

## Topics of the Times

Secretary Hay is a grandfather, and it's a boy. Bring on the little breeches.

An "impregnable fortress" is merely one requiring a large force and men and artillery to take.

Gracious, what a glorious thing it would have been for the Russians if the Czar's boy had been twins.

The moon will bear watching. According to Astronomer Pickering, it has broken out in a new spot.

Naturally the project to make paper money "velvety" has failed, and we shall go on working hard for it as of old.

But if Carrie should appear at the door, would Bishop Potter be warranted in saying something like "Tarnation?"

There is a tide in the affairs of wheat which, taken at what seems to be the flood, frequently leads on to misfortune.

The power of the pessimist is shown by the public's familiarity with the word "dyspeptic" and its unacquaintance with "eupletic."

A New Jersey man has made himself a suit of asbestos clothing. He apparently has a suspicion of what the future holds in store for him.

Both Japan and Russia now have about \$200,000,000 invested in the war. The difference is that the Japs have something to show for their investment.

Just as soon as those English troops reached Lhasa they made it English by dropping the "h." They have been spelling it L'hasa all these years, and now they spell it Lassa.

It is said that the pay of the Japanese soldier is only 45 cents a month. In view of his recent performances we believe the war office would be justified in raising it to half a dollar.

A fashion writer for Mr. Bok's paper says that all women should wear a beauty spot so as to be fascinating. Some of them would be more fascinating if the beauty spot covered the entire face.

Statistics now in course of collation at Washington seem to indicate that the sifting process applied to immigration at the country's ports of entry is, to say the least, defective. Figures showing the number of aliens confined in penal and charitable institutions have been gathered by special agents in every State and Territory. These figures, it is said, show that thousands of foreigners who, under the laws, should not have been admitted to this country, have become public charges, and, as such, liable to deportation at the expense of the steamship companies that brought them to the United States.

It should be a source of pride to every one within whose veins flows Anglo-Saxon blood that our language is rapidly becoming the dominant vehicle of speech throughout the earth. No longer is it necessary for an American or Englishman contemplating foreign travel and equipped only with his mother tongue to feel the least apprehension as to his ability to go anywhere and everywhere along the beaten tracks of Europe. More people now speak English as their vernacular than speak any other European language. In every town and city of importance on the continent there are many persons, students for the most part, who are able to converse in English and who feel a just pride in the accomplishment and take pleasure in its exercise.

As if it were not enough to reform the spelling of certain words in our language, two scientists have come forward with the purpose of reforming the alphabet itself. They affect to have tested the speed with which the mind can recognize some of the letters, and the conclusion reached by them is that the forms of the printed letters are badly conceived from a physiological point of view; that if they were composed of characters of simple construction, such as are the letters T and L, the speed of the recognition of letters would be greatly increased and the mental fatigue would be much diminished. These scientists are shrewd enough not to say what form the other letters should take in order to relieve the mental fatigue. They end by simply making the complaint.

It is a curious fact that the desire for physical development for their children comes to many parents more slowly than that for intellectual development. It is pretty well acknowledged now by everybody—from the illiterate immigrant to the "poor white"—that "book learning" is a good thing for the children. But the schools in England meet the same opposition as those in America when they try to put the development of muscle on the same basis as that of memory. Many a school principal has listened to protests substantially like that of the good woman who carried her views of education to the grammar school teacher: "I want ye to teach me girl readin', writin' and rithmetick," said she, "but she ain't t' learn anny more of this physical teach. If it's jumpin' she needs, I c'n teach her jumpin' mo-

self!" Presently we shall make good our return to the Greek system, which included music and gymnastics as essentials to education, and so produced a wonderfully balanced creature—with body, mind and spirit in such due proportion that no one could overtop the other. The professional athlete, the puny scholar and the religious recluse are each the result of the separation of one department of education from the others. The symmetrical man is the result of the well-considered union of all the departments.

