

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Mark Twain died a millionaire. It pays to be cheerful.

A good garden and a well-kept yard are sure indications of thrift in the home.

In running a school or in curing disease the fresh air is immeasurably better than hot air.

It is rumored that the Nicaraguan naval forces will be doubled by the enlisting of another sailor.

Five suspected crooks have been shot to death in Chicago this season. Prudent crooks will avoid being suspected.

The idea of putting in meters to measure telephone talk is good, but will it be possible to devise meters that will stand the strain?

The man who takes an upper berth hereafter will be under the terrible suspicion of traveling "on the cheap." This will make the top bed more unpopular than ever.

A poor woman in St. Louis put all her money in the oven, and then, forgetting what she had done, made a fire in the stove. But it was silver money, and wasn't hurt a bit.

The nation paid out \$16,000,000 for tuberculosis last year. Fresh air comes high, but we must have it. No one has yet suggested a patrolman to go about smashing in all closed bedroom windows.

Congress has had some stormy sessions this spring, but inkstands have not yet taken the place of arguments. The Hungarian parliament must be a sight for laundrymen to rejoice over after one of its political crises.

A New York man 85 years of age has refused to enter a home for old people because his mother-in-law, aged 115, is an inmate of the institution. We declare without fear of successful contradiction that this is carrying prejudice against the mother-in-law too far.

A surgical operation was performed on the head of a California boy recently for the purpose of curing him of evil tendencies. It is reported to have been a failure. There may still be a chance, though. Perhaps an operation with a serviceable slipper would have the desired effect.

Professor Jespersen, who, although a Dane, knows more about the English language than most of those who speak it by inheritance, insists that "It is me" has become correct through usage. This will send cold shivers down the backs of strict grammarians; and yet do not the precise and logical Frenchmen say, "C'est moi?"

The desirability of the United States owning its embassy buildings in foreign capitals was again emphasized when the American ambassador to Germany was forced to vacate his Berlin house, at the height of the social season, because it had been let to a permanent tenant. It is not in accordance with the dignity of this country that its ambassador should be at the mercy of a foreign landlord.

Floating debts are familiar to treasurers of churches and other societies; all of us have floating ribs; a floating population is the joy of hotel proprietors; and now Alaska is to learn what a floating judiciary is like. The United States court for the district is to take possession of a steamer this summer and make a cruise along two thousand miles of the coast, administering justice as it goes. If it were not for the fact that the justice administered will be well grounded and anchored in the federal statutes, there might be some dissatisfaction with the prospects of a judiciary all at sea.

The familiar formula which tells us that a woman is as old as she looks goes on to advise us that a man is as old as he feels. How old, then, are some of our modern boys? What is the real age of a college student of 11 who deals in the fourth dimension and in flights to Mars? What is the real age reached by a boy who begins on the stock market at 16 and, compressing a lifetime into a single year, gives up this restless, anxious being at 17, a suicide? Many parents are troubled by backward boys who cannot show results to reward parental sacrifices, or by heedless boys who ignore the sacrifices altogether. But dull boys and thoughtless boys may cause less anxiety and distress than precocious boys. Such a one was George Dabo, who, forced to maturity and fortune in the Wall street hot-house and chafing under restraint put upon him by his physicians, sent a bullet into his head and so left the "floor." Most fathers and mothers will prefer to take their chances with the normal boy, however trying certain of his stages may be. Even the slow one may wreat from life what he may have been unable to extract from books. Even the careless selfish one may reach, by slow process or by sudden shock, some notion of the world and of his place in it. It is trying when one's offspring seems to be loitering through some his most vital years with few thoughts beyond haberdashery, caltlove, sport and fraternity pias; but it is more trying still

when he runs through thirty years in seventeen and ends in disgrace a career that should just be beginning in hope. The real age of an organism is determined by its experiences. The precocity so often developed by the stimulus of modern living merely cuts from one end of a career what is saved at the other.

