

Topics of the Times

Only murderers who have bright lawyers could think of "justifiable insanity" as a defense.

"Race suicide," of course, would result in there being fewer children in the mills and factories, but—

Senator Hale says the United States has no enemies. Evidently he has never suggested annexation to a Canadian.

Some men seem to think they are doing a great deal toward righting the world's wrongs by fussing with their neighbors.

The young woman who said she was a psychologist has been indicted as a sneak thief. Is no account to be taken of the offense she confessed?

Bailey, the showman, left a fortune estimated at \$5,000,000. Evidently the proportion of small boys who crept under the canvas was not large.

Unless it is soon discovered what has become of the freight cars of this glorious country, every honest man will feel like stepping up and asking that he be searched.

A Nebraska farmer wants a pretty girl arrested as a witch, because his son can't stay away from her. If the precedent is established all the women in the country will be in jail.

What's in a name, after all? Senator Money, of Mississippi, from his place in the Senate, announced that he is the poorest Senator in the United States.

Mark Twain says this country is going to become a monarchy, and Chancellor Day will probably be glad to nominate H. H. Rogers as the opening monarch.

It seems almost foolish of the Massachusetts legislature to talk of stopping faith healing. For people who are not sick there is apparently nothing wrong with faith healing.

Small waists are again the style with women. However, there will be no change in the fashion of masculine arms; they will remain very much the same as those our grandfathers wore.

"Destiny," says the Baltimore American, "is the irrepressible fate of mankind." Grover Cleveland could not have said that any better, though he might have put it in more imposing form.

Some statistician has found that there are 4,000,000 women in this country who are earning their own living. He has not had time as yet to find out how many are supporting their husbands.

Mr. Edison talks of retiring from active work and merely "amusing himself" with electricity hereafter. As a good business man he will see the wisdom of doubling the insurance on his life before he begins his career of amusement.

A Baltimore scientist has invented an electric cook stove which, he says, will revolutionize things in the kitchen. Perhaps it is his plan to have it so arranged that the cook may be utilized as a short circuit when she becomes too arbitrary.

English manufacturers of shoes have begun to make larger sizes for women, and now a number eight is advertised, not by the vigorous athletic young women who wear that number, but by the merchants who know that the girls' feet are big enough to fill such a shoe. Small feet, as well as a gentle voice, are admirable things in women, but a more admirable thing is a shoe that does not pinch.

It often happens that a farmer has much difficulty in weaning a calf and the longer the baby cow is permitted to draw its subsistence from the maternal fountain the greater the difficulty becomes and the more pathetic is the spectacle presented. So it is with human beings who are compelled to surrender any special privilege in the enjoyment of which they have been uninterrupted for a long time. They lose the capacity to distinguish between a privilege and a vested right and they set up a whine in which grief and indignation are so mixed as to make a tear-pumping blend.

Investigation by the National Bureau of Labor shows that industries are suffering from a lack of trained workmen with an all-round knowledge of their trade. The apprentice system has all but disappeared, and its place has not yet been taken by an adequate trade-school system. The extensive use of machinery and the subdivisions of labor have given rise to thousands of oc-

cupations in place of a few well-defined trades. Many of these occupations consist of a single simple operation. Production on a large scale has destroyed the personal relation between employer and employee, between master and apprentice. A young worker may spend his life pulling a lever on one kind of machine and never know anything of the other processes in the factory. Employers are unwilling to take apprentices, journeymen are unwilling to instruct them, and ambitious boys are unwilling to become apprentices. The bureau believes that even under modern complex conditions, the old-fashioned apprenticeship would be very useful. It is a grave question how the foreman, the superintendent, the master workman of the future are to be made out of the boy of to-day.

