

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

If Mr. Carnegie is to die poor it's about time he got worried.

The Japanese ambassador advises his countrymen to woo rich American girls. More of that eastern idealism.

A \$35,000,000 railroad has been started in Bolivia and the bridges and rebates are to be designed in this country.

This talk of war with Japan is absurd. It has not been a year since Secretary Taft ate a whale with the Mikado.

That man who lost his fur-lined overcoat in the court house should cheer up. Think of all the suits that have been lost there.

The most remarkable thing about the coal famine in the Northwest is the fact that it is due to other causes than the greed of the coal trust.

Another Pittsburgh heiress has been married to an English lord. But why should the rest of us worry? They are the ones who will have to suffer.

If there is such a thing as "swollen wealth" John D. Rockefeller is convinced that it isn't something that hurts, like a felon or the toothache.

The Japanese ambassador says the dream of war between his country and the United States is too ridiculous to be considered. A regular rabbit frenzy, as it were.

A man who had been supposed for forty years to be dead came around the other day to contest a will. Always trust a will to bring them to life if anything can.

Tucson, Ariz., claims to be the oldest town in the United States, its founding antedating that of St. Augustine, Fla., by 15 years. It should have been named Toosoon.

Please note that a Philadelphia man was asphyxiated by the gasoline fumes of his automobile, and congratulate yourself on the poverty that makes you immune to such dangers.

The Czar of Russia has ordered a new war fleet. It is understood the Mikado will delay his activities in ship-building until he sees whether the Russian vessels will suit him.

Mr. Rockefeller says the nation will be in danger when the people cease to respect the courts and the laws are ignored. This teaches us that a man never gets too old to learn.

The New York bank clerk who stole \$12.98 from the institution employing him will, no doubt, be severely punished. No self-respecting bank cares to be treated like a department store bargain counter.

It will have to be allowed that there is point as well as pungency to President Ingalls' contention that the surest and quickest way to distribute and dissipate big fortunes is to bequeath them to extravagant and silly heirs.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., thinks young men ought to marry wives who know how to handle money. Most young women know how to do this. The great trouble is that so many of them get very little to handle after they are married.

President Roosevelt saluted the Porto Ricans as "fellow citizens." They are not really that, nor under the judicial decisions are they aliens; yet they must be naturalized to become American citizens. But in spite of their anomalous position among the peoples of the earth, they are in a real sense under the American flag. Meanwhile they can take courage from the President's expressed intention to use his efforts to secure to them actual citizenship.

We are in the Philippines. Are we going to stay there? If yes, then it is time to fix for it. It is foolish always to play the ostrich. There is one way to "fix" and that is to make the salient points of the islands impregnable against any force an enemy can bring against them or any one of them and create a navy that can drive an enemy from the archipelago. A very religious general admonished his army: "Trust in God, but keep your powder dry." Cromwell had little doubt that as between an army with dry powder and one with wet God would be on the side of the former. There is not much piety in that reflection, but there is an abundance of logic in it.

New light on conditions in China was shed by some recent remarks of Bishop Bashford, a missionary to that country. He said that for the last three

years a million copies of the Bible have been sold annually to the Chinese; that the Bible and the book of Confucius are taught together in schools all over the empire; and an imperial decree requires the people to observe Sunday. "There has been nothing like it," said the bishop, "since Constantine adopted Christianity in Rome." He said also that China to-day is where Japan was fifteen or twenty years ago, and that the Chinese are awakening rapidly. He called them the Anglo-Saxons of the Orient, and declared that they are tougher, ruggeder and more persistent than the Japanese, and are able to drive out the Japanese any time when it comes to competition in commerce or to the long struggle for the mastery.