A British scientist, insisting that the first bora of the family is rarely the best in quality and is likely to have defects the younger children escape, argues that the Peers should be selected from all the children and not sit in the House of Lords by virtue of being the first-born. This serves to recall a peculiarity of English nobility which does not obtain upon the Continent. Only the eldest born of an English peer's family is noble. Even the second son of a duke is by law a commoner and bears only the courtesy of Lord, his children not being accorded even that. Winston Churchill, although the son of Lord Randolph Churchill, a younger son of a Duke of Marlborough, is plain Mr. Churchill. Even the blood royal in England carries no nobility to the third generation. The Duke of Connaught's second son, although a Prince by courtesy and likely to be made a Peer, would nevertheless be a commoner in law and his children would of themselves possess even no courtesy titles. Elsewhere in Europe all the children are nobles. In France under the ancien regime if a count had ten sons, each was a noble in law. So in Germany. Prince Bismarck had two sons and a daughter. The elder became Prince von Bismarck, the younger was Count Wilhelm von Bismarck, the daughter Countess von Bismarck. This legal and social peculiarity has had much effect upon English history. It prevented any such indurated caste as obtains upon the Continent. The easy transition downward from nobility to commonalty facilitated an equal ease in transition upward from commonalty to nobility, with the consequence that the House of Lords has been continuously renewed with large quantities of fresh blood ever since the Wars of the Roses so nearly exterminated the old Norman barons. Thus the English law of primogeniture, which to-day we regard as a relic of feudalism, an absurdity and a wrongful privilege, represented in time past an amelioration and in a sense an exemption from the principle of caste that oppresses the Continent even to-day. Compared with the nobiliary principles of Germany and Austria, the English primogeniture is democratic.

VANE ON FANEUILL HALL.

Made in the Shape of a Grasshopper by an Early Wood Carver. Perched on the cupola of Faneuill Hall is a grasshopper weathervane which is not only one of the oldest vane in the country, but is famous as the product of one of America's earliest wood carvers and artisans, Shem Drowne, of Boston, the Globe of that city says.

Drowne's shop was on Ann street, in the north end.

Of the many vane he made only three are now known to be in existence—the one on the Shepard Memorial Church in Cambridge, which formerly was on the steeple of the New Brick Church on Hanover street in this city, and known as the revenge vane; the one in the collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a relic of the old Boston Province House, and the one on Faneuill Hall.

This grasshopper of copper, hammered out by hand, has large glassy eyes, which in the sunlight shine like fire. It was made in 1742 at the order of Peter Faneuill when the hall, his gift to the town, was nearing completion, and for the last 167 years it has been a landmark.

It has not, however, lived a life of unbroken peace, for several times it has been near destruction. In 1755, when Boston was shaken by an earthquake, the vane fell to the ground, but after being supplied with a new leg by the son of the man who made it was replaced.

Five years later Faneuill Hall was seriously damaged by fire, but the vane remained intact and when the hall was rebuilt the grasshopper was once more given the place of honor.

Another disaster befell it when, in 1859, a flag was being raised to celebrate the anniversary of the evacuation of the city by the British, the hopper hopped to the street below. But in a few days he hopped right back again and there it has remained ever since, with the exception of an occasional removal for repairs.

A Psychological Problem.

Suppose I met a sheeted shade. All ghastly grim. Why should I be a bit afraid Of spooks like him?

The worst that he could do to me Would be to slay. And if he did, should I not be A spirit, pray?

Then couldn't I pick out the spot He guarded most. And make it mighty all-fired hot For Mister Ghost? —Lippincott's Magazine.

Deprivation Due.

A St. Louis man asks for divorce because his wife hasn't spoken to him for five years. Any man who will seek divorce on such a plea doesn't deserve to have a wife.—New York Herald.

In Reno.

He—There goes that handsome widow Jenkins. She—Widow? Why, she's only a widowrenot!—Life.

There's no fool like an old fool—except the young fool who marries the old one.

CACTUS IN MICHIGAN.

Supposed to Have Been Taken There by Migrating Zuni.

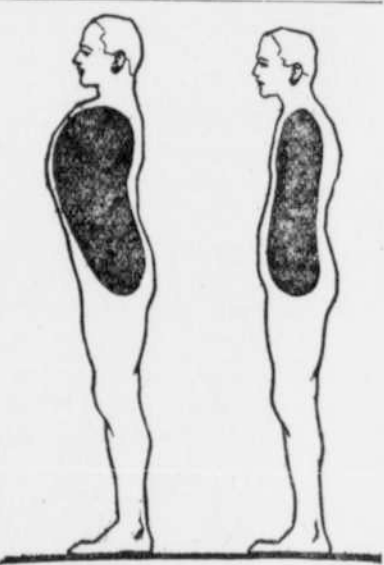
In the northern part of Muskegon county, Michigan, in the township of Blue Lake, is an extraordinary vegetable growth whose origin is a puzzle to scientists and has been the basis of many stories and legends that are familiar to every one in that region. This strange phenomenon, a writer in Harper's Weekly says, is a large patch of cactus, of the prickly-pear variety, and covers an area of several acres. The plant is a native of a warm climate and grows naturally in the southwestern part of the United States, making its presence in northern Michigan all the more remarkable.