The old "be good and you'll be happy" formula is rather unpopular. It contained an element of truth, but only an element. In actual life the virtuous do not always triumph nor the wicked invariably come to grief. Nevertheless, the virtuous man's chances of happiness are much brighter than those of the mean, small, selfish, vicious man. Similarly, while it is impossible to lay down maxims for certain success in business, such maxims, embodying the experience of ages, have their value. To say that the man who is honest, punctual, prompt, careful, courteous will necessarily make a fortune would be the height of folly; but certainly the business man who possesses these qualities is far more likely to prosper than he who lacks them.

In an interesting article in the Sunday Magazine of the Chicago Record-Herald ex-Secretary Lyman J. Gage discusses philosophically the value of business maxims, the proper qualification they require in attempts to apply them to individual cases, and the value of that subtle but important additional factor, "personality." His observations are as sound as they are inspiring. Attractive personality is, of course, primarily a natural blessing. But, as Mr. Gage well says, it would be a radical error to take a fatalistic view of character and personality and assume that business men, like poets and actors, are "born, not made." We can do much to shape and modify our respective personalities. In Mr. Gage's words, "the mental faculties can be strengthened by exercise, the moral sympathies quickened by right reflection, the emotional nature purified by good ideals, the energies aroused by effective appeals to ambition." All moral education presupposes the possibility of improving and elevating personality, of repressing bad traits and tendencies and strengthening favorable ones. "Wise is he, therefore," to quote Mr. Gage again, "who avails himself of every means he can discover to develop the good and useful inward forces and powers" which he has inherited. And happily such means are at hand everywhere, and all of us, regardless of station or condition, are able to use them. They consist of good associations, good reading, the pursuit of knowledge, healthy exercise, cultivation of the sense of human dignity and worth. With our free schools, free libraries, cheap books and magazines and newspapers, with our art museums, our settlements and various educational and cultural associations, no young man or woman need be deprived of the influences that make for character and success in a moral, human sense.

TALKS ON ADVERTISING

There is a lesson for every merchant in the experience told by a representative of a Chicago mail order house to a gathering of newspaper men in Iowa, says the Parsons Eclipse. He said that the mail order business depended entirely upon advertising. He made one remark that merchants should heed. He says they take the local papers and directed their special efforts to communities where the merchants are not up-to-date advertisers. If the mail order man finds that any line of business in any town or city is not well advertised, as, for instance, furniture, he said that they flood that territory with their literature and always with satisfactory results. He believed it true, he said, that country merchants could greatly cripple the mail order business if they would advertise freely and in the right manner. The country merchant should get wise.

Didn't Know About 'Em.
The Maid—What's your opinion of the type of girl who never wants to get married?
The Bachelor—I'm not qualified to express an opinion on the subject.
The Maid—Why, are you prejudiced?
The Bachelor—No, but I've never seen such a type.—Cleveland Leader.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

BEWARE THE SILENT MAN.

By Ella K. Dearborn.



Instinctively one distrusts a silent person, and this is well, for there is no possibility of understanding them, and it is doubtful if they understand themselves. Their silence leads you to wrong conclusions. They know this, but are too clam-like to say a word that will set you straight, even though they are the ones to be injured by an error in your judgment. You struggle to interpret their silence aright. It may be shyness—though not likely. It may be sullessness—but what about?

If you have deluded yourself with the idea that there is a warm heart under the icy exterior and a teeming brain veiled by silence, away with the delusion, for a warm heart will make itself manifest, and the active brain will not be found by silence. Thoughts find their way into words, just as surely as the river finds the ocean. No matter how great a sacrifice you may make in order to do an act of kindness to a silent man or woman, a distressful state is the token of acceptance, and you do not know whether the silent one is struggling to express thanks or is trying not to kill you for your officiousness.

These people have not stamina enough to be either very good or very bad. They are unreliable in a business way and socially they are bores and nuisances, and the wife of a silent man is always unhappy; all efforts to please him are met with that impenetrable silence that hurts worse than a blow, and yet, since he has not beaten his wife with his fists or a club, he would claim to be kind.

