

## Topics of the Times

Recipe for foiling a burglar: Keep nothing in your house worth stealing.

The next man who invites Tillman to look at a corner lot is likely to get himself severely scolded.

Nowhere but in Kansas could prison officials have selected such a fitting name as "alakazam" for punishment.

Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman says the modern American wife is a slave. Frequently a very domineering sort of slave.

Already the craze in some parts of the country for telling the truth on all occasions is dying a rapid natural death.

Mr. Harriman's stenographer says she never knew him to tell a lie. If you don't believe it you can ask her yourself.

As a compromise Canada should be willing to be called "Our Lady of the Snows" during the hot, sultry months of summer.

The census of 1910 will be incomplete if it does not show the increase in the waffle and buckwheat cake capacity of the Northwest.

It is difficult sometimes to keep from believing that old Mr. Fahrenheit made a serious mistake in not locating his zero mark several notches lower.

The Baltimore policeman who reported that an "injured child died without the aid of a physician" probably was trying to prove an alibi for the doctors.

Some of the illustrious born in 1809 were Lincoln, Gladstone, Tennyson, Poe, Darwin, Chopin and Mendelssohn. This is going to be a great year for essayists.

If Nat Goodwin has succeeded in getting his new wife to be satisfied with half of his income it will have to be admitted that he has great managerial powers.

A Kansas City girl has been put in jail on a charge of being responsible for a shortage of \$4,270 in the accounts of a packing firm. She must have an inferior lawyer.

Dr. Clara Scott of Los Angeles states that "in the days to come nobody with brains will kiss because of microbes." Dr. Clara must have a face like a church choir dispute.

King Edward is preparing to go to Germany for the purpose of paying a visit to Emperor William. It may be that Edward desires to inform William how to be happy while reigning but not ruling.

The next census, if the Senate passes the census bill as amended by the House of Representatives, will show the number of survivors of the Union and Confederate armies and navies. There will be several hundred thousand of them, a number that would have been much smaller had not the war been fought by the youth of the nation.

King Manuel of Portugal is reported to be growing pale and thin, and his uncle, the heir apparent to the Portuguese throne, declares he will not consent to become king in case the young ruler dies. We hope the Portuguese people will not worry. In case they find it impossible to get any of their own people to take office we can ship them a boatload of willing officeholders at a moment's notice.

Corn-stalks have hitherto been used chiefly for fodder and fiddles. The farmers' boys have made the fiddles and the cattle have eaten the fodder. The Department of Agriculture, which has already made paper from the stalks as a laboratory experiment, is planning to go into the business extensively enough to test the commercial value of this new paper material. It thus hopes by encouraging the raising of corn to prevent the razing of the forests.

In all the history of the human race the conduct of this nation in its relation to Cuba is a unique example of fostering good will. One may look in vain for a parallel instance where a power having once taken possession of a country by force of arms has deliberately planned the education of its inhabitants for self-government and their establishment as a free and independent people; nor can another such an instance of generous forbearance be found where, when upon one signal failure of these inhabitants to rule themselves, the power which liberated them from medieval monarchial oppression has set itself patiently to the work of retrieving the ruin they brought upon themselves, and of proceeding a second time to fit them for self-rule.

That which stands out bright and shining above all the tragedy of the Italian earthquake is the world-wide and instant response to the need of the suffering survivors. The calamity itself was neither new nor strange, unless, perhaps, in its magnitude. Sicily and Calabria have been often visited by disastrous earthquakes, both in

ancient times and recently. Since the beginning of the present century, still less than ten years old, the great cities of San Francisco and Valparaiso, in the western hemisphere, have been destroyed by seismic upheavals, to say nothing of the wiping out of St. Pierre, with all its population, by the eruption of Mont Pelee, in the Island of Martinique. At the time of each of these great catastrophes the rest of the world contributed to the relief of the sufferers, and once again the draft on human sympathy has been honored. Not only did Italian war ships and the Italian King and Queen start for the scene of the earthquake as soon as news of it reached Rome, but British, French and Russian squadrons in the Mediterranean headed at full speed for the help of the stricken country. This was government aid. The people, the men and women, in Europe, Asia, Africa and both Americas, were equally prompt in offering their money for the purchase of food, clothing and shelter, that the widowed and the orphaned might not go unprovided. The human heart is wondrous kind, and there is no surer way to make it beat with helpful sympathy than to disclose to it the existence of suffering. It has answered the old question of the lawyer, "And who is my neighbor?" by including within that intimate and friendly fellowship all those in need the world over.