The cactus patch is not of recent origin, but probably has been there for several centuries, according to the Indian legends. Some forty years ago a member of the Agricultural Department, while driving through Muskegon county, came across the strange prickly-pear growth. After a thorough examination he stated that undoubtedly the plant was a native of Arizona and had been introduced into the north by Indians in their migrations. This supposition has been borne out by the tales which the Indians living in the Blue Lake region were accustomed to tell the early settlers.

In a general way these stories all record the wanderings of a band of Zuni Indians who were driven from their home in Arizona by another tribe, and were forced to settle in what is now the state of Michigan. The year 1400 is approximately the date of this migration. These Indians, it is said, brought with them some of the cactus plants which were so plentiful in the southern deserts, and, although the Michigan climate was very different from that in Arizona, this strange form of vegetation flourished. In proof of this story the Michigan Indians would make palatable dishes from the tender shoots of the cactus, according to recipes handed down from their ancestors.

SQUEEZED ORGANS THE MOST FREQUENT CAUSE OF DISEASE.

The vital organs—heart, lungs, stomach, intestines—all do their work by means of vigorous motion, writes a physician. The heart expands and contracts about seventy-five times a minute. The lungs go through the same operation from twelve to sixteen times a minute. The churning motion of the stomach and the worm-like action of



the intestines are very vigorous and continue for five or six hours after each meal. Napoleon, Phillips Brooks, Roosevelt, Jim Jeffries, Gladstone—all men of power—whatever their line of activity—have expanded bodies. If you would be a wholesome and significant figure in life lift up and expand your body so that your vital organs shall have room to do their work.

Holly as a Medicine.

There has been a "record" kept of holly berries, and some kind-hearted people were needlessly distressed to think that the birds would be deprived of their winter food through the berries being used for decorations, says an English paper. Few birds, except the mistle thrush when sharp set, ever touch these berries, which are "violently emetic" and remain on the bushes for months. Our temperate ancestors used to swallow holly berries after Christmas to cure the effects of their gargantuan festivities. Years ago some French physician pronounced a decoction of holly leaves or an extract from the bark, called "Helleine," to be superior to quinine as a tonic. Owing to commercial and other difficulties the boom died away, and "Helleine" no longer appears in the "Materia Medica."

The Art of Overlooking.

Nobody can live in the world and not admit that the words "Nothing for nothing" contain a sad amount of truth. He is of course a fool who does not count the cost so far as the future is concerned; but scarcely less a fool is he who does not overlook past costs. If we have any good or delightful thing in this life, at all hazards let us not taint our enjoyment by considering what we gave for it. Was it more than we could afford? Never mind; we have afforded it. We have made our purchase. Let us take off the ticket with the price and burn the receipt. There are items in life's ledger which must be overlooked unless we would spend all our days in balancing closed accounts.

And occasionally a man who recognizes his duty at a distance dodges up an alley to avoid meeting it.

Talk to any man five minutes, and he will tell you how much better business was last year.

TRUMPET CALLS.

Ram's Horn Sounds a Warning Note to the Unreformed.



Life is a dream to which death is the awakening. It is just as easy to borrow sunshine as trouble.

A gloomy religion has no place in a sunny church. There are three kinds of sins—be-

setting, upsetting and forgetting.

The life of love cannot be lived until we cease the love of our lives.

Christ's two great commandments are great enough for two worlds.

The things we scatter, not those we gather, make our lasting wealth.

There is no Christian character apart from conformity to Christ.

In the question of the Son is the solution of the question of our sin.

It takes more than sharp, scratchy angles to make a rugged character.

Learn to speak so that one sentence will mean as much as two did before.

The shortest cut to being a grand fizzle is to start out to be a "good fellow."

There are many ways to please a man besides doing him an outright favor.

The coolest person in a controversy is the one most likely to be in the right.

The best way to rise in the arms of faith is to put your arms about the fallen.

No man can know his Father who is unwilling to be known amongst his brothers.

Scratch a self-made man around the pocketbook and you will soon see the real man.

In whipping sin around the stump, be careful that you do not hit your own back.

The man who learns to moderate his desires will have the least trouble satisfying them.

A really living faith makes itself known in even the middle of the lead of a man sells.

