

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

The earthquake is awful, but the "fire fiend" really is king.

You will never be accused of cheating at cards as long as you lose.

Pockets for the dry dock Dewey have been provided in the Suez Canal. Hip or side?

Let this at least be said of Frank G. Bigelow: He hasn't tried to place the blame on anybody else.

If the eagle is to be retired as the national bird, why not substitute the dove rather than the hen?

Have you any idea of the number of by-products of coal tar you are in the habit of eating with your daily food?

Some of the Senators are hoping that next month they may be able to read the magazines without bursting a blood vessel.

An English newspaper refers to the theater as "a refuge from thought." The editor must have gone to see a musical comedy.

It has been definitely ascertained that Mrs. O'Leary's cow's hind foot was nowhere near as powerful as the San Francisco earthquake.

The people of Russia are now crying "Bread or blood!" The grand dukes can't understand why the people are not more conservative.

American are being subjected to a good deal of official scolding just now, but they are too busy getting things done to let it worry them overmuch.

Instead of merely building the largest battle ship in the world we should build one larger than the one that will be built larger than the one we are preparing to build.

Speed automobilism and an appetite for strong drink are traced to the same cause by a British doctor. An appetite for strong language—in the pedestrian—is a third effect.

The woman who invented the modern corset is dead at the age of 93. She lived long enough to prove that her invention was not the deadly device some people would have us believe.

The preacher who explains the wiping out of San Francisco as a visitation of Divine wrath is probably wrong, but he has plenty of authority from the Old Testament for his assumption.

Since a London doctor has declared that bald-headed men are seldom found among lunatics and criminals, perhaps you will worry less about that little are spot that is slowly but surely making its appearance on top of your head.

Sir Norman Lockyer, an eminent English scientific man, and Professor Archenbold, equally eminent in Germany, are reported to agree in the opinion that the cause of the late eruption of Vesuvius and also of the earthquake at San Francisco was the much-abused sun spots. Possibly sun spots, quake and eruption may all alike be referable to the same cause, but it does not seem any more likely that the spots caused the eruption and the quake than that the eruption and the quake caused the spots.

The engineers who recommended a sea level isthmian canal did not lay particular stress upon the greater ability of that type to withstand an earthquake shock, but this undeniable advantage assumes fresh importance in the light of the San Francisco calamity. One of the strongest arguments against the Nicaragua route was its admitted liability to earthquakes, and while the Panama route is less open to this objection it can not be safely predicted that it will not be visited by shocks severe enough to damage a sea level canal and to wreck one with locks.

Readers are doubtless aware that a majority of the engineers engaged on the Panama canal have been taken from the Middle West. The president of an Eastern technical school recently called the attention of his students to this choice of Westerners, and told them that it was because the Westerners are not so much concerned as the Easterners about their health and other matters of personal convenience. The young man who declines to undertake work that offers because, perchance, it may be a little unpleasant will always be outstripped by the man who overlooks unpleasantness in his eagerness to accomplish results.

That China can change may best be proved by establishing the fact that she is changing. It would be unnat-

ural if she were not. China has had many opportunities in the last five-and-sixty years of realizing that to be secure she must be strong. But the punishment that followed the "boxer" outbreak of 1900 enforced that lesson in a way there was no escaping. It left China hating the occident with a fervor, a hundred times greater than any that gave the impulse to the passing fury of the rising itself. It convinced her that diplomacy without a reserve force in the background invited attack without affording protection. It taught her that western aggression could only be resisted by Western methods and that Western methods could only be acquired by the adoption of Western learning.

