Topics of the Times

A billion dollars for the navy in 22 years is a good deal, but it is a pretty good navy.

There are times when an insurance company looks like a grasping octopus, and there are other times.

Jiu-jitsu is to be introduced at the Annapolis Naval Academy. Let the West Point boys watch out when the next football game comes off.

"Why are the policemen so popular with servant girls?" asks a subscriber. Don't know, unless the girls know the penalty of resisting an officer.

It is a real earl whom the youngest Miss Leiter married. That may not be a dig at the other girls of the family, but it does seem to be a dig.

Father Angelo of Pennsylvania says lovers should not sit on the same sofa. As they have experience in such matters and he has not, his protest lacks power.

Russia's war expenditures for last year were $364,000,000. Add to this the loss in life and we may understand why the Russian people are clamoring for peace.

A prominent educator says cheap shoes are destroying the beauty of American women. Shoo! Down with the man who can't see that American women are becoming more beautiful all the time.

We offer no opinion on the assertion of the Presbyterian clergyman that "the doctrine of the fall of man in Adam is a disastrous blunder." But we are sure the apple incident was a blunder on Adam's part.

General Howard lately saw for the first time a letter which General Sherman wrote to him forty years ago. The letter went astray, but the message was sent in another way and was received. The letter, after many vicissitudes, was framed as a precious relic. General Howard first saw it in the frame. Of course there was no rural free delivery in the army camp forty years ago, and probably that accounts for the tardy receipt of the letter.

Leading Southern newspapers are steadily preaching against the prevalent practice of carrying firearms, to which too many differences are referred, and there is plenty of need for it. Why should anybody desire to settle in regions where the pistol is so handy as to be a fatal commonplace of the life? This is one of the practical considerations involved that needs to be pressed home more vigorously. Civilization fails where firearms are supreme.

Ordinarily a great fortune is built up like a stone wall—a stone at a time. The young man who declines to lay the first stone, because it comes so far short of a wall, will never make progress in financial masonry. An immense proportion of the people of this country live up to their incomes, laying aside nothing for the traditional rainy day. Because they cannot save $1,000 in a bunch they save nothing. The greatest financial kings of the world have not been above taking care of the pennies even.

The ossified man, the bearded woman, the four-legged boy and the original rubber-neck can no longer make large incomes by exhibiting themselves to a curious public. There was a time when a good freak would receive $125 or $150 a week for sitting on a platform. It has been proved by the experiments of the last two years at Coney Island that the more respectable an entertainment and the more it appeals to the average well-conducted American household the more profitable it is. It is a good sign of public development.

"Shakspeare's Bible" was sold in London a few weeks ago for more than a thousand dollars. The book was printed in 1613, three years before Shakspeare's death, and is a copy of the King James Version. It contains two signatures, one "William Shakspeare," and the other "Willm Shakspeare," but who wrote them is a question which scholars are still debating. It is interesting to remember that the great English version of the Bible was a contemporary of "Hamlet" and "Macbeth." Poetry and prose reached their highest development in the same decade.

Now and then one hears of lamentation that Americans are not the sturdy race they used to be. The homespun ways of the pioneers are contrasted with the silken ways of their descendants and the conclusion is reached that the American of today is a creature of predigested foods and skim milk. Let all such Jeremiahs glace at the bill of fare for Senator Platt's recent breakfast and be forever silenced. Here is what a lot of politicans tackled for their morning meal: Buckwheat cakes and maple sirup, venison, sweet and hard cider, and pumpkin, apple and mine pie. Think of it, ye pepsin swallowers—hard cider and mince pie for breakfast.

If the pitiful human heart will but unite in one tenderly pleading, thunderously reverberating demand, kept up year in, year out, this hideously cruel waste and drain of war will stop. Noble souls are already rousing to resolute action and in this the American government has, thank God, taken the lead. Reason and love shall dominate brute, tiger passion. There shall be tribunals, supreme courts of the nations, which shall interdict private vengeance and bloodshed between nations, as our law courts have already interdicted it between private citizens. But these tribunals will have no weight of authority until backed up by my heart, your heart and the universal heart.

