

Topics of the Times

Poor little infant Cuban republic! It died teething.

Never call a man a bad egg unless all possible tests prove him to be hopelessly bad.

The farm is the place for safety. Every man who is able should provide himself with a farm.

"Do your meals fit?" a writer asks. No, they are generally either a little to skimpy or else too full in the waist.

Everybody in Cuba except the persons who are holding the offices seems to want the United States to intervene.

Marie Corelli vows that she loathes America. This settles it. We are going to admit that Hall Caine looks like Shakespeare.

There is one argument in favor of spelling reform that its advocates seem to have overlooked. The English are opposed to it.

Naturally the dialect writers are opposed to the general adoption of the simplified form of spelling. It would kill their business.

In England a widow named Huggins is suing a tradesman for breach of promise. Probably trying to squeeze him for all she can get.

According to a New York newspaper, "the new alcohol will stimulate trade." The old kind, however, will continue to paralyze people.

"Thoroughly" is another example. It is a word that "conveys too large an idea" to be expressed adequately by such a shabby, sorry, ill looking monstrosity as "thoroly."

The Argentine Republic intends to invest \$20,000,000 in war ships. It may soon be time for some other great power to make a hasty purchase of war ships in South America.

If the Nestor of American humorists is in earnest in advocating the new orthography he ought not to spell his name "Samuel Langhorne Clemens" and pronounce it "Mark Twain."

Notwithstanding the fact that 4,865 persons were killed while walking on the railroad tracks in this country in 1906, there are still plenty of theatrical people taking that form of exercise.

The Indian who has just wedded Mary Kick-a-hole-in-the-sky and acquired a mother-in-law Afraid-of-no-man may soon be in a position to understand why marriage is often a failure.

Under the grant of liberties lately made to Finland, the right of suffrage was conferred on women. A few weeks later the legislative council of Victoria, Australia, rejected for the fourteenth time a proposition to permit women to vote. This is one of the differences between autocratic Russia and a democratic British colony.

American men, and especially Kentucky men, have always been noted for their appreciation of American women and their gallantry to them. Now they have their reward. Thirty-six Kentucky "schoolma'ams," who spent the summer traveling on the continent, remarked, when they set foot upon their native soil again, that as compared with the Americans the men of Europe are "a most ornery-looking and ornery-acting lot." The girls seem to have accomplished Burke's impossibility of indicting a whole people.

Pennsylvania may now be ranked with those States which have secured new capitol buildings erected within the amount appropriated. The new capitol in Harrisburg was turned over to the building commission by the contractors four months ahead of the date on which it was to have been finished. The cost of the building is \$40,000 less than the amount appropriated. The building itself is a splendid pile of granite, covering two acres of ground and surmounted by a dome 292 feet high. The State has followed the example set by the nation in the Congressional Library in Washington, for the original appropriation included several hundred thousand dollars to be spent on interior and exterior decorations by noted American painters and sculptors.

Co-operation in the vending of agricultural products has made some progress in this country; for example, in co-operative creameries; but the idea has not gone as far in practice here as in European countries. In Denmark three-quarters of the million cows are owned by farmers who are associated

in the thousand or more co-operative creameries, and many bacon-curing establishments are organized on the co-operative system. Holland has a federation of co-operative dairies organized under royal patronage. In Siberia there are more than two thousand societies of farmers, which not only sell produce, but promote irrigation plans and other agricultural activities and buy implements, fertilizers and other farm supplies at wholesale. The development of the granges in America has been accompanied by some effort at economical co-operation, but so far this form of union has not made great progress, owing perhaps to the fact that prosperity has rendered such devices of economy less necessary here than in Europe. The fact that the farmers are scattered over a vast territory has also stood in the way of widespread co-operation.

