

Topics of the Times

Even a blind mule can feel with his feet.

When a woman is too angry to talk her husband is in luck.

Political principle is one thing and political interest quite another.

True charity consists of opening the purse and keeping the mouth closed.

The earth is the Lord's, but Mr. Rockefeller insists on claiming the inside of it.

Many a man who says he has great presence of mind manages successfully to conceal it.

Boston physicians now claim that piano music will cure neuralgia. Some of us prefer neuralgia to insomnia.

A young man thinks he is unworthy of the girl during courtship, but after marriage he soon discovers his error.

Russell Sage's version: "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man's employer healthy, wealthy and wise."

Although worth eighty millions, Russell Sage lives like a poor man and for all practical purposes might as well be one.

The Koreans are getting off more easily than they expected and are even managing to make a little money selling things to the soldiers.

In the list of heroes etched by the flames on the Slocum the name of the captain of a pleasure yacht who made no effort to save life will not appear.

A scientist has discovered that loafing is conducive to health and longevity. Come to think of it, who ever saw a tramp suffering from arteriosclerosis?

"Dig" is the terse motto under which at least one graduating class moved out into the big, busy world this year. It might be passed on to the Panama Canal Commission.

An ambitious lady of Connecticut has applied for admission to the Daughters of the Revolution on the ground that her great-grandfather murdered the King's English.

Hetty Green has taken the trouble to deny another report that she has given away a lot of money. Hetty must believe there is somebody somewhere who thinks she would really do such a thing.

Far away in the mountains of the Canadian Northwest, on the borders of the Canadian national park, near Banff, a bed of fine anthracite has been discovered which is from six to ten feet thick. It has been traced about ten miles. Such a deposit of hard coal will be of much use to Canada in many ways. So the development of the Dominion goes on steadily and Canadian prospects are excellent. The more Canada flourishes the better for the United States. Our neighbor to the north cannot prosper without benefit to this country.

Smokeless powder is very different from the old-fashioned black or the later brown cocoa powder. These latter are quick to explode, becoming transformed into gas almost instantaneously, but the nitrocellulose compound now used in our navy guns burns much more slowly, even when confined. When not subjected to confinement it may be said hardly to explode at all. Owing to this deliberate decomposition of the powder in the unclosed gun and in the handling-room below the turret, there was little or no rending effect of the explosion upon the structure of the Missouri. The loss of life was due almost wholly to the intense heat.

No writer in the English tongue stands in the same rank with Shakespeare, and yet none was so incessant a debtor as he to the classic writers and the folklores of other countries. From "Hamlet" to "Shylock," from "Coriolanus" to "Cymbeline" his playwright path is strewn with the fragments of an older literature from which he had pilfered the best he could lay his hands upon without so much as "by your leave." It is, after all, the people who popularize rather than the people who suggest or invent an idea who deserve whatever praise attaches to its success. The geologist tells the miner where he might wisely dig for gold, but it is the miner whom we pay for getting out and giving us the precious metal.

Under skilful business administration the French colonies along the west coast of Africa are attaining remarkable prosperity. In Dahomey a railway is under construction from the chief seaport, Kotonou, to Tcharu, three hundred and seventy-seven miles inland. The Niger is to be ultimately the terminus. French Guinea is building a line from Konakry, the capital, to the Niger at Koussara, three hundred and forty-two miles, of which ninety miles are completed. Senegal, which has several railways in operation, is planning to dredge the Senegal River and connect it by rail with the Niger, as a route for exporting cotton and other interior products. The Ivory Coast is planning a railroad to the liu-

terland from Basam. All this work, as well as harbor improvement, sanitation and wagon-roads, is done by native laborers directed by native chiefs, thus retained in authority, and paid from the colonial revenues without extra taxation.