It is singular to hear a minister of the gospel denouncing the proverb, "Honesty is the best policy." But Bishop Curtis, vicar general of the archdiocese of Baltimore, took occasion in his sermon the other day to expose what he calls its fallacy. He begged his hearers not to expect success from a worldly standpoint simply by following honest dealing. He claimed that the man who trusted to it for success was likely to be disappointed. He further held that it was best that it was so, "else where is the virtue in being honest if worldly advantage is its goal?" In a way the vicar is right. Simple honesty of itself does not lead to success. A man must have breadth of intelligence, a grasp on affairs, a power to adapt means to ends, a quick perception and an equal readiness fo change as the situation changes if he would be successful. The merely honest man may sit in his office forever and gain nothing, while the intelligent fox next door seizes all the business. Yet even the foxy individual pays his tribute to the advantages gained by honesty. He is sure to assume the air of sincerity and fair dealing, knowing it has a market value. He would not willingly be thought dishonest, for he knows it would injure his chances of success. As for honesty per se, he may not care a whit, but he cannot afford to do without the appearance of it. The revelations that are made from time to time of corruptions in the business world, especially in those who have had marked success, leaves the impression that corruption and dishonesty are the rule and straightforward business methods the exception. The fact is that cases of fraud are heralded far and wide, while the innumerable transactions conducted with honesty are not reported by the press, nor is there occasion for bringing them into the courts. The substantial character of the business world, on the whole, is a testimony to the truth of the proverb. Each man supposes the other man to be honest in his dealings, because honesty is the rule and deceit the exception. The grocer who misrepresents his goods soon proves himself a failure. The dealer in worthless stocks and bonds sooner or later finds his business at an end. An enormous degree of honesty is requisite for a business of any magnitude and in spite of all the things that tend to hinder legitimate business it is the legitimate business after all that is successful in the long run. Honesty is the best policy.

Typical Lake of Italy.

For two years an exhaustive monograph on a typical lake of Italy has been in course of preparation by the Italian Geographical Society. The picturesque lake of Bolsena, within easy reach from Rome, was selected for the purpose, and the studies include the geographical and geological features, the rainfall and temperature and seasonal variation, the changes of level, the seiches of rhythmical pulsations of the surface, and the life forms. The seiches constitute one of the most interesting of the phenomena. These have a regular period of twelve or fifteen minutes, the rise of the water on occasions reaching a foot, and the oscillations are often so marked that the natives speak of the lake as panting. They are more conspicuous at Narta than on the opposite side of the lake at Bolsena, a rise of seven inches at the former being correlated, with one of four inches at the latter.

Eugenie and the Cholera.

When Napoleon III. was at the zenith of his power there was a terrible outbreak of cholera in France. Every day the Empress Eugenie visited the hospitals to do what she could by superintendence and example to forward the noble work of allaying the sufferings of the stricken. One morning a parish priest rushed into the ward where the empress was ministering to a dying man.

"Oh, your majesty," said the priest, "two hours ago my curate was breakfasting with me, and now he is dead!"

The empress smiled calmly. "That is well," said she.

"Well?" echoed the priest.

"Yes, it is well. When once cholera becomes as violent as this is it ceases."

The empress was right. From that day the plague abated.

Babies and Boots.

Gypsies carry their babies in old shawls slung over their shoulders and tied about the waist. North American Indians carry their babies on the backs of squaws—cradle and all. But the Eskimo women of Labrador carry their babies in their boots. These boots come up to the knee and are wide at the top, with a flap in front. In these the little brown babies live and are happy.

Far from It.

Young Widow (to partner at ball)—Mr. Crogan, I've made a wager of a pound of chocolate that you are a single man. Mr. Crogan—Ye've lost, ma'am. I'm wan av thriplets.—Chicago Tribune.