Here's to the men and women who never pass up a chance to make somebody happier. There are a good many of them in the world, and there should be more of them. Some men have a way of shaking hands that makes you forget your troubles in a flash. Others wear a smile that never fails to cheer. Others have cultivated a beautiful manner of greeting, and when the first utterance leaves their lips, the cloud that has oppressed your soul leaves also. Some people beget sunshine. The mere presence of such a person means good-bye to the clouds that oppress and darken. Your mind is heavy with vexatious thoughts, but the Begetter of Happiness draws nigh, and in a moment you are light and gay in spite of yourself. "Wouldn't I give anything in the world to have his disposition?" you exclaim. Sure you wouldn't. You can't buy that kind of a disposition. But you can cultivate one. There is no copyright on these Smile Begetters. These people who make everybody else feel good practice their art. They are happy because they understand that happiness comes of making others happy. The other day a fellow reached down to pet a dog, the outline of whose ribs was very apparent through his cockleburred hide. The dog drew his tail between his hind legs and side-stepped. Presumably feeling his position in the world, the dog hesitated before running away, suspecting that it would be a crime not to stand still and take his kicking. When the man attempted to pet the animal the dog elevated his tail an inch or so, but still was not sure and held back. But he did know the meaning of soft strokes back and forth over his back, and at this the yellow cur leaped about in joy. Now the fellow that did that kind act went on down the street feeling better. It is always thus, after a kind act. Kindness and happiness are contagious diseases, and the whole world ought to be exposed. No one is immune from happiness. Anybody will take the disease if forced into contact with the germ, and the vaccination of selfishness is never permanent.

**Alliterative Absurdities.**  
If you caught a capricious curate killing kippers for the cook  
In the cloisters with a club yeelped a clerk,  
Would you say he was as wily  
As a cunning crocodile  
Catching cockles with a corkscrew in a creek?

If you beheld a battleship bombarding Biscay Bay  
While the big guns bellowed bold from brazen throat,  
Would you say it was as funny  
As a bouncing blue-backed bunny  
Blowing bubbles with a bobby in a boat?

If you saw a driveling dreamer drowning ducklings in a ditch,  
And deducting day dry as dust to see,  
Would you say that this death dealer  
Was of ducks and drakes a stealer,  
Or of Darwin's dead ideas a devotee?  
—Vanity Fair.

**Loophole of Escape.**  
During the week certain members of the flock had been paying overmuch attention to sampling the local whisky, and the minister took advantage of his position in the pulpit to administer gentle reproof. "An' I tell ye, one an' all, ye're on the way to perdition!" he cried.

At that moment a fly settled on the Bible before him. He raised his fist. "Ye're gaein' tae hell!" he shouted. "An' ye'll all get there, just sae sure as—sae sure as I ding the life out of this dee!"

His fist crashed down as he uttered the words; then he looked to see the result of his handiwork. "Missed!" he ejaculated. "Ah! weel, maybe there's a chance for some o' ye yet!"

**Silly Questions.**  
Him—Am I the first man you were ever engaged to?  
Her—Don't insult me. You know perfectly well that I am 23 years old. Do I look like a lemon?—Cleveland Leader.

**Shows More Wear.**  
Mrs. Styles—See how gray your hair is and how black mine is.  
Mr. Styles—Well, dear, you know I've worn my hair oftener than you have.—Yonkers Statesman.

The housemaid's wages come under the head of sweeping charges.

## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW.

Alcohol was discovered in the thirteenth century.

Covered carriages were first used in England in 1580.

The first dictionary was made by Chinese scholars in 1109 B. C.

Formic acid is being used more and more in the dyeing trade as a substitute for acetic acid.

In the last nine years, since the striking of the famous Lucas-Guffey gusher at Beaumont, the Gulf coast country has produced 125,000,000 barrels of oil.

During the last two years the oil production has doubled in America. The production is \$16,000,000 greater in value than the output of gold and silver in the United States.

Certain lands in East Borneo are exempt from tithes, but Sir Thomas Lipton, who owns them, has to be ready when called upon to provide "fagots for the burning of heretics."