Speech is nature's special gift to man, all other faculties are shared in common with lower animals; to mankind alone is given the power of clothing thoughts in words. Silence but thinly veils one's lack of thought. Beware of the silent person!

CLASS DISTINCTIONS IN CHURCH.

By Bishop Potter.



BISHOP POTTER.

I deplore the formation of castes in communities, the dividing of people into little cliques who affect to be superior to those outside them. The attitude of the Christian Church should be—to disregard all questions of caste, the point where our religion differs greatly from all other great systems of theology, doctrine and philosophy is that all people are alike in the sight of God. There is no place for caste and caste distinctions in the Christian Church, yet, unfortunately, it is fast growing here in America. You will hear women and men tell you not so much who they know and with whom they associate as those whom they will not or do not care to know. It is a ridiculous condition here in democratic America. The people who are thus considered "impossible" are not so from any evil line; they are simply "not of our set." Such an idea and such a system has no place in this land.

I want you to consider a minute how different this spirit is from that which actuated the character of Him whose funeral procession in the Holy Land to-day is much the same as was that one when our Lord raised the son of the widow of Nain. It meant a loss of caste, a defilement to touch a dead person; yet our Lord not only

stopped the procession rather than passing down a side street, as we would be apt to do, but actually took the dead youth by the hand, risking what meant much to an Oriental. On the other hand, we have a list of those we do not care to associate with, because they do not belong to our particular class of society.

Never has there been a time when there was greater need of a more enlightened and a more Christian way of living. Conditions in America are such that it is impossible to follow the ideas of the founders of the land. The early Puritans had certain ideas which would be simply ludicrous were we to try to live up to them. We must add new standards.

SOCIAL PROGRESS DEPENDS ON INDIVIDUAL.

By Jeremiah W. Jenks.



We may not expect an immediate revolution in moral ideals or in business practices. But we may hope for steady improvement. Measures suggested favor greater publicity in business management—in itself a measure of reform.

The principles of business hold also in politics. The time is coming when deception and trickery in diplomacy will no longer pay, when cruelty and unscrupulousness in international relations place a nation at a disadvantage. The prosperity of the nation, as of the individual or of the corporation, is in the long run secured not by hostile measures but through the closely linked commercial and social intercourse in times of peace and friendship.

Among nations, as among business corporations, we may see that in the long run, if the moral sentiments of individual citizens are right, moral practices pay. The ultimate responsibility rests with us as individuals; and the outlook for the future is hopeful. The evils clearly must be seen before the remedy can be found. Many of the evil deeds of the last few years have been committed because, under the changing conditions, the nature of these evils has been clearly seen. There is still, however, much more to do for each of us in the way of seeing more clearly the application of the simple old fashioned principles of private honesty to the great transactions of corporate business, and to the still greater problems of statesmanship.

GREAT WEALTH NOT MENACE TO NATION.

By Henry Clews.



Let us bear in mind that the vast individual fortunes of Americans are nearly all self-made and in the hands of men who began life in poor circumstances, and that most of the most successful men in business are those who possess high character, as well as remarkable capacity, great thrift, and other good qualities; and that men of this type with great wealth have never proved a menace to the public welfare. New laws could be enacted to prevent the evil and dissolute use of inherited wealth. So deep a conviction have I that a proper sense of responsibility comes only with earning and saving wealth, that I often have thought it a meet and just way for a man to distribute an estate by first providing for his family and then dividing the remainder among the employees who had served him faithfully and aided him to amass his fortune.

"FIGHTING BOB" EVANS.

Report that He Must Soon Raise the White Flag in Life's Battle.

The report that Admiral Bob Evans is about to retire from the navy because of ill health has sent a throb of sympathy and regret through the country. Scores of telegrams and even cablegrams have been received at the navy department asking as to the truth of the report, and expressing high regard for "Fighting Bob."

Robley Dunsing was the name given him at his birth, Aug. 18, 1846, over 60 years ago. But he is "Fighting Bob" to the American people.