A Success.

"Do tell us what Mrs. Bouncer is like."

"Well, she's a woman of 60 who looks 50, thinks she's 40, dresses like 30, and acts like 20."—Life.

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

A Fading Dream of Empire.

CONTINUED disturbances in the Russian cities and the frequent flight of conscripts to other countries notify the Czar that neither the Government as now conducted nor the war in the East is popular with the Russian people. One of the objects of the great railway across to Asia, with the seizure of lands and the building of cities on the shores of the Pacific, was to dazzle the 130,000,000 subjects of Russia by the prospect of great achievements in the near future. But that appeal to national and racial vanity has spent its force. One of the costly cities that Russia reared on the coast of Manchuria is in the hands of the Japanese. Its fleet in Eastern waters has been destroyed. Its armies are burrowing in the frozen earth behind intrenchments, all acting defensively, while the one at Port Arthur has been compelled to surrender.

In defense of a principle the Japanese have made immense sacrifices and shown a high order of courage and military adaptiveness. It is believed that Japan would agree to liberal terms of peace, foregoing anything in the nature of money indemnity. But it would require Russia to leave Manchuria, as it agreed to do, yet, at the same time, advancing its armies and building forts for a permanent occupation. Practically, Russia seized Manchuria, and there is no proof that it ever intended to let go. Japan has closed the door with a flaming sword and with fleets that clinch for battle as promptly as those of the greatest fighting admirals in history. The Russian people are sick of the war and of the autocratic denial of constitutional government. A freer Russia would eventually be a greater Russia, but one not given to such encroachment as that attempted by the empire in the East.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Russian Debt.

ONE reason why the French are desirous that the war in the Far East should be brought to a speedy conclusion is found in the fact that the loans of money which France has made to Russia now foot up to an enormous amount, and the French are naturally not desirous of seeing the security for their loan impaired by any falling off in the wealth of the Russians. Without counting the investments that the French have made in private business enterprises in Russia, nor recent war borrowings made in France, the amount of the Russian Government debt held in France in 1900 was f.12,763,400,000—that is, considerably more than $2,500,000,000. It would thus appear that more than half of the entire Russian debt is held by the French, all but a small part of this borrowing having been made in the last fifteen years, as evidence of the faith that France had in her Russian ally. While the bankruptcy of Russia would not ruin France, it would take away the savings of millions of the French people; hence they are not desirous that the Russians should involve themselves in undertakings which will make it impossible for them to meet their legal obligations. Every day the war is prolonged adds to the burden of Russian indebtedness. It may be easy for Count Cassini and others to speak of the enormous resources of Russia, but the resources of that empire are largely borrowed money, and those who have loaned it are feeling by no means overjoyed at the statements which come from Count Cassini, and also from St. Petersburg, that the war must be prolonged to the bitter end, even if it requires years of effort on the part of Russia. Such a continuance implies, so far as the Russian national debt is concerned, either complete or partial repudiation; for if the Russian people before the war, although taxed to the point of impoverishment, could not pay enough money into the imperial treasury to cover the then current expenses, how is it going to be possible for them to subsist after assuming the tremendous load of indebtedness which this present war must involve?—Boston Herald.