A famous wistaria in Japan is that to be found at Kashukabe, northeast of Tokio. The vine is five hundred years old, and grows over trellises covering a space of four thousand feet. Its pendent clusters are more than fifty inches long.

The rent payable by the Munros of Foulis is a snowball, which must be presented at any time of the year upon demand. This condition is not so hard to fulfill as would appear, inasmuch as Ben Wyvis, upon which there is always snow, is situated on the Foulis lands.

In southern Tunis lies an extensive salt marsh desert called the Shott Jerid, of which the Arabs stand in terror, for many a caravan has been lost in the salt incrustated morass, which, according to De Lesseps is as much as 1,200 feet deep in places. This region has been crossed for the first time in a small automobile by a woman, Myriam Harry, a well-known French novelist.

The highest viaduct in the world was opened to traffic a few days ago by the French minister of labor. It is situated at Fades on the Orleans railway system. The viaduct is 144½ yards above the river Sioule. It has taken eight years to build and has cost about \$800,000. Previously the highest bridge over which a railroad passed was the Choketk viaduct in Birmania, 139½ yards high.

When Sir Herbert Tree, then Beerbonn Tree, put on "Herod" in London he asked Sir Henry Irving to look in on the show. The setting has a great stairway. "What do you think of the place?" asked Tree. Irving's wicked eye twinkled, as the other eagerly awaited the verdict. "Um—um! Ah! Um!" muttered Sir Henry. "A fine flight of steps—um! Magnificent flight of steps! Um—um! Ah! Um!"

On Jan. 18 every year, the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington is bound to present to the sovereign a small flag, which is the annual rent in "petit seigneurie" by which the estate of Stratfieldsaye is held of the crown. The flag must be a miniature tricolor or eagle of the Napoleonic army, fringed with gold, with a gilded eagle on the head of the staff and the number of the year embroidered at the top corner of the flag near the eagle.

For the last fiscal year the exports of petroleum and its products from the United States amounted to 1,433,867,818 gallons, valued at \$101,983,107, as compared with 1,390,037,369 gallons, valued at \$101,165,164, for the preceding fiscal year. Last year the oil producers of the United States fighting in the neutral consuming countries of the world, exported oil of the value of \$104,000,000. Since oil production began we have exported \$4,000,000,000 worth of oil. —Oil World.

Apologies of Mr. Harriman's short, simple will, it is of interest to note that Lord Mansfield found half a sheet of note paper ample for the disposal of his worldly possessions. Sir James Fitzjames Stephen's will began and ended in thirteen words. A dozen lines served to dispose of Lord Russell of Killowen's estate of nearly \$150,000, while Lord Brampton of the court of exchequer, the brother of Anthony Hope, disposed of his estate of nearly \$142,000 in four hundred words.

In 1269 the entire width of the Baltic Sea was crossed by sledge. In 1339 a great many persons were frozen to death in England. In 1409 the Danube was frozen up from her source to her estuary in the Black Sea. In 1469 all vines in France were killed by frost. In 1609 and 1639 the port of Marseilles was frozen over, and there was great suffering and distress. In 1709 France was icebound from north to south, the ice extending for miles seaward. Birds and animals died of cold.

Under the new American tariff law the rate on machine-separated cream is 3 cents a gallon, and this change of duty from 20 per cent ad valorem has resulted in an extensive export of Canadian cream to the United States. By sending the cream to the United States and having it manufactured into butter the duty on butter becomes actually about 2 cents a pound. The duty on butter imported in the usual way is 6 cents. As a result of the operations of the new American buyers have contracted for cream all along the Canadian border for export to the United States.



1652—Province of Maine taken under the protection of Massachusetts.

1700—Philip V. proclaimed King of Spain at Madrid.

1758—British flag raised over the ruins of Fort Duquesne, and the place named Pittsburgh, after the great commoner... French abandoned Fort Duquesne at the approach of the British.

1774—Americans took possession of Millers hill, near Boston.

1776—Washington's army occupied Trenton, N. J.

1778—Washington went into winter quarters at Middlebrook, N. J.

1783—British evacuated New York.

1796—Great fire in Savannah, 350 houses destroyed.

1816—A Philadelphia theater was the first to be lighted by gas.

1819—The Savannah, the first steam vessel to cross the Atlantic, reached Savannah on her return trip from England.

1840—Remains of Napoleon I. landed at Cherbourg.

1852—Napoleon III. elected Emperor of the French.

