

Topic Times

A monument is to be erected to Charles Parnell in Mt. Auburn cemetery, Boston.

The University of Sofia, Bulgaria, is about to add instruction in English speech and literature to its curriculum.

Emperor William's latest fad is photography in three colors. He has a studio in his palace of Monbijou, where he works.

A college cap or "mortar-board" made of straw and colored white or black has just been placed on the English market for the hot weather.

London Punch remarked the other day: "Our royal princes have to undergo all the hardships of ordinary little boys. Last week, for instance, they were taken to the British Museum."

Owing to the large profits accruing from the various municipal undertakings at Bolton, England, for last year, the corporation has been able to hand over in relief of the taxes the sum of \$217,500.

A pheasant has built her nest on one of the butts of a military rifle range at Flechurst, England. She has not been hit yet, and evidently does not expect to be, the soldiers doing their best to justify her confidence.

In order that traffic may not be diverted from the railways in Manchuria the Japanese, it is said, have rebuilt the river bridges, destroyed during the war, so that they are too low for the Chinese freight boats to pass under them.

On an ash tray which has reached England from Germany, is the following: "Defilement of the room by ash of cigars is forbidden to the severest. Any one who, notwithstanding, makes guilty of such a one will be punished irrevocably by house arrest."

A pulpit that has been consecrated by the British bishop of Carlisle for use in St. Cuthbert's, Carlisle, runs on wheels. It is brought in and taken out of the church by means of a trolley and endless rope. Made of mahogany and over nine feet in height, the pulpit cost \$1,000.

When Lord Curzon was appointed viceroy of India, the post recently vacated, he completed one of the dreams of his school days. From the time he first knew that "Government house," Calcutta, was a far facade of his ancestral home, Kedleston Hall, near Derby, he desired to occupy it as governor general of India.

Senator Spooner has stopped smoking. He was mourning his sad fate when Senator Dooliver, thinking to be sympathetic, said: "Well, I guess it is pretty well admitted that the use of tobacco tends to shorten a man's days." "That's right," Senator Spooner replied. "I find that my days without it are about sixty hours long."

It is not generally known, says the London Express, that a generous country supplies members of the House of Commons with gratuitous snuff. "Formerly," the Express says, "snuff was described in the estimates as such, but to ward off the objection aroused by improving habits the charge of £200 a year was mixed up or covered in the estimates as 'lamp oil.'"

The Empress Eugenie has just given to the Swiss canton of Thurgau the castle of Arenenberg, where Napoleon III. passed several years of his youth. Queen Hortense, on the fall of the First Empire, fled to Switzerland, and in 1817 purchased the castle, which is delightfully situated on the shore of Lake Constance. In the castle are the Empress Josephine's harp, Queen Hortense's harp and a camp bedstead of Napoleon III.

Strictly speaking a "journal" should be a daily publication, although the word no longer has that limited use. The case of "Journey" is exactly comparable. Even to Chaucer it still meant a day's progress, and in the fourteenth century it was possible to speak of one country as being "fifty-two journeys" distant from another—a "journey" being reckoned usually as twenty miles. But "Journey" calls up no suggestion whatever of a day now.

"Spanking" did not suggest chastisement originally. It was unknown to Johnson in this sense; to him a "spanker" meant "a person who takes long steps with agility." Rapid motion seems to be the root idea of the word "spank," which is not merely representative of the sound of the act, as "slap" and "smack" are. The low German "spakern," or "spenkern," to run and spring about quickly, is close to the original meaning. Hence a "spanking pace," a "spanking breeze," and a "spanker," in the sense of an active and sturdy person.

Between an Elephant's Feet.
Toward the end of the summer of 1850 William Cotton Oswald was on an elephant-hunt in Africa, and nearly lost his life. In his biography his own description of the adventure is given. An

elephant was close to him. There was no time to wait if the hunter was to get a shot. The beast was on the move, and the dust flew from his side as the heavy ball struck him.

Screaming angrily, he turned full front in the direction of the tree by which I stood, motionless. For a moment we confronted one another, and then the rumbling note of alarm uttered by his companions decided him on joining them. I regained the path and rode along the line of their retreat, which, as shown by the yielding bush, was parallel to it. After a time the thorns thinned out, and I caught sight of the wounded elephant holding a course of his own a little to the left of his fellows; and when he entered the tropical forest beyond I was in his wake, and very soon compelled to follow where he broke a way.

A little extra noise from the pursuers caused the pursued to stop; and while clinging like Gilpin to the horse and peering at the broad stern of the chase, I saw him suddenly put his head where his tail ought to have been. The trunk was tightly coiled. Forward flapped the huge ears, up went the tail, and down he came like a gigantic bat ten feet across.

Pinned above and on each side, by dismounting I could hope neither to escape nor to kill my opponent. I therefore lugged my unfortunate animal round, and urged him along. The elephant thundered straight through obstacles which we were obliged to go round, and in fifty yards we were fast in a thick bush, and he within fifteen feet of us.

As a last chance I tried to get off, but in rolling round in my saddle my spur galled the pony's flank, and the elephant screaming over him at the same moment, he made a convulsive effort and freed himself. That deposited me in a sitting position immediately in front of the uplifted forefoot of the charging bull.