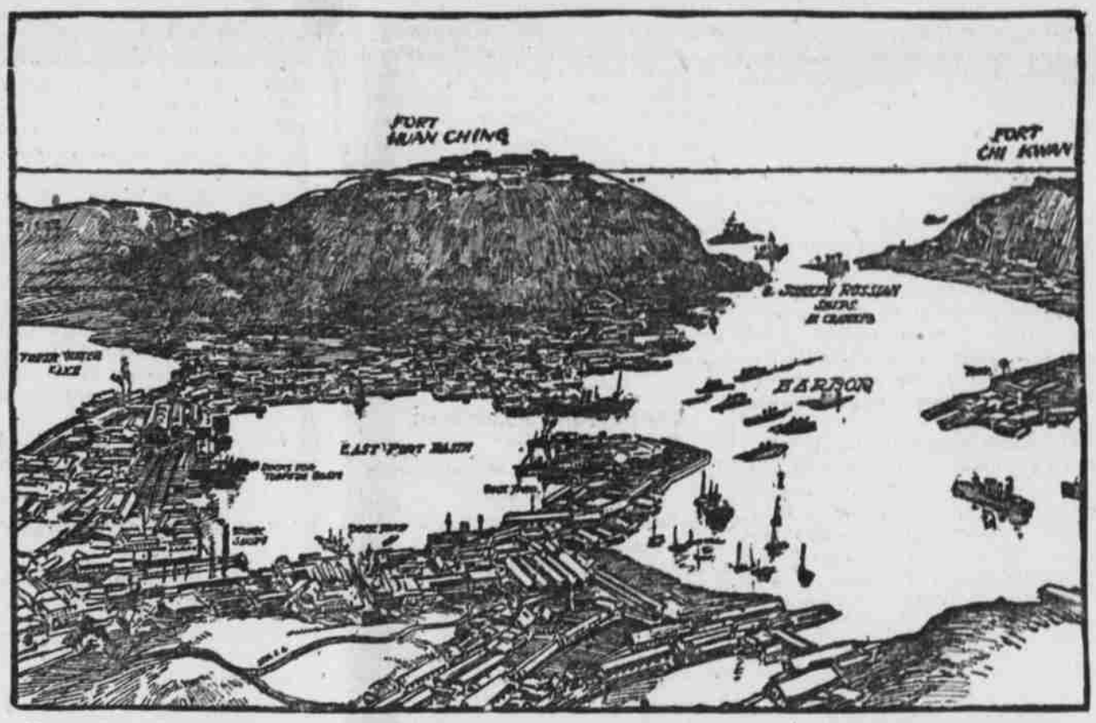
Wealth and Longevity.

THAT the "simple life" favors longevity, that luxurious living must be paid for by an untimely death, is a common and not unreasonable opinion. Statistics seem to uphold this view, though statistics are by no means conclusive. Sociologists draw impressive lessons of the rewards of the often involuntary and reluctant virtue of plain living. Probably many who are forced by circumstances to do without costly foods and drinks, soft beds and whatever wealth can achieve, would prefer a shorter life and self-indulgence; but having no choice in the matter they boast of their expectant length of years.

There is a measure of comfort for the luxurious, however, in some recent English facts, which prove that a long life is not incompatible with riches. Of 206 Englishmen who died last year, leaving each an estate of more than half a million dollars, six were over 90 years old, fifty were over 80 years, and the average was 73 years. This is shown to be much above the average of an equal group of poor people taken haphazard. It is specified that many of these long-lived rich men inherited their wealth, and lived from infancy to death in luxurious circumstances. Not one of this group had the benefit of a meager dietary.

The late Professor Owen threshed out this question of wealth and longevity thoroughly. It was his conclusion that if it be true that the dietary of the rich is opposed to health, the absence of worry, of anxiety over the living of themselves and their families, the absence of severe toil, and the like, more than compensate for any digestive troubles they may incur. Probably most rich people eat too much and their dietary is too stimulating, but this is less dangerous to life than is frequent hunger with overwork, anxiety and exposure. A happy medium, of course, is the suggestion of common sense and experience.—Philadelphia Ledger.

HOW RUSSIA OBTAINED PORT ARTHUR.



