

Topics of the Times

A man should not always be judged by the enemies he makes.

There are failures in every business. Even burglars make mistakes.

The comet's tail may look like the end of the world to some nervous people.

It is a rare thing to find a man complaining about the price of tobacco.

The general belief is that the mid-dleman and the cold storage king are most to blame.

Few husbands would care to have their wives talk more than three or four languages.

Women are generally supposed to do a lot of talking, but the wives of college professors never get half a chance.

Economy is a great thing. By saving its money the sugar trust had \$600,000 ready to pay back to the government.

"I couldn't help it," explained the New York boy who married three women. And thus lovely woman receives another compliment.

Two thousand five hundred sailors in the American navy cannot swim. We suppose it isn't necessary to advise them not to rock the boat.

Activity in the suffrage movement would be a good thing for many a wife. It would take her mind off her husband and other worries.

Professor Percival Lowell says he has positive proof that there is life on Mars. It is much easier to accept his word than to prove that he is wrong.

Much has been said about the Massachusetts woman who can talk fifty-four languages, but if she isn't married what good does her knowledge do her?

If there are no canals on Mars there ought to be, if for no other reason than to vindicate Prof. Lowell, who has labored hard to establish them there.

Peary has just received another medal. It will be necessary pretty soon for him to employ a dummy to help him wear his medals when he wishes to exhibit them all at one time.

Dr. Jean M. Charcot, a French explorer, reports that he has discovered new land in the antarctic region. Copenhagen will want to see a sample of it before hanging a rose wreath upon Charcot.

An acrobat at Kansas City a few evenings ago succeeded in turning a double back somersault from the ground, a feat that had never before been accomplished. We hope he has his documents ready and in a properly framed condition for the University of Copenhagen if it shall decide to call for them.

In these days of educational fads and reforms the teaching of spelling has a less prominent place in the schools than it deserves to occupy. Now the State of North Dakota, through its department of education, is arranging for a series of spelling matches in the district schools all over the state. Prizes are offered, and there are to be matches between different schools to stimulate the interest. The series will close with a final state championship contest.

One of the greatest triumphs in the history of engineering is the completion of the tunnel, or series of tunnels, through the Andes, which allows direct travel across South America from Buenos Aires to Valparaiso. Hitherto, winter travelers went by way of the Strait of Magellan, a rough sea voyage. The tunnel has been in process of construction for many years, and twice the work has been abandoned in despair. A New York syndicate solved the problem at last, and it is announced that trains will be running early in the coming summer. There are three tunnels, with an aggregate length of eleven miles. The highest station on the line is about 10,500 feet above sea level. The third of the tunnels is described as screw-shaped, and drops 2,700 feet in a distance of 27,000 feet. The total cost of the work is about twelve million dollars.

What does it matter how old a man is or what the age of a woman is if they wish to marry? What have years to do with love and that felicity that comes from the tying of the nuptial knot? Dr. Johnson's wife was more than twenty years his senior, and Shakespeare's spouse was old enough to be his mother. They were happy, and why should not those who follow their example in these days also find connubial joys? It is getting to be the fashion nowadays, this mating of December and May. Recently a wealthy woman of Hartford made plans for marrying a schoolboy at New Haven. She was about 70 and he about 20, and her children and grandchildren, when they heard about it, went to the courts and said she was crazy. But the judges knew otherwise, and set her free and let her continue mistress of her own fortune. Then

there was the lady of a noted American family who lived in her mansion on the Hudson. For sixty-eight years she had lived alone, and then she married her hostler, aged 24. What of that? Shall a woman who has lived nearly threescore years and ten and still is an old maid continue so until her death?