The increased responsibilities of government which will come when aerial locomotion has been perfected have been to an extent set forth by Captain Ferber of the French army, who exhorts his country to diligence in provision against the perils of the future. Captain Ferber shows most conclusively that with aerial flight an easy accomplishment the energies of the government must be redoubled to protect society against the smuggler, the anarchist, the criminal, whatever his peculiar sphere of action. He explains most lucidly that an aerial patrol will be necessary to guard the frontier against those who would evade the customs duties by skimming over the tops of fortifications and other impediments along the frontier, and that the police must be provided with flying machines duly equipped with weapons of offense in order to intercept and embarrass the smugglers aforesaid. Services of an aerial police will be needed also to regulate the speed limit of travelers as well as to prevent anarchistic gentlemen in airships from sailing leisurely over a town and dropping bombs regardless of consequences. Patrols will be employed likewise to check undesirable immigration and to perform other duties heretofore connected with their calling on the earth's surface. The scene of operation will be shifted, but the duties will be practically the same. In view of these requirements it would almost appear that the benefits to be derived from mastery of the air are fairly offset by the inconveniences, for, unhappily, the criminal as well as the virtuous citizen profits by the advancement of science. And what would it avail a citizen of Chicago if, returning from the theater, he is held up 500 feet above the corner of North State and Erie streets, with the absolute certainty that the policeman is at the other end of his aerial boat or is refreshing himself elsewhere? And to patrolmen and mounted police must be added a flying constabulary, a provision which has not been noted in the new charter, but which is a foregone necessity, regardless of expense. In short, all forces of protection must be doubled, whether applied to a standing army, the customs officers, or the municipal police force. In view of Captain Ferber's warning and the unmistakable justice of his conclusions, the responsibilities of the future are not likely to reassure a timid human being. To Paul's famous list of perils, of waters, robbers, heathen, city, wilderness, etc., etc., must now be added perils of the air and the accompanying horrors recounted. Even Paul did not apparently realize how comparatively fortunate he was.

CALIFORNIA PUMPKIN VINE.



The picture illustrates a not unfamiliar sight in Southern California, where vegetation of all kinds makes a wonderful growth in a single season. This particular pumpkin vine grew along the roadside near Los Angeles and completely covered the trunk and remaining branches of a dead tree, extending to a height of about twenty feet. It was a pretty sight during the blossoming period, and later, when the golden fruit hung from the branches, it was even more beautiful.

Uplifting the Public.

Tim—There goes a man who has done much to arouse the people.

Blm—Great labor agitator, I suppose?

Tim—Naw; alarm clock manufacturer.—New York Times.

The average woman can get an awfully big headache in having an awfully little good time.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

NECESSITY AN ELEMENT OF SUCCESS.

By James J. Hill.



J. J. HILL.

The time for a man to retire from active business depends on conditions. Some men are young at 70, others are old at 50. The method of living, the occupation, habits, successes or failures all have their influences. There is one thing that young men feel is a burden and hardship, and I want to tell them they are wrong. The spur of necessity of which many complain is a rich heritage and one that most young men miss who fall in the race. The spur of necessity of doing what you have to do and doing it well, because you feel you must do it well or fall and be written down a failure, is really of more value to a man who has to meet the conditions that present themselves in all varied business affairs than anything else I know of. A man must make up his mind, if he is going to succeed, that if he is to succeed the other man's dollar he must give back to him an honest return.

There is no better field for young men than in railroad-ing. Begin at the bottom, show that you are familiar with your work, and keep pounding away at your special line of work, and the reward will come. Railroad-ing is not like politics; the competent man wins. It is necessary that he should, for railroad men are dropping out of harness every day. Those who stick to their work and show capability are necessarily elevated. The office boy of to-day may become president in a decade if he be made of the right stuff and makes his services indispensable.

CONCENTRATION OF GREAT WEALTH.

By William Sulzer, M. C.



The total population of the United States is about 80,000,000. The total aggregate wealth is about \$65,000,000,000, and it appears that out of that population less than 25,000 persons own more than one-half the aggregate wealth of the land. And this has all been brought about in the last twenty-five years by combinations and conspiracies called trusts fostered by special legislation and nurtured by political favoritism. If these conditions obtain in the next century, I predict that less than 5,000 persons will control more than three-quarters of the wealth of this country.

To-day about 200 trusts control wholly or in part every conceivable product and industry of the country. These gigantic corporations control the supply, monopolize the product and dictate the price of nearly every necessary of life. They force out of employment every year thousands and thousands of honest toilers and limit produc-

tion, enhance prices, reduce wages and arbitrarily write the terms of their own contracts.

Twenty years ago John D. Rockefeller was worth only a few hundred thousands of dollars. To-day his wealth cannot be estimated under a billion. I have searched the congressional library for statistics bearing upon the wealth of the great Croesus, whose name has been handed down through the ages, and find that he possessed a paltry \$10,000,000.

DON'T CULTIVATE YOUR NERVES.

By Ella K. Dearborn.



Most nervous people are so because they cultivate nerves. It is quite likely an unwise mother began the undoing of her child's nervous system by saying, "Floyd is so nervous that he just can't control himself; if he gets to crying, he can't stop," and Floyd believes this himself; and after he is so old he is ashamed to cry, he takes it out in growling. Every little annoyance or disappointment excites his wrath. Small obstacles look great to him. Each little care is a load of woe. The man is wretched, and he makes his family unhappy also.