Port Arthur, the ancient seaport of Luchuncheng, was, until the war between China and Japan in 1894, in the undisputed possession of the Chinese. Situated at the southeastern extremity of the Liaotung Peninsula, the town and harbor are surrounded by hills, which make the site easy of defense. The harbor is cramped, but it has the great merit of being just outside the southern limit of winter ice, and is, therefore, open all the year round—a fact which made it especially of great value to Russia. Let us now look for a moment at the events which led to its possession by Russia. In the spring of 1894 a revolution broke out in Korea. The King applied to China for assistance. Troops were dispatched, but the rebellion made considerable headway, and Japan insisted that certain reforms must be carried out to prevent the continuance of such disturbances. China refused to act, and Japan sent troops to occupy the capital. Various collisions between the troops of the two Powers followed, and a climax was reached when, on July 29, a Japanese cruiser sank the Chinese transport Kowshing. War was practically declared the next day. After suffering one or two minor reverses, the Japanese gradually closed round the Chinese troops in North Korea. On Sept. 17 a great naval battle was fought at the mouth of the Yalu, in which four Chinese warships were sunk or destroyed and the rest of the fleet badly damaged. On land, operations were hurriedly pushed on by the Japanese. On Oct. 25 the Yalu was crossed, Kiu-lien-chang was taken on the 26th, and Feng-whang-cheng on the 31st. The road to Port Arthur was now open. In the meantime another Japanese army had captured Kinchau and Tailenwan. Then, on Nov. 9, Marshal Oyama took Port Arthur by storm. The Chinese were beaten again and again, and on April 15, 1895, peace was signed at Shimonoseki.

By this treaty, Port Arthur, with practically the whole of the Liaoyang Peninsula and the adjacent islands, was ceded to Japan. Now it was that Russia, always prompt to seize an opportunity, began to lay her schemes for possessing herself of Port Arthur. Japan was warned by Russia, backed by France and Germany, that the natural result of her deserved success could not be allowed, and that her troops must be withdrawn from Manchuria until China had paid the war indemnity. Japan was, however, allowed to occupy the fort and harbor of Wei-hai-Wai, and to keep the island of Formosa. It was useless for Japan to insist on what she felt to be her rights. She had no Power to whom to turn except Great Britain, and that government had decided to remain neutral. In due time Russia began to squeeze China for the price to be paid for keeping Manchuria free from the Japanese. Consequently it was agreed, among other things, that Russia might continue her Siberian railway through Manchuria to Tailenwan. Russia was also authorized to introduce her own troops for the protection of the road. Thus began the Russian occupation of Manchuria. The Chinese inhabitants were incensed at this invasion of foreigners, and in November, 1897, occurred an event which precipitated matters. Two German priests were murdered in Western Shantung. Now we hear of the "mailed fist" for the first time. Kiaochau was, as part of the reparation claimed, leased as a German coaling station in perpetuity. Hardly had this matter been arranged, when it was announced the Russians had obtained a lease of ninety-nine years of Port Arthur.

Queen who Engaged in Business.

'Tis an old story that the kings of Bavaria have long derived a very considerable profit from their breweries in Munich, and now, from a neighboring corner of Europe, come the details of another instance of royalty in business. Wilhelmina, Queen of Holland, is making money by selling milk and butter.

As a child Wilhelmina "kept chickens." She loved them dearly, had pet names for most of them, fed them to the queen's taste (literally), and, quite incidentally, made pocket money out of them. With her accession to the throne the barnyard was forgotten, but perhaps the royal state has become a matter "of course," allowing the queenly thoughts to travel back to the more prosaic pleasures of other days.

Whatever the reason, not long ago Prince Henry bought for his royal wife several cows, which are placed on the rich land adjoining the palace at Loo. These prospered so well, and their milk and butter aided so much to the delights of the palace table, that the queen decided to engage in the business of dairying. The manager of her estates has since visited all of the famous stock farms of the country, and has purchased 34 of the best cows to be had in all Holland. These have joined their fellows who led the way in the experiment, and dairy products are now on sale under the palace auspices, for the "venture" has proved far more than self-supporting.—Success Magazine.