From the earliest days a large part of man's food supply has been drawn from the depths of the ocean. The Scriptures abound in references to the use of fish as food, from the opening chapter of Genesis, where man is granted dominion over the fish of the sea, to the books of the New Testament, where the Saviour feeds the multitude on the fishes, and preaches to the fishermen, who drop their nets to follow Him. Fishing has always been a leading industry. The latest figures give the annual value of the world's fisheries at about four hundred million dollars—almost as much as the annual output of all the gold mines. The United States leads, with sixty-three millions. Great Britain comes next, with about fifty-five millions, and Japan third, with about forty millions. In this country seven thousand vessels and two hundred and twenty thousand men are employed in fishing, and their contribution to the value of our food supply is nearly as much as that of all the orchards in the land. Not many years ago the consumption of ocean fish was limited to those living on a narrow strip along the coast. Now, as a result of fast transportation and the perfection of refrigeration, every section of the interior is promptly supplied with fish from each of the great oceans. This has meant a steadily widening market for fish, a greater demand and a higher price. The system of cold storage—the retention of temporary oversupplies—has had a tendency in the same direction. Nevertheless, fish remains a relatively cheap article of food, as well as one of the most nutritious. There is little danger that the people as a whole will eat too much fish. Although the supply seems inexhaustible, the government is wisely doing what can be done in the way of propagation and conservation.

MEN "EASY" FOR SHOE CLERK.

No Trouble to "Fool" Them by Changing Size Marks on Shoes.

A Broadway shoe dealer, expounding a pet theory, offers the following proof that man's conception of happiness and contentment depends largely on the state of his imagination.

"A short time ago," he explained, "according to the New York Morning Telegraph, 'one of my best customers came in and asked for a pair of shoes. It happened that I had in stock at the time the exact thing the customer called for, and, everything considered, it looked as if I would make a quick sale. However, despite the fact that to me the style and fit of the shoes were perfect, the customer, upon standing up, declared that they were too tight and that he wanted the same thing a half size larger."

"Now I was absolutely convinced that the shoes, which were size 8, were large enough, and not having on hand a pair of 8½, I decided to test a theory of mine regarding the relation of the imagination to contentment. Taking the shoes to the rear of the store, I picked up a stamp and next to the figure 8 affixed the fraction one-half. Returning to the prospective purchaser with the identical pair of shoes that he had had on, I quickly laced them up for the second time and asked him how 'that pair' felt. After a few steps up and down the room he exclaimed, 'immensely pleased.'"

"Now, these feel something like it; they're just the thing."

"And," supplemented the shoe man, "can you imagine selling a woman a pair of shoes by convincing her that they were a size larger than they really were?"

Driven by Hunger to Desperation

Mrs. Mode had just returned home from the country, to discover her previously well-stocked wardrobe empty. "Good gracious, Herbert," she cried to her husband, "where are all my clothes? And what in the world is that big black patch out on the lawn?" "Nelly," he replied mournfully, "after I had starved for two whole days, you wrote me that the key of the pantry was in the pocket of your bolero. Well, I don't know a bolero from a box-plaited ruffle, and I was desperate, so I took all the things out on the lawn and burned them. Then I found the key among the ashes."—Success Magazine.

Explained.

Dentist—Why, I just put that bridge work in last week. What happened to it?

Woman—I quarreled with my husband and while indulging in a torrent of invective the flood of words carried out all the bridges.—Kansas City Times.

Her Inspiration.

The cow had just jumped over the moon.

"Why not, with beef and milk up in price?" she demanded.

Herewith she continued going higher.—Harper's Bazar.

The Real Ruler.

Mrs. Knicker—The Kaiser will be godfather to the eighth child of any German parents.

Mrs. Bocker—What's the use, if the cook will only stay with two in the family?—Harper's Bazar.

Still, a man never seems anxious to marry a woman who isn't afraid of a mouse.

The compliments you receive by fishing for them don't count

RAM'S HORN BLASTS

Warning Notes Cailling the Wicked to Repentance.

Every man is a giant in the eyes of some boy. We are not to count our possessions by what we lose, but by what we cannot lose. What can gold do for a man who can see nothing precious in the Twenty-third Psalm?

Giving is made easy only by knowing what urgent need there is that we should give.

To make our riches safe in this world, we must first lay up some treasure in heaven.

The devil is the only gainer when a self-righteous man measures himself with a hypocrite.

Live to make somebody happy, or you will never know what the true meaning of life is.

The best employed people in the world are those who devote their lives to doing good.

Many claim to be praying for the conversion of the world who are not doing anything else.

First get a man's heart, and you will not have to draw a revolver on him to get his purse.

What advantage can there be in worldly prosperity, if to gain it we must give up Christ?

A blind man's opinion of the sun is based on what he has learned from the earth with his cane.

"The Master has come and is calling for thee" whenever you hear of a needy one who needs help.

The poorest people are not those who have to get much out of little, but those who get little out of much.

One reason why Solomon wrote so many proverbs was to give every young man some of the wisdom God had given him.

The man who has faith to move a mountain will not try his hand at it simply to see how it would look to see a mountain move.

If it were necessary God would stop the making of worlds to listen to the prayer of a penitent who had neither friends nor money.

We may count our possessions by millions, and yet be very poor if we have no treasure laid up where moth and rust cannot corrupt.

FASHION A MANIA.

Which Even Bother the Fair Sex in African Jungles.

Is fashion a madness? It is, and it makes women mad, writes a Chicago newspaper woman. Sometimes it makes men mad. It is a mania that has penetrated the jungles of Africa and caused the ladies there to worry over the kind of beads they shall wear, and it has dug into the far realms of Persia, where the belles of the realm fret themselves about the color and cut of their bloomers. As for the condition in Europe and the American continent—well, the style bug doth bite with teeth sharper than those of the serpent that first put Eve wise to the fact that becoming raiment is dear to the female heart and the most fascinating thing in the world.

To be fashionably dressed a woman must wear something that is new and different from the garments of the masses. The moment a thing is accepted by everyone it is no longer a fashion, but a has-been style. The masses are active imitators. Let a celebrated actress wad her hair a new way and she has a thousand imitators by the time her pictures appear upon the dramatic page. Three French women, beautiful models of the best known Paris gownshop, went to the races in sheathgowns. Lo, then did every woman sit down and remove the back breadths from her walking skirt and skin the skirt about her figure as if it were a bandage on a broken limb! Last fall the fur toggle appeared and we were all transformed into lady drum majors minus the rest of the uniform and the band. Important information flies around the world in half a day, but fashion news appears to be born every place at once. Truly, it is the miracle that maketh the feminine soul rejoice and cackle gladly.

Each year, we are positive that styles were never so beautiful, and that women were never so becoming or so sensibly dressed. But when we look at our last year's photograph, we are still more positive that we were mistaken. The truth is, we swing about in a wide circle. Designs have been practically exhausted. We go back and select what is the least objectionable. Fashions are like comets; they appear at certain periods and between times lose themselves, we care not where.

Precise. "Miss Zackly," says the inquisitive lady to the school teacher, "I have often wondered why you never got married. How does it happen that—"

"It doesn't happen," interrupts the teacher, tartly, "because it never happened to happen. I couldn't happen not to be married, could I? If anything happens it has to be a happening, and if a happening does not happen, then it neither may happen to happen nor happen not to happen. I trust this explains matters to you, Mrs. Quizzle, and now I understand why it is that your children happen to be so backward with their studies."—Life.

Some parents train their children successfully by posing as a warning instead of a good example.

Editorials

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

CHINA SHOWING HER TEETH.

THE military awakening in China is already having its effect in a stiffening of the Chinese national vertebrae. China has in the railroad matter a disposition to defy both Japan and Russia, and Russian diplomats are expressing more concern for future possibilities of war with China than they do for the present. One of the latest and most significant indications of this awakening is the recent invasion of Tibet by a fully equipped modern army of 25,000 men, sent by the Chinese government to assert the absolute sovereignty of China over the land ruled by the Lamas. The army has taken possession of Lhasa, and the Dalai Lama has fled to India for refuge, and has been given an official residence by the British, where he is being treated with great outward respect as the head of the Buddhist religion.

Only a few years ago, had China made such a move, following such an expedition as the British sent into Tibet, she would have been quickly called to account, but times have changed. The day for jumping upon China for every little thing has passed. In time China will do a little jumping herself, if civilized nations do not busy themselves to see that she awakes without dreams of conquest stimulated by religious hostility.—St. Louis Star.

A CONDITION AND NOT A THEORY.

THE boycott of meats and other high-priced foods which started with such a blare of trumpets early in the year, seems to have completely collapsed. Meats are higher, in some localities, than ever. Butter and eggs, which fell temporarily in price with the turning loose of the cold storage accumulations, are soaring again. Grains have undergone some fluctuations, but the tendency seems to be toward a higher range. Many standard articles of food are really no higher than they have been for years, but the boycott or talk of boycott, seems not to have had the slightest effect upon their selling price. It is to be presumed that thousands of people did stop eating meat for a while, and that many other thousands reduced their daily consumption. Indeed, many are compelled to do so, regardless of sentiment, because their incomes do not fit the meat prices. But the trouble seems to be that the available supplies are inadequate to meet the demand, much as the demand may have fallen off.

The outcome of the so-called food boycott shows how inadequate all such demonstrations are to meet the situation when it is a condition and not a theory that confronts us. It is a case that requires not talk so much as hard work and careful planning. People will eat, and eat what they like, when they can get it. The only way to make food cheaper is to raise more of it. As a rule, competition will serve to keep down the cost of production and distribution within reasonable limits.

QUEER STORIES

Tea is more beneficial if made with hard water.

Electric cables with hemp cores to take up the strain more evenly are a Swedish invention.

Electric power is used on 3,256 miles of street railways in Great Britain to 148 operated by other means.

According to official estimates, the value of the diamonds yet in the ground in German South Africa is \$250,000,000.

Mrs. Amanda W. Reed, of Portland, Ore., bequeathed \$2,000,000 to establish a college in Portland, to be known as the Reed Institute.

A shovel with high sharp sides and with a hinged blade that lifts away from the front, has been patented by a New Jersey resident to cut and lift scads.

Apples are greater luxuries in New York than oranges. While single oranges of the finest variety can be bought for 5 cents, the best apples are being sold for 12 cents each.

The proposal is once more made that the Bank of England shall issue £1 notes, and among financiers there is likely to arise keen controversy as to the probable effects of such an issue.

The catch of fish in Canadian waters by Canadian fishermen, including seals and all fish products, in 1908, was valued at \$25,451,085. The industry required a fishing fleet of 14,114 vessels.

Though the accidents in the streets of New York are increasing in number, the proportion of fatalities is growing less. Out of the last seven thousand accidents, 1,200 were classified as serious.

There are only half as many opium dens in China as there were eighteen months ago. It is now difficult to buy opium, except by license, which permits a smoker to buy at one time five drams. Each license costs 10 cents and is good for three months.

The highest nobility, or peerage, of England consists of five ranks, viz., duke, marquis, earl, viscount and baron. All persons holding these titles are members of the upper house of parliament, where they sit as lords temporal. The archbishops and bishops of the Established church are termed lords spiritual. They are not peers of the realm, but have seats in the upper house.—Chicago Examiner.

Historic pageantry in England has not yet outworn its novelty and Mr. Lascelles, master of the pageants at Oxford and Bath and the tercentenary celebrations at Quebec, is now organiz-

ing a London pageant to take place from May to July, of this year, at the Crystal palace, in which 15,000 amateurs will take part. This army of amateurs is divided into groups. At the first rehearsals he trains one to be the leader of each group, crowd or body of soldiers, and then at the final full rehearsals on the pageant ground the "multitude" just follows those leaders, the pageant master directing everything from the top of the grand stand by means of telephone and megaphone.

AN UNIMPRESSIVE PEER.

Was it not Pomona of "Rudder Grange" who was surprised to learn that British peers do not wear their coronets in the street as other people wear hats? One cannot even be sure that a member of the nobility will wear fashionable and expensive clothes. The actual appearance of a lord is sometimes disappointing. Says a London correspondent of Town and Country:

I stood in the crowd in Hyde Park last Sunday with one of the wild-men peers who had come to town to vote against the budget. This peer was an Irishman. He had not been in London for many years, but had lived a bucolic existence in the interior of Galway. He had allowed the fashions to pass him by unnoticed, and he looked like a country tradesman up for a holiday.

He was interested in the vociferous talk of a wild-eyed man who was declaiming, almost frothing at the mouth, against the wicked lords. We stood near the front row. The speaker grew louder and louder, gestulating furiously, and pointing by accident at the peer.

"Down with the House of Lords! Down with the tyrants! They are enemies of the country! They are doomed!"

These choice epithets, intended to apply generally to the House of Lords, were taken by my Irish friend to apply to him, and being an Irishman, he resented it.

"It's a liar you are," he replied, "and if you'll come down from that box I'll smash your face! I'm a peer of the realm, and I'll not let any man insult my order!"

There was a terrific shout from the crowd, and the orator said, looking incredulously at the countryman, "That's all right, matey. If you want to make a speech, do it somewhere else. But you can't pull our legs. You are no more a peer than I am."

It is of little use to preach economy to those who afford the cost of high living. It is noticeable that millionaires who condemn extravagance do not make their trips to Europe, or their automobile clubs, or their elegant mansions. If they were their capital to promoting agriculture and caring and to aiding willing workers to start and small farming, they would do more to reduce the cost of food than they could do by talk.—Farmers' Tribune.

THE PRIZE CORN GROWER.

HO was it said, "Shoemaker, stick to last?" Well, anyhow, this is a line. John R. Overstreet of Frankfort, Indiana, has stuck to growing his life. Some years ago he began he was growing the best corn in the world. That was merely a spark to the ambition. Why not grow the best corn in the world? Three or four years ago the National Corn Association was organized. They held the first corn exposition in Chicago. An Indiana farmer prize. Mr. Overstreet waxed wroth. So he worked, improved his seed and planted the best. This year he grew the best ten ears of corn in the world. The Indiana Corn Growers' Association gave him a \$1,000 silver cup. "Shoemaker, stick to last!" Mr. Overstreet is a farmer. He says he lives a quiet life on his farm, is a man of culture and will never, he says, exchange his for the cliff-dwelling, money-grubbing of the city.—Leslie's Weekly.

THE LONG HATPIN NO JOKE.

OME of the women who wear hatpins doubtless still consider the hatpin a joke. A woman named, a street railway conductor, a woman named, doesn't think it a joke. He was collecting fares a woman turned her head quickly and at the point of her eighteen-inch pin clean through. One woman at least in Chicago has had an eye by such a pin under just such circumstances. den movement of the wearer of the pin, a part of the street car or elevator and the damage is done. People take greater risks every day of their lives from other things than hatpins. But that point. The hatpin risk is stupid, needless and it imperils eyes, and one single human eye more than all the dagger hatpins in the world. No woman with any regard for other people's eyes should wear one. No woman who does wear one is any complaint if the city finds a good legal stopping her.—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Disappointed Peer.

Mr. Halloran surveyed the agent with a dark and hostile glance. The fact that one of the peers did not add to the attractive expression.

"Haven't you made up your mind yet to insure with us?" the agent. "You told me I was again in a few days."

"There was two of you at an accident insurance policy, Mr. Halloran, breathing heavily you and him both you and him again, and he come first, yesterday, and I insured you pany."

"That very night I met mey Casey on the way home, what I was expecting was continued Mr. Halloran, myself by grasping the arms of the two capable old hands, 'and whin we'd be one another I was like this.' 'Yesterday morning I was insurance chap, and says, 'Look at me,' I says, 'and damages and pay them.' 'He squirmed right out and saying 'twas no accident!'"

"Now if meeting wild men after keeping out o' his months, is no accident, Mr. insurance companies, and you l've this house the w-plaze me."

Plants Poisonous to Man.

The poisonous plant life in the various national continuing during the present. For several years the forest in co-operation with the plant industry, has been a poisonous plant investigations of forest, which have distinct value to stockmen.

The animal loss from plants in many localities is some ranges are becoming useless on account of these. If used, the losses by these so heavy as materially to profits of the business.

While no general plan of the range of these plants is devised, it has been possible study of a poison range is the particular species of the exhaustive study of the proved that it occurs in areas, which could easily be almost harmless at certain year, and at such the eaten by all kinds of stock danger.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Other poisonous plants pines or wild pea have been the year, and at such the eaten by all kinds of stock danger.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

"Plump"—a word in vogue fat woman who wouldn't look into the jaws of death.