Once every year the soldiers of the Civil War who still survive are accustomed to gather somewhere for their national encampment. Three days are given to reunions and business meetings and a parade. This practice has continued so long that it has become an old story in all the northern half of the country; for the Grand Army has both encamped in Maine and in California. It is an old story in one sense, but a perennially new one in other senses. This year, for the third time, the Grand Army held its encampment in Boston. The city was decorated, of course, and unusually crowded. There were blue uniforms and black soft hats everywhere. The same white-haired men marched in the parade, a little stiffer in the knees and somewhat fewer in number, and they were cheered from end to end of the route. But there was nothing new about any of these things. Yet the encampment as a whole did produce—it always produces—something new and fresh: a rebirth of patriotism, a reacknowledgment of the debt due to these men, a new perception of what the war cost them. No one can watch the parade of the veterans without seeing that the vast majority of those in line are men in moderate circumstances. They consider themselves fortunate indeed that they are able to be present at all. Thousands of their old comrades, they will tell you, could not come because of the expense. Here is the new lesson which the encampment teaches, or the old lesson which it constantly repeats—the lifelong sacrifice of the men who fought and lived, as well as the short but complete sacrifice of those who died. The war ruined the chances of financial success for tens of thousands of soldiers, who, if they had been more selfish and less patriotic, would be richer to-day in the goods of this world; but how infinitely poorer both they and we should be in things which wealth cannot measure or money buy!

Born unto trouble, there rests a babe in the royal palace of Russia for whom go out the rejoicings of a great nation. The accident of birth has given an heir to the throne of the Romanoffs. From a man of melancholy, it is announced that the Czar has advanced to cheerfulness, and in the advent of his son, the Russian nation, always superstitious, sees an augury of wondrous things. Analysis of conditions in Russia previous to the great event which, barring death, has settled the Romanoff succession, will show why so much depends upon this little boy. The four daughters born to the Czar are mere nonentities, though Nicholas had it in his power to repeal the salic law and make them eligible to the throne, just as Isabella was made eligible to the Spanish throne by her father, Ferdinand VII. But the Russians are set against "petticoat rule," regardless of the fact that but little more than a century ago Catherine II. ruled so strenuously that she figures in Russian history as the greatest monarch since the days of Peter the Great. This thing alone has turned the people against the Czarina, who four times has disappointed them by giving them what court circles call a "makeshift" instead of a ruler. It has even been said that she was to be divorced, "for state reasons" much after the order of the "state reasons" which parted Napoleon and Josephine. The person who bore the title of Czarvitch in the absence of a direct heir of the Czar is the uncle of Nicholas, the Grand Duke Michael, than whom there is no more unpopular person in the whole Russian Empire. The contempt the Grand Duke holds for his nephew has never been hidden, and loyal Russians have resented it even more than the Czar himself. It is not difficult to see, therefore, how the nation regards the birth of the new Romanoff as a pleasant omen for Russia and an augury of better days. For it has given them back the Czarina, who at heart is really loved, and has relieved them of the ruling presence of the Grand Duke Michael, whose ascent of the throne would be regarded as a national calamity.

CHARLES E. SHIVELY.



The new Supreme Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias. He has been a member of the order since 1873, and resides at Richmond, Ind.

A man never realizes how high a fence he can jump until he is badly scared.

# EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

### Still a Nation of Farmers.

**T**HE recently published census report on "gainful pursuits" in the United States has evoked a discussion of the possible social and political effects of a continued drift of the people away from agriculture. Have we ceased to be a nation of farmers, and are the cities to keep on growing at the expense of the rural districts? We do not need the poet to tell us that God made the country, and that man made the town. The larger cities furnish us daily with evidences that they are man-made in situations, and that in the making of most of them man did a very bungling job. That the wealth of the country comes from the soil, and that our national prosperity rests upon agriculture are propositions so self-evident as to require no demonstration by expert economists. The truth of these propositions will be generally recognized, no matter what the census figures may say.

The census report on occupations would indicate to the superficial thinker that agriculture has ceased to be the leading industry of our people. The table showing the proportion engaged in the five principal classes of occupation in 1880 and 1900 is as follows:

	1880.	1900.
Agricultural pursuits	45.29	35.79
Professional	3.46	4.30
Domestic and personal	20.00	19.20
Trade and transportation	10.08	16.30
Manufacturing	21.17	24.41

The table indicates a decline in the relative importance of agriculture among the gainful pursuits. It shows a decrease of 9.50 per cent in the proportion of persons engaged in agriculture since 1880 and an increase of 9.40 in the proportion engaged in commerce and manufacturing.

But those who are inclined to grow pessimistic over the threatened "extinction" of agriculture will need to go deeper into the figures. It is found that the number of persons actually engaged in agriculture increased between 1880 and 1900 from 7,714,000 to 10,382,000. It is to be remembered also that this number is likely to keep on increasing for many years, not only through the opening of irrigable public lands to homesteaders, but because of the drift toward smaller farms and more intensive farming. The scientific agriculturist of the future will get more out of a fifty-acre tract than the old-time "farmer" got out of a quarter section.—Springfield Republican.