Among the curious records of old colonial days is an inventory of the goods of a certain Dutch burgher of New Amsterdam, who included among his household possessions thirteen scrubbing brushes, thirty-one rubbing brushes, "seven other brushes," and twenty-four pounds of Spanish soap. The picture presented to the imagination by such a formidable array of implements may be supplemented by another, drawn a century later, evidently by a not wholly unprejudiced eye witness of what he describes. "The husband gone, the ceremony begins—walls are stripped of their furniture, paintings, prints, looking glasses, lie in huddled heaps about floors; curtains are torn from testers, beds crammed into windows; chairs and tables, bedsteads and cradles, crowd the yard; and the garden fence bends beneath the weight of carpets, blankets, cloth cloaks, old coats, under petticoats and ragged breeches. This ceremony complete and the house thoroughly renovated, the next operation is to smear the walls and ceilings with brushes dropped into a solution of lime called whitewash, to pour buckets of water over the floor, and scratch all the partitions and wainscots with hard brushes charged with soft soap or stone-cutter's sand." Small wonder that the good man prudently retires! Ladies looking forward to such a strenuous day are hardly in the frame of mind for light and easy conversation. But—wonder of these wonderful days!—there is now a queer machine that rattles and throbs in the street while its long black pipes, climbing into upper windows of a building, proclaim the passing of the old-fashioned housecleaning. The vacuum cleaners, joining the long procession of labor savers—sewing machines, cooking and dishwashing machines, mangles, carpet sweepers, bread mixers, and countless others—are banishing one more drudgery. Certainly woman's work is constantly growing physically easier. Whether the more exacting demands of an age which changes its fashions every few months and its fads every few hours counterbalances its advantages may be an open question. But one thing is certain—the woman wise enough and resolute enough to choose the best has in these days a freedom from drudgery and a consequent opportunity never dreamed of by her sister of a hundred, or even fifty, years ago.

PASSING OF YELLOW PERIL.

Chinese Population in America is Rapidly and Steadily Decreasing. In fifty years—perhaps less than fifty, if the present laws remain in effect and are rigidly executed—the Chinese population of the United States will become practically extinct. From 1890 to 1900 they fell away from 126,788 to 119,500, a decrease of nearly 8,000 or more than 6 per cent. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, more than 4,000 voluntarily left the port of San Francisco for the land of their birth, the total deported and returning voluntarily being 5,020. A very large majority of these Chinamen were advanced in years and went home to die.

A generation ago there were in San Francisco from 30,000 to 40,000 Chinamen. The Chinese consul general says that, counting men, women and children, there are now not 10,000. The same proportionate decrease is seen in other places. It should be borne in mind that the total number of Chinese now in the United States includes 26,707 in Hawaii and 3,116 in Alaska, so that at the beginning of this decennial period there were living in the United States proper only 89,000. A generation ago there were at least 150,000.

According to the most liberal estimate there are not more than 150 legal Chinese wives in San Francisco. But the number of Chinese women is estimated at between 1,000 and 2,000. Of such female children as are born to the lowest classes, a large proportion are sold for immoral purposes by their parents, thus still further reducing the possibilities of an increased population. The main adult population is male, is unmarried, or, at least, wifeless, in America, and is rapidly approaching old age. Thus by 1930 or 1940 the main Chinese life in America will have become extinct.—World's Work.

Appropriate Wickedness.

"That operatic singer was arrested for uttering forged notes."
"Yes, but you see, he was a thorough bass singer."—Baltimore American.

FACE WEST FOR BEST WORK.

Experiments by a French Physician Prove Idea is Correct.

To test the truth of the assertions of many persons that they sleep better with their heads pointing to the north, work better facing the east and so on, Dr. Charles Fere, who is well known in France for his studies in physiological psychology, has constructed a delicate machine which he calls an ergograph, with which he has achieved some interesting results. This machine registers the number, rapidity and quality of the movements of the index finger when writing or performing any accustomed work.

He announces that his experiments with it prove that work done by a person facing the west or east is better by 25 per cent than similar work done by a person facing the north or south, and that when working facing the west it is about 25 per cent better than when facing the east.

This matter of orientation seems to have an influence upon the nervous system, due largely, it is believed, to the fact that the earth is a gigantic magnet. Many learned men have noticed that they sleep best with the head to the north and work better facing the west, while at least one famous pianist finds he plays with the greatest ease when the piano faces the east. It may be that the great migrations of the human race, all of which have been from east to west, and the observed tendency of trees to develop in the same way related to these phenomena.

WHAT HE REMEMBERED.

It is generally the unusual thing which is the easiest to remember—but it seldom happens that exactly the same elements in any situation are most unusual or most striking to any two onlookers. A man who has traveled many times up and down the Mississippi stood on the levee at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, one noontime, waiting for the arrival of a down-bound packet. Another prospective passenger stepped up and accosted him. "Pardon me, sub," he said. "You and I have met before, but you do not remember me."

"Doubtless if you will recall the circumstances I shall do so," said the other.

"Well, sub, it was at Bahfield, Arkansas, one evening, five years ago."

