

Topics of the Times

However, "Cotton King" Sully had the experience.

Talk is cheap—unless you are using a long distance telephone.

From a stage point of view a divorce without publicity is worse than marriage.

It sometimes happens that a woman loves a man for his money and hates him for himself alone.

Professor Langley says that with \$25,000 he could fly. The cashier of our bank did it back in the '80's.

When Bunyan's Christian learns that he was only a "cad" after all, he will flop down all in a heap and exclaim: "What's the use?"

Cables announce that Russia proposes to use sand bags for defense. In political contests in this country the sand bag is a weapon of offense.

The Queen of England ate a 9-cent dinner the other day and the fact was cabled around the world. It isn't necessary for a queen to do much to become famous.

A Denver man has declined to take \$1,800,000 which was willed to him by a rich uncle. Really, he ought to be given an opportunity to address young John D.'s Bible class.

Schoolboys of Findlay, Ohio, imitating the older savages in the colleges, caused the death of a 9-year-old boy by hazing. Honestly, now, is it worth all this just to be barbarously funny?

Dr. Mary Walker recently improvised a tourniquet with a handkerchief, stopped the flow of blood, and saved the life of a glazier in Washington who had cut an artery. They are both still single.

The wages paid in the United States average more than twice those in Belgium, three times those of Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, and one and a half those in England and Scotland.

Until 1895 novel-writing was not regarded as a respectable profession in Japan, but authors of fiction now command respect in that country and are on the high road to prosperity. Perhaps the historical novel has not yet reached the land of the Mikado.

A new triumph of surgery is said to be "nerve grafting." Some people already have enough for two, but they are doubtless the ones who furnish the supply for their needy and more modest brethren. We will take about a yard of your best nerve, if you please, doctor!

Secretary Taft said the other day that there was a splendid opportunity in the Philippines for educated young men with public spirit enough to desire to assist in the solution of the problems of government there. That is so; but young men of that sort do not have to cross the Pacific to find opportunities for public service.

Hudson Bay is ordinarily associated in the mind with cold and desolation. But according to Consul General Culver, stationed at London, Canada, not to speak of the vast amount of grain and grazing land in its neighborhood, the bay in itself is a great source of riches. It abounds in all kinds of fish, although the industry will remain undeveloped, as will also the oil industry from the whales and porpoises and walrus, until it is thoroughly navigated and thus brought within the limits of the commercial world.

Whether D. J. Sully won or lost was in one sense a thing of small consequence, but the mischief wrought by the transient success of such meteoric gamblers in the commercial world is very great and widespread. Every village in the country suffers something by the example of such men. Sully is nothing, but the men dragged down in the vortex when the Sully ship sinks are a multitude. The money they have lost may be small, but the aggregate of misery is very great, for it generally means a lost business reputation if not a robbed trust fund. That is the curse of all this commercial gambling, whether in stocks or cotton or wheat or copper.

The prime object of our common school system is to furnish a groundwork of rudimentary education for all children in the State. That done, the State could go no further without inequality and preference. It is not right to make all the taxpayers pay for the benefits that only a part of the taxpayers can enjoy. The higher education should be paid for by those alone who get it. The elementary schools have deteriorated in quality as a consequence of the establishment of higher schools. The money spent for the establishment of high schools would give greater resultant advantage if it were devoted to the improvement of the common schools in imparting a thorough rudimentary education.

We have all become familiar in recent years with the statement that the city has absorbed the country, that urban life, with its peculiar attractions and industrial opportunities, has drawn heavily upon rural life, leaving large

areas that were once peopled with a thrifty farming class practically tenantless and desolate. A late census bulletin, however, shows that a reaction has been in progress during the past ten years, the effect of which has been to return city and suburban population to its proper balance. According to this evidence 159 towns, centers of suburban communities, show an increase of 32 per cent in ten years. This is about the average increase of the whole country. The gain in population of cities between 1880 and 1890 was 7 per cent. During the decade following it dropped to 2.5 per cent. This indicates that increase in the population of cities has not kept pace with that of the country.