Are the sacred words, "I love you," for lovers' lips alone? Is the tender message but for youth's May day? Why, when the hair is gray must the tongue forget its skill? Why must the aging heart forget its tenderness? Why when youth has fled must the message of love express itself in colder words, or not at all? Who knows how the older heart may hunger for the words of long ago? Why does the husband forget that the wife still listens for the words he has forgotten? Why does the wife forget that the husband, who should still be her lover, can, by the long-ago words, "I love you," be drawn swiftly to her side. Why does the daughter forget to say, "Mother, I love you," until it is too late, until the mother is gone, and the daughter can only say with tears, "I loved her?" Why is the son, strong and sturdy, ashamed to say, "Mother, I love you?" Why does he choke and stumble over the words that in the presence of his sweetheart come so glibly to his tongue? Husband, only this day is yours. Say to the wife, "I love you." Wife, but this hour can you call your own. Breathe to the husband, "I love you." Daughter, son, but this fleeting moment belongs to you. Say to the father, who is tottering, to the mother, whose hair is gray, to the sister who was your childhood's companion, to the brother who fished with you, who climbed with you, and who is now growing old with you—say to him, to them all, "I love you." Speak the words now while the ears are listening, now while the eyes can smile back their gladness, now while the heart can throbb its joy.

Laxity and diversity of the laws relating to marriage in the various States of the Union are justly blamed for the growth of what may almost be called the divorce habit in America. Yet there are a few general tendencies which do not derive their origin and force from individual lives. Personal reforms are often needed before legislative reforms can be effective. It may fairly be asked whether the confusion of pleasure and happiness in many minds is not responsible for a great deal of trouble. The two things differ in that one is transitory and the other abiding. Now, if there is any one quality of matrimony which should distinguish it from other conditions of life, it is the quality of permanence. Happiness rather than pleasure should be the token of its success. It is a limited view of marriage which looks forward chiefly to the pleasure of having one's own establishment—the sense of proprietorship on the part of the man, the greater freedom in many fields of activity for the woman. The whole chorus of experience proclaims the rather tiresome, true story that the real satisfactions of marriage come from quite other sources—the sharing of responsibilities and experiences, the surrender of certain personal preferences, the daily, yearly growth of sympathy and understanding. It is hard to make all young persons believe the truth of these thrice familiar statements. It may be just as hard to give them a "realizing sense" of the distinction between happiness and pleasure. They must learn most of it for themselves. This is meant merely as a guide-post, pointing in what seems the right direction.

Still in a Church Spire. Not long ago an interesting discovery was made at Quezac, France, by a couple of officers of the customs. As the result of anonymous information they climbed into the spire of the church, and after a careful search found a still which, although dating from the seventeenth century, was yet in a perfect state of preservation and capable of being worked. Naturally the requirements of the law with regard to apparatus of this description had not been complied with in this case, but who was the offender? The vicar in charge of the building? The sacristan who visited weekly? Interrogated, the former declared that he had only recently come into the parish and had never set foot in the spire. He was therefore totally ignorant of the existence of the incriminating vessel. The sacristan, however, could not allege so valid an excuse, and his explanation not being considered satisfactory he will be proceeded against.

Weight at Birth. The average weight of boys at birth is a little more, and of girls a little less, than six and a half pounds. For nine years the sexes are nearly equal in their growth; but then the boys range rapidly ahead, so that at 20 they average about 143 pounds, and young women of the same age but 120. At 35 a man generally reaches his heaviest, at about 152 pounds; but women slowly increase until 50, when they average about 182 pounds. Averaging men and women altogether, at full growth they are about twenty times as heavy as at birth. The common range of weight for men is 108 to 220 pounds, and for women 88 to 207 pounds.—London Medical Record.

Art of War. "And if one is unable to keep the enemy from crossing the river?" asked the pupil. "In that case," replied the master of strategy, "the press censor should allow rumors to circulate that you are trying to lure him across."—Puck.

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Wage-Earning by Married Women.

THE American prejudice against wage-earning by married women appears in the effort occasionally made to make the employment of teachers in the public schools terminate with marriage. But thousands of American married women do earn wages, thousands more would gladly do so if they could, and other thousands would be happier and better off if they did. The prejudice against it seems disadvantageous. American men, as a rule, prefer to support their wives if they can. If an American married woman works for pay, it is either because it gives her pleasure or because her husband's income is insufficient. She does not do it as a matter of course. How long she can keep it up depends upon what the work is, and upon other circumstances. If she has children, that, of course, interferes with her wage-earning if it does not stop it altogether, and general acceptance of a custom which would restrict or discourage child-bearing is not to the public advantage. Marriage tends, and should tend, to withdraw women from wage-earning, but it need not stop it per se and abruptly. To make marriage a bar to future wage-earning by a woman operates in restriction of marriage, and that is at least as much against public policy as restriction of child-bearing. It will always depend on circumstances whether a young wage-earning woman who marries had better go on with her work, but Dr. Patten seems to be right in holding that it is often best that she should do so, and that it is often better that she should marry and still earn wages than not marry. Prejudice should not determine conduct in these matters. There should be a freer choice.—Harper's Weekly.