As you grow older, you are surprised when you go to church to see how many who are near your age fall asleep during services.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS

A foreign corporation transacting business in a State is held, in Williams vs. Metropolitan Street Ry. Co. (Kan.), 64 L. R. A. 794, not to be entitled to plead the State statute of limitations in bar of a cause of action originating within the State in favor of a resident.

Land dedicated as a public highway is held, in McAlpine vs. Chicago Great Western Railroad Company (Kan.), 64 L. R. A. 85, not to revert to the dedicators because of misuse or nonuse, unless its use for the dedicated purpose has become impossible or so highly improbable as to be practically impossible.

The building, sale and repairing of vessels employed in commerce is held, in Columbia Iron Works vs. National Lead Co. (C. C. A. 6th C.), 64 L. R. A. 645, to be within the provisions of a statute permitting bankruptcy proceedings to be instituted against corporations engaged principally in manufacturing and mercantile pursuits.

One who in using the street adjoining his property as part of his lumber yard piles lumber there in an unstable manner is held, in Busse vs. Rogers (Wis.), 64 L. R. A. 183, to be liable for injuries caused by its fall upon a child who, while traveling along the street, follows its inclination to play and attempts to climb upon the pile, and thereby causes the lumber to fall.

A railroad car sent loaded with freight from one State into another, and to be returned loaded to the former State in the transaction of interstate commerce, is held, in Wall vs. Norfolk & W. R. Co. (W. Va.), 64 L. R. A. 501, not to be subject to attachment in the latter State. The attachment or garnishment of foreign railroad cars is discussed in a note to this case.

Where an insurance company pays to the insured a loss occasioned by the wrong of a third party and the value of the property destroyed exceeds the amount paid by the insurance company, it is held, in Kansas City, Fort S. & M. R. Co. vs. Blaker (Kan.), 64 L. R. A. 81, that the insured may bring an action in his own name against the wrongdoer and recover the full amount of the loss.

The driver of a milk wagon who, knowing of the existence of a manhole to a sewer which projects above the surface of the street, attempts to turn his horse and wagon around in its vicinity, without paying any attention to his course, is held, in Wheat vs. St. Louis (Mo.), 64 L. R. A. 292, to be guilty of contributory negligence, so that, in case the wagon strikes the obstruction and is overturned to his injury, he cannot hold the city liable therefor.

A street car conductor in charge of an extra car, whose duties require him to run onto a single track extending beyond the termination of the double tracks of the road, which the rules of the company require to be occupied by only one car at a time, is held, in Simmons vs. Southern Traction Co. (Pa.), 64 L. R. A. 205, to take the risk of injury from the absence of signals at the termination of the double tracks or schedules for extra cars, for giving notice when the extension is occupied by such cars.

Circulation of the Bible.

In New York and London Bible societies, established for the circulation of the scriptures as a religious obligation and not for pecuniary profit, are issuing millions of Bibles. The British and Foreign Bible Society, founded at London one hundred years ago, has sent out during that period about 175,000,000 copies of the Bible in whole or in part, in 363 languages and dialects; last year its issues were more than five millions, and nearly one-third of them were in the English language. The American Bible Society at New York, during its existence of about three-quarters of a century, has issued toward 75,000,000 Bibles and parts of the Bible, of the New Testament, more especially. In Germany are numerous Bible societies and the aggregate number of Bibles annually distributed by them is great.

Think Straight.

It would be impossible for a lawyer to make a reputation in his profession while continually thinking about medicine or engineering. He must think about law and must study and become thoroughly imbued with its principles. It is unscientific to expect to attain excellence or ability enough to gain distinction in any particular line while holding the mind upon and continually contemplating something radically different.—Success Magazine.

Cooled It Off.

First American—How did you and Flareup get along with your duel?

Second American—Aw, Jimmy's second had to up and tell a funny story just before we were ready to shoot and by the time we'd got through laughing we were too good-natured to fire.—Detroit Free Press.

A fellow feeling for your pocketbook is not apt to make you wondrous kind.