One often wonders, in scanning the bulletin of the physicians in attendance upon some public man struck down by mortal disease, why such heroic measures are taken to prolong life for a day or a few hours, or even a few minutes, when to all appearances no human hand can avert the final issue. When we hear of the patient, weak and tired, asking only to be allowed to die in peace, tormented with injections of salt solution, with inhalations of oxygen, with the prick of the hypodermic needle, we are tempted to ask what is the good of it—why prolong the agony of the dying man and rend the hearts of those whom he is leaving by vain efforts to stay the hand of death? Why not let the harassed soul escape in peace? But before blaming the doctors for their seeming inhumanity one should stop a moment and hear their side. The mission of the physician is not only or chiefly to relieve suffering—it is, before all else, to save life. If death is inevitable, it is his duty to soften it so far as he may; but he has not the right, for the sake of a moment's ease, to throw away the chance of averting death. No one can cage the vital forces. Many a time, when death seemed actually to have closed the scene, some well-directed measure has fanned the spark of life again into flame. No one knows better than the physician that while there is life there is hope, and his duty is plain to use every means at his command to maintain the action of the heart and to stimulate the nerve-centers to renewed work. There is always the hope that the disease may spend its force at any moment, and so the conscientious physician must fight on, in the face of desperate odds. Often he fails, but he may succeed, and while the possibility exists he would be recreant to his trust as the preserver of life to leave any weapon unused in his fight with death. The thoughtless may call him cruel, but for him it would be cowardice to shirk a manifest duty in the face of possibly adverse criticism.

BOBBY'S BARGAIN.

He Saw Endless Profits to Accrue from Purchase of a Horse.

Henry and Bobby, aged 8 and 10 respectively, were little boys who thought and had tendencies. In consequence of which, at times, they were a source of great embarrassment to their mother. Bobby, in particular, had the money-making propensity. He saved his pennies religiously, and his eye was keen for a bargain.

One evening at dinner their father had as a guest a gentleman who was a great horseman. The boys listened attentively to the conversation for awhile, then Bobby opened fire with: "Say, Mr. Smith, can you buy a horse for a hundred dollars?"

"Yes, Bobby," said Mr. Smith, "you can."

"Can you get one for fifty dollars?"

"Yes."

"For twenty-five dollars?"

"Yes."

"For ten dollars?"

"Yes."

"For seven dollars?"

"Perhaps."

"Seven dollars, really?" said Bobby wonderingly. "Would the horse be awfully fast?"

"Well," said Mr. Smith, "you would not be likely to get a Lou Dillon or a Dan Patch, but the creature might be able to pull a plow."

Bobby thought for a moment; then, "But, Mr. Smith, could a horse you paid seven dollars for have a colt?"

"Possibly," said Mr. Smith gravely.

"I have seven dollars in the bank," continued Bobby; "I guess I'll get a horse. For if a seven-dollar horse could have a colt, and that colt have a colt, and that colt have a—"

Bobby's mother and father and Mr. Smith became seriously interested in the salad; the youthful Henry began to fidget; the embryo stock farm continued to grow—"and that colt have a colt, and that colt have a colt, and that colt—"

Henry could stand it no longer. Turning to Bobby, he remarked in a tone of impatience, "Say, as soon as you think you have the worth of your money would you mind passing the bread?"—Lippincott's.

A Broad Hint.

Sometimes men take advantage of Leap Year as well as women. This was shown the other evening at a house where I was visiting. I happened to be for a minute the only other person in the room, where a young couple were conversing, and they were discussing about the privilege that women have one year in four of making marriage proposals. The young fellow listened to what his fair companions had to say on the subject, and then blurted out:

"Gosh, if a girl should ask me to be her husband, I wouldn't have the crust to refuse."

I hope the young woman took the hint.



EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Sinews of War.

ALTHOUGH Russia, in the present conflict with Japan, has an immense preponderance of military forces, we are apt to forget the extreme difficulty of placing and maintaining a great Russian force in Manchuria. Vladivostok is farther from Moscow than is San Francisco from Boston, and the field of operations is connected with the base of supplies by a single track railway of immense length, not yet wholly complete, very hastily built, interrupted by a lake over which there is a ferry of more than twenty miles, with a running capacity not exceeding eighteen or twenty miles an hour, through a very thinly inhabited section of country, and with constant danger of interruptions by skillful enemies perfectly posted in regard to the location and condition of the road in all parts. It will be an immense undertaking to support 300,000 men over this road. In the opinion of a good many military experts in Europe, 250,000 men represents the largest army which Russia can properly support in Manchuria. The financial centers of Europe have been a good deal disturbed by the possibility of heavy drafts by both Russia and Japan in order to carry on the war. So far, neither country has shown any inclination to draw upon Europe. Japan intends to float a war loan of about \$30,000,000 at home, and Russia has begun by issuing treasury notes to the extent of \$25,000,000. During the Chinese war, nine years ago, Japan astonished the financial world by raising about \$112,000,000 by loans absorbed at home and by taxation. The Russian Government, among other resources, has over \$500,000,000 in gold and bank notes in reserve; so that although the financial condition of the country is anything but sound, the sinews of war for the immediate future are amply supplied.—The Outlook.