Atherton Brownell contributes an article entitled "The Commercial Annexation of Cuba" to Appleton's Magazine, the facts and figures in which are of special significance in the present Cuban crisis. It shows that the interest of the United States in Cuba is different in the year 1906 from what it was in 1898. Up to the earlier year American interests had invested in Cuba about \$80,000,000, principally in sugar and tobacco. As much more has been invested since the war, so that now the American capital invested in the island amounts to \$180,000,000. About 4,307,000 acres of land in Cuba, about 15 per cent of the whole area of the island, or a much larger percentage of the land under cultivation, belongs to Americans. Three-fourths of the \$40,000,000 worth of cattle on the island belong to Americans. One-third of the money invested in railroads, \$24,500,000, is American, as against \$48,931,000 Cuban and British. American capital monopolizes electric transportation, telephone and telegraph systems in Cuba. The bonds of the Cuban republic were bought by a New York house. American capital has given new life to the island, and our interest is no longer merely a sentimental one. The Cuban market is the only one in the world where the United States sells as many goods as all other nations combined. Cuba's buying power is about \$100,000,000 annually, and one-half of this is spent in the United States, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, and Brazil together do not buy as much as Cuba. Its 1,700,000 people, if there are that many there, buy from us more than the 500,000,000 people of Japan and China. Cuba has an open door. Americanization of Cuba will be a slow task, if not an impossible one, if by that is meant the substitution of Anglo-Saxon habits of thought in social relations or in business interests for the Spanish type. Americanization in the sense of making the United States the dominant factor in the material prosperity of the island and in the value of the interests as represented there has progressed a long way since the last Spanish governor general sailed away. American occupation, temporary though it was, freed Havana from the yellow fever pest and taught lessons of sanitation which have made the island a fit place for Americans to live in, and the number of colonists who have gone there from the United States is not insignificant. Atherton Brownell, in Appleton's Magazine, sums up the situation by saying that "in the four years since the intervention period a movement quietly has been going on that is rapidly tending toward practical commercial annexation." Under whatever form of government develops in Cuba, provided that it preserves order, further injection of American capital is inevitable. The future of Cuba and that of the United States are linked together by ties of mutual advantage, and as the natural resources of the island develop the time will soon come when a majority of the people of Cuba will be of American birth and allegiance, and a majority of the wealth will be an American possession. Then the Cuban problem will have disappeared.

A Forest of Giants.

It is almost impossible for one who has seen only the Eastern or Rocky Mountain forests to imagine the woods of the Pacific coast. Pictures of the big trees are as common as postage stamps, but the most wonderful thing about the big trees is that they are scarcely bigger than the rest of the forest. The Pacific coast bears only a tenth of our woodland, but nearly half of our timber. An average acre in the Rocky Mountain forest yields one to two thousand board feet of lumber; in the Southern forest, three to four thousand; in the Northern forest, four to six thousand. An average acre on the Pacific coast yields fifteen to twenty thousand. Telescope the Southern and Rocky Mountain forests, toss the Northern on top of them and stuff the central into the chinks, and, acre for acre, the Pacific forest will outweigh them all.—American Magazine.

A druggist as surely becomes "Doc" as a lawyer becomes "Judge."

COLLEGE MOUNTAIN DAY.

How It Is Observed by New England Undergraduates.

A unique holiday is that of Mountain day, which in the last few years has spread to most of the colleges in the hill portion of New England. A New York Tribune correspondent happened to be in Northampton on the last Mountain day. From the moment he left his hotel it was evident that some unusual celebration was under way. The streets of the old Massachusetts town were crowded with Smith College girls in every sort of outdoor garb. They were plentifully supplied with luncheon baskets, but in all the throng there was not a single man. The daughters of Smith crowded every long-distance trolley that ran out of Northampton.

"What causes the migration?" the Tribune man asked a dark-haired, blue-eyed young woman, whose dignified bearing spoke the experience of the senior.

"It is Mountain day," she explained. "All of the colleges in this region are closed, that we may go into the hills and commune with nature, drink in the beauty of the falling leaves and tramp over miles of wooded heights."