Waste Lands and Criminals.

MASSACHUSETTS is about to try a new experiment in the industrial management of its convicts. Instead of employing them in manufacturing goods to compete with the products of non-criminal labor, it is proposed to establish industrial camps and set the convicts to reclaiming waste and worthless land, of which the Bay State possesses enough to keep them at work for generations.

The plan is a tentative one, the first camp having just been established near Rutland, but on the face of it the scheme appears to possess two merits. It furnishes outdoor work for the convicts without subjecting them to the humiliation of constant public observation, as would be the case if they were employed on the streets and highways, and the work performed will be useful work. If they are able to make two blades of grass grow where one or none grew before there is authority for the claim that they will be transformed from malefactors into benefactors.

The experiment will be watched with a good deal of interest for various reasons. While no sane person would advocate the maintenance of criminals in idleness, no one has as yet found a way of employing them that is entirely satisfactory. The farming out of convicts which has been practiced in some of the Southern States has been shown to be subject to glaring abuses. These abuses could be minimized if not entirely avoided if the State did the farming under wise and honest management. Every State has an abundance of waste lands, which would be worth reclamation, and which, if reclaimed, would add to the public wealth.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Automobile Nuisances.

THE wife of a railway magnate in New York has been nearly killed by a stone thrown at her head while riding in an automobile. The Police Commissioner, discussing the event, says: "The automobile people must be protected. This matter of hatred that has been growing among the mob gangs of the lower and upper East Side has got to stop if I have any power." Of course there is no possible excuse for such an action as throwing a stone at a lady's head, but we wonder if it has occurred to Police Commissioner McAduo that there are other people besides the automobile people, who need protection; that there must be a cause for the hatred between the automobile people and the gangs. At the present time some of the

LACKED JUST WHAT HE WANTED.

The agent for the "Inexhaustible Cyclopaedia, in Twelve Parts," approached Mr. Ransom with a light and springy step, and was greatly cheered when he received an invitation to "draw up an" show your wares," and the other rocking-chair on the shady porch was pushed towards him. "You say there's everything anybody wants to know in it," said Mr. Ransom, generally, when the agent's flow of conversation had ceased for a moment and he looked hopefully at his host. "Well, I guess I shall have to buy it. Lawsee, yes, I can see how easy the payments'll be. But now I just want to make sure o' one or two things before I pay ye down the fust money.

"Le's see, what parts have ye got with ye? 'Vol. One, A to Com,' that's all right. Now you find me the place where it tells about ant-hills, and the best way to rid your dooryard o' 'em. I've tried more'n forty different ways a'ready."

Mr. Ransom leaned comfortably back in his chair and rocked with a loud creak while the agent searched the pages of "Vol. One," with an anxious face. "It doesn't tell about them," he stammered at last. "You see—"

Mr. Ransom raised his hand in protest. "It's too bad," he said, "but probably that slipped their minds. Jest turn over to the b's, and find 'butler.' Now see how you can make it come when it's contrary, same as it is sometimes when you're in a hurry to get through churning."

streets of Montreal and the suburban roads are infested with automobiles, in the possession of a lot of howling Yahoos, who go out of their way to be offensive to people who do not happen to like the smell of gasoline. They deliberately try to frighten horses; to scare pedestrians, and to splash them with mud. It would be interesting to know how some of the cads come to be in even temporary possession of the machines. They certainly do not belong to the class that can afford to own or to hire such luxuries. It would be worth the while of all respectable people who are interested in automobilism to make a combined effort to suppress this nuisance. Anybody walking along a highway frequented by automobilists can readily understand why hatred has grown up between the East Side gangs and the New York automobilists.—Montreal Star.

The Insurance of a Man Hanged.