### Success in Life.

**S**UCCESS in life is relative. To no two minds does it mean the same. To no two conditions does it be alike applicable. The success of the farmer, for instance, who adds to his lands, rears his family in righteousness and passes his days in peace and content, far from the turmoil and triumphs of more swiftly moving life, would not seem to the lawyer, the politician or the city merchant to be a success at all.

The crossroads storekeeper may be a success in life in his own estimation and that of his neighborhood, though his brother of the city, who thinks in millions, cannot help looking down upon him with scorn.

There can be no material standard of success, for the reason that the outlook, the aspiration and the attainment of any man are his alone. No two can occupy the same viewpoint. No two can regard success from the same mind and heart.

The school-teacher, who ever gives, may cut a sorry figure in a biographical dictionary beside the millionaire, who ever gets. But in the real building up of the intellect and morality and happiness of the world it is she who is the giant and he the pigmy.

The poor underpaid preacher whose congregation is small because he preaches religion undefiled may in the common estimate be a failure. But who can foretell the harvest to come from the pregnant seed thus sown in good ground? Another generation may see a mighty church arise, that some rich man puts a gorgeous window in and calls his monument.

Which is the more successful life—the one that builds a great window or the one that stimulates the spirit which makes a church?

Possibly nine-tenths of us have no other serious pur-

pose in life than to get the best living we can. We are absorbed in our own little affairs—our wants and our enjoyments, ailments and ease, jealousies and envies, and hatreds and loves. The greater the degree to which we satisfy our wants and triumphs over our enemies the greater our success—we think.

But to gratify our wants is only to create new ones. Human longing is like a sea—the more we pour into it the more it spreads. The millionaire longs for more as eagerly as does the poor man. Content does not lie in the direction of acquisition or indulgence.

Success in life consists in fitting one's self to one's environment, and one thing more—elevating the environment.—Chicago Journal.

### Barbarous Waste in War.

**S**OME international pact should be achieved that will compel respect for ships and goods as objects of economic value in the whole world's rating, whether subject to seizure as contraband of war or otherwise. The Russians are warranted in arresting those trading steamers that are carrying supplies to their enemies, but neither they nor any other people are justified in destroying what the world needs as food, as fuel, as clothing, as medicine, and especially as ships. To empty a ship of its freight and then send her to the bottom, or, worse still, to send her down with her cargo, is barbarous. The coal supply is growing short. Not a ton of it should be wasted. If it is necessary to prevent its falling into the hands of the Japanese, let it be landed and sold to the highest bidder of a neutral nation, provided that circumstances prevent the captors from using it to their own advantage.

And the same with the captured ship. This is a work of skill and value, and is needed in facilitating the commerce of all countries. If it has made itself liable to seizure by trading in forbidden supplies, there is no reason why it should therefore be destroyed. It carries no fighting machinery, it is not a danger to the war fleet of the nation that makes the arrest. It may be carrying merely a few tons of contraband articles, and a deckful of supplies intended for neutrals or for people engaged in peaceful pursuits, and in such a case it is a wanton waste to sink it, if, indeed, it is not a defiance of international law. Powder and arms might be used by the captors, or might even be thrown overboard if there were no time to take them or room to stow them; but not the textiles, fruit, meat and manufactured products that nations exchange with one another. Warships are fair prey. They are to be sunk by the enemy whenever possible, or converted to the uses of the winning side, but to scuttle a million-dollar ship because of the accident of her trade is to commit a crime against all humanity, whose needs that ship is capable of serving.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### The Marrying Age.

**T**HE dictum of Gov. Warfield that girls should not marry until they are twenty-six has naturally caused considerable discussion among those most interested—the girls themselves, their parents, and the young men who do not want to wait for a bride until she is verging on old-maidhood. The first question of interest is a matter of fact: Are our girls generally marrying at too early an age? Some light is thrown on this matter by City Registrar McGlenn, of Boston, in the Globe of that city. He shows that in the year 1902, out of 6,172 brides, only 120, or a little more than 2 per cent, were less than eighteen. While more than half the total number were under twenty-five, yet 4,180, more than two-thirds of the whole number of brides, were married between the ages of twenty and twenty-nine.

These figures, the Registrar thinks, "do not indicate that all girls are marrying at an abnormally early age." Other writers on the subject testify that marriage is entered into by both sexes at a later average age than in former generations in this country. There are many reasons for this. The growing independence of women, the more extensive fields for their employment, the importance given to education, operate to defer marriage, as the increased cost of the wedded state deters many young men until they can "afford it."—New York World.