He is a born fighter. At 6 he was handling a gun. At 13 he was on his way across the western plains to acquire a residence at Salt Lake City. He had been promised an appointment to Annapolis if he became a resident of the Utah city.

On the way the emigrant train was attacked by Indians. "Bob" was warned to stay under cover when the fight began. When the Indians had been beaten back an arrow pinning Bob's right leg to the mule he rode showed how he had obeyed the order. He had been in the thickest of the melee. The arrow had to be cut between his leg and the pony's side before he could dismount.

When the Civil War broke out young Evans, then at Annapolis, had a heart racking problem to decide. His mother was an ardent secessionist. His brother did not hesitate but donned the gray. But Bob decided to cast his lot with the ones who had educated him, although his mother sent his resignation to the Federal government.

His fighting spirit was vividly illustrated in the assault on Ft. Fisher, January, 1865. Twice he was wounded and fought on. A third bullet pierced his knee and he fell helpless. A sharpshooter kept pegging away at him. A bullet tore off his toes. The leg of the wounded man was aroused, and grabbing his own rifle, he shot his enemy dead.

It was well for Evans after that battle that he had a strenuous spirit. When he was taken to the hospital it was decided that both his legs must be amputated. Bob heard the decision

and that night armed himself with a revolver, which he hid under his pillow.

Next day when physicians broke their views to him the wounded youth pulled the gun. "You will never take off my legs while I have a bullet left," was his ultimatum. They didn't think then that it was absolutely necessary.

In 1891 Evans gained his title of "Fighting Bob." He was in command



"FIGHTING BOB" EVANS.

of the little Yorktown at Valparaiso, Chile. It needed but the drop of a hat, it seemed, to start war between that country and the United States. Evans was in the harbor, facing ten forts and the Chilean fleet. He took on his ship the refugees from the American legation in the teeth of the protests of the Chilean government. More than that, he kept them safe and bluffed the entire fleet and all the forts by calmly threatening to open fire. The world read of it—gasped in sheer admiration of the nerve of it—and he became "Fighting Bob" forever.

Evans commanded the Iowa at the battle of Santiago and was in the thick of the scrap that destroyed the Spanish fleet.

He was always quick to meet an emergency. While dining the German emperor on board the Columbia, at the opening of the Kiel canal, he told the emperor all of the watertight doors

in the ship could be closed in thirty seconds. To make good he ordered the signal blown on the siren. There wasn't enough steam and the emperor laughed. Evans quickly turned in his seat, pushed the general alarm buttons, and in a minute and a half the doors were closed.

Way of Philanthropy.

A lady who was recently appointed a visitor to a hospital for children, fearing that poor children failed to receive the same attention bestowed on those of richer parents, paid her first visit to the institution, intending to effect a change. In a ward she found a tiny boy quite alone. He informed her that there was another boy in the ward, but that he was being examined before a clinic. The lady looked around her for evidence of neglect on the part of the attendants. A suit of clothes lay huddled on a chair. Folding them in an orderly manner, she said:

"Surely, my dear, these trousers are too long for you by several inches."

"Yes, ma'am," replied the boy.

"A sin and a shame," cried she, and took a "companion" from her bag. She sat down and cut off the legs of the garment and hemmed the edges.

"Now," she said, triumphantly, when the task was complete, "they will fit you better."

"The other boy's taller than me," replied the child. "They belong to him."

New Version of an Old Tale.
In a recent number of a German magazine a writer offers a variant of the tale lately published in a book of children's true sayings which relates how two small girls tried to sit on one stool and one of them remarked: "If one of us was to get off this stool there would be more room for me." The Teutonic version tells how a German sat by the bedside of his dying wife and murmured piously: "If it pleases the good God to take one of us I shall go to Berlin."

In the Penitentiary.

"How did you begin your downward course, my poor man?"

"Why, at the top, of course. Did you expect I commenced at the bottom?"