The Lost Art of Hospitality.

WHERE are the good old gods of hospitality that were once the chief duties of the household and fireside? Have they no place under the new social regime? Perhaps we hurry too much nowadays to practice the graces of our forefathers. Electricity has set the pace for the past half century, and we are trying to keep up with its telegraph systems, its cars and motor cycles. And dust gathers on the neglected gods as they huddle forlorn and neglected in their corners.

Fifty years ago and more men kept their houses practically as wayside inns for the specific use of their friends, for the general use of whosoever fared that way. To-day a man's house is where he rushes for his meals or to see if his wife and children are peradventure still alive within its walls, and where he sleeps—when his business worries leave his brain clear enough to invite slumber. With the coming of day he is up and off again in the swift mad chase for fame or money, chiefly money.

There are a few people who still cling to the good old habit of receiving on specified afternoons and evenings; they have retained the charm of looking always so rested and at ease that their guests come to rest and acquire, if possible, that same ease, and look with longing on the resurrected gods free from dust, smiling, contented and happy on their pedestals. For the majority of hosts and hostesses to-day, however, entertaining means an annual investment in flowers, fees and music, and a setting open of all the doors to the home. An army of friends and acquaintances rushes through the swift and lukewarm greetings, nobody remembers who came or what they said, and the house is cleaned and closed until the next annual invasion. Sometimes it is a card party, where many come because of the prizes or the supper, and forget even to speak to their hostess again when next they meet her on the street. Entertaining so that both the entertainers and their guests enjoy it is an art almost lost in this busy, work-a-day world. The open door that was the synonym for old-time hospitality is a word that is known to-day only in its political sense and when applied to China. To build houses for accommodating one's invited guests is not characteristic of

WAR MAPS IN DEMAND.

Trouble in the Far East Proving a Bonanza to Mapmakers.

To the mapmakers in the United States the Russian-Japanese war in the East is proving a bonanza. The principal home of the industry in this country is Chicago, and one firm in that city is now turning out 4,000,000 maps a week. These figures seem incredible, yet the books of the firm show that the statement is true. The United States and Canada absorb most of this supply, but Europe and Asia also take their share of it.

War is a great stimulant of the map business. Since the trouble began draftsmen, engineers and electrotypers have been busy night and day in turning out diagrams of the scene of the Russian-Japanese conflict. Korea, Manchuria, Siberia and the islands of Japan have been the subject of maps of all sizes and colors. "War atlases" have been compiled containing prints of all the Russian possessions and of every bit of territory that is in any way likely to be affected by the naval and military campaigns. Advertisers seize upon these booklets with avidity, knowing that the average man likes nothing better than to spread one open in front of his admiring family and expound to them the meaning of the meager and contradictory cablegrams from the seat of war. England's fight with the stubborn Boer republics opened up a strong demand for geographical information regarding South Africa, but the Spanish-American conflict was the prize winner from a mapmaker's point of view.

"When Dewey opened fire on the Spanish ships on May 1, 1898," said a man who has spent thirty years in fostering the map industry in Chicago, "not one man in a hundred knew where the Philippine Islands were. I happened to be aware of that fact, and our draftsmen were at work upon far eastern geography before the people waked up to their desire for knowledge of the subject. It was the most strenuous six weeks we have ever had. Cuba and Porto Rico did their share, and we had to turn out new maps of the United States showing all our islands and possessions."

The Alaskan gold furor and the Panama Canal discussion made people want to have those portions of the world platted out for them, but the de-

to-day. The man who not long since added two or three rooms to his house because he was "so fond of having company come and stay," is a mild sort of sensation in the eyes of his less hospitable neighbors.