### GRANDMOTHER'S CLOCKS.

Long before the Western express had come within whistling distance of the Summerville station Uncle Charles declared he could hear the bells of grandmother's clocks. "Haven't heard 'em since I was a boy," he said, "but I know how they'll sound—all going together and every one of 'em right. I tell you, Lettie, you ought to have mother's sense of time. You can't even keep our mantel clock straight. Why, mother has a hall clock seven feet high and over a century old. Then there's the 'banjo' clock in the dining-room, and the 'sun' in the kitchen—we call in the 'sun' because of a round hole in the door-picture to see the pendulum through. There are three or four others besides, and the way mother keeps them straight is a marvel. It must be the old wooden wheels. Nothing like them made nowadays!"

Half an hour later grandmother greeted her home-coming flock at the door of the neat white farmhouse, and sent them to their rooms to prepare for a waiting dinner.

"Hello!" said Uncle Charles, as he followed Aunt Lettie into the east chamber. "There's Uncle Hiram Doty's old 'bullfrog' clock. Has a voice like a frog when it's getting ready to strike."

looked up in alarm and gazed at the "banjo-clock" before her. It was, so Uncle Charles discovered, an hour and a half fast. That alarmed her still more.

"Charles," said grandmother, severely, "have you been settin' my clocks?"

"Why, yes, mother. I fixed the 'sun' and the 'bullfrog.' They seemed a little off."

"Well, mercy sakes! How ever shall I tell the time now?"

"By them, of course. They're right now."

"Yes, but they won't be to-morrow. You see, Lettie" (this apologetically to her daughter-in-law), "they're all clocks that just won't go right. I know about how much each gains or loses in a day, so when I hear one strike I can tell about what time it is. For instance, this morning when the big hall clock struck three, I knew the hand said quarter to eight. The 'banjo' is an hour slower, so it said quarter to seven, and would strike ten in fifteen minutes. When that struck ten the 'sun' would say ten minutes to six, and would be almost ready to strike twelve. The 'sun' is fifty minutes ahead of the 'bullfrog,' which said quarter to five, and in twenty minutes would strike three, and that is twenty-five minutes behind Sarah Pettit's alarm-clock with the brass works that she set by the town clock last week, and isn't more than five minutes out; so it was about quarter after five and time to get up."

She looked at Uncle Charles reproachfully. "I do declare, Charles," she said, "you've gone and mixed me up so now I d'now's I ever shall get it figured out again."—Youth's Companion.

### CURIOUS SNUFF BOXES.

They Were Made in Many Cases to Suit Fancies of Users.

In the days when a snuff box was considered a necessary attribute to the perquisites of a beau—or a belle, for that matter—much ingenuity was brought to bear upon the manufacture of these dainty trifles. The results were often very novel,

and even the most captious and exacting snufftaker found something suited to his wants. Those with a taste for the morbid could buy boxes made from the wood of scaffolds, chairs that murderers had sat upon or parts of their houses. Sporting men could find pleasure in the little miniatures depicting scenes in the chase. Sailors had their boxes made from the timbers of some historical ship—the hull of the Royal George was turned to this purpose more than once.

Soldiers had battle scenes in miniature upon their boxes, and these were often executed with the finest workmanship and great attention was given to detail.

The Scotch, always great snuff takers, were very fond of manufacturing their snuff boxes from a crumpled horn. The end of the horn was hollowed out to hold the snuff and a little mallet was attached by which to tap the snuff from the sides if it adhered. Sometimes a brush was added to flick away particles from the nose. The ordinary Scotchman had a plain snuff box, but those belonging to the lairds were often embellished with silver mountings and precious stones, making them valuable as well as picturesque.

One of the most popular and well-known snuff boxes was that given to Napoleon by Pope Pius VI. When Napoleon died he left the box as a keepsake to Lady Holland, who had been very kind to him during his imprisonment at St. Helena. Lord Carlisle, who urged the lady to reject the gift, suggested that every time the box was opened horror and murder would leap out. The box was bequeathed by Lady Holland at her death to the museum.—London Daily Mail.

No Increase in the Laundry Bill. Housekeeper—Half the things you wash are torn to pieces.

Washerwoman—Yes, mum; but when a thing is torn in two or more pieces, mum, I count them as only one piece, mum.—New York Weekly.

