in a sublime harmony never to be forgotten, according to one traveler, then once more together in a tremendous chorus. The sounds are described as a slow movement up the scale, followed with a heavy drop to the keynote as: Do mi sol, do do do; do sol la, do do do. This unceasing Sisyphian music, it is said, has been going on for a century at least.

ACTRESS HALF A CENTURY.

Ellen Terry is still the idol of the British play-going public, which recently celebrated her fiftieth artistic anni-



ELLEN TERRY.

versary with a huge banquet to her. The great actress' first appearance on the stage took place on April 28, 1856, when she played the little Mamilus in "The Winter's Tale" at the Princess Theater, London. She was then 8 years old. The fact that she is now a grandmother has not affected her popularity, nor her remarkable vivacity nor her popular title of "Miss."

A Flat Sort of Existence.

"I suppose you are getting thoroughly 'city broke' now that you've moved to town and are living in a flat?"

"Yes, we're getting city broke fast enough and Henry says it's only a question of time until he'll be flat broke, too."—Kansas City Times.

Financial.

Mrs. Watkins—Henry, I want a dollar this morning.

Mr. Watkins—Great Caesar, woman! Do you think I am made of money? When you want large amounts, you ought to let me know twenty-four hours in advance."—Somerville Journal.

After a woman passes forty, all the compliments she gets about her looks are from women who don't mean them, and from drunken men.