Some people seem to think that they will be allowed to withdraw their support when the church debt is paid.

What the preacher says from the pulpit is half of it. What his congregation thinks in the pew is the other half.

It is always easier and more profitable to follow the highway, whether in religion, morals, or politics, than the many by-ways.

Fools rush after pleasures and suffer the pain of folly. Wise men study to avoid the evils and partake of the pleasures of wisdom.

We cannot dream ourselves into a character, but we can dream about the character we wish to get into while we are building it up.

Brothers of Charterhouse.

Inmates of Famous School—Tercentenary to Be Celebrated.

The tercentenary of the Charterhouse school is shortly to be commemorated, and graduates all over the world, to the number of 6,000, have been asked to send in their views on the subject. The governors of Charterhouse have included many of the famous men of their day. Beaconsfield, Gladstone, Lord John Russell, Palmerston, Pitt and Walpole have been some prime ministers who have been connected with the school.

Gen. Monk was a governor, as was Lord Anson, the circumnavigator, though perhaps the most famous governor of all was Oliver Cromwell. Today there are only sixty-five brothers or pensioners at Charterhouse, those brothers immortalized by Thackeray.

These pensioners are gentlemen who have lost their incomes, and they are provided for by the bequest left by a notable soldier of Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Sutton, master of ordnance in the North. The money is derived from land in Cambridgeshire, Wiltshire and Essex, and owing to the great depreciation in land that has taken place of late the money suffices only for sixty-five pensioners instead of eighty. The pensioners are called brothers, and they have their rooms, food and attendance free, and are given £175 a year in addition.

The great qualification is that the applicant must have been a gentleman in the full sense of the word, says the New York Sun's London correspondent. The foundation is eligible to gentlemen who have reached the age of 60, and are either unmarried or are widowers. Madison Morton, who wrote "Box and Cox," was a brother, and it is recorded a former Lord Mayor of London came to accept the benefits of Sutton's bequest.

His Reluctance Appreciated.

There are persons who like to pose before the camera, there are those who do not like to, but may be persuaded, and there are those who will not anyway. Of the last class was the eminent but uncomely person referred to by the Washington Star.

"Did you tell that photographer you didn't want your picture taken?" he was asked.

"Yes," he answered.

"Did he take offense?"

"No. He said he didn't blame me."

Accurate, Though Ungrammatical.

"What's a tight-wad?"

"An old man with a lot of money that he doesn't see why he should give to a lot of relatives who have never earned it."

Some people's morals are like their best clothes—worn only on special occasions.

Old Favorites

London Bridge.

Proud and lowly, beggar and lord, Over the bridge they go; Rags and velvet, fetter and sword,

Poverty, pomp and woe, Laughing, weeping, hurrying ever, Hour by hour they crowd along, While, below, the mighty river Sings them all a mocking song.

Hurry along, Sorrow and song, All is vanity 'neath the sun; Velvet and rags, So the world wags, Until the river no more shall run.

Dainty, painted, powdered and gay, Rollieth my lady by; Rags-and-tatters, over the way, Carries a heart as high, Flowers and dreams from country meadows, Dust and din through city skies, Old men creeping with their shadows, Children with their sunny eyes—

Hurry along, Sorrow and song, All is vanity 'neath the sun; Velvet and rags, So the world wags, Until the river no more shall run.

Storm and sunshine, peace and strife Over the bridge they go; Floating on the tide of life, Whither no man shall know, Who will miss them there to-morrow, Waifs that drift to the shade or sun? Gone away with their songs and sorrow, Only the river still flows on. —Frederick E. Weatherly.

At the Door.

I thought myself indeed secure, So fast the door, so firm the lock; But, lo! he toddling comes to lure My parent ear with timorous knock.

My heart were stone could it withstand The sweetness of my baby's plea, That timid, baby knocking, and, "Please let me in, it's only me."

I threw aside the unfinished book, Regardless of its tempting charms; And, opening wide the door, I took My laughing darling in my arms.

Who knows but in eternity I like the quaint child, shall wait— The glories of a life to be, Beyond the heavenly Father's gate?

And will that heavenly Father heed The truant's supplicating cry, As at the outer door I plead, "Tis I, O Father, only I?" —Eugene Field.

GANJAH SMOKING A CURSE.

Evils of a Practice of Hindoos Have Brought to the West Indies.