1856—Day of thanksgiving observed in Georgia for relief from the yellow fever epidemic.

1857—Garrison of Lucknow rescued by Sir Colin Campbell.

1861—Jefferson Davis elected President of the Confederate States of America... Federals bombarded the Confederate fortifications at Pensacola, Fla.

1863—A partition line was agreed upon between Connecticut and New York... Escape of Gen. Morgan and Thomas H. Hines from the Ohio penitentiary.

1864—A report that Sherman had captured and burned Macon caused excitement throughout the North.

1867—Committee of the House reported in favor of the impeachment of President Johnson.

1868—First lodge of the Knights of Pythias west of the Allegheny Mountains founded in Omaha.

1869—Henry Ward Beecher chosen president of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

1871—Steamboat City of London burned near Norwich, Conn., with loss of seventeen lives.

1873—The Hoosac tunnel completed.

1875—The Albert memorial chapel at Windsor was formally opened.

1892—Sir John Thompson succeeded John Abbott as Canadian prime minister.

1894—Public executions abolished in Spain... A grand jury at Waco, Texas, indicted the officers of the Standard Oil Company for violating the anti-trust law.

1898—Union of Nicaragua, Honduras and Salvador dissolved... Battle-ship Wisconsin launched at San Francisco.

1905—Haakon VII. took oath as King of Norway.

1908—American and Japanese governments reached an agreement guaranteeing the integrity of China... Gov. Albert B. Cummins of Iowa elected United States Senator... Celebration at Austin of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the University of Texas... Agreement between United States and Japan on Pacific ocean affairs was announced... Revolutionary movement broke out in Haiti.

## FIRST MAN KILLED.

Body of Civil War Victim to Be Removed from Baltimore.

The body of the first victim of the Civil War, Charles A. Taylor, of Lowell, Mass., will be, with impressive ceremonies, exhumed from its resting place in the New Methodist Cemetery, Baltimore, and removed to Boston. The body will be delivered to the governor of Massachusetts, who will follow the directions of the Massachusetts Legislature as to its disposal.

Taylor was a member of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment of Infantry, which was attacked by a mob upon its arrival in Baltimore, at President and Pratt streets, April 19, 1861. He was shot and was carried into the hardware store of the late John Brown, on the same corner. Subsequently he was removed to a hospital, where he died the same day. Gen. Jones, who was formerly lieutenant governor of New York, was colonel of the Sixth Massachusetts at the time. John W. Brown, who is co-operating with him in the removal of the body to the victim's native state, is a son of the man who gave first aid to the victim.

## The One Exception.

"Isn't your climate rather changeable?"

"Yes," answered Farmer Cornstossel. "I reckon we have about every kind of weather there is, except good weather."—Washington Star.

## No Inducement.

The Man—Why don't you go to Sunday School any more?  
The Boy—Aw! didn't dey have dey're picnic a'ready?

## THE CHRISTMAS STAR.

Behold the town of Bethlehem  
One midnight long ago,  
When not a footstep in the street  
Was moving to and fro.  
A lantern in a stable door  
Sent out a feeble bar,  
And slowly o'er the humble thatch  
Arose the Christmas star.

It silvered every scattered straw,  
And touched the olive-boughs  
With brightness like the aureole  
That crowns an angel's brows;  
It lit the manger-bed where slept  
The Prince of Peace, new born,  
And poured upon His infant head  
The glory of the morn.

Three thousand years or more have passed,  
To darkness whence they came,  
Unnumbered worlds have dropped from space  
In winding sheets of flame,  
And countless moons have waxed and waned,  
And countless suns have set,  
But over all the ancient earth  
That star is shining yet.

It shimmers on the tropic sea,  
And glids the arctic shore;  
It beams, a lamp to dying eyes;  
The grave is dark no more.  
Undimmed by either storm or cloud,  
Its splendor never dies,  
But night and day it lights the way  
That leads to Paradise.  
—Metropolitan.



Watson was in a hurry to get home in order to make his fourth annual appearance in the popular and mirth-provoking character of Santa Claus. The regular passenger train passing through Ballyhoggan, where he had been detained on business, would land him at the union station in Chicago at precisely 7:30, which would mean 8 o'clock by the time he could possibly get home.