BY the ruling of a Pennsylvania court an insurance company has been freed from the necessity of paying the policy of a man hanged for crime. The man, of course, was beyond the possibility of having any concern in the matter. His heirs were not, and they are the ones who must suffer. In China, not a highly civilized country, the relatives of an assassin are forced to share the penalty with him, or indeed to bear all of it, in case of the criminal's escape.

The courts of Pennsylvania may understand law and have the ability to construe it. To such credit as they are entitled for acumen, purity and fearlessness they are heartily welcome. And doubtless on the lofty plane which they operate in the interests of justice they are above feeling a pang of discomfort at the intimation that the Chinese theory, refined and modified and made presentable by a setting of words, appears in this decision. It would be unfair to hang the innocent wife of a murderer, or send his children to prison. It is not more dazzlingly fair to starve them or send them to the poor house.

Nobody desires the insurance company to be deprived of any legitimate protection. As a rule, it does not suffer much. Generally the rare swindler is caught and a heavy penalty exacted.

Policies carried for a certain time become "incontestable." That is to say, the company will not contest them unless through some circumstance, probably a technicality, it sees a reasonable chance of beating the claim of the heirs. If it has agreed to pay a certain sum upon the death of a certain man, and the man, having fulfilled his share of the contract, is dead, nothing remains but the payment of the sum or a dishonorable attempt at evasion. In the instance under consideration the man had committed murder. This was the business of the company only as it was the concern of all law-abiding citizens. It is a folly to assume that he committed the murder with the purpose of getting himself hanged, and thus securing for his heirs a sum of money. The law prescribes the punishment for murder. It stipulates, in Pennsylvania, that the guilty shall be hanged. It does not add "and his heirs deprived of the insurance upon which he may have paid premiums."—New York American.

Educated Business Men.

STUDENTS of the history of education are familiar with the time when the object of the collegiate foundation was almost solely to train young men for the priesthood or the ministry. Then the desirability of general scholastic culture as a preparation for entry into the law was recognized, and lastly, as a preparation for entry into medicine. The ministry, the law and medicine—these almost up to our time have been the three learned professions. Except for the comparatively small number attracted by the notion that an academic education was fitting to gentility, the vast majority of academic pupils were destined, in the order named, for the surplice, the robe and the chaise. From the three typical American universities the greater number of graduates now look forward to business careers or to technical pursuits which are closely related to business. The business man of the future is plainly to be a man of scholastic education. This tendency is likely to have an effect on business as it already has an effect on our universities.—New York Globe.

NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE.

Traffic on the Mississippi Has Experienced a Decline in Recent Years. The best days of the Mississippi River traffic are long since past, and the scenes that once endeared that stream have apparently gone never to return. The best year for steamboat business on the Mississippi is said to have been the one immediately before the outbreak of the Civil War, says Mr. Chittenden in the World To-day. During that conflict, until the North gained control of the river, commercial boating below the mouth of the Ohio was broken up entirely. On the Missouri a new source of business sprang up in the early years of the war by the discovery of gold at the headwaters of that stream. Then began that most remarkable episode in the history of river navigation, the sending of cargoes from St. Louis to the base of the Rocky Mountains, more than 2,000 miles distant and half a mile vertically upward. Long before the steamboat business on the Mississippi and its tributaries had reached its maximum the forces

which were to accomplish its ruin had begun to operate. The beginning of practical railroading followed many years after that of steamboating, but when it once got well under way its progress and development rapidly outstripped those of its older rivals. Here was a steam engine that could go with its load anywhere. It did not have to follow water courses. It could climb mountains if they were in its way. It could serve the inland town as well as the river port. Its speed was four times or more that of the steamboat. It was not put out of commission by the winter's ice, but served the public the year round. Clearly, the steamboat stood little show in its struggle with a rival like this.

For many years, from one cause and another, the boats held their own; but finally the railroads got the upper hand, and their vast development in the twenty-five years following the Civil War practically drove the steamboat business from the rivers. The commercial interests of the country have always looked with regret upon the disappearance of the steamboat. There is a deep-rooted conviction that our rivers have some value in the commercial economy of the country, as regulators of freight rates if nothing more, and there has been a strenuous effort to maintain active navigation. There is a hopeful belief that the future will see the rivers again teeming with boats, as they do in Russia, Austria and France. But the logic of statistics is against it.