The Tribune correspondent decided to follow the crowd and try this mountain communion. The car which he boarded was labeled Amherst, and rushed for ten miles through as beautiful a stretch of valley country as is to be found anywhere in the broad land. Yet the mountains—they would call them hills west of the Mississippi—seemed to be just as far away. They loomed up on the right and on the left, but the electric car kept to the valley. Why were these college girls going so far out of the way?

The answer was plain when the car crossed the campus of Amherst College and came to its terminal in the quaint old town. There were men at Amherst, hundreds of "perfectly fine" undergraduate men, and they were waiting for their sisters from Smith to begin their mountain trip.

No one seems to know just when the celebration of Mountain day began, but Amherst claims the credit of originating the idea. For some years the day was not observed, but with the formation of the Amherst Mountain Club a few years ago it again became popular and its observance has spread to Smith, Mount Holyoke, Williams, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and other institutions of higher learning in Massachusetts.

Dr. Edward Hitchcock and Prof. Arthur J. Hopkins of the Amherst faculty are the officers of the club, which has a large membership among the students. It has been most active in blazing trails about the neighboring mountains of the Holyoke range, in naming the unnamed peaks and in building mountain paths and observation boxes. The club has opened up the old lumbering roads, which lead well into the mountain country, and from the end of these roads its members have blazed trails to the prominent peaks.

KRUPP PLANT PAY ROLL BIG.

In the Works Are Employed 62,000 Men and 5,000 Officials.

The famous Krupp works for gun-making keeps on its rolls 62,535 workmen and 5,065 officials, and the immense area it covers includes the Essen works, firing ground for testing cannons at Meppen and Tangerhütte, steel works at Annen, the Gruson works at Buckau, the Germania ship-building yard at Kiel, the smelting works, steel works and rolling mills at Rheinhausen, the blast furnaces at Neuwerk and Engers, the melting works, machine works and iron foundry at Sayn, three coal mines and a large number of ironstone mines in Germany and northern Spain and a steamship company at Rotterdam.

Communication is carried on between the various workshops by means of a railway forty-two and a half miles in length. The telegraph system of the works consists of twenty-one stations and fifty and a half miles of wire; the telephone system has 500 connections, with twenty-eight and a half miles of wire.

Insurance and pensions for workmen are, as elsewhere in Germany, quite common. There are also a hospital, two isolated hospitals for infectious diseases, a convalescent home, two almshouses, a "workingman's home" with rooms for 613 persons, a club for the officials and another for the foremen, a school for teaching and housekeeping, an industrial school for adults, three industrial schools for girls attending school, a library, a savings bank, a life insurance society and a dental hospital.

Under the terms fixed by the Imperial law concerning insurance the Krupp works paid \$250,000 for sick insurance, \$300,000 for insurance against accidents and \$100,000 for old-age pensions during 1904. This money has been put aside by the workmen themselves. But the Krupp works out of its own funds paid for the increased welfare of its workers during 1904 \$1,622,000.

Some men look upon religion as a sort of moral fire-escape.

The Inquisitive Barber.

No doubt many readers have heard of the austere disposition of America's greatest living actor, Richard Mansfield. Perhaps the following conversation, which took place in one of Boston's leading hotels, better illustrates the satirical nature of the player. Entering the barber's shop one morning, he was immediately recognized as Richard Mansfield by the barber.

"Good morning," said the barber affably.

A grunt was the only reply. "Well, how was things over at the house last night?"

"What house?" answered the actor ironically.

"The Hollis," said the barber.

"What do you mean, sir?"

"Why, are you not Richard Mansfield?" the barber asked.

"Oh, no, indeed," replied Mr. Mansfield, "I just got out of jail this morning."

"What! You're not Richard Mansfield? and you just got out of jail this morning! What for, pray?"

"For assaulting inquisitive barbers," was the response.

Bold Invaders.

There were some phases of country life with which the little city girl had as yet only one day's acquaintance, but the rights of property-owners and property-renters were firmly fixed in her mind.

"Mother!" she called, in evident excitement, the morning after the family had settled for the summer in Sunset View Cottage, "mother! Just come here and look! There are somebody's hens wiping their feet on our nice clean grass!"

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