He confided his difficulty to the sympathetic landlord of the hotel and the landlord said: "There's a freight leaves Hardwick at 11:30 and you ought to be able to make connection with the Egmont express slap into Chicago if it makes anywhere near time. That will be three hours earlier than the regular passenger, but you'll have to get a lively rig to get over to Hardwick and that'll cost you \$3."

Five minutes later he and his valise were packed into a buggy and a start made. The roads were particularly bad, however, and about half way to Hardwick the driver announced his cheerful conviction that they would miss the freight. Watson thereupon urged him to apply whalebone to the team with the promise of an extra dollar if he made the freight. When they arrived at Hardwick they found that the freight was still there.

Watson paid the driver, climbed into the caboose and disposed himself as comfortably as possible on the long, slippery, cushioned bench that ran the length of the car. Then he looked at his watch and found that it was five minutes past the time for the freight to start. After a while he got up and looked out of the car door.

There was nobody in sight. He stood there wondering whether it would be safe to go in search of some one, for the freight was a little distance out in the yards. After what he thought was half an hour's consideration he got down and started to ward the engine. He had got about ten steps when the clanging of a bell sent him back on the run. Just as he climbed aboard the cars began to jolt and bang from the head of the train down, and the freight began slowly to back. Then it came to a standstill.

Watson was thoroughly exasperated. In the course of three or four more backward and forward movements he settled into a sort of desperate resignation and it was in a tone expressive of this frame of mind that he addressed the brakeman when that

worthy at last came into the  
climbed up to the cupola.  
"Would you mind telling  
we are waiting for now?"  
son.  
"Waiting for the passenger  
past," replied the brakeman.  
"Not the 2:10 from Ballyhoggan?"  
"Sure. That's her. I guess  
start now."  
It was past midnight when  
reached his home. Mad? To  
to have seen him.—Chicago

## NEW YEAR'S BREAKERS.

In Japan It Is a Religious

a Serious Matter.  
To a devout Japanese  
New Year's day is a religious  
rather than a vulgar saturnalia  
the appetite. No ordinary  
consumed at this meal. The  
be made with water drawn  
well when the first ray of  
it, a poutpourri of materials  
by law forms the staple  
at the finish a measure of  
from a red lacquer cup must  
ed by whosoever desires  
during the coming year.

In the room is placed a  
stand," or red lacquer tray  
with evergreen leaves and  
rice dumpling, a lobster, or  
simmons, chestnuts, dried  
and herring roe. All these  
a special signification. The  
some are homonymous with  
happy omen; the others have  
gical meaning. The lobster  
back and long claws typify  
longed till the frame is be  
beard is long; the sardines,  
ways swim in pairs, expre  
bliss; the herring is symbo  
fruitful progeny.

These dishes are not in  
consumption, although in  
the appetite is fairly keen.  
dix Japanese not only see  
year out; he rises at 4 to  
newcomer and performs ma  
nies before he breaks his  
don Chronicle.

## Imitation Snowballs.

A Christmas tree decorated  
easily and inexpensively made  
is snowballs. A coil of  
wire, a box of diamond powder  
bundle of cotton batting (y  
wadding) are the materials.  
The wire is cut in various  
lengths, a wad of the cotton  
upon it, patted into shape  
a ball, and the powder dusted  
from a perforated toilet paper  
The other end of the wire is  
to form a fastening, and the  
ready for the tree. It is ef  
have the balls vary in size  
of a small apple to a large

## How to Make Plum Pudding.

A sauce without brandy  
is follows: One tablespoonful  
starch, one tablespoonful of  
plum of boiling water, one  
cup of sugar. Put corn  
and sugar in a bowl and  
well. Pour over them the  
batter and stir over the fire  
Add any flavoring.

## Posted on That.

"Now, children," said the  
who was talking to the Sun  
"you know, of course, when  
pretty things you find in p  
ings on Christmas mornin  
come from, do you not?"  
"Yes, sir," they replied  
voice. "Germany."

## Not a Bad Idea.

Johnny—Tommy, let's put  
nies together and buy  
Christmas present.  
Tommy—All right.  
"What shall it be?"  
"I guess we had better ge  
ded slipper."—Texas Siftin

## Happy Children.

Blessed are the children  
still hang up their stockings  
lieve implicitly that a real  
Santa Claus will fill them  
Life.

## Look to the Future.

It is not wise to have s  
Christmas that you cannot  
happy New Year.—Chicago

## JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