Less hurry and less worry and seeing one's congenial friends more often would mean the salvation of many a work-ridden, care-worn person of to-day, and architects should discover what the art was in the old houses that made them so attractive that one's friends could not stay away from such comfortable places even if they tried.—Memphis Scimitar.

Need for a Hospital Car.

WITH all the improvements in medicine and surgery of recent years, with all the increase in the number of physicians, with all the substitution of trained nurses for Mrs. Gamps, with all the provision of hospitals and dispensaries to the cities, little consideration has been shown for invalids by railroad companies and hotels. The sick man is never welcome as a passenger on a railroad train, and he is not received with gladness at a hotel. On the day expresses, running from New York in all directions, the man who suffers from an illness or an injury has a hard time of it if he is trying to reach his home in the country, or a sanitarium, or a resort in the mountains to which he has been ordered by his doctor. There is no place in the car for a bed, no place for his medicines, and he may have to ride for two or three hundred miles sitting in a chair, racked by the motion of the train and hardly able, from weakness, to hold himself erect. The sleeping car is an improvement, but there is just objection on the part of the other passengers to sharing the confined space with a consumptive, and it is certainly disquieting to think of occupying a berth that only a few hours before was taken by a patient suffering from a contagious disease.

Hence it is a move in the right direction that has been made by the Pullman company in building a car for the express accommodation of invalids. It will probably have larger beds than the ordinary sleeping car, no top berths and better ventilation; it should have the easiest of springs, and be clear of carpets, curtains, plush and the usual textiles that catch and hold microbes; it should have hot water as well as cold, on tap; it should have cupboards for drugs and instruments, where they would be in no danger of breakage and, especially, it should be so constructed that it could be cleaned with a hose after every trip, after the manner of operating rooms in hospitals. If this car were switched from road to road, and its departures advertised, there is hardly a doubt that, merely as a business proposition, it would be made to pay. In the better sense there is no doubt on that point.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Japan's Sea Training.

IN the eleventh or twelfth century the Japanese were the most dashing pirates of the East; in fact, we might almost call them the vikings of the East. They used junks—small ships with a scrap of sail, but the little vessels in which the Danes once raided our own coasts, or as the craft which the Penseance fisherman have to-day. With these junks the Japanese roamed the seas, going everywhere along the Chinese main, ravaging the coasts, trading and bringing home priceless works of art from China.

It was not until long afterwards that the ruling authorities of Japan, under the great Emperor Hideyoshi, decided that it suited their purpose to shut off communication with the outside world and to live to themselves, trading merely among their own islands. The old Japanese vikings were reduced to simple fishermen, and the period of internal feudatory wars began, for at that time at least Japanese would fight because they loved it.—London Telegraph.

JAP ARTILLERY LANDING ON THE TATUNG RIVER.



The Tatung River, a view of which is herewith given, flows through northern Korea and empties into the Yellow Sea. Pingyang is situated on the banks of this stream, which is now held by the Japanese. The Tatung is used to transport munitions of war and troops into the interior. Small boats are employed for the purpose. By such means guns, artillery mules and other ordnance supplies are transported, thus avoiding the Korean roads, which are practically impassable at this time of the year.

mand was not so great as the quest for war time knowledge. World's fairs, the opening of Indian lands, and similar events of national interest are other "peaceful reasons" for map-making.

EXPERIMENTS ON THE BRAIN.

Electric Current Used to Induce Sleep—Sensation Felt.

Experiments on the brain of a living subject with electric currents have been comparatively rare, as there has prevailed among physicians and physiologists the idea that such a course of experimentation was extremely dangerous, says Harper's Weekly. There have recently been published, however, records of some experiments carried on by M. S. Leduc, with the object of using the electric current to produce sleep and of studying its effects on the brain, generally.

In early experiments it was shown that the brain is the best conductor of electricity in the human body, being about 3,000 times more conducting than muscle. It was also observed that when a continuous current was passed through the head from one ear to the other the sensation of giddiness was produced, and that objects appeared to revolve in the same direction as

the current flowed. However, when the electrodes are placed on the forehead and neck and the current sent from back to front, the effects are innocuous so long as a mild current is used and in some cases may be beneficial. According to M. Leduc, the most satisfactory current is one of four milliamperes at thirty volts, which is broken or interrupted 100 times a second for nine-tenths of the period of the interruption. The first effect noted was the disappearance of the faculty of speech, after which followed the loss of the motor faculties. Under ordinary conditions there is no affection of the respiration or pulse unless the current is increased, and then it may cease. The patient is said to awaken instantaneously from the electric sleep and to experience a feeling of refreshment.