Traffic on the Suez Canal.

In spite of the reduction of transportation charges of 10 cents a ton, the receipts from the traffic of the Suez canal for the year 1903 are only a little less than those of the previous year, so a further considerable increase of traffic can be stated. The receipts were \$20,700,000, or \$20,000 less than in 1902.

SALVATION LASSIES

ADOPT NEW ATTIRE.

About 12,000 women in the United States this year are to have brand-new bonnets for the first time in many summers. They are women, too, who heretofore have not known what it is to have a new Easter hat, or what it is to wear a flower or a feather. Their millinery has not only this peculiarity, but each one's bonnet is as exactly alike her sister's as two peas. Whether her face is long and narrow, or short and broad; whether her nose turns up with a heavenly tip or down with a melancholy droop, and without one thought as to what the beauty expert declares to be her physical culture duty, every one of these 12,000 women has been wearing the same kind of hat winter and summer, in wet weather and dry.



These are the Salvation Army lassies, and their black poke bonnets, trimmed with somber ribbon, may have a vacation this year if the lassies think it best.

There are new suits, too, to go with the new hats, and, while they are an innovation in this country, they are not novelties on the other side of the water. It is the summer uniform worn by the Salvation Army women not only in England, but in Canada, and is made of lighter colors and materials, suitable to the warm weather. The suit is of linen—a plain skirt, with a short sack coat buttoned the full length, with a little turn-down collar at the neck, and straps on the shoulders. Upon the straps the officers of the army may have the stars indicating their rank, if they desire. The picture shows Ensign Margaret Ironside, a dark-haired lassie, in one of the first suits brought over.

MODERN BULLET WOUNDS.

United States Army Surgeon Discourses on the Various Kinds.

In the course of an address in which he described some of his experience as surgeon with the American army in the Philippines, Dr. W. D. Webb stated that his personal observations of the character of wounds made by the modern small-bore high-velocity bullets was not in accordance with what he had read in the literature of the subject, says the Hospital. He found that he was quite unable to tell from the nature of the wound at what range a wounded man had been hit, or to say beforehand what kind of wound would occur at a given range. As a general rule the nature of the tissues struck was of more consequence than the range at which the bullet was fired.

Thus wounds of the cranium or of compact bones were accompanied by extensive comminution, while wounds involving the soft tissues were, almost always, perforating in character, with very small apertures of entrance and exit. He saw a number of accidental wounds in the hands and feet where the muzzle of the rifle was within a few inches of the injured member, and in these cases a small perforating wound was the usual result, unless the metacarpal or metatarsal bones were involved, in which case there was commonly present extensive comminution, with forcing of the fragments outward and a large wound of exit.

He saw a number of wounds made at ten to twenty yards in nature prisoners shot while attempting to escape, and these again failed to show the explosive effect described for this range, unless the cranium was involved. Three natives, shot at 1,400 yard range, sustained perforating wounds, with small apertures of entrance and exit two through the chest and one through the thigh. Wounds of the head were accompanied by extensive communication and usually resulted in immediate death. Wounds of the thorax were in practically all cases perforating, with small wounds of entrance and exit. An uneventful recovery with few symptoms other than the expectation of a small amount of blood was the rule, unless a large vessel was involved, in which case death usually occurred in the field.

Wounds of the abdomen—unlike the experiences of the South African war—were highly fatal. Every case that he saw which was not operated on died either immediately or soon after the wound was inflicted from peritonitis. Only two cases recovered and in both there were perforations of stomach or intestine which were closed by suture.

Not Yet a Lost Art.

"The art of letter-writing is sadly neglected nowadays," said the man of literary taste.

"That remark," said his more practical friend, "shows that you haven't a son at college who is applying himself to showing you why his allowance ought to be increased."—Washington Star.

Beard and Rice as Food.

Only one-third of the world's population use bread as a daily article of food. Nearly one-half of the people of the world subsist chiefly on rice.

When you give a dollar present to a friend, don't butt your feelings against a wall by asking him to guess; he will say 75 cents.

It is a question which troubles a woman the more through life—her heart strings or corset strings.