A nervous woman is bad enough, but a nervous man is worse. One may cultivate tranquility quite as successfully as he cultivates nerves, and the result is well worth the effort.

The culminative effects of efforts in self-control go far in developing strength of character; self-discipline is good for one; get in and bulldoze yourself out of some of your petty meannesses. Teach the growing child self-restraint and self-reliance. If you are too old (you only think so) to work any reforms in yourself, at least be fair to the children, and do not start them out in the business world handicapped by fractious nerves. Lengthen the outdoor play spell, and shorten the indoor time for study.

QUALITIES OF THE JAPANESE.

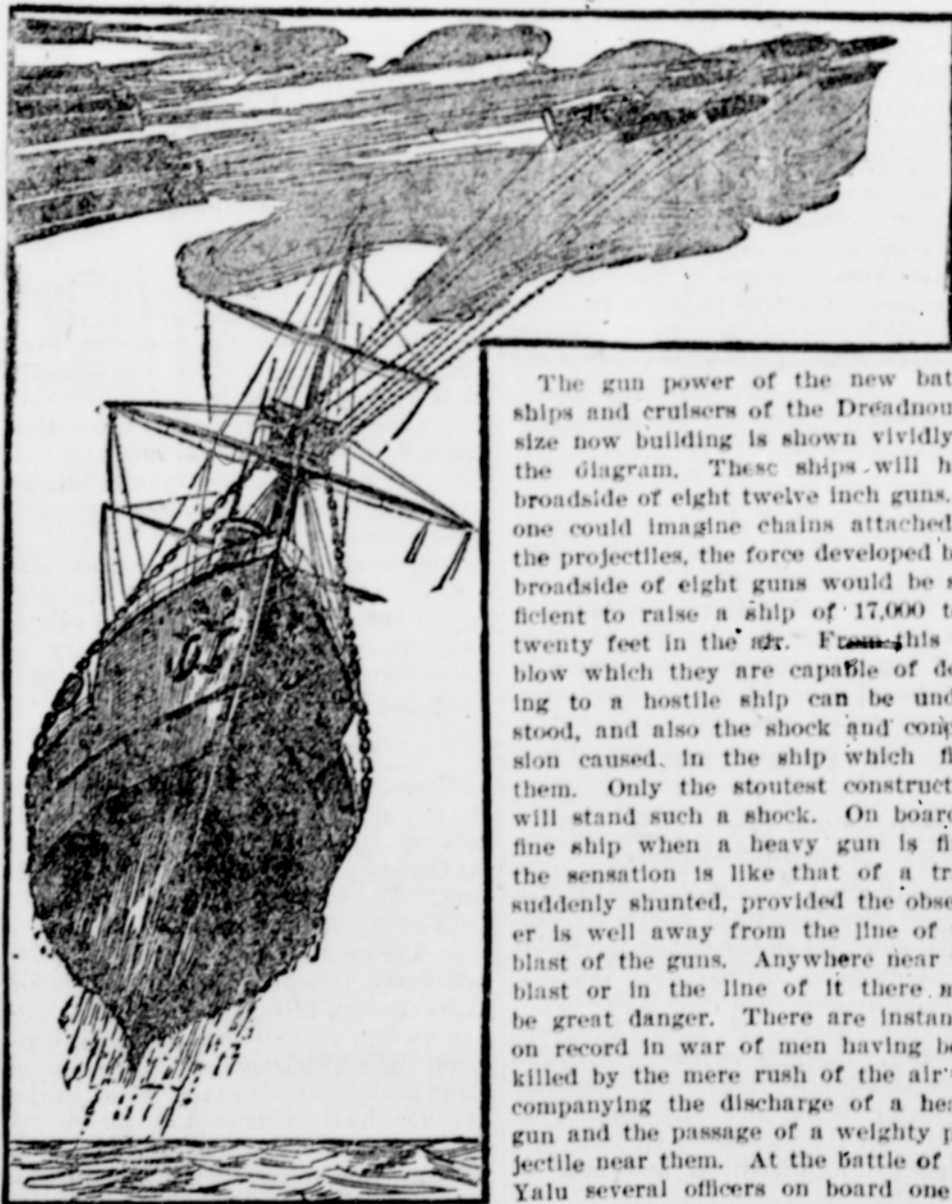
By Prof. Charles W. Elliot.