On English Railways.

The number of men employed on the railways of the United Kingdom, including boys, is 523,982.

After a man has been engaged three or four weeks, he begins to find opportunities to take sides in her quarrels.

If a man loses all his money he also manages to lose nearly all his enemies.

QUEEN ISABELLA.

Former Spanish Sovereign Dies an Exile in Paris.

Former Queen Isabella I. of Spain, grandmother of King Alfonso, died in Paris recently of the grip and lung complications.

The life of the former queen was a long and stormy one. Twice she was expelled from Spain, the last time in 1577, and since then she has maintained her residence in the French capital, longing to return to her native heath. Owing to the belief that her presence in Madrid would be dangerous to the ruling house, she has been forced to remain in exile.

Maria Isabella Louisa was born at Madrid Oct. 30, 1830. Her father, Ferdinand VII., revoked the salic law; and at his death, Sept. 29, 1833, his eldest daughter, then a child, was proclaimed queen under the regency of her mother, Maria Christina.



QUEEN ISABELLA.

This event proved the signal for civil warfare, as the claims of the late king's brother were warmly supported by certain classes of the people.

The war lasted seven years and the country was desolated, until the Cortes confirmed the claims of Isabella pronouncing sentence of exile on Don Carlos and his adherents.

In 1840, the queen regent finding it impossible to carry on the government without making concessions to public feeling for which she was indispensed, retired to France, resigning her power into the hands of Espartero, head of affairs. Isabella was declared by a decree of the Cortes to have attained her majority Oct. 15, 1843, and took her place among the reigning sovereigns of Europe. Maria Christina returned to Madrid in 1845.

RATS LEAVING BY THOUSANDS.

Yet There Is No Apparent Decrease in Their Number at New Orleans.

Captain A. R. McGonnigal was for a number of years an officer of one of the fruit steamers plying between New Orleans and Central American ports. Talking with me about this fruit trade he said: "Do you know, it amazes me that the fruit steamers do not succeed in ridding New Orleans of its rat population. They are continually carrying rats away from New Orleans and never bring them back, yet the rat supply in the Crescent City always holds up under the strain pretty well."

"I was in the trade for a good many years, and I count this curious freak of the Louisiana rats one of the oddest things I have ever been cognizant of. While the fruit steamers lie at the New Orleans docks the rats stow themselves away by the scores and the hundreds. Cats are of no avail in keeping them back. I had fifteen on board my craft once, and they succeeded in doing no more than keep the rodents below deck. On the other voyage they are one of the biggest nuisances imaginable, but as soon as the vessel reaches one of the Central or South American ports they swarm ashore, as though the Pied Piper of Hamelin were playing on the sands."

"During the return voyage to New Orleans, with my vessel loaded with luscious fruit, and, it would be presumed, far more enticing to a rat, I have never seen them on board. They sail out with us, but they never come back. I don't know how to account for it, but the statement is true, and I have no doubt the captain of every vessel in the fruit trade out of New Orleans has noticed it and will substantiate my assertion."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Postage Stamp Puzzle.

Take a row of postage stamps, say twelve, gum the end one down to the table and find in how many ways the whole twelve can be bent at their perforations so as to make a compact pile of twelve. Of course, if you have only two stamps there is but one way of forming the pile—namely, the folding the one over the other. If you have three it is easy to see that there are two ways of manipulating the third stamp. A little ingenuity and a little patience will enable you to decide how four stamps may be folded, but when the number gets larger the problem becomes very difficult.

The Sand-Glass.

The sand-glass is again to be found as a picturesque dining-table equipment, and the old-world timekeepers look quite at home. Three-minute sand-glasses accompany the bronze egg-bollers now so popular for breakfast table use. These glasses are used by many housewives at table when the vials run the risk of being spoiled by a fraction over a second under or over doing.

The first thing a woman plants is sweet peas; the first thing a man plants is potatoes.