"I remember Bahfield and the evening perfectly," said the man accosted. "It was a frightfully stormy night. The mud at Bahfield was deeper than I had ever seen before. I had moored my boat at the bank in front of the town, but the bank was so soft I could not climb it. I shinned up a rope to the top, waded over my shoes in mud to a store, bought some groceries, and returned to my cabin by sliding down a lumber chute. My wife cooked supper, and we spent an evening reading aloud from Mark Twain's 'Life on the Mississippi.' A raft of logs broke loose and went down-stream, and as I had no skill to follow them with, I shouted an alarm, and others went. The rain turned to snow before morning, and the next morning, which was Sunday, the steamer Fred Herold came in from Memphis at daybreak."

"Yes, sub," said the man who remembered him. "Yes, sub, I reckon all those things as so. I do not recall them, however. Bahfield is always muddy when it rains, the Fred Herold comes in every week, logs often break away, and none of those things is fastened into my memory."

"But, sub, I was settin' in the stow that evenin' when you entered. Which you come from no one of us knew. You bought, sub, two pounds of rice and a can of tomatoes. Now, sub, I never knew a gentleman to buy just that combination of groceries at the same time before, and not one of us could imagine, sub, jes' what a man who, so far as we could see, didn't live there and didn't have any home folk up there, was goin' to do with two pounds of rice and only one can of tomatoes."

"I have remembered you ever since, sub, and have always wondered what you did with them."—Youth's Companion.

All Pretense.

Batcheller—I've come to the conclusion that marriage is just a game of pretense.

Jenks—How do you mean?

Batcheller—Well, half the married men I meet pretend they're perfectly happy, and the other half pretend they're perfectly miserable.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Sound Stomach.

"Ever troubled by indigestion?"
"I should say not. Why, I believe I could eat those health foods and suffer nothing worse than hunger."—Philadelphia Ledger.

When a man's wife suddenly puts her arms about his neck just before making a touch, it's a case of being close pressed for money.

Remember, young man, it is far easier to find a wife than it is to lose her.

TERRIBLE ITCHING SCALP.

Eczema Broke Out Also on Hands and Limbs—An Old Soldier Declares: "Cuticura Is a Blessing."

"At all times and to all people I am willing to testify to the merits of Cuticura. It saved me from worse than the torture of hives, about the year 1900, with itching on my scalp and temples, and afterwards it commenced to break out on my hands. Then it broke out on my limbs. I then went to a Surgeon, whose treatment did me no good, but rather aggravated the disease. I then told him I would go and see a physician in Erie. The reply was that I could go anywhere, but a case of eczema like mine could not be cured; that I was too old (80). I went to an eminent doctor in the city of Erie and treated with him for six months, with like results. I had read of the Cuticura Soap, Ointment, and Resolvent, and continued taking the Resolvent until I had taken six bottles, stopping it to take the Pills. I was now getting better. I took two baths a day, and at night I let the lather of the Soap dry on. I used the Ointment with great effect after washing in warm water, to stop the itching at once. I am now cured. The Cuticura treatment is a blessing, and should be used by every one who has itching of the skin. I can't say any more, and thank God that He has given the world such a curative. Wm. H. Gray, 3303 Mt. Vernon St., Philadelphia, Pa., August 2, 1905."

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INTERESTING LETTER

WRITTEN BY A NOTABLE WOMAN

Mrs. Sarah Kellogg of Denver, Colorado, Bearer of the Woman's Relief Corps, Sends Thanks to Mrs. Pinkham.



Mrs. Sarah Kellogg

The following letter was written by Mrs. Kellogg, of 1628 Lincoln Ave., Denver, Col., to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass.; Dear Mrs. Pinkham: "For five years I was troubled with a tumor, which kept growing, causing me intense agony and great mental depression. I was unable to attend to my house work, and life became a burden to me. I was confined for days to my bed, lost my appetite, my courage and all hope. "I could not bear to think of an operation, and in my distress I tried every remedy which I thought would be of any use to me, and reading of the value of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to sick women decided to give it a trial. I felt so discouraged that I had little hope of recovery, and when I began to feel better, after the second week, thought it only meant temporary relief; but to my great surprise I found that I kept gaining, while the tumor lessened in size.

"The Compound continued to build up my general health and the tumor seemed to be absorbed, until, in seven months, the tumor was entirely gone and I a well woman. I am so thankful for my recovery that I ask you to publish my letter in newspapers, so other women may know of the wonderful curative powers of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

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