No near was it that I mechanically opened my knees to allow him to put it down, and throwing myself back, crossed my hands upon my chest, and obstinately puffed myself out with the idea of trying to resist the giant tread. I saw the burly brute from chest to tail as he passed directly over me length ways, one foot between my knees and one fourteen inches beyond my head, and not a graze! Five tons at least.

Out of all my narrow escapes this is the only one that remained with me in recollection for any time. One hour of nightmares. Well, for a month or more I had nightelephants.

APROPOS'S LEGACY.

Although the number of slaves in Newburyport, Mass., was never very large, says the author of the "History of Newburyport," yet the purchase and sale of negro women and men, brought from the Barbados and other islands in the West Indies for some of the prominent inhabitants of the town, was not considered illegal or disreputable previous to the close of the Revolutionary War. It is pleasant to know, however, that the greater number of the slaves were not anxious to escape from bondage, and were well cared for by their masters.

Patrick Tracy, in his will dated October 16, 1788, and proved April 6, 1789, gave to the children of his son, Nathaniel Tracy, several acres of land opposite the burying ground in Newburyport, with the following restrictions:

"I hereby reserve to my faithful black man Apropos a right to dwell with his family in the house now standing upon my land or field aforesaid, by the burying Place, in which he now dwells, and also a Right during his life to improve the said natural Life to improve the Garden adjoining his said dwelling house, which Rights, free of any Rent, I hereby give and confirm to him, the said Apropos, during his own life and no longer."

He also gave "to the said Apropos" six pounds a year, to be paid in instalments on the first day of January, May and September of each year.

"And further I hereby enjoin it upon my children that when and so far as the said Apropos is incapacitated from acquiring his subsistence, and that with comfort, that they equally join in assisting him to render his life comfortable, and this I expect from my children as they value my injunctions or shall respect my memory."

A Delicate Slam.

He—Beauty in a woman cuts a good deal more figure with a man than cleverness does.

She—Yes; any man can appreciate a pretty face, but it takes a man of brains to appreciate cleverness.—Detroit Free Press.

The Gift of Talk.

What triumphs off the world doth view Where eloquence holds sway; A few succeed by what they do, And more by what they say.—Washington Star.

If all tombstones were literally true his satanic majesty would have a lonesome time of it.

The skin of men and women of some nations particularly in hot countries, is much thicker than that of others. The Central African negro has a skin about half as thick again as that of a European. That of a negro is thickest over the head and back, presumably to form a protection from the sun.

BABY COVERED WITH SORES.

Would Scratch and Tear the Flesh Unless Hands Were Tied—"Would Have Died but for Cuticura."

"My little son, when about a year and a half old, began to have sores come out on his face. I had a physician treat him, but the sores grew worse. Then they began to come on his arms, then on other parts of his body, and then one came on his chest, worse than the others. Then I called another physician. Still he grew worse. At the end of about a year and a half of suffering he grew so bad I had to tie his hands in cloths at night to keep him from scratching the sores and tearing the flesh. He got to be a mere skeleton, and was hardly able to walk. My Aunt advised me to try Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I sent to the drug store and got a cake of Soap and a box of the Ointment, and at the end of about two months the sores were all well. He has never had any sores of any kind since. He is now strong and healthy, and I can sincerely say that only for your most wonderful remedies my precious child would have died from those terrible sores. Mrs. Egbert Sheldon, R. F. D. No. 1, Woodville, Conn., April 22, 1905."

The shortest British Parliament that ever sat met in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of Edward I., and existed for one day only. The longest is not that which is historically known as the "Long Parliament," which according to the general computation existed sixteen years and one hundred and forty-five days, or according to another—the outside limit—seventeen years and three months. The second Parliament of Charles II., met on the eighth of May 1681, and was not dissolved till the twenty-fourth of January, 1678, having thus had a duration of seven years eight months and sixteen days.

DAZED WITH PAIN.

The Sufferings of a Citizen of Olympia, Wash.

L. S. Gorham, of 516 East 4th St. Olympia, Wash., says: "Six years ago I got wet and took cold, and was soor flat in bed, suffering tortures with my back. Every movement caused an agonizing pain, and the persistency of it exhausted me, so that for a time I was dazed and stupid. On the advice of a friend I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, and soon noticed a change for the better. The kidney secretions had been disordered and irregular, and contained a heavy sediment, but in a week's time the urine was clear and natural again and the passages regular. Gradually the aching and soreness left my back and then the lameness. I used six boxes to make sure of a cure, and the trouble has never returned."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.



The greatest height attained by balloonists was thirty-four thousand seven hundred and seventy feet. This is the record of Messrs. Besson and Suring, at Strasburg, in 1903. Although both used canned oxygen for inhalation, one of the aeronauts fainted.

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If you have suppressed or painful periods, weakness of the stomach, indigestion, bloating, pelvic catarrh, nervous prostration, dizziness, faintness, "don't-care" and "want-to-be-left-alone" feeling, excitability, backache or the blues, these are sure indications of female weakness, or some derangement of the organs. In such cases there is one tried and true remedy—Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

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