Was there ever a boy who didn't have to carry somebody's dinner down town?

### JUDICIAL DECISIONS.

A withdrawal of an action for divorce, brought by a wife, is held, in *Oppenheimer vs. Collins* (Wis.), 60 L. R. A. 408, not to be sufficient to support a conveyance by the husband to the wife of his interest in his father's estate as against the claims of his creditors.

An occupier of land who undertakes to burn rubbish thereon is held, in *Paolino vs. McKendall* (R. I.), 60 L. R. A. 159, to be under no obligation to guard children of tender years, who are in the habit of resorting there to play, from injury by approaching the fire.

Physical injury or disease resulting from fright or nervous shock caused by negligent acts, where such result might with reasonable certainty have been anticipated or the negligence was gross, is held, in *Watkins vs. Kaolin Manufacturing Company* (N. C.), 60 L. R. A. 617, to give a right of action for damages.

A license to sell intoxicating liquors is held, in *Wallace vs. Reno* (Nebr.), 63 L. R. A. 159, to confer no vested right upon the licensee, and to be revocable before the expiration of the time for which it has been granted, by act of the Legislature, or by municipal officers acting under statutory authority, with or without notice to the licensee.

An attempt to board a train of cars running at eight or ten miles an hour by a young, strong and active man, with experience as a "traveling man" in boarding and alighting from moving cars, is held, in *Small vs. Travelers' Protective Assn.* (Ga.), 63 L. R. A. 516, to be an exposure to "obvious risk of injury" within the meaning of an accident insurance policy.

A mortgage executed in the name of a third person on chattels not yet acquired by the mortgagor, which does not purport to cover after-acquired property, is held, in *New England National Bank vs. Northwestern National Bank* (Mo.), 60 L. R. A. 256, not to bind such property as against a mortgage to another person executed by the mortgagor in his own name after the property has come into his possession.

A foreman of a bridge construction gang is held, in *Southern Indiana Railway Company vs. Harrell* (Ind.), 63 L. R. A. 400, not to represent the master in directing, at a time when a train is passing, the raising by a derrick, so constructed as to swing toward the track, of a stone to be placed in a pier of a railroad bridge, the effect of which is that the stone swings against the train and is forced against an employe, to his injury.

Erecting in or beside a highway a crane for delivering mail to passing trains, which, when the mail bag is strung upon it, is calculated to frighten horses or ordinary gentleness, is held, in *Cleghorn vs. Western Railway of Alabama* (Ala.), 60 L. R. A. 209, to be negligence which will render the railroad company liable to one who is injured by the frightening of his horse thereby, although the bag is actually placed in position by government employes.

### DANCING DOOMED IN LONDON.

Man's Interest in the Ball Room Said to Be Declining.

The matrons of Belgravia and Mayfair are said to be deeply concerned at the decline of interest in dancing among young men. It is even rumored that they are driven to the dire necessity of engaging professional dancers, presentable men from "Blankney" or some other universal provider, who will help at a ball and go meekly home with the hired plants in the morning.

The war in South Africa undoubtedly led to a decline in the graceful art, for the men were away fighting and the women stayed at home to think and weep. It is not inconceivable that with the return of peace men who had been accustomed to an active, stirring life on the "illimitable veldt" were disinclined for the easy dalliance of the ballroom. That is the suggestion, but is it discountenanced by such an experienced teacher of dancing as Miss Vincent, of St. James street.

"Nonsense!" she said, emphatically; "dancing is not on the decline among the people of Belgravia and Mayfair. I don't know what it may be in the counties, but I understand that a considerable number of house parties are being given, and dancing is just as fashionable as ever. High-class ballroom dancing among society people is certainly not doomed."

Another proof is that ladies, in increasing numbers, are seeking to qualify as teachers of dancing. If the dismal prophecies of decadence were justified their occupation would be gone, instead of which it is a flourishing and profitable profession. There is, therefore, no foundation for the statement that West End hostesses, especially those with marriageable daughters, are lamenting the dearth of those opportunities for effecting matrimonial alliances which a ballroom affords. Neither the aftermath of the war nor the craze for amateur theatricals has affected the passion for dancing.—London Chronicle.

### Better Than Medicine.

"Did you tell my wife that I had made my will and left all my property to her?" asked the sick man.

"I did," replied the lawyer.

"What did she say?" queried the invalid.

"Oh," answered his legal adviser, "she glanced in the mirror and asked if I thought she would look well in black."

And that is why the undertaker lost a job.