C. W. ELLIOTT.

What shall we say of the yellow race? All we want to know about a race is, Can we live with it? A minister who had long lived in China replied that that nation had produced a high civilization when the ancestors of every man in the room were living in fur clothing in the wilderness. We have had an excellent opportunity to see what the Japanese are like, and I wonder if there is any one who will venture to assert that they are inferior to us mentally, physically or morally.

TREMENDOUS GUN POWER OF NEW BATTLESHIPS.



The gun power of the new battleships and cruisers of the Dreadnought size now building is shown vividly in the diagram. These ships will have broadside of eight twelve inch guns. If one could imagine chains attached to the projectiles, the force developed by a broadside of eight guns would be sufficient to raise a ship of 17,000 tons twenty feet in the air. From this the blow which they are capable of dealing to a hostile ship can be understood, and also the shock and concussion caused. In the ship which fires them. Only the stoutest construction will stand such a shock. On board a fine ship when a heavy gun is fired the sensation is like that of a train suddenly shunted, provided the observer is well away from the line of the blast of the guns. Anywhere near the blast or in the line of it there may be great danger. There are instances on record in war of men having been killed by the mere rush of the air accompanying the discharge of a heavy gun and the passage of a weighty projectile near them. At the battle of the Yalu several officers on board one of the Chinese ships were thrown down and bruised and injured by the unexpected discharge of a heavy gun near at hand. Over and above the shock, there is the terrible noise, which is deafening and overpowering. Eardrums are apt to be split, and bleeding from the mouth and nose caused when the guns are firing rapidly.

In the Dreadnought a broadside of eight big twelve inch guns was fired during the ship's trials. The shock was great, resembling a vigorous push to the ship, but the concussion did not do the gun crews any serious injury. Continued heavy firing, however, such as will take place in battle, will impose a far severer strain upon the human nerves and physical organization.

The Deer Fly.

A peculiar looking fly, with a long, thin body and black dotted wings, buzzed on one of the windows of a Northwestern elevated car the other day. Nobody noticed it until a man, who got on at Chicago avenue, suddenly left his seat, went across to the window, and scooped up the fly in his hand. He examined it closely for a minute, then he explained to a man sitting near that the insect was a species of deer fly rarely found outside of the Wisconsin woods. A deer fly on an elevated train in Chicago was a novelty, said the naturalist,

who explained his knowledge by saying that he was once in the department of natural history at Cornell.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Shifting the Burden.

"Doesn't your conscience sometimes trouble you about things you have to do in financial deals?"

"A little," answered Mr. Dustin Stax.

"What do you do in such a case?"

"I send for a lawyer."—Washington Star.

So good deeds to-day if you would reap happiness to-morrow.

A LITTLE LESSON IN PATRIOTISM.

It was in the midst of the attack upon Fort Sumter that the flag fell to the ground, its staff shattered, its folds



SERGEANT HART.

blazing with fire. As it fell, Sergeant Peter Hart sprang forward to catch it. Seizing the burning bunting, he succeeded in extinguishing the blaze.

While shot and shell burst around him he snatched a hammer and rushed up the flagstaff to the center of the attack. With the speed and agility of a wildcat, he ran up the pole waving the flag of the Union defiantly. With the guns of the enemy directed upon him, he nailed the flag to the top. It was the first deed of heroism in the Civil War. The next day the country rang with the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter and the heroism of Peter Hart. There were thousands in the conflict that followed who risked their lives just as he had done. But who shall say that it was not in many cases the result of his example?

The first man who ventures to do a deed of notable bravery in a struggle lacks the incentive of precedent. His headlong, reckless daring may be counted as naught by the developments of the succeeding day. But there were many who realized the symbolism of Hart's act.

The knowledge that men were ready to risk their lives in order that they might raise their flag from the dust inspired them to follow the example of the man who nailed up the flag at Fort Sumter.

Farmers in Dire Distress.

There is no question but what the farmers are up against it without much chance of relief. One poor devil over in Barber County last week lost two thoroughbred Hereford steers and one fine milch cow from overeating and the same week lost four valuable thoroughbred Poland China brood sows, caused by the bursting of a granary, the grain from which smothered the animals. Something has got to be done.—Harper (Kan.) Sentinel.

Obsolete Warships Bring Little.

Some thirty obsolete British warships have been sold at Portsmouth for just over \$400,000—less than the cost of the smallest of them. The prices were regarded as good.