In California and down through Central America and the West Indies the practice of smoking ganjah, or Indian hemp, has been introduced within recent years. A rubber planter from British Honduras, who is familiar with the Pacific coast and all tropical America, described the practice and some of its effects the other day, the New York Sun says.

"Ganjah smoking," he said, "follows the Hindoo. The plant is indigenous to the tropics and was used to a limited extent by the Aztecs of Mexico. In India it has been a curse for centuries.

"When the East Indian laborer was introduced into the West Indies about thirty years ago he brought it with him and revived and encouraged the use of the weed among the natives. More recently he did the same evil turn for California, so that at the present time ganjah smoking is prevalent from the Canadian border to Panama.

"The plant needs no cultivation. It grows luxuriantly, usually in patches, wherever the climate is warm and the ground is moist. The leaves are charged with a powerful narcotic, and the method of use merely consists of gathering them when they are half dry, cramming them into a pipe and inhaling the heavy white smoke.

"Ten or twelve inhalations produces a pleasant stupor. This gives way to a buoyancy of limb and a desire for action. The smoker becomes very quarrelsome and is obsessed with the idea of blood. This is backed up by a conviction of his own courage, no matter how timid he may be in his normal state. As the drug gains further hold upon him he snatches up the first weapon at hand and rushes forth to kill.

"Wherever ganjah is smoked murder is a comparatively common crime. Most Hindoos are physical cowards, but on the other hand they do not regard death with horror. Some of them believe in the transmigration of souls, while the more ignorant think that their disembodied spirits are permitted to return to India to dwell among their friends and relatives who are still in the flesh. Therefore when they have a grudge against anyone they use ganjah to key themselves up to the point of killing him and do not worry about the consequence.

"Taken in smaller quantities, say five or six inhalations, and on an empty stomach, the drug has the effect of imparting an unnatural energy. Tasks requiring great strength and power of endurance become easy, and for several hours the smoker feels no fatigue.

"The persistent use of ganjah weakens the brain and impairs physical strength. The victim becomes a wreck."

In this unjust world, a large part of the profits of a town garden are made by the hardware stores.

We are all so anxious to get mail; but when we get it, it usually brings trou-

BITS OF BOOKS

There is always a chance that children will outgrow the spring of 1910 will play has attained an unusual number for the stability

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A naïf correspondent of the Athenaeum writes a long journal in the hope of receiving copy of the early poems of Meredith, which he left at hausen in 1857. "It so happens I have had five copies of the little volume. At this moment my hand upon two copies of One of them I lent to Meredith the time of his second marriage asked for the loan of it to new wife during their honeymoon. When he gave it me back I to have it bound."

The new biography of the Republican, Gambetta, relative of his, M. P. G. been published in England under the title "Gambetta: Life and Work is largely made up of the great tribulations and intimate of the Glueus, by a judicious very voluminous correspondence by Gambetta, and treasure own circle, now rapidly growing and smaller, enables the patriot's career from into the humble seminary kept by priests until his

In a little book, "The Child," Ellen Key writes in a little book, "The Child," Ellen Key writes about some common mistakes parents. She says: "A would become insane if he treated him for a single day is treated for a year. A child be just as courteously as grown person, in order to learn courtesy. A child be pushed into notice, never to endure caresses, never to with kisses, which ordinarily him and are often the cause of hyperaesthesia. Nor should be forced to express regret or pardon and the like, which is training for hypocrisy."

A Careful Parent.

At a settlement located at Side in New York a mother held Wednesday afternoon mothers of various nations greater or less familiarity with English tongue, and in degrees of assimilation to their new country, are served and cakes, helped with and furnished with hints proper of bringing of their hints sometimes carried to extraordinary lines.

A worker from the settlement calls in a populous room at reaching the two rooms where her assailed by children's anguish.

"Les-a, signorina, me-i tigo-hard-a!" explained the of the family, who for a had been a regular attendant at the regular afternoon. "I go at-a your house—I and I keeps say bad-a word, I low song-a—bad-a word in bad-a word! I weep A-mooch."

And then the worker from ment found a serious task nation on her hands; for, matter, she discovered that song-a" containing the "bad-a word" which brought poor grief, was none other than My God, to Thee!"

Female Chantrelles.

Alas! That the women should over men, They simply won't do as we They not only want to pose But wear what belongs to us —Boston Herald.

Keeping It Dark.

Miss Kidder—S-sh! Carry her hair black. Don't tell Miss Asklitt—Is it a secret? Miss Kidder—Yes. She keep it dark